

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 9 December 2021 10:30 GMT +01:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Pathways for the future of sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean - Part 3
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	CIHEAM; FAO; UfMS; UN One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme; PRIMA
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/46669/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/46669/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

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

### PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18	19	19-30	72	31-50	55	51-65	14	66-80	80+
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### PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

83	Male	72	Female	5	Prefer not to say or Other
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### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

60	Agriculture/crops	21	Education	2	Health care
8	Fish and aquaculture	9	Communication	12	Nutrition
2	Livestock	3	Food processing		National or local government
1	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets		Utilities
15	Environment and ecology	4	Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	21	Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

9	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	3	Workers and trade union
1	Large national business		Member of Parliament
11	Multi-national corporation	6	Local authority
1	Small-scale farmer	27	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	36	United Nations
4	Local Non-Governmental Organization	2	International financial institution
6	International Non-Governmental Organization	2	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
28	Science and academia	21	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The five convenors paid careful attention to ensuring that the Summit principles of engagement were fully incorporated in the organization of this dialogue. The urgency to act for accelerating progress on the achievement of the SDGs in the Mediterranean by 2030 was strongly highlighted, as well as the need to recognise the complexity of food systems. Multi-stakeholder inclusivity was also embraced, with a gender-balanced participation of representatives from diverse stakeholder groups on all shores of the Mediterranean and beyond. The facilitator of the roundtable panel ensured respect and trust among all participants, including members of the audience, who were actively engaged through the Zoom chat and Q&A session. This Dialogue acted as a catalyst of people, organizations, governments and existing networks that have the potential to join forces and bring concrete impact on the ground, leading food systems in the Mediterranean towards sustainability, ultimately advancing regional progress on the 2030 Agenda. All participants embraced the principle of acting with urgency and in a coordinated and collaborative manner. They were all committed to contribute to the Food Systems Summit's follow-up, moving forward with transformative actions for the concrete implementation of a food systems approach in the Mediterranean.

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

The design of the dialogue reflected the principles of complexity, respect, trust and inclusivity. The roundtable discussion provided very rich inputs, with experiences being shared on the participatory formulation and implementation of national pathways for food systems transformation. The speakers and panellists were all given the opportunity to voice their opinions equally and inclusively. Participants came from 34 different countries across the Mediterranean and beyond, and belonged to more than 15 different stakeholder groups. The dialogue served its purpose of highlighting the importance of coordination across and within countries for the achievement of common solutions for shared goals, highly relevant in the context of the Summit's vision and areas of action, while taking into consideration local specificities and cultural aspects. The dialogue was also an opportunity for stakeholders to connect to the SFS-MED Platform, an initiative aimed at fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, policy support and investment for sustainable food systems transformation in the Mediterranean. The SFS-MED Platform is co-developed by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in collaboration with the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), and as an affiliated project of the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme (OPN-SFSP).

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

Bringing together stakeholders groups with different perspectives and influence on the food system can be challenging, but it is also a crucial opportunity to capitalize on ideas emerging from possible areas of divergence, and to create synergies and partnerships on areas of consensus.

# 3. METHOD

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

This dialogue was conceived as the third in a series convened under the framework of the SFS-MED Platform. The discussions held in the first dialogue in April 2021 (<https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6814/>) mostly focused on common actions and solutions for more sustainable food systems (i.e. “what” is needed); while the second dialogue in June 2021 (<https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15756/>) pivoted on four main crosscutting means of implementation or “enablers” (i.e. “how” to implement the actions). The first two dialogues served as inputs for Mediterranean countries and stakeholders in their preparation towards the Summit and formulation of the national pathways. A summary of the discussion from the first two dialogues is available in the executive brief “Accelerating Food Systems Transformation in the Mediterranean” (<https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7166EN>, also available in Arabic and French). The aim of this third dialogue was to take stock of regional and national efforts in support of the follow-up to the Summit, as well as exchange on the way forward and identify opportunities for collaboration in the implementation of the pathways. In their opening remarks, OPN-SFSP and PRIMA emphasized how the Summit created a wave for food systems transformation that is now moving forward, and which requires a multi-stakeholder approach and strong cooperation in line with SDG17 and the G20 Matera Declaration on Food Security, Nutrition and Food Systems. Then, FAO presented the findings of a stocktaking exercise of national and independent dialogues convened in the Mediterranean region, which was authored by FAO, CIHEAM and UfM (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7978en>). The most interactive session was a roundtable discussion and live Q&A session where Member State Dialogues Convenors from 4 Mediterranean countries engaged with 4 stakeholders’ representatives from the civil society, private sector, finance and research/academia. The convenors chose the panellists to ensure an adequate balance in gender, geographical and stakeholder type representation. The moderation of the FSSD Senior Advisor, Dr David Nabarro, enabled the panel discussion to be highly participatory. Attendees had the opportunity to raise their questions and provide their perspectives through the Zoom chat box, which were answered live by the event organizers and panellists. Moreover, the event had live interpretation in English, French and Arabic to ensure multilingualism.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The major focus of the Dialogue is to build a way forward for stronger regional collaboration on food systems transformation (FST) in the Mediterranean region after the Summit, stimulating consensus around the relevance of multi-stakeholder partnerships to address common challenges and take advantage of shared opportunities. Hence, the exchange of views among the four Member State FSS Dialogues Convenors (Albania, Egypt, Italy and Turkey) and the four stakeholders' representatives – Arab Women Organization (AWO), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT-Food), and BETA Technological Center of the University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia – pivoted around the following key points. 1) Do the findings of the stocktaking of Mediterranean Summit Dialogues reflect stakeholders' priorities? 2) How to foster the development and implementation of national pathways? 3) How can regional collaboration support the UNFSS follow-up process in the Mediterranean? 4) Which actions/initiatives can be taken to best operationalize the UNFSS outcomes in the Mediterranean?

