

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 19 October 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Resetting the food system from fork to farm: A dialogue with the Swiss food innovation ecosystem
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Swiss Food & Nutrition Valley and Nestlé
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/46460/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/46460/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders, Switzerland

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

63

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

11

19-30

41

31-50

10

51-65

1

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male

33 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

15 Education

Communication

15 Food processing

Food retail, markets

10 Food industry

Financial Services

3 Health care

3 Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

3 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

15 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

10 Multi-national corporation

2 Small-scale farmer

3 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

15 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

5 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

5 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

2 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

This national dialogue was set up to support the outcomes of the UN FSS and to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Act with Urgency). We wanted the dialogue to be relevant within the broader context of the Food System Summit while resonating with national stakeholders and fit within the overall ecosystem. That's why we put at the center of the dialogue the question: how can we reset the food system from fork to farm based on scientific knowledge and innovation? (Commit to the Summit). The dialogue was made of two main sections: 1) speeches from different actors in the food supply chain (Recognize Complexity) and 2) an interactive open discussion among participants in smaller groups around 5 key themes followed by a plenary debriefing (Complement the work of others). This format allowed for everyone to voice her/his opinion while remaining open to the co-existence of divergent points of view (Be Respectful and Build Trust). When we put together the panel, we made sure that it represented a diverse range of stakeholders to allow the audience to see the challenges faced across the food system and how different stakeholders are developing and implementing innovative solutions to tackle these challenges. More specifically, speakers featured in the panel were from academia, government, non-profit startup accelerators and multinational companies. In addition, to ensure a fruitful and comprehensive discussion in the interactive part of the dialogue, we invited representatives of different stakeholders from the Swiss government, business, civil society and research as well as embracing inter-generational diversity by mixing students and C-suit level executives (Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity).

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue made clear that all stakeholders (academia, government, and private sector) in the food supply chain were aligned around the need for a transition of our current food system. Now was the time to take concrete actions aligned with the common goals identified in the Swiss Development Strategy: promote healthy, balanced, and sustainable diets; reduce food waste and losses; increase sustainability along the value chain; and improve resilience in the food system. In particular, speakers recognized the urgency and importance of increasing the speed of research and innovation across all aspects of our food system: agriculture science, plant-based products, packaging, consumer behavior... while not forgetting that solutions need to address the complexities of our food system in a holistic manner and that the transition must be a just one. To that end, speakers suggested that we must embrace diversity, unleash creativity, adopt a long-term thinking approach and work with younger generations.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

1) Keep it fast paced. The Dialogue should be upbeat; to do this we suggest ensuring speaker diversity and limited time (5-7 minutes). The objective is to trigger some thoughts and broad understanding of what is currently being done. 2) Have sufficient time for the interactive parts of the program, particularly if participants don't know each other. Start by a round of introductions so that participants and facilitators can create links during the discussion.

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue theme was 'Innovation for Food System Transformation'. The discussion examined what needs to change so that we are producing and consuming sustainable and healthy diets by 2030 with relevance to the Swiss and global context. As well as how innovation can help to achieve these changes. In fact, the role of innovation is critical and will only rise in importance with the onset of climate change.

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

The Food System requires a transformation towards healthier diets for people produced in a way that maintains and replenishes natural resources. The scale and urgency of transformation needed requires everyone to join and play an active role: no individual or company is too small or too big to contribute to this transformation. A system approach with innovation at its core is needed.

Yet, as the world looks for solutions, there are still many elements that need to be better understood in order to achieve an effective collaboration and co-creation across the value chain from fork to farm.

- What is a food system? Many people talk about it but not many understand all its complexities which must include the economic and cultural aspects of scalable solutions.
- What is a sustainable healthy diet? We do need to consider all dimensions: nutrition and health, economical dimension (affordability), social and cultural components (taste, pleasure, experience), and environmental sustainability.
- What is the true cost of food? A holistic assessment of our food system, including environmental and social externalities, is necessary to understand where along the value chain lies the biggest potential for innovation / transformation. It would constitute a roadmap for food system transformation to be implemented considering the local context.

An additional, complementary angle is to think at what concretely needs to change so that we will be producing and consuming sustainable and healthy diets in 2030.

- We need product level innovation that considers the multiple characteristics of food: nutrition and health, taste, sustainability, and affordability. Food producers need to develop nutritionally high-quality products without compromising on taste and increasing diversity, particularly in terms of protein sources.
- Consumers need to shift towards healthy, nutritious, and plant-based diets. This requires consumer education and the earlier we learn the better: nutrition and cooking classes should be part of school curricula while consumer communication should be clearer and more compelling. Translating complex science and biology in a way that the layman can understand it and is willing to listen to, linking it to trendy topics or lifestyles such as yoga...
- New personalized tools to measure and assess health and healthy diets (which would include new methodologies, metrics, biomarkers...) should also be part of the solution.
- The young generation needs to be enabled and empowered to bring their own ideas and build solutions.
- Globalization and de-globalization are happening in parallel. Innovations need to be relevant, affordable, and adaptable to the local context without creating new environmental impacts downstream or cultural shifts. Stakeholders should take a medium to long term view when assessing the feasibility of innovations. Local sourcing, reducing food losses or food upcycling are promising strategies.

We can't just wait for consumers, farmers or producers to change, we have to start changing all together. The food system transformation needs to be consumer driven and driving consumers at the same time.

As we move this agenda forward, we should not forget how crucial it is to enable and empower the young generation to be part of building solutions. One challenge is that younger generations in many parts of the world do not want to develop their careers in agriculture. Today's young people believe that agriculture is a sector filled with outdated approaches, led by older generations and little future prospects. Agriculture as a sector needs a new culture that appeals to the mindset and ways of working of the next generations. How can we make the agricultural sector open and accessible, collaborative, entrepreneurial, purposeful, and impactful as well as community-oriented?

