

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 8 June 2021 08:00 GMT +08:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Organic Agriculture for Sustainable and Resilient Community Food Systems
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Dr. Blesilda M. Calub, University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB); Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7142/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7142/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Philippines

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

1 0-18      119 19-30      98 31-50      80 51-65      2 66-80      0 80+

### PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

114 Male      185 Female      1 Prefer not to say or Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

72	Agriculture/crops	85	Education	2	Health care
2	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	2	Nutrition
11	Livestock	7	Food processing	25	National or local government
6	Agro-forestry	1	Food retail, markets		Utilities
20	Environment and ecology	2	Food industry	0	Industrial
5	Trade and commerce	3	Financial Services	57	Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

19	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
0	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
0	Multi-national corporation	20	Local authority
11	Small-scale farmer	2	Government and national institution
0	Medium-scale farmer	40	Regional economic community
0	Large-scale farmer	0	United Nations
26	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	5	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
4	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
110	Science and academia	0	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

**Urgency:** Upon learning about this UN FSSD activities, our center decided to set aside our earlier plan to conduct an international conference, to prioritize convening this Independent Dialogue. We felt this dialogue was relevant to the increasing malnutrition among school children and their families due to lack of access to nutritious food. **Commitment:** We aimed for the results of the Independent Dialogue we convened to be shared and contribute to the UNFSS. Participants appreciated the possibility that they can contribute to the global dialogue. **Respect.** Being respectful of the ideas and circumstances of others is an inherent trait of Filipinos so each one showed respect to others' ideas. Participants remained respectful even in expressing divergent ideas. **Complexity:** At the onset, we reminded our facilitators who in turn reminded everyone in their breakout session groups, of the complexity of the food systems issues and the importance of recognizing the diversity of ideas from various stakeholders. The holistic systems approach was used to guide the panel discussions. **Inclusivity:** We designed the event to capture diverse perspectives by inviting multi- stakeholder groups. We enabled them to participate actively as panelists by encouraging them to do most of the talking but within the 3-minute limit per panelist to give a chance for others to speak. **Complement the work of others.** As the invited stakeholders presented their programs and activities they learned from each other about similar, unique or complementary programs they have. Towards the end of the event there were many exchanges of contact details for those who plan future collaboration. **Build trust:** Instead of one big plenary event, we opted to have five breakout sessions in smaller groups where discussions focused on only one of the Action Tracks per breakout session. Smaller groups create a "safe space" where it is easier for people to express their concerns, promote trust and mutual respect.

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

Intentionally, there were no long plenary presentations, we opted for the smaller group breakout sessions with a set of multi-stakeholder panelists. The facilitators presented guide questions to help panelists focus on the Action Track issues per group. The panelists felt more free to share and exchange ideas in small semi-formal breakout sessions. The online audience were also able to learn by listening to the exchange of ideas among the panelists while they can use the Chat Box to send their ideas and questions. This process embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity. Doing these visualized discussions online was a good way to hold the attention and interest of all the participating actors. It lent a sense of inclusiveness and transparency when ideas of everyone were shared for all to see, not just for the panelists and facilitating team but to a wider (online) audience. The plenary presentation of outputs per Action Track breakout sessions encouraged the healthy exchange of diverse ideas.

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

The Principles of Engagement were appreciated by both the participants and organizers because the E-Dialogue was designed to enable them to experience those principles instead of being told or read about them. It helps organizers to have experience in using a combination of methods like participatory and visualized meta-plan brainstorming. The visualization was important to help the panelists and facilitators organize their thinking processes given the complex and inter-related issues. The plenary presentation of outputs per Action Track breakout session enabled the participants to appreciate and embrace the interconnectedness and complexity of the Five Action Tracks. This gave the participants a wider perspective and systems approach in analyzing the challenges and finding opportunities to address challenges to food systems. Both organizers and participants saw the need for multi-stakeholder inclusive partnerships and for putting their acts and resources together so that organic agriculture can better contribute to sustainable and resilient food systems.

