

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 7 December 2023 12:30 GMT -05:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Food as Our Common Language
CONVENED BY	Dr. Eric Hannel, Chipco Preserve & Saint Leo University Honors Students
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/51862/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Chipco Preserve's approach to organizing its food systems dialogue at Saint Leo University, aligned with the principles of engagement for the Food Systems Summit, demonstrated a comprehensive and inclusive strategy. Understanding the critical need for swift action to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Chipco Preserve's Dialogue was a proactive contribution to the Food Systems Summit. The discussion crafted tangible pathways for transforming food systems, directly supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Chipco Preserve ensured that their Dialogue was a true embodiment of the Summit's vision and objectives. From local stakeholders to global experts, participants were encouraged to integrate the Summit's goals into their personal and professional lives. This commitment was evident in the forward-thinking nature of the Dialogues, which fostered new connections and innovative approaches to collective action. The Dialogue was grounded in respect for diverse perspectives and local contexts, emphasizing policies and practices that enhance health and well-being and respecting cultural nuances. This respectful approach ensured a platform where divergent views coexisted. Acknowledging the intricate nature of food systems, the Dialogue embraced a systemic approach, highlighting the interconnections between food systems and various other sectors, such as health, climate, and economy. This recognition of complexity enabled a more holistic discussion of potential actions and their implications. A key feature of Chipco Preserve's Dialogue included many stakeholders. This inclusivity united business leaders, civil society members, educators, and students. The Dialogue valued diverse perspectives, including indigenous knowledge and scientific evidence, ensuring a rich tapestry of insights. Chipco Preserve's Dialogue was not in isolation but built upon existing global efforts related to food systems aimed to amplify and accelerate these efforts, avoiding duplication while fostering innovative efforts and creative thinking for systemic transformation.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue organized by Chipco Preserve reflected specific aspects of the Principles of Engagement in several distinct and impactful ways: The Dialogue was structured to address the immediate challenges facing global food systems. By focusing on actionable solutions and emphasizing the need for swift implementation, the discussions mirrored the urgency called for in the Principles. This was evident in setting short-term goals and deadlines for initiatives that align with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Participants in the Dialogue were informed about the objectives of the Food Systems Summit and encouraged to integrate these goals into their ongoing projects and initiatives. This commitment was reflected in the way discussions were steered toward how individual and collective actions could contribute to the broader vision of the Summit. Respect for diverse viewpoints was a hallmark of the Dialogue. Participants were encouraged to listen actively and consider perspectives that differed from their own. This approach ensured that the Dialogue was a platform for sharing ideas and understanding and respecting the complex socio-cultural dynamics that influence food systems. The Dialogue acknowledged the multifaceted nature of food systems. Discussions delved into how food systems are intertwined with other critical areas like climate change, economic policies, and social justice. This recognition of complexity led to more nuanced conversations about potential solutions and their broader implications. The Dialogue was inclusive, bringing together diverse stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, academics, and representatives from non-governmental organizations. This diversity ensured that the Dialogue benefited from a wide range of experiences and expertise, reflecting the principle of multi-stakeholder inclusivity. The Dialogue was mindful of existing efforts and initiatives in food systems. It sought to build upon these efforts rather than duplicate them, complementing and extending the work already being done in this field.

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

Key pieces of advice for other Dialogue Convenors on appreciating and effectively implementing the Principles of Engagement include: (1) Before convening a dialogue, ensure a thorough understanding of the Principles of Engagement. Recognize how each principle contributes to a successful and impactful dialogue. This understanding will guide the planning and execution of the dialogue. (2) Make sure all participants know these principles from the outset. Clear communication about the dialogue's purpose, expectations, and guiding principles helps set the right tone and fosters a shared understanding among participants. (3) Actively work to create a space where all voices are heard and valued. This means reaching out to a diverse range of stakeholders, including those who are often underrepresented. Consider language barriers, cultural differences, and accessibility to ensure inclusivity. (4) Promote an atmosphere where participants are encouraged to speak and listen actively to others. This can be facilitated through structured activities that promote empathy and understanding, such as roundtable discussions or small group breakouts. (5) Acknowledge and embrace the complexity of the issues at hand. Avoid oversimplification and encourage participants to consider the various dimensions and interconnections of the topics discussed. (6) Establish ground rules that promote respect and civility. Ensure that participants feel safe expressing their opinions without fear of disrespect or reprisal. This can be achieved by setting clear expectations for conduct and having a plan to address any breaches of these expectations. (7) Recognize disagreements as a natural part

of any dialogue, especially on complex issues. Guide these disagreements constructively, ensuring they contribute to deeper understanding and innovative solutions rather than conflict. (8) Be transparent about the dialogue's goals, processes, and outcomes.

