

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 27 April 2021 11:00 GMT +01:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Nigeria UN Food Systems Summit Youth Dialogue 2021
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	YASIF and UYSG Nigeria
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/5793/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/5793/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Nigeria

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

233

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

124

19-30

96

31-50

13

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

156 Male

77 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

57 Agriculture/crops

30 Fish and aquaculture

13 Livestock

5 Agro-forestry

8 Environment and ecology

5 Trade and commerce

10 Education

3 Communication

3 Food processing

3 Food retail, markets

10 Food industry

20 Financial Services

31 Health care

15 Nutrition

15 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

5 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

50 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

3 Multi-national corporation

30 Small-scale farmer

27 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

10 Local Non-Governmental Organization

30 International Non-Governmental Organization

10 Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

5 Local authority

6 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

35 Consumer group

25 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Before, during and after the Dialogue, we have paid particular attention to the urgency, the need and inclusion of a vast majority in the Food Systems discourse. First, we ensured to run our dialogue early in the year as a build up to the main Summit event in September. The reason for this is to have ample time to reconvene for more sessions to follow up on the highlights of the first Dialogue session. As it stands, we have been able to pique the curiosity of participants and stakeholders. Secondly, while we have endeavored to make of Dialogue focused on the Action Track 1 (safe and nutritious food for all), we have not shied away from other aspects of the Food Systems action tracks that may directly or indirectly affect the nation's access to safe and nutritious food all-season long. In our rigorous attempt to ensure stakeholder diversity, we have involved experts and accepted participants from different works of life. From our like list, we have lawyers, NGOs, entrepreneurs, individuals from academia and research, indigenous people and a host of others too numerous to mention. In addition to this, we have also done well to incorporate gender and cultural diversity in our panel board. This, in our opinion is an important aspect of enhancing the discussion spectrum. Ahead of the Dialogue session, we had also endeavored to intimate our panel members about key goals of the Dialogue vis-à-vis the 2030 UN SDGs with particular attention to the 2020 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report on Nigeria which classifies hunger in Nigeria as being serious (at 29.2 GHI score) with a GHI ranking of 98 out of 107 countries assessed. The idea was to drive the discussion in a solution-oriented manner and to foster actionable components.

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

As mentioned in our previous response, both panelists and participants had been kept abreast of the criticality of the topic of discussion. So, every person had come with the sense of concern, involvement and a determination to proffer solutions. In realizing this, as conveners and moderators the dialogue, we were sure to tap into the core areas of expertise each panel member to stimulate the discussion and invoke different viewpoints. For instance, female panel members were asked to contribute to discussions about diversity and marginalization of the female gender in participation in the food systems chain in Nigeria. The panel was also selected to reflect the principles of the Dialogue. For example, we had the Founder of Lagos Food Bank Initiative, a Lecturer/Researcher from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, University of Ilorin, a Country representative of an International youth organization (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development - YPARD), an agri-food business entrepreneur, a young farmer and a food security advocate all represented on the panel.

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

Yes. The Principles of Engagement are a solemn compilation of keynote features to tap from and inculcate in any dialogue. They shape one's reasoning and outlook to the food systems ecosystem. They can qualify as a starting point for the things to look out for while recruiting a panel or targeting a focus group for the dialogue. Quite frankly, one would barely get by, by not enshrining the principles encoded therein in the planning, implementation and subsequent follow up on the food systems' dialogues.

# 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

Our dialogue was focused on the exploration of Action Track 1. However, as earlier hinted, since our participants and panelists have a wide range of expertise, the discussion did manage to cover several aspects of food systems. There were mentions of short-term and long-term availability of food, climate change, improving agricultural curriculum and making it attractive to students, food storage, public-private partnerships, subsistence and/or family farming, policy improvement, youth participation and active engagement of local stakeholders.

### 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

What has stuck out for us during the course of the dialogue is the need for more collaborations among Youth-led organizations and initiatives. All the identifiable call to actions are highlighted below:

1. Bridging the Gender Gap that Exists in the Nigeria Food Systems chain
2. Government Intervention Through Policy Formulations and Implementation
3. Reduction of Food Waste and Fighting Food Scarcity
4. Collaboration between different stakeholders
5. Capacity Building and Making Agriculture Attractive for University students
6. Educating and Training the Public on how to access inexpensive, quality, and healthy food.
7. Investment in Storage Facilities

A culmination of the dialogue was also the interest of the panelists and participants to initiate a social media movement to spark the food systems dialogue across all frontiers including healthy foods and sustainable consumption, capacity building for youths, empowering women and small-scale farmers in sustainable and climate-smart agriculture.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/7

### 1. Bridging the Gender Gap that Exists in the Nigeria Food Systems chain

The gender gap that exists in several areas of the society also prevails in the agricultural sector. And although, women and children are most impacted by the devastating effects of an ineffective food system, they are also most marginalized when it comes to participation. There is a growing need to bring on board all the hands we can get and especially, to benefit from the pool of diversity that we have at our disposal.

There is a standing hypothesis that since women are natural caregivers, they may be in a better position to drive the production of nourishing foods for their wards. For instance, in the competitive market of accessing loans for starting an agricultural outfit or to scale-up an existing field, women are not so favored as their male counterparts. This is in addition to other challenges that make it difficult for the food system to thrive e.g., access to quality seeds or machinery.