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

### Nutrition and affordability

We need to 1) move away from increasing food quantity to increasing the quantity of quality food (avoiding excess of high sugar, salt or fat and adding more positive ingredients, e.g. micronutrients or fiber) according to Food-Based Dietary Guidelines and 2) further broaden the offer of nutritious plant-based products to divert from animal-based products (especially in high income countries). A big challenge is the difference in nutritional gaps between Low- and Middle-Income Countries versus High Income Countries. Part of the solution to close the gap is to improve Low- and Middle-Income Countries through partnerships in capacity building programs such as the Africa Leadership Initiative that foster collaboration and knowledge sharing across countries and stakeholder groups (business, government, academia and civil society).

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

### Good health and wellbeing

The first element that is needed is more scientific knowledge on healthy diets. We do not know enough about what defines and characterizes a healthy diet or what it means to stay healthy. We need to 1) build and leverage innovative tools to measure health and healthy diets at a personal level (methodologies, metrics, biomarkers...); 2) invest in longer term impact science; and 3) broader more efficient consumer education and communication around food to drive behaviors towards healthy and sustainable diets. "Food education" should be broad in scope and encompass nutrition, cooking, and sensory testing – an idea in this respect would be integrating nutrition and cooking classes in school curricula. We need innovative communication methods to translate complex science and biology in a way that is easily understood by the average consumer and in a way that encourages consumer's engagement and interest. The consumer should be involved or even co-create these activities. Overall, as mentioned above, in order to achieve sustainable and healthy diets in 2030, all stakeholders need to play a role: consumers, industry, healthcare community, regulatory agencies... It's about being consumer driven and consumer driving at the same time.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Industry, infrastructure, and innovation

To kick-start the food system transform we need 1) a holistic and transparent assessment of the costs and value added across each step of the food supply chain. This includes the quantification of “hidden” environmental, sustainability and social aspects. This assessment will be critical to identifying the priority areas for the food system transformation. Then, 2) identify appropriate solutions taking a comprehensive approach since big impact can only be achieved with scale. Innovators will need to assess the food system through various lenses, including people who do not have access to sufficient and nutritious food when identifying these global solutions. Yet 3) we need to acknowledge that the implementation of identified solutions will differ depending on the local context. For example, while consumers in the developed world can pay more, those in developing countries cannot and “hidden” costs may need to be absorbed into the food supply chain.

The ecosystem in Switzerland is broad - start-ups, academia, food retailers, technology, pharma - and has the capabilities to develop innovative solutions to the challenges faced by the food system. Greater collaboration on concrete projects among these actors is needed. The Swiss Food & Nutrition Valley can be “the glue” of this ecosystem but support from the government is critical, too.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Climate action, responsible consumption and production

In today's world there is so much that needs to be considered when grocery shopping: is the product nutritious and healthy? Is it sustainable? Consumers need to have the right information to make the right choices. An efficient way of doing so is through index scores which capture several basic indicators in a simple and easy to understand measure – examples include "Nutri-score" and "Eco-score". Yet, how to define the optimal criteria remains an open question.

As things currently stand, the easiest and best way to have a positive impact on climate change through their food consumption is 1) for consumers to shifting away from meat-based diets in high income countries with excessive consumption; and 2) for producers to better utilize crops by-products. For instance, 1 kg of coffee yields 2-3 kg of coffee pulp which is currently being wasted. Nonetheless, an assessment at the local level needs to be carried out to validate that by-products use does not lead to negative environmental impacts and/or downstream cultural changes.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

### Plant-based diets

While many things need to change for consumers to shift their dietary patterns to healthier and more sustainable diets, an element that should never be compromised is taste: food must be tasty or it will not be accepted. Expanding the supply of nutritious plant-based products and diversifying protein sources were mentioned as strategies to improve the health of people and the planet. Several elements must change to achieve the shift in consumer attitudes and habits towards plant-based diets: 1) a wide range of choices with diverse protein sources, 2) better and transparent communication from producers and government to consumers and 3) plant-based alternatives must achieve price parity with meat. To do this, food producers should take responsibility for producing nutritionally high-quality products with a focus on increasing protein sources diversity. In addition, greater cooperation, and co-creation is needed across the value chain from farm to fork to understand the barriers that prevent farmers from producing plant-based proteins and for plant-based diets to become mainstream among consumers. Government support as well as an overall enabling environment are key to helping to address some of these barriers. In fact, some of the negative perception of plant-based alternative to animal-based products related to processing could be diminished with better communication, transparency, and education. All these changes must be culturally accepted and seen in cultural context. Solutions need to be tailored to local culture, context, taste, feasibility, and affordability (particularly in developing countries). Innovation that allows for greater food personalization could be game-changing.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the dialogue all stakeholders agreed that consumers need to be involved and listened to throughout this process of transforming the food system. Younger generations that are more value driven and that will be most impacted by the change must be enabled and empowered to build solutions. Yet, participants also acknowledged that many consumers are not in a position to make the right choices. Thus, to what degree can consumers really drive this transformation? To what extent should regulatory bodies and food manufactures be driving this transformation by influencing consumer behavior?

To address the global food system challenges, food should be simultaneously nutritious and healthy, tasteful, sustainable, affordable and adapted to the local context. However, it is likely that new innovations will not be able to solve all these constraints at once. So, the question is which innovations should be prioritized? Participants had some diverging views on this, and the consensus reached was that we need to act on all fronts at the same time.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key approaches, concepts and terms**  
<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/towards-common-understanding-sustainable-food-systems-key-approaches-concepts-and-terms>
- **Switzerland's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030**  
<https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html>
- **Thought for Food**  
<https://thoughtforfood.org/>