

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 9 March 2021 09:30 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Preliminary discussions for moving forward with food fortification in Cambodia
CONVENED BY	His Excellency Sok Silo, Secretary General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development.
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7273/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Cambodia

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	19-30	8	31-50	3	51-65	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

10	Male	1	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1	Agriculture/crops Fish and aquaculture Livestock Agro-forestry Environment and ecology		Education Communication Food processing Food retail, markets Food industry		Health care Nutrition
1	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	3	National or local government Utilities Industrial
				4	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		Workers and trade union Member of Parliament Local authority
1	International Non-Governmental Organization Indigenous People Science and academia	4	Government and national institution Regional economic community
		3	United Nations
		3	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?

This was a preliminary meeting, designed to lay out the main areas of interest and to identify different stakeholders. The group was kept deliberately small to serve as a planning event in a sequence of dialogues planned for April and May 2021. Given the need to act quickly and to operate under increasingly restrictive measures to combat COVID-19, the meeting was held online with a small group each selected to represent diverse interests. In response to the request for discussion by IFC, CARD was able to quickly mobilise support from different elements of the SUN Movement already active in the area of food fortification and knowledgeable of other parties and their possible interests. The imperative to act and the inability to conduct large meetings mean that we need to move quickly into the in-depth discussions for Stage 2 and to mobilise interest and commitment to the dialogue around key topics.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Knowing that we need to work as quickly as possible to fulfil the requirements for a national dialogue and widest possible representation and inclusion, the imperative now is to initiate multiple dialogue events across a wide variety of topics. Each small event is designed as an effort to recruit interest from multiple stakeholders and to engage a wide cross section of interests. The discussions on food fortification were respectful of the long history of involvement of the Ministry of Planning and agencies such as WFP, UNICEF and HKI in food fortification efforts in Cambodia. The small panel involved was a reflection of the diversity of stakeholders and the dialogue was designed to identify other stakeholders to join in follow-up dialogue.

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

Keeping working to ensure women are adequately represented in dialogue events

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 event was conducted in line with more conventional online meetings. There was clear chairmanship under the Convenor and opportunities for the organisers to declare their interests before all participants were given opportunity to provide input. The organisers presented a summary of ideas and action points to enable an ongoing process of dialogue when it is envisaged that the methods recommended in the Manual will be followed.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The focus of this discussion was on access to safe and nutritious food for all and the shift to sustainable consumption patterns. The discussion considered how food fortification can serve both as a cheap and effective measure for providing access to nutritious diet and as an attractive product in the eyes of health conscious consumers. The discussion recognised that the use of food fortification as a means of providing a social safety net may stigmatise fortified foods in the market place, and that there were some key challenges for expanding on food fortification in Cambodia especially in relation to rice as the staple food with a very large number of short localised supply chains and local processing. The meeting considered some of these challenges, the need for a supportive regulatory environment, and technical issues for food processors. Successful strategies for food fortification in Cambodia and other countries was also discussed.

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation | <input 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"/> Environment and Climate |

MAIN FINDINGS

Rice will be the main commodity for food fortification efforts by the institutions concerned in Cambodia but the efforts to promote food fortification will go beyond rice to look at rice-based products and other types of products as well.

The points raised in this dialogue will be the basis for discussion in the following dialogues on this topic and for actions to be taken in the after the workshop. This will include gathering existing information on which micro-nutrients should be included in food fortification or promoting research into this topic. Examining evidence from Cambodia and other countries to determine the factors contributing to success for market based approaches to food fortification. These topics will ensure there is a clear plan for dialogue in any workshops to follow.

The characteristics of the rice supply chains in Cambodia including multiple, small-scale processors, mobile millers and local chains make it very difficult to introduce fortification, to regulate the activities or to make fortification in any way compulsory.

A market approached based on an aspirational product contributing to good health appears the most likely approach to success for commercial fortification of rice, outside of the provision of fortified rice as part of social assistance measures.

It is very useful to listen to successful entrepreneurs like the Director of Ly Ly foods who have experience in micro-nutrient fortification and the sale of healthy alternative snack foods. There are other examples, including an instant noodle manufacturer (exported product) keen to explore nutrient fortification of noodles for the local and export market.

WFP will help to progress dialogues for food fortification working closely with the National Sub Committee for Food Fortification (NSCFF). Two separate dialogue topics are planned to cover both the creation of an enabling environment for small to medium scale processors and secondly for exploration of the operational issues for the processors.

A further event is planned and will be led by IFC in the first week of April with additional interest from international private sector representatives to join the dialogue.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. Plans in place for follow-up dialogues
2. WFP and NSCFF to coordinate efforts for future dialogue events with IFC and Cambodian Rice Federation with support from HE Silo of CARD as convener of National Dialogues
3. Private sector involvement in dialogues (both national and international) will be widely encouraged
4. Focus on good health and nutrition as the benefit of fortification under a market based-approach

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- ✓ Policy
- Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

One area of divergence emerging in this discussion related to the possible view of consumers in Cambodia that fortified foods are associated with poverty. This is related to the country experience with malnutrition and poverty in the past. This may present challenges in marketing fortified foods in the country as it rises in income status and moves away from Least Developed Country status. The solution to this appears to be in promoting healthy lifestyles including healthy foods and fitness where fortified foods can be more appealing to consumers. Independent evidence will be important in establishing the basis for any health claims for fortified foods.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Beyond Effectiveness—The Adversities of Implementing a Fortification Program. A Case Study on the Quality of Iron Fortification of Fish and Soy Sauce in Cambodia**
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4772057/>
- **Cambodia Rice Federation**
<http://www.crf.org.kh/>
- **International Finance Corporation in Cambodia**
https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/region_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/east+asia+and+the+pacific/countries/ifc-in-cambodia
- **Cambodia | World Food Programme**
<https://www.wfp.org/countries/cambodia>