The Dialogue outcomes highlight:

- The urgency of implementation and monitoring of national pathways towards FST to be enhanced by multi-actors cooperation and inclusive SFS governance (also at local/sub-national level).
- The importance of exchanges around the Mediterranean – between and within countries and across sectors – to transfer innovation and knowledge. The SFS-MED platform is considered a key initiative to foster effective collaboration on FST in the Mediterranean.
- The need to create synergies between the UNFSS national pathways and ongoing strategies and action plans and existing monitoring frameworks being implemented at country level.
- A call for the private sector to engage in transformative actions through more sustainable business operations, driving innovation and technological advancements, through effective partnerships with public sector, civil society and research/academia.
- A call for international and national financial institutions to stimulate innovation through tailored financing and investments mechanisms that make sustainability more affordable.
- The consideration of FST as an opportunity to empower the most vulnerable groups, enhancing entrepreneurship, creation of new job types, knowledge and technology transfer, and social inclusion.

### 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 main findings that emerged from the Dialogue are summarized as follows:

- i) The SFS-MED Platform offers a unique opportunity to bring together Mediterranean stakeholders to support implementation and monitoring of concrete actions and pathways for FST in this region, as well as to foster the establishment of a Community of Practice on SFS. The Platform will open a space of exchange across the Mediterranean in view of scaling up good practices and advancing concrete solutions to tackle the current challenges facing FST in the region.
- ii) The stocktaking exercise identified a set of shared priorities that emerged as common to most countries in the region, considered as entry points regarding what to transform in the Mediterranean food systems. These are: green and circular economy; blue and circular economy; sustainable management of land and water in the context of climate change; the Mediterranean diet as a lever for sustainable consumption and production and healthy diets; cities and rural-urban food systems as drivers of change; equitable and inclusive development of rural livelihoods; resilience; and trade and food safety standards.
- iii) Adapted financing solutions are conducive to sustainable investments and growth around food systems. The sustainable finance of FST will enhance investments in green, circular and blue economy models able to provide eco-friendly, healthy and affordable food for the Mediterranean communities.
- iv) The private sector and innovation centers are called upon to disseminate new and affordable technologies, while making them more accessible through capacity building and awareness raising schemes. Innovation projects and initiatives can promote cross-fertilization between science, policy and business about FST in the Mediterranean region. Evidence-based solutions to achieve SFS should be up-scaled through the region, promoted by multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- v) The creation of networks between local, national and international stakeholders is conducive to inclusive governance and ownership of FST. Women empowerment and engagement in FST through increased access to knowledge, technology and leadership is necessary for creating economic and social development opportunities.
- vi) In order to leverage the strategic role of the Mediterranean diet for FST in the region, CIHEAM Bari is organizing the Third World Conference on the Revitalization of the Mediterranean Diet, to be convened in Bari (Italy), in September 2022.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Member State FSS Dialogues Convenors praised the efforts of the SFS-MED Platform in offering a unique opportunity to gather stakeholders with different but strongly converging mandates to foster sustainable and inclusive development for the Mediterranean region. It is important to continue the dialogue and build consensus on collaboration of stakeholders at national and regional level, and promote cooperation between countries for the implementation of joint projects. This is in line with the G20 Matera Declaration, which is a milestone in the global agenda for food security, nutrition and food systems. In this context, panellists referred to the potential role of the UN to establish guidelines for the implementation of national pathways. Similar to the SFS-MED Platform, countries are involved in several international fora, with the aim to maintain the focus on key interconnected concerns including water scarcity, climate change and food and nutrition security. National Convenors described their national dialogue process as the best expression of the network of actors jointly committed to build a robust food diplomacy, with the endorsement of high-level political entities (e.g. at presidential and prime minister levels). The engagement of private sector actors as drivers for the implementation of projects aligned with the strategies of blue, green and circular economy was strongly emphasized. Such extensive and participatory consultations resulted in the formulation of national pathways for FST, identifying actions and priorities. Key focus areas mentioned included the promotion of the Mediterranean diet and the agri-tourism sector as a fundamental tool to valorise the cultural dimension of food and food-related traditions, improve local economies and livelihoods through ecosystem-based solutions. Other themes common to several pathways are the balanced use of natural resources, environmental protection, digitalization of agro-food value chains, food quality and safety, the One Health approach and food loss and waste reduction. Attention is paid also to the development of communication plans to promote public-private partnerships and multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approaches. Multi-stakeholder inclusiveness and innovation in agro-food are also of paramount importance to foster FST in the Mediterranean region.