# 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

This Independent Dialogue followed the Food Systems Summit Dialogue (UN FSSD) Reference Manual with modifications. We combined simultaneous discussion sessions, plenary presentations and blended it with the "Fish Bowl" method<sup>1</sup> and Meta-plan Visualisation<sup>2</sup> technique using the Jamboard<sup>3</sup> app. The invited panelists, online audience participants and our facilitation teams appreciated this. The full-day activity with a brief noon break actively engaged everyone up to closing time. Towards the end of the E-Dialogue, the Chat Box had many requests for a Directory of Participants and requests to plan similar activities in the future. This E-Dialogue was convened by the Interdisciplinary Studies Center on Organic Agriculture (IdSC OA) and volunteer researchers and faculty of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The welcome speech was given by UPLB Chancellor, Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr. followed by high-level speakers: (i) UN Special Envoy for Food Systems Summit, Dr. Agnes Kalibata (video message); (ii) Executive Director, of SEARCA and UN Champion for Food Systems Summit, Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio (live online); and (iii) Chief Executive of BERAS International Foundation and Executive Director, Global Alliance for Organic Districts, Mr. Jostein Hertwig (live online from Norway at 2:00AM). Brief video presentations of the (i) UN FSSD and the (ii) Organic Agriculture: A Path to Resilience provided the context of the E-dialogue. For this opening session, the Master of Ceremonies is one of the contributing authors of the 16th High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN Committee on World Food Security and the Youth Alliance for Zero Hunger, Chair, Mr. Jim Leandro Cano. The convenor briefly presented the rationale and main goal of the E-Dialogue in relation to the 5Ps (People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnerships and Peace) for sustainable development. The curator gave the mechanics of the five (5) Zoom breakout sessions corresponding to each of the five UNFSSD Action Tracks. Each of the five simultaneous breakout sessions had a team of IdSC OA members and volunteers assigned as Facilitators, Documenters and Communication Link. We invited five sets of 8-10 mixed stakeholder groups who served as panelists per Action Track breakout session. They shared and exchanged their practical experiences, knowledge and skills on organic agriculture and how it can contribute to sustainable and resilient community food systems. Key ideas from the different panelists were visualized using the Jamboard app. Ideas were clustered and summarized into Priority Issues and Challenges. As each of the five visualized simultaneous dialogues between the facilitators and the panelists ensued, they were watched live online via Zoom and FB by about 35-40 audience participants who can also share ideas and ask questions through the Chat Box. The outputs per Action Track breakout session were shared through presentations in the plenary with an open forum and a synthesis of the outputs. The first main breakout focused on recognizing the sector panelists: their profile, programs, dilemmas and challenges in promoting organic agriculture for sustainable and resilient community food systems. The second main breakout continued by charting pathways towards Ambitious Future for organic sustainable and resilient community food systems. Lastly, they identified short term goals, follow-through activities and lead sectors to initiate action for change. The program closed with a synthesis of the whole day's key points, reflections from stakeholder representatives from each of the Action Track breakout sessions, way forward, closing message and vote of thanks. The event ended with an enthusiastic note of new, continuing or revitalized partnerships, plans and pledges for action towards sustainable organic and resilient community food systems. 1 Fish bowl: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1q7WbWc8dE> 2 Meta-plan Visualization: [https://users.ugent.be/~mvalcke/CV/Metaplan\\_Basiswissen\\_Englisch.pdf](https://users.ugent.be/~mvalcke/CV/Metaplan_Basiswissen_Englisch.pdf) 3 Jamboard: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mknxFD9I3c8>

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The Independent Dialogue we organized was titled, “E-Dialogue on Organic Agriculture for Sustainable and Resilient Community Food Systems” (OA-FSSD 2021). This Food Systems Summit E-Dialogue aimed to provide a platform to: (i) Share and synthesize knowledge and experiences, science research outputs, indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, good practices, opportunities, and innovations by which organic agriculture contributes to the five UN Action Tracks (i.e. ensuring food security; shifting to sustainable consumption pattern; boosting nature-positive production; advancing equitable livelihoods; and, building resilient communities); (ii) Identify strategies and pathways to mainstream organic agriculture’s significance towards building sustainable resilient community food systems; and, (iii) Promote innovative collaborative mechanisms to strengthen community food systems towards sustainability and resilience through organic agriculture. Among other agricultural systems, there is growing advocacy towards sustainable regenerative organic agriculture and food systems (Moyer, et al., 2020). Significant contributions to sustainable regenerative and resilient community food systems can be made possible through the four principles of organic agriculture namely, health, care, ecology and fairness. The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) promotes Organic3.0 “to enable a widespread uptake of truly sustainable farming systems and markets based on organic principles and imbued with a culture of innovation, of progressive improvement towards best practice, of transparent integrity, of inclusive collaboration, of holistic systems, and of true value pricing” (IFOAM 2016). Points of convergence between Organic 3.0 and the UN FSSD Principles of Engagement can be identified as points of complementation, respect and commitment to contribute to the SDGs. We focused on community food systems since this is where each of us in our communities can be the starting point to make the changes towards contributing to the SDGs. Investments at the grassroots community level can directly benefit marginalized people. We believe in using participatory development approaches and synergism to support programs that will engage people towards self-management as well as sharing responsibilities and sharing the benefits. We covered all the five Action Tracks to provide our participants a holistic and systems perspective of food systems. As this event carries the name of the UN FSSD, we also conveyed the message that the challenges of food systems as a worldwide concern can start with transformations and changes locally, at the household and personal level.