#### ACTION TRACKS

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#### KEYWORDS

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/7

### 2. Government Intervention Through Policy Formulations and Implementation

This is an important aspect of any country or region's food system. The regulatory framework in Nigeria and most parts of the world is either ineffective or deliberately set out to favor only the elite class of the societies. While in fact, the large portion of entities that practice agriculture. On another end, law makers and regulators that are tasked with the responsibility of making policies bothering should endeavor to work together with the concerned farmers. It is a known fact that sometimes, policies designed in the chambers and offices do not translate well in practice. For this reason, it is important to bring the discussion on what policies and stipulations work for the farmers to the local frontier – either to farmers or even administrators of local municipalities.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/7

### 3. Reduction of Food Waste and Fighting Food Scarcity

Food waste is a major concern for many nations in the world. Even in developed countries, they must contend with huge wastages due to inefficient production, distribution, storage and consumption of foods. As far back as 1967, food banks have been working towards helping to feed the less privileged by collecting overproduction excesses and close-to-expiry foods for redistribution to poor communities. It is a similar strategy that is being adopted by the Lagos Food Bank Initiative that now operates in two Nigerian states (Lagos and Ogun).

The Lagos Food Initiative has also founded a family farming venture that helps families setup small scale subsistence farming that can avail them immediate food and can be scaled for selling to others within their communities. This program also facilitates getting access to quality seeds for high yield cultivation and harvesting with the aim that it will enable families plan their own food scheme and build a resilient food system. In the same vein, Mr. Eric Nyikwgh believes that hidden hunger (which is tantamount to undernourished foods among the upper low-income class) is a form of food scarcity that needs to be tackled.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/7

### 4. Collaboration between different stakeholders

Favored by Mr. Azeez Salawu and Mr. Eric Nyikwgh, collaborations within and without the country is highly suggested. The local representatives will play an active role in this key point. Young Professional for Agricultural Development (YPARD Nigeria) currently has reach in 16 states across Nigeria and are actively engaged working with the local representatives. Private-public partnerships are being encouraged to build a formidable food system. It has begun with dialogues like the UN Food Systems Summit by well-meaning citizens of the world and it is expected to challenge the status quo. These collaborations will foster a consolidated collection of ideas from academia, research institutions, government apparatuses, investors, financial institutions, and middlemen and that will be especially useful for expediting growth in our food system in Nigeria. There should be efforts driven towards scaling up local production to regional, national, and international terrains. On the long term, this will ease the importation burden that seats on our head as a nation.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/7

### 5. Capacity Building and Making Agriculture Attractive for University students

Many agriculture students and graduates are not equipped enough with the requisite skills that can make them deal with growing challenges in the food sector. They are either trained during their studies in archaic methods or fed with inadequate information to be useful for anything tangible in practice. These kinds of capacity building can be achieved by inculcating more hands-on and industrial fieldwork sabbaticals for students. According to information gathered from Mrs. Waliyat Oloyede, who is lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ilorin, there is already an initiative in place where students carry out agricultural activities on school owned lands.

It is perhaps, a reason students do not find agriculture as interesting because they see it as academic exercise rather than as an asset for long term food security within the nation. On another end, we need to showcase agriculture in the light of profitability when done correctly. The current narrative suggests that farming is only meant for low-income peasant farmers. One Mr. Udegbonam Damian Onuora wrote, "There is need for change in curriculum in Agriculture faculty at the moment to graduate more competent agricultural practitioners". Consequently, we need a more robust industrial and expert influence in helping to expand the horizons of the students.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/7

6. Educating and Training the Public on how to access inexpensive, quality, and healthy food. A popular belief is the nutritious and healthy food is expensive. Mrs. Amidat Adigun, CEO of Lo'meedar Fresh pointed out that as an attempt to correct this erroneous belief, there business has been empowering women in the society to opt for healthier foods for themselves and their children thereby, growing a healthier generation. Furthermore, we should encourage alternative foods that would have fewer negative effects on the environment as pointed by Mr. Oluwatosin Ogunshola of IYS Nigeria referring to one "Plant-based protein inclusion in diet is potent to reduce Meat Consumption - a key greenhouse gas emitter" by Food@COP and 50by40.

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- |                                     |                           |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            |                           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Environment and Climate |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/7

### 7. Investment in Storage Facilities

Like the proverbial handicapped man carrying a load on his head unstably where we focus on the badly sitting load and not the deformation with his legs that made his posture the way it is, we do not pay attention to the pivotal influence that having proper storage infrastructure would have on reducing food waste and ensuring a reliable and steady availability of food. With efficient storage, farm produce from long distance communities and international frontiers can be housed for longer periods of time for year-round access to same. This will ease the strain on the logistical pipeline and streamline the food chain supply process. There seems to be a potential business opportunity in this regard.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The issue of herders' and farmers' clashes in Nigeria has created a lot of tension within the nation bringing to bear the realities of ethno-religious disparity alongside the fragility of our food systems. The panelists and participants had differing opinions on this with no one-size-fit all solution to arrest the situation. Some opinions bothered on the government providing ranching facilities for herders while others leaned towards tackling the problem from a policy point of view and taking more bolder climate actions.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Report on Nigeria UN Food Systems Summit Youth Dialogue 2021 - Discussions bothering Action Track 1-Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Report-on-Nigeria-UN-Food-Systems-Summit-Youth-Dialogue-2021.pdf>

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Report of The Nigeria UNFSS Youth Dialogue 2021**  
<https://africa.ypard.net/2021-05-11/ensuring-access-safe-and-nutritious-food-all>