

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 9 March 2021 13:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Arab Youth Dialogue on Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7085/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon

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

44

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

17 Male

27 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock
Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

3 Education
Communication
Food processing
Food retail, markets
3 Food industry
Financial Services

3 Health care
Nutrition
2 National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
28 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan
Large national business
Multi-national corporation
Small-scale farmer
Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
Local Non-Governmental Organization
International Non-Governmental Organization
Indigenous People
Science and academia

Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament
Local authority
Government and national institution
Regional economic community
United Nations
International financial institution
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue was organized according to the set principles of engagement of the summit. Participants were introduced to the summit vision, objectives, and the current status of the region in the introduction. An open discussion followed encouraging all participants to participate in providing their proposals. Four challenges were identified in the context of the Arab and participants proposed "Live" their proposals using the Mural application. Key stakeholders including representatives from regional and national youth organizations were invited to the dialogue.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Holding as virtual Dialogue necessitated the use of different approaches for engaging participants during the zoom session. Dialogue conveners encouraged active participation by recording the session, making it available for all participants. It also used the "Mural" application which allowed direct input from participants onto the board, allowed to see input from all participants simultaneously and allowed voting to prioritize issues and identify beneficiaries and actors for change. Furthermore, many were provided the opportunity to provide input directly from the floor or in the chat box and questions in relation to the action tracks were asked to trigger comprehensive input from all.

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

It is recommended to present the Summit objectives and vision and action tracks with some facts and evidence-based information linked to the action track at the beginning of the session. This may promote further intervention from participants especially if these facts are related to the region/country. Using an application that is visual and allows direct input from participants showed to be efficient in collecting further views and addressing hot issues that may arise such as identifying responsibilities for each game changer proposed and prioritizing issues based on relevance

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

Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the dialogue was organized as a 90-minute online meeting using the Zoom platform. The dialogue modality allowed for active participation of young stakeholders using a combination of tools including an interactive online platform "MURAL" where participants were invited to write their proposals live while broadcasting. Time was allocated for active discussions and interaction. The Arab Stakeholder Dialogue was divided into two parts: Part I presented the background information about the food system summit and context for the Arab region. Part II allowed for active participation of youth using a combination of tools including an interactive online platform "MURAL". Participants were invited to write their proposals live while broadcasting, and identify game changing solutions based on their experiences and their needs, and finally identify the responsible actors for implementing these actions.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue aimed at addressing four priority issues were identified as most relevant to the Arab Region namely: Transitioning to Healthy Food, Advancing Equitable Livelihoods, Optimizing Sustainable Production, and Responding to Risks and Hazards. For each priority issue, key challenges and facts in the region were identified and game changing actions were proposed including actors and beneficiaries.

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 game changing actions identified across each of the four issues that were discussed and voted upon as priority based on experiences.

For Transitioning to Healthy Food,

- Make laws that makes it illegal to waste food
- Reduce the consumption of junk food especially for children
- Raising awareness on the effect of malnutrition (diabetes, obesity, heath related cost, etc)

For Advancing Equitable Livelihoods

- Sop child forced labor
- Implement youth economic empowerment programs to reduce high unemployment rate among youth in the region
- Give equal right to women and men in accessing resources

For Optimizing Sustainable Production

- Capacity building for CSOs on using use solar power
- Use crops that are climate resilient and require less amount of water

For Responding to Risks

- Reduce import dependency by diversifying trade partners
- Build capacities of youth and civil society to adapt to climate change

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Raise awareness on the effects of malnutrition and its cost on health and importance of consuming healthy food, reduce the consumption of junk food especially for children and provide system-wide solutions to address the issues of malnutrition and obesity
- Better understanding of the food chain so that people can come closer to the source of their food and appreciate its value and reduce its waste. This could entail subsidizing initiatives to reuse wasted food to make compost, energy and animal feed and raising awareness of young people in urban cities on importance of reducing waste.
- Give equal right to women and men in accessing resources, stop child forced labor and promote youth lead economic empowerment programs to reduce high unemployment rate.
- Review land and water tenure modalities to ensure equitable access to resources and allow land access to nomad Bedouins, make available different sets of food pricing to enable access to cheap food for the most deprived , and ensuring access to basic food as basic right for all
- Build capacity to improve use of green technologies that are affordable, use water saving technology to help farmers and promote use of nonconventional water resources
- Promote research, use of technology and renewable energy, use climate resilient crops that require less amount of water and save local seeds and improve agro-diversity
- Shift to plant-based protein consumption and reduce meat consumption
- Reduce import dependency by diversifying trade partners and increase trade on food products between Arab nations
- Going back to local food traditions instead of globalized ones as the local foods are the ones most adapted to local climatic conditions
- Subsidize environmentally friendly agriculture practices: permaculture and follow scientists' recommendations on climate change issues and other hazards

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The participants were knowledgeable of the main challenges in the region and stressed on the need to have urgent action and implementation.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Arab Youth Dialogue on Food Systems**
<https://www.unescwa.org/Arab-Youth-Dialogue-Food-Systems>