

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 23 April 2021 15:00 GMT -10:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Healthier islands through sustainable food systems-1: Honoring culture, diversity and identity
CONVENED BY	Roella Foronda and Susan Mercado (Hawai'i Public Health Institute), Dexter Kishida (City and County of Honolulu), Christian Gloria (Department of Public Health, Hawai'i Pacific University)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6510/
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

57

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

8

19-30

16

31-50

5

51-65

1

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

17 Male

40 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

32 Education

3 Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

15 Food industry

3 Financial Services

5 Health care

3 Nutrition

13 National or local government

Utilities

2 Industrial

5 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

3 Large-scale farmer

9 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

4 Indigenous People

8 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

13 Government and national institution

2 Regional economic community

3 United Nations

International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

15 Consumer group

26 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

"Healthier Islands through Sustainable Food Systems" is a two-part dialogue series organized by four partners: 1) Hawai'i Public Health Institute; 2) City and County of Honolulu- Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency; 3) Hawai'i Pacific University - Department of Public Health, and 4) University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health, Office of Public Health Studies. This core group consists of members representing different fields. The organizations made a commitment to participate in the UN Food Systems Summit through a memorandum of understanding. To build trust, prior to the Independent Dialogues, a state-wide round table discussion was held on March 31, 2021 - entitled, "Our Health, Our Food Systems, Our Islands, Our People" - designed to create a process for introducing the UN Food Systems Summit to Hawai'i. Through this initial event, the organizers developed a better understanding of the complexity of food systems and the need to accommodate a wide range of participants representing different sectors. Subsequently, the Independent Dialogues were informed by the statewide activity and enabled the core group to target key participants who could speak on farming, culture, culinary art, governance and indigenous knowledge. One of the comments was that participants in the dialogue represented the four corners of the "blue continent" - Hawai'i, Guam, the Philippines and New Zealand. To show respect to all those engaged, the core group reached out to participants and speakers on a personal basis and had conversations around the dialogue and its purpose. Inclusivity was one of the most important aspects of developing the dialogue topics and inviting participants.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Independent Dialogues on 'Healthier Islands through Sustainable Food Systems: Honoring culture, diversity and identity' exemplifies acting with urgency as the organizers were able to mobilize speakers and participants in a short period of time. A briefing on the UN Food Systems Summit by the curator at the opening of the meeting, provided a context for the Independent Dialogue in relation to global challenges and action and commitment to the summit as a vehicle for engagement with all possible stakeholders. Participants in the dialogue reflected multisectoriality by including farmers, teachers, advocates, community champions, policy-makers, project managers, health professionals, lawyers, urban planners and indigenous peoples. Throughout the dialogue, participants were encouraged to participate. Breakout groups were small, enabling more time for participants to share their views. This created a respectful environment where everyone's voices could be heard.

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

Participation in the global orientation and training for convenors, curators, and facilitators was very useful in appreciating the principles of engagement. Having a core group that represents different fields of expertise is extremely useful in identifying the right participants and speakers. Forward looking statements need to be agreed upon and framed in a way that encourages engagement of a wide range of stakeholders. The UNFSS dialogue manual was very helpful in the development of some of the framing questions that were used to focus the discussions. To create a respectful environment, it is critical that facilitators are prepared and trained to handle different situations during the dialogue. The use of a short video in the plenary enables participants to grasp the complexity and far-reaching impacts of a food system. Sending out information to registrants prior to the dialogue session helped to inform participants prior for the event and prepare them for a productive event. Given this was a global virtual setting, anticipating any technical challenges beforehand ensured smooth execution of the event.

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

Healthier islands through sustainable food systems seeks to underscore the convergence of food systems, health and culture through the forward looking statement:

“Honoring culturally-appropriate, diverse and inclusive approaches to transformation from import dependent food systems in islands toward self-sufficient, climate-resilient and equity enhancing island food systems that emphasize the importance of community-based food security interventions and advocating for food self-sufficiency within every island.”