### 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

### Action Track 1.

- Need strong promotion among children and adults on nutrition, food safety and effects on health. Provide nutritional information about organic products. Reduce food wastage.
- Need to educate farmers and producers about underlying principles of organic agriculture beyond crop production. Need topics on entrepreneurship, marketing, organizational strengthening, as well as post-harvest technologies, packaging and processing of food and non-food organic products, organic standards and certification. Lack of competent trainers on relevant topics.
- Farmers are still at the mercy of traders.
- Much focus on Agri-tourism results to land not fully-utilized to scale-up organic crop or animal production. Organic crops are mainly for display and special food for paying guests.
- Low technology adoption by farmers. Need conscious effort for results of Research and Development to reach farmers. Need for proper diagnosis of farmers problems and circumstances.
- Lack of organic inputs like standard quality and enough volume of organic soil amendments and almost no local production of organic vegetable seeds. Some resort to imported inputs which are expensive.
- Lack of certified slaughter-houses dedicated for use of smallholder organic animal raisers, cold chain facilities, refrigerated transport.

### Action Track 2.

- Limited market and access to OA products which are more expensive than non-organic ones and not always available in the market
- Inadequate institutional support system and incentives to producer groups that provide safe, nutritious and healthy food;
- Limited appreciation of the consumers on safe, nutritious and healthy diets; to those who can appreciate, they cannot afford the higher price. They resort to buying cheaper non-organic products.
- Need to enhance information dissemination via the social media educate the consumers about true cost accounting in organic production systems.
- Need to lobby with the concerned government agencies for incentivizing the providers of healthy and safe food;
- Strengthen collaboration with the different stakeholders to increase the public and consumer's knowledge for informed decision-making when they buy organic products.

### Action Track 3.

- Boosting nature-positive production is multidimensional. It cuts across ecological, education, policy, social and economic dimensions. Promote true cost accounting of ecological and societal benefits.
- Despite the diverse ideas, participants agreed on a common goal of striking a balance between and among the five dimensions.
- Promote the importance of soil health to food production, environmental conservation and addressing climate change.
- Address threats to biodiversity and the environment due to habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution.
- Commit to conduct youth education that integrate biodiversity in organic agriculture.
- Open consultations among stakeholders
- Need academe and private sector/industry linkages.

### Action Track 4.

- Promote agricultural enterprise development with policy reform on labor wages and employment opportunities in agriculture. Need options to address seasonality of labor in agriculture.
- Need adequate infrastructure support to address basic agricultural productivity constraints like farm mechanization, irrigation, post-harvest and processing facilities) and socio-cultural constraints to bring the community to act for change.
- Need flexible and accessible financial instruments to wean farmers away from unscrupulous traders and money lenders.
- New strategies to motivate the youth to agriculture.

### Action Track 5.

- The Philippines ranks 3rd as the world's most natural disaster-prone countries thus the strong need for disaster risk-reduction and mitigation (DRRM) strategies.
- Increase participation of stakeholders including farmers in program planning, implementation and monitoring progress of DRRM programs.
- Limited opportunities to earn supplemental income while waiting for crop harvests or during disastrous events.
- Inadequate local government policies for organic agricultural systems, certification and participatory guarantee systems.
- Minimal policy support for promotion and adoption of indigenous knowledge systems and practices.
- limited knowledge and awareness on OA practices, related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

### Action Track 1.

- Improve Research and Development to address real problems of organic producers. Ensure new technologies and research results reach farmers, processors and consumers.
- Promote application of digital technology.
- Strengthen competency of stakeholders through knowledge-sharing and access to science-based information on organic agriculture, nutrition, food safety, health and sustainable food systems plus economic, environmental and social value to boost demand and encourage farmers to increase availability of organic products for all.
- Mobilize resources to level-up organic agriculture supply and value chains through effective partnerships and linkages among industry players, local authorities, academe and government.