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

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Our Dialogue centered on a comprehensive exploration of food systems, particularly emphasizing the interplay between the five action tracks of the Food Systems Summit. This exploration aimed to dissect and understand the multifaceted nature of food systems, their current challenges, and their potential transformative strategies. The Dialogue was structured to delve into each action track, examining their individual contributions and interdependencies and how they collectively drive systemic change. The Dialogue began by addressing the critical issue of food security. Discussions focused on strategies to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, has access to healthy and nutritious food. This track explored innovative agricultural practices, food distribution networks, and policy interventions that can reduce food insecurities. The role of local and global supply chains in ensuring consistent and equitable food distribution was also examined. A second discussion addressed the need for a global shift towards more sustainable consumption patterns. It involved reducing food waste, promoting dietary shifts towards more plant-based foods, and the role of consumer awareness and behavior in driving these changes. The Dialogue explored how education, policy, and market-based approaches can incentivize sustainable consumption. The third focus area dove into increasing agricultural productivity while enhancing environmental sustainability. This included practices like regenerative agriculture, agroecology, and technology integration in farming. The Dialogue examined the balance between increasing food production and preserving biodiversity, soil health, and water resources.

The fourth track focused on ensuring that food systems support equitable and fair livelihoods. The Dialogue explored how food systems can be restructured to provide fair economic returns, safeguard worker rights, and ensure gender equality. Discussions also covered the role of smallholder farmers and indigenous communities in the food system and how their knowledge and rights can be protected and promoted. The final action track discussed building resilience in food systems. This involved preparing for and responding to environmental, economic, and health-related shocks. The Dialogue examined strategies for creating more resilient supply chains, improving emergency food distribution systems, and the role of technology and innovation in predicting and mitigating risks. Much of the Dialogue explored the interconnections and synergies between these action tracks. It emphasized that progress in one area often influences outcomes in another. For instance, nature-positive production methods can contribute to more resilient food systems, while equitable livelihoods are essential for sustainable consumption patterns. Throughout the Dialogue, there was a strong emphasis on considering regional and cultural contexts in implementing these action tracks. Solutions that work in one part of the world may not be applicable in another, and respecting local knowledge and practices is crucial.

The Dialogue involved various stakeholders, including policymakers, farmers, business leaders, academics, and civil society representatives. This inclusive approach ensures that the discussions are grounded in real-world experiences and that the strategies developed are practical and implementable. Finally, the Dialogue was structured to be outcome-oriented. Each session concluded with a set of actionable recommendations, which are compiled into a comprehensive report. This report is intended to guide policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders in implementing changes that can transform food systems in line with the objectives of the Food Systems Summit.

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 Systems Dialogue, a comprehensive forum designed to address global food systems' multifaceted challenges and opportunities, yielded several key findings. These findings encompass a range of issues, from food labeling and waste to the necessity of systemic thinking and the impact of climate change on food systems. Here's a detailed overview:

1. Need for Better and More Accurate Food Labeling: One of the primary outcomes of the Dialogue was the importance of better and more accurate food labeling. Participants highlighted that consumers often face confusion due to misleading or inadequate information on food packaging. The need for transparent, easy-to-understand, and comprehensive labeling was stressed. This includes clear information on ingredients, nutritional content, sourcing, and environmental impact. Such labeling not only aids consumers in making informed choices but also encourages producers to adopt more sustainable and ethical practices.

2. Reducing Food Waste: The Dialogue brought to light the critical issue of food waste, a significant global problem. Discussions revealed that a substantial amount of food produced is wasted due to various reasons, including inefficient supply chains, overproduction, and consumer behavior. Strategies to reduce food waste were discussed, focusing on improving food storage and transportation, encouraging responsible consumer behavior, and finding innovative uses for food that would otherwise be discarded. The importance of government policies and private sector initiatives in tackling food waste was also emphasized.