Changing the narrative on food systems and health in island settings was a major focus of the dialogue. Culture is a critical component of food systems change due to the centrality of food in the customs and traditions of people. Reframing of the way we speak about food was captured in key statements of participants, “food is not a commodity; it defines social interaction”, “food brings people together through culture”, “food security cannot be realized without land ownership of indigenous farmers”, the land is the chief and we are the servants”, “diabetes and non-communicable diseases are social problems”, the food system is a social determinant of health,” “farming is rewarding”, “food is a public good,” “local food is the bridge between culture and the food supply chain.”

Small island nations, states, territories and areas around the world are estimated to have a combined population of more than 63 million people. These island populations own a rich heritage of indigenous wisdom and knowledge on sustainability. Throughout centuries these island populations have been self-sufficient in food production and have proven to be resilient. Today, island communities face dire conditions related to economic, social and educational policies and conditions that do not optimize the potential of cultural heritage or diverse natural resources of land and sea. Today, island food systems are characterized by import dependence, lack of support for local production and small farmers, and health inequity linked to food insecurity.

Island communities face common and unique food security challenges related to geographic isolation, high vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters as well as profound socio-cultural displacement of indigenous knowledge and practices in food production that have been destroyed in the past century. COVID19 has unmasked severe health inequities in island populations as disruptions in food supply chains pushed many into poverty and hunger. Using indigenous knowledge, island communities have the power to use their own solutions to address food insecurity. Bringing families and communities together to connect over food and identity is critical to revival and pride in one’s culture. Bringing people and communities to connect with the ‘aina (land) and caring for the land is also an important cultural practice. Individuals need to remind each other that what we eat, how we prepare our food, how we eat, how we share our food -- are all facets of who we are. Our identity is linked to food systems. Therefore food systems must be culturally appropriate.

Bringing together various stakeholders will be essential to think through these strategies and come to a consensus as to action steps for the coming years.

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

MAIN FINDINGS

Why we need to act urgently

To date, most island states and territories rely almost completely on imported food (up to 90%). Historical drivers of import-dependent food systems in islands include colonization, militarization, rapid development, industrialization, urbanization and westernization of diets. Small and indigenous farmers and producers of food are the hungriest, the poorest and the most malnourished. Progressive devaluation of indigenous food culture and practices impacts negatively on youth translating into loss of identity - and consequently the loss of purpose -- resulting in disproportionately higher rates of delinquency, substance abuse, and criminality. Unhealthy food is an underlying factor in the NCD crisis in islands where diabetes, obesity, and hypertension cause the highest premature death rates in the world.

Food is not just a commodity, but a public good. Access to healthy food is a human right. Indigenous knowledge and practices around food production is the key to equity, sustainable food production, food security, and environmental protection in island settings.

What we need to do together

Island states, nations, and territories around the world must work together to protect and promote indigenous knowledge, wisdom and practices on food systems.

ACTION POINT: Sustained dialogue and advocacy for preservation of indigenous knowledge on food must continue through existing and new networks that foster collaboration for sustainable island food systems throughout the world.

How we will do it

Comprehensive approaches/strategies that engage all sectors (i.e. agriculture and environment; production and farming; delivery and processing; marketing, distribution and purchasing; consumption and waste; etc.) are essential for change. Honing in on a social movement was recommended to transform a food system that is unsustainable and has negative health impacts. A whole-of-society approach is needed. A social movement will restore, rediscover, revive and reconnect people with their food heritage. A concrete example: the Pacific Island Food Revolution, a reality television cooking show featuring local cuisine of the South Pacific was effective, entertaining and showed evidence of impact in consumption patterns of participants and viewers.

ACTION POINT: It is proposed that the successful reality television show, "Pacific Island Food Revolution" be expanded to include Guam and Hawai'i as well as other island groups.

