

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 15 June 2021 10:00 GMT +04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Reshaping National Food Systems: Recommendations for Effective Actions and Policies
CONVENED BY	Mr. Arman Khojoyan
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6201/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Armenia

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	1	19-30	17	31-50	6	51-65	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

14	Male	10	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5	Agriculture/crops	2	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	2	Nutrition
1	Livestock	1	Food processing	4	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology	5	Food industry		Industrial
1	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	1	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
2	Multi-national corporation	3	Local authority
	Small-scale farmer	4	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer	5	United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization	2	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	1	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
3	Science and academia	1	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The second Dialogue of the Republic of Armenia (FSSD) was held based on the results of the first dialogue. Following topics were selected for presentations and discussions: (1) Recommended actions for Effective Land reform; (2) Investing in Food Systems: Multi - sectoral approach for Food Systems Development; (3) Transforming Agriculture Education and Research for resilient food systems; (4) Value Chain Approach to promote Green Agriculture; (5) Strengthening Public and Private partnerships for food systems transformation. The selected format allowed presenters and participants to engage in discussions and exchange ideas on how to develop strategic actions for each discussion topic. The event embraced the Summit principles of engagement: Act with Urgency, Commit to the Summit, Be Respectful, Recognize Complexity, Embrace Multi-Stakeholder Inclusivity, Complement the Work of Others, and Build Trust. Therefore, also for the second dialogue comprehensive preparatory work has been done with presenters and dialogue participants for making sure that their engagement contributes to the Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation in adding value to SDGs. As a result, the dialogue has turned to a "safe space" for promoting trust, encouraging mutual respect, and establishing an effective platform for debate, collaboration, consensus-building, and shared commitment making. In addition, The Chatham House Rule of non-attribution encouraged participants to engage in frank discussion with a collaborative approach. Only presenters, dialogue participants, a facilitator, and one note-taker were permitted discussion sessions.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

For the second dialogue the emphasis was placed in inviting and engaging stakeholders able and willing to take actions with regard to selected discussion topics and being an effective contributor to long-term multi-stakeholder dialogue processes. Five main stakeholder representatives were selected across the food system, ranging from Armenian public sector, research and academic institutions and international organizations. In order to address the dialogue topics, presentations were held followed by moderated discussions focusing on specific actions which should be undertaken for a smooth and smart transformation of Armenian food systems. Key points were summarized by the curator and presented to participants for encouraging a structured effective dialogue.

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

Clear set of rules should be set by the dialogue convenors in line with the Summit principles of engagement. Moreover, these rules should be explained and strictly followed throughout the preparation phase and the final implementation of the event. In the case of the first Dialogue of the Republic of Armenia the Chatham House Rule of non-attribution encouraged participants to engage in frank discussion with a collaborative approach. Only dialogue participants, a facilitator, expert researcher for consultation, and one note-taker were permitted in the dialogue sessions.

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

The third stage of the Armenia National Dialogue focused on developing recommendations and action plans to: (a) ensure the availability of safe nutritious food; (b) boost nature-positive production at scale and, (c) strengthen capacities to resist vulnerabilities and the often changing economic environment; thus, building more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable food systems in Armenia.

The presentations and discussions were broken into five main action areas identified during the first National Dialogue and aligned with the UN Food Systems Summit “action tracks” as outlined below:

1. Recommended actions for Effective Land reform – The main focus was placed on presenting and discussing mechanisms for sustainable and effective use of agricultural land in Armenia. Several suggestions have been discussed on how to bring unutilized land into production, improve farm structures, increase productivity and efficiency, develop a land market (bank) and effectively regulate access and control of agricultural land.
2. Investing in Food Systems: Multi - sectoral approach for Food Systems Development – Strategies have been presented and discussed on how to enhance food security through an inclusive multi-sectoral approach. A special emphasis was put on the collaboration for improved nutrition and ensuring safe, quality, and nutritional food for all for building resilience to shocks.
3. Transforming Agriculture Education and Research for resilient food systems – The role of education and research sector was particularly highlighted in discussions for sustainable food systems transformation. Needs for action were identified in order to achieve a new stage of technological development and e-agriculture as a key enabler of agricultural and rural development.
4. Value Chain Approach to promote Green Agriculture – Based on the approaches applied in the frame of the “EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia” (EU-GAIA) project, several strategies along selected value chains have been presented and discussed for promoting green agriculture and sustainable food supply chain. The focus was put on resource efficient, innovative and eco-friendly technologies.
5. Strengthening Public and Private partnerships for food systems transformation – Mechanisms have been discussed on how to deepen strategic cooperation between government and private sector organizations as well as research and academic institutions and international organizations. It was emphasized that only an effective dialogue mechanism can enable sustainable development and boost investments in different segments of the food value chain.

