

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 2 March 2021 11:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Challenges and Innovative solutions from food system primary actors
CONVENED BY	Tolani Adeboye, Youth and leadership engagement specialist, VSO Nigeria
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6445/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

45

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

16

19-30

28

31-50

1

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male

15 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

13 Agriculture/crops

2 Fish and aquaculture

5 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

3 Education

3 Communication

6 Food processing

Food retail, markets

4 Food industry

Financial Services

1 Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

4 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

6 Small-scale farmer

13 Medium-scale farmer

2 Large-scale farmer

9 Local Non-Governmental Organization

2 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 United Nations

International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

0 Consumer group

3 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

At the beginning of the dialogue, every participant was encouraged to listen to others, raise hands, or use chatbox to contribute.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue brought to the table a diversity of primary actors from small-scale farmers to multinational businesses to local and international NGOs to share their ideas freely without discrimination. Participants listened to one another and respected the view of others in the dialogue. Trusts and alliances were built in the dialogue and feedback will be attributed to everyone.

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

This is very important because it will encourage participation, inclusivity and bring out the best in the dialogue

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

There was no discussion group. Primary actors were invited to speak and time was allocated to them to talk about the challenges they were facing and innovative ways of overcoming them. All other participants were given the privilege to make contributions and their points were noted. Also, some asked questions which were attended to by others. Because of limited network capabilities, various farmers (small and medium-size), agricultural cooperative representatives, and livestock producers were invited and allowed to address the challenges addressing Nigeria's food security. Multiple stakeholders discussed how they are addressing the needs of a grower population through their farms and livestock facilities.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Major focal points included land reform and access to land, loans and credits to farmers, transportation and irrigation issues, advancing cooperation and agricultural knowledge among farmers and food producers. Most producers and participants centered on the need to import less food (rice was an example cited), stakeholders mentioned population growth as a result of migration and births. Nigeria is on track to add eighty million inhabitants by 2030, adding stress to a foodshed already impacted by drought. Most stakeholders spoke about the previous year's shortages and their inability to produce higher yields in their crops because of a lack of irrigation. At least one stakeholder discussed that the government should fund a Nigerian-based irrigation technology school. One participant mentioned how regardless of religious faith, all of the population was united in praying for rain. Thus, indirectly climate change was also discussed in the Dialogue

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

One of the main findings of the Dialogue is the need to provide agriculture support and training for small and medium-size farmers. This support should include facilitating training sessions on how to increase yields and soil tests. Many farmers and livestock producers shared skills, tips, and resources to manage their business better. Producers spoke about “old” ways of cultivation better suited to small plots of land, not too modern agriculture. One of the floated ideas is creating an app to “lease” machinery by the hour to facilitate harvest and cultivation. Farmers discussed the need for price transparency and better market access. As one farmer put it, “everyone thinks farming is easy just plant the seed” policymakers need to understand that farming requires more tools. Farmers also wanted to know which crops are best suited for their soil. Most farmers wanted to get in touch and communicate these lessons learned with their neighbors

Another significant finding was the need to secure “soft loans” and credits. Many farmers spoke about receiving their inputs late and not being able to plant in time. In a particular case, the farmer was not able to grow cotton in time. Transportation issues also were mentioned, as was the lack of fuel.

A third significant finding was the need for irrigation techniques and resources. Many farmers spoke about the need to manage water resources and the need to be prepared for climate disturbances such as prolonged droughts.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Participants agreed to share knowledge and resources surrounding better agricultural processes.
- Need for land reform and agricultural supports in terms of loans, credit, and price support.
 - Policy that regulates market prices.
 - Access to markets via transportation (construction of good roads) and ways to process food while it is fresh
 - Price stabilization and a greater share of profits from food processing
 - Start preparing for the next food crisis as a result of climate change or pandemics.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

How to best deal with irrigation issues was an exciting field of divergence. Although for most of the dialogue, farmers and food producers spoke about modernizing practices, they also acknowledged the high cost of modern farming. As a solution, a farmer said about using traditional and older methods of irrigations. Some farmers also discussed how current agricultural practices favor more prominent landowners and not small-scale farmers.

A need for comprehensive land reform was discussed as well as being able to put as much land into food production service. Some farmers also asked that Nigeria look into creating a task force to protect farmers and their crops from looters and crop thieves.

There was a general agreement amongst speakers that the government should plan for an increase in population and climate related contingencies.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Challenges and innovative solutions of food system primary actors**
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KGYxKNJ2CvaPKBzsnS0p5HUu1f360CG8/view?usp=sharing>