Supporting local farmers is of critical importance. Oftentimes they are unable to access grants or other forms of support as funding support is directed toward a scale that cannot be achieved on islands. Farm-to-school programs in Hawai'i are good models to integrate farming and education for children and adolescents.

ACTION POINT: Prioritize the opening of funding tracks to support indigenous and small farmers in island settings as well as farm-to-school initiatives.

Research and data generation to sustain policies and programs that enhance cultural approaches to food systems require data systems, but these must belong to communities who should own and use data for their own informed decision-making.

ACTION POINT: Create information systems to identify problems and promote solutions for food insecurity in island settings.

Opportunities should be available for youth to derive substantive income from working in food systems. Young people are already driving initiatives on organic food, climate and the environment. Their engagement in food systems - production, cooking and sharing --- provides additional opportunities to converge solutions that are community specific and sustainable.

ACTION POINT: Collaborate across island states and nations to adapt the "one-island economy" model in the Philippines to engage youth in farming that is profitable and appealing.

Who the key actors are

There are several key actors within the food system that need to be engaged, however, here are some of the priority actors that emerged from the dialogue session:

Youth are key to a sustainable food system. They must be engaged in ways that are economically viable through education and job training.

Women play a key role in food production but also in ensuring that food on the table is healthy.

Chefs play an important role in promoting locally produced food and healthier dishes in popular and enjoyable ways.

Teachers are key to education.

Celebrities and artists play an important role in influencing consumption patterns.

Lawyers are needed to revisit regulatory regimes that do not support small farmers.

Others: Social entrepreneurs, academia, urban planners, farmers and producers, financial policy planners, climate advocates, health professionals

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- 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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Youth are losing their cultural identity because of the food system (marketing of fast food, “traditional food is for older persons”, shift in nutritional preferences) so efforts are needed to reconnect youth to their culture through food - and provide economically rewarding/ viable income to incentivize youth to be involved in the food system.

Changing the narrative around the idea that food is not a commodity; it defines social interaction, brings people together culture, cultivates our relationship to the land. We need to speak about food from different perspectives including:

“The food system as a social determinant of health”

“Farming is rewarding”

“Food sovereignty and decolonization of food systems”

“Food access as a human right”

“Food as a public good”

“The land is the chief, we are the servants”

“Local food is a bridge between culture and food supply chain”

“One island economies” - every island should strive to be food self-sufficient even if the main industry is tourism. Food systems need to be linked to tourism to benefit the tourism industry and the food production sector simultaneously.

Indigenous groups have knowledge on food systems that can result in equity, food security, sustainability and environmental protection. Indigenous farmers need to have access to resources and opportunities to increase their cultural prominence. Traditions should be revived but can have a modern twist.

Empowering communities to take the lead is the key to a social movement - change will not be sustained through academia, non-profit institutions, and government. Educate families and communities to improve food access in backyards, urban gardens, vertical gardens, coastal areas/food sources.

Educating the public through popular media like reality cooking shows on television, soap operas and other forms of entertainment are proven to have impact and can bring about changes in behaviour and attitudes because they are enjoyable and restore pride in local cuisine.

Communication campaigns including social campaigns, are needed to counteract the fast food marketing with promotion of fresh and locally produced food that is properly labelled.

At the global level Indigenous and intergenerational knowledge about food will result in eating healthier, food security and environmental protection. Sustained advocacy for the preservation of indigenous knowledge around food is very important and should be done as a global effort of island communities.

Investing in women results in investments in the community. Women play an important role in agriculture and aquaculture. They also make sure that healthy food is on the table. They share information about opportunities and resources that people can access to grow food, making them valuable educators within the community. It is important to mobilize resources to support initiatives for women empowerment and engagement in food systems.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Divergent views included:

- 1) labelling the actual cost of food (in relation to health effects, carbon foot print) to inform consumers of what they are buying
- 2) use of words to describe what is appealing and attractive to youth

ACTION TRACKS

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
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