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 conclusion drawn from the discussions was that a continuous and target-oriented dialogue is needed between public and private sector actors for effectively transforming Armenian food systems. Thereby, research and academic institutions such as the Armenian National Agrarian University and international organizations such as the UN World Food Programme could play an important role in order to enable technological development, boost investment and contribute to the process of building resilient food systems. Based on the discussion results a strategy will be elaborated on how to enhance food security through an inclusive multi-sectoral approach for making food systems more resilience against shocks and thus, improving nutrition for all. The example of EU-GAIA project on promoting Green Agriculture through targeted approaches along different food value chain could serve as a reference on how to develop inclusive and sustainable food supply chains in the frame of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral dialogue processes. At the same time, there was an overall agreement that fragmented and ineffective use of agricultural land remains as the main challenge for the development of agricultural sector and thus, the starting point for transforming food systems in Armenia. Therefore, all invited representatives have expressed their commitment to get engaged in the process of developing mechanisms for sustainable and effective use of agricultural land in Armenia for improving farm structures and increasing productivity and efficiency of agriculture.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Ensure the availability of safe nutritious food

Since food safety is directly and indirectly interconnected with various other sectors of economy, during the dialogue much importance was attached to the coordinated approach towards solution of food safety problems as major outcome of the discussions. The engagement of the private sector actors was highlighted as a key in the form of co-financing initiatives for ensuring the availability of safe nutritious food. The EU-GAIA representatives made clear that innovative systemic solutions are needed along different value chains for increasing productivity and implementing safety standards with the example of animal husbandry and horticultural crops value chains. The government representatives highlighted that also for legumes and cereals production communities have a need for systemic support along the respective value chains. Investments could make these crops attractive as nutritious food, and the government is willing to scale-up successful models for the entire country.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Boost nature-positive production at scale

Two possible approaches were presents by government representatives for consolidating agricultural land and implementing effective reform processes - voluntarily or with state intervention. The discussion showed that fragmented land hinders private sector actors investing in agriculture. Cases were presented where unclear distribution of land and incorrectness in land cadaster certificates cause challenges for starting production and using the existing potential. It was agreed that the establishment of a land agency could speed the land reform process and help to clarify land right issues. Moreover, the land agency could play an intermediary role between investors and farmers for boosting agricultural production in Armenia.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
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KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Strengthen capacities to resist vulnerabilities and the often changing economic environment

The need of transparent and inclusive collaboration mechanisms between different food system actors in Armenia was mentioned as a precondition for meeting challenges and strengthening capacities to resist vulnerabilities and shocks. Based on the results and findings of the discussion by this outcome the focus lies on the research and education and the transformation processes in this sector. The representative from the Armenian National Agrarian University presented several examples on how to better link academia, practice and policy making, e.g., by providing trainings for farmers and cooperatives as well as consultancy to the respective line ministries. At the same time several challenges were presented related to cooperatives in agricultural sector. It was highlighted that successful example of collaborations - such as the farmers' cooperative "Tavsho Hatik" - should be disseminated and scaled-up across the county. Finally, in order to boost investments and strengthen capacities in food systems, the Enterprise Armenia (EA) was presented as the national investment promotion authority with the main mission of promoting and facilitating foreign and domestic investments, attracting new foreign direct investments as well as supporting and providing financing to farmers and SMEs.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was mutual understanding on all five dialogue topics and no major divergencies during the discussion were found out.

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