### Action Track 2.

- Mobilize youth groups to spearhead action and to improve the visibility of healthy, safe and nutritious organic products via capacity building (i.e., training, discussion series, farm visits, information campaigns) and via social media to motivate demand and shift of consumers to sustainable consumption patterns.
- Collaboration among academe, private sector and government agencies such as DA-ATI, BAFS, BPI and BAI.
- Create information hubs to link consumers and producers on the distribution of healthy and safe food (i.e. Agri-Aqua Hub Project of PCAARRD).

### Action Track 3.

- Prioritize early age youth environmental education that highlight the role of organic agriculture in promoting Biodiversity Enhancement and Environment Sustainability (BEES), climate resiliency and with economic gains. The academe and organic agriculture enterprises should actively and continuously engage in information dissemination.
- Make organic agriculture a profitable livelihood. Strengthen the marketing of organic produce by linking the producers to the right market.
- Implement the National Organic Agriculture Program Roadmap (2017-2022) more effectively.
- Synergize roles of local authorities, organic enterprises, farmers and academe, to lead people into community action through systemic solutions to food systems problems.

### Action Track 4.

- Facilitate collaboration, synergy and technology-sharing among farmers, NGOs, private sector and academia.
- Review and implement policies to enable stronger support to micro, small and medium enterprises.
- Give incentives for greater private sector investment in agriculture.
- Promote multi-stakeholder collaboration to provide inclusive, holistic and system-wide participatory analysis of problems and action planning to upgrade agricultural systems.
- Plan strategies for better disaster resilience and risk management, provide crop insurance and other financial instruments.
- Update or redevelop the existing elementary and secondary school Basic Education Curriculum to strengthen the integration of youth entrepreneurship and financial literacy in agriculture.

### Action Track 5.

- Strengthen people's organizations through leadership training and financial literacy for livelihoods and disaster preparedness.
- Strategize securing food resources and farm production inputs for quick recovery from disasters.
- Provide climate-resilient infrastructure for farming communities.
- Provide financial and innovative technical support. Promote off-season farming.
- Capacitate local authorities on the unique socio-economic and environmental benefits from organic agriculture to get their support for enabling policies and programs.
- Educate consumers about organic agriculture so they will demand for it.
- Localize training and knowledge products adopting relevant indigenous knowledge systems.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships for continued capacity building for self-reliance of indigenous peoples and upland farming communities while promoting forest protection and conservation.
- Create various communication platforms in hard-to-reach-conflict areas.
- Provide safety-nets for farming communities (i.e., scholarships for farmer's children).
- Put up farmer field schools that integrate climate resilience and sustainable organic farming.



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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### Action Track 1.

How to balance promotion of Agri-tourism versus maximizing the use of land to scale up organic crop and animal production

### Action Track 2.

Promotion and awareness campaigns towards healthy and sustainable consumption patterns need to be accompanied by ensuring those healthy foods are readily available and affordable.

### Action Track 3.

The challenge remains on how to balance the economic and ecological dimensions of organic agriculture for sustainable food production. Costly 3rd party certification remains a challenge. The new law on Participatory Guarantee Systems should be supported and studied closely how best it will serve organic farmers, animal raisers and small-medium processors and enterprises.

### Action Track 4.

How to make agriculture profitable without sacrificing the principles of organic agriculture (care, health, ecology and fairness)

### Action Track 5.

The combination of natural and man-induced (anthropogenic) disasters is a huge challenge for an archipelagic country like the Philippines. The expansion of GMO corn production by clearing vast upland sloping areas in typhoon-prone heavy-rainfall areas of Northern and Southern-most Philippines frequently result to massive floods due to swollen rivers rushing through several towns and provinces. The loss of lives and livelihoods is daunting. How do we appeal to the conscience of promoters of these "modern" technologies to be accountable?

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