3. Minimizing Single-Use Plastics: The environmental impact of single-use plastics, particularly in packaging and food service, was another key finding. Participants agreed on the urgent need to reduce reliance on single-use plastics, advocating for more sustainable alternatives. This includes the development and use of biodegradable materials and the promotion of reusable and recyclable packaging solutions. The role of policy interventions, such as bans or taxes on single-use plastics, was also discussed as a means to drive change.

4. Embracing Systems Thinking: A significant insight from the Dialogue was the necessity of adopting a systems thinking approach to address the complexities of food systems. This approach recognizes the interconnectedness of various elements within food systems, including production, distribution, consumption, and waste management. By understanding these interdependencies, more holistic and effective solutions can be developed. Systems thinking also helps identify leverage points where interventions can have the most significant impact.

5. Impact of Climate Change on Food Systems: The Dialogue underscored the profound impact of climate change on food systems. Climate change threatens food production through extreme weather events, changing precipitation patterns, and increased pest and disease prevalence. Discussions focused on the need for adaptive and resilient food systems to withstand these challenges. This includes diversifying crops, adopting climate-smart agricultural practices, and ensuring water efficiency. The importance of reducing the food system's own contributions to climate change through reduced greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable land use was also a key topic.

Cross-Cutting Themes: Across these findings, several cross-cutting themes emerged. These include the importance of collaboration across sectors, the need for innovation in technology and practices, and the role of education and awareness in driving change. The Dialogue also highlighted the importance of equity and inclusivity, ensuring that solutions are accessible and beneficial to all, particularly marginalized and vulnerable communities.

The Food Systems Dialogue brought forth a comprehensive set of findings that address critical aspects of global food systems. From improving food labeling and reducing waste to tackling the challenges of single-use plastics and climate change, the Dialogue set the stage for actionable steps towards more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems. Adopting a systems-thinking approach was crucial in understanding and addressing the complexity of these issues effectively.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Action Track 1 of the Food Systems Dialogue focused on critical global food systems issues. The dialogue explored various aspects, including meeting food needs, addressing food waste, the role of urban farming, the impact of climate change on food production, and the significance of food labeling and systems thinking in solving food-related challenges.

Meeting Food Needs: The dialogue emphasized the importance of ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all. It discussed innovative agricultural practices, efficient food distribution networks, and policy interventions to reduce food insecurities and ensure equitable food distribution.

Food Waste and Fairness: A major point of discussion was how food waste complicates the challenges of global hunger and environmental degradation. The dialogue highlighted the need for strategies to reduce food waste, such as improving food storage and transportation, promoting responsible consumer behavior, and finding innovative uses for food that would otherwise be discarded.

Urban Farming: Urban farming was identified as a key solution to alleviate pressures on increasing food production due to urbanization. The dialogue covered the benefits of localizing food resources, such as reduced reliance on imported food, health benefits from fresher produce, and a smaller carbon footprint due to decreased transportation distances. It also discussed efficient farming in urban areas, like vertical farming and rooftop gardens, and the role of technology in revolutionizing urban farming.

Climate Change Impact: The dialogue underscored the profound impact of climate change on food production. It focused on the need for adaptive and resilient food systems that withstand environmental, economic, and health-related shocks. Strategies for creating more resilient supply chains and improving emergency food distribution systems were also discussed.

Food Labeling: The importance of better and more accurate food labeling was stressed. Clear, comprehensive labeling helps consumers make informed choices and encourages producers to adopt more sustainable and ethical practices.

Systems Thinking in Food Solutions: The necessity of adopting a systems thinking approach was a significant insight. This approach recognizes the interconnectedness of various elements within food systems and helps in developing holistic and effective solutions.

Food Archetypes and Symbolism: The dialogue also delved into the historical and cultural significance of food. It explored how different civilizations and cultures have ascribed symbolic meanings to food, from ancient civilizations like Egypt and Greece to modern eras marked by industrialization and world wars. The symbolism of food in religious practices, art, and socio-economic contexts was discussed, highlighting how food has been a powerful tool in expressing cultural values, beliefs, and social dynamics.

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KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no glaring areas of divergence between participants.

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