Moreover, several countries are integrating and identifying synergies between their national pathways for FST and the monitoring framework of existing national plans and strategies, based on SDG targets (e.g. Egypt's Haya Karimah ("Decent life") programme, which aims at improving rural livelihoods in the whole country). The next steps at country level will include, for some countries, the establishment of a multi-stakeholder national coordination mechanism to lead the pathway's implementation; while for other countries, it will focus on prioritizing actions in the pathway and discussing potential sources of finance through focus group meetings. To maintain a high-level of engagement in the implementation process, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial coordination needs to be complemented by donors, financial institutions and the private sector in technical and financial terms.

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Innovation	Data & Evidence
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

[Continued from previous box]

Stakeholders' representatives enriched the discussion with insights about the key role of sustainable finance, innovation and inclusive governance. Panellists emphasized how innovative and sustainable financing operations can promote FST by helping companies to become financially stronger while they expand the sustainability of their businesses, making them more energy efficient, and investing in circular economy. Key instruments include equity investments coupled with advice and support for sustainable growth, the provision of financing for capital expenditures as well as the integration of grant elements into loans with the aim to stimulate energy and water efficiency. Finally, technical assistance to businesses encourages the use of new technologies and processes that reduce their environmental impact. Development financial institutions should find the right mix between financial feasibility and sustainability, to help successful businesses go the extra mile and have a positive impact on the country and society where they operate, making investments more inclusive. The implementation of innovation projects and initiatives is key to promote cross-fertilization between science, policy and business about FST in the Mediterranean region. These projects and initiatives enable to scale-up and mainstream results, engaging public and private stakeholders, policy-makers, consumers and the society in general. The involvement of local and territorial stakeholders through the creation of working groups on SFS and the implementation of communication plans may enable to establish a common roadmap or a line of actions to achieve FST in the Mediterranean.

More gender balance in entrepreneurship and innovation in the agri-food sector is needed, adopting gender-sensitive measures that consider the fragile situation of women, especially those living in rural areas, which has deteriorated after the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, empowering women in rural areas should be achieved by creating economic and social development opportunities. It is crucial also to work with women leaders in national institutions to raise awareness and knowledge of women on climate change, natural hazards and food security, which would enable them to be prepared to prevent and overcome these challenges. In terms of opportunities, civil society should enhance the interest of women in technology and provide access to affordable technological tools for fostering FST in rural areas. Networking is key to extend and disseminate scientific knowledge to the wider population, making the transformation more inclusive and sustainable. Finally, consumers in both cities and rural areas are the main drivers for achieving sustainable consumption patterns in the region and revitalizing the Mediterranean diet. The role of the Mediterranean diet as a lever for sustainable consumption and production was also emphasized in relation to issues of affordability of and access to healthy foods, making them more attractive, especially for youth and children. To prevent and reduce children's obesity, governments and in particular cities, should focus on school canteens to improve food education, food habits and consumption patterns. Moreover, the Mediterranean should become the "vegetable garden" of Europe and a leader in enhancing the consumption of vegetable-based proteins. Sustainable management of land and water in the context of climate change is also a crucial point to achieve FST, for example through regenerative agriculture and by increasing efforts to build water smart-industries and societies in Mediterranean countries.

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## **AREAS OF DIVERGENCE**

No significant areas of divergence emerged during the Dialogue.

### **ACTION TRACKS**

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### **KEYWORDS**

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Governance

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **SFS-MED Video**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_Pfn\\_xdC3c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_Pfn_xdC3c)
- **SFS-MED Dialogue 1**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6814/>
- **SFS-MED Dialogue 2**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15756/>
- **Executive brief: "Accelerating food systems transformation in the Mediterranean"**  
<https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7166EN>
- **Publication: "Food systems transformation – processes and pathways in the Mediterranean: a stocktaking exercise"**  
<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7978en>
- **Report of the 2nd World Conference on the Revitalization of the Mediterranean Diet**  
<https://www.ciheam.org/project/second-world-conference-of-the-revitalisation-of-the-mediterranean-diet/>
- **Article: "Changing route: Common action on food systems transformation in the Mediterranean"**  
<https://newmedit.iamb.it/2020/09/24/changing-route-common-action-on-food-systems-transformation-in-the-mediterranean/>
- **Article: "Towards food systems transformation in the Mediterranean region: unleashing the power of data, policy, investment and innovation"**  
<https://newmedit.iamb.it/2021/09/28/towards-food-systems-transformation-in-the-mediterranean-region-unleashing-the-power-of-data-policy-investment-and-innovation/>