

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Tuesday, 6 April 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Lagos Food System Exploratory Dialogue |
| CONVENED BY | 1. Olusola Idowu Mrs. Perm Secretary, Budget & National Planning 2. Dr. Sanjo Faniran |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7737/ |
| DIALOGUE TYPE | Member State |
| 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

162

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

2

19-30

66

31-50

88

51-65

6

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

91 Male

71 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

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

11 Education
6 Communication
Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
Financial Services

4 Health care
Nutrition
87 National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
23 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

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

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

A panel session was held to facilitate easy understanding of the issues to be discussed at the Dialogue and stimulate ideas from the participants at the Exploratory Dialogue. Thereafter, Facilitator-led breakout sessions to discuss and deliberate on the 5 Action Tracks of the UN Food Systems Summit

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Prior to the exploratory dialogues held across the 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria, FAO supported the process by commissioning a review of evidence and actions currently on-going in the country. The document was to identified facilitators ahead of the dialogues so that they could come up with questions to guide the discussions, provide more information and suggestions for improving the food systems to ensure that they deliver high quality diet and affordable nutrition; are inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable; and work for everyone

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

It is important to pay more attention to the group composition in both virtual and physical. It is observed that many of the key sectors were not represented. It is important to invite more grass root individuals and small holder farmers from the regions to make sure that they are well represented during 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

The major focus of the exploratory dialogues at the geopolitical level was to enable the States explore different perspectives about the zonal food systems; examine the possibilities for making the food systems inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable; and turn possibilities with the greatest promise into priority actions that can be implemented towards building sustainable food systems and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and consider ways in which different the groups of stakeholders can advance these options as contributions to the national pathway towards sustainable food systems.

It was clear from discussions that there was very little understanding, even among policy makers that the excessive focus on agriculture and food security resulted in creating a less diverse food environment that is unable to provide an adequate variety and affordable, safe, and nutrient dense food. It was also very clear that more dialogues focussed on specific areas are still needed to harvest suggestions of game changers among various stakeholder groups.

The general lack of understanding and low level of awareness among many rural inhabitants on nutritious and healthy diets coupled with high level of poverty came up prominently in the discussion. Most interventions in nutrition are health facility based with limited reach. This can only be addressed through community- based nutrition programmes and education complemented by nutrition education through the mass media.

Other issues identified as militating against sustainable and resilient food systems are social norms leading to gender inequality and limited access to productive assets and weak integration of youth and women in agriculture. Poverty was also cited as limiting the access of majority of the population to diverse and nutritious diets.

Efforts were made by the facilitators to get the stakeholders to suggest ways they think the challenges they have identified could be addressed.

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

To ensure that the food production systems produce good quality and nutritionally adequate food commodities, stakeholders recommended the promotion and encouragement of the use of improved high yielding varieties of crops and livestock to increase productivity, and the provision of incentives to farmers in form of subsidy.

An associated recommendation is the reduction of dependence on rain-fed agriculture and the promotion of irrigation methods that will shift focus to dry season production to ensure all year-round availability and affordability of nutritious foods, and the adoption of climate smart and nutrition responsive agricultural practices across the zone.

To conserve the environment, stakeholders believe that a gradual shift from the use of inorganic fertilizers to the use of organic fertilizers and the proper use of herbicides and pesticides will protect the environment and support efforts towards ensuring the safety of agricultural produce and prevent food borne illnesses related to food safety issues. There was a call for the use of biological control agents in food production as a means to protecting the environment. There was a call to investigate and promote traditional practices that ensure the protection of the environment including the planting of cover crops to prevent soil erosion. Stakeholders also called for the enforcement of existing laws and regulations that prevent environmental degradation, and for the protection of the ecosystem against new conversions for food and feed production. The efficient recycling of waste, and the use of solar smoking kiln for fish and as against the traditional smoking method that uses wood smoke was also suggested as a means to protecting the health of the environment and of the people.

Stakeholders called for the promotion of urban agriculture particularly for the production of vegetables and fruits for household consumption and the sale of the excess production for income generation. The enhancement of access to land for female farmers was also suggested as a way to ensuring household food access.

Stakeholders opined that the provision of basic rural infrastructure will facilitate access of farmers to the market so as to reduce wastage, and curb the rising rate of rural urban migration, which in itself is a major underlying cause for household food insecurity and the rising levels of malnutrition in the country.

Stakeholders concluded that post-harvest losses can be drastically reduced through the encouragement of on-farm processing activities and the provision of gender appropriate processing equipment, and the associated linkages to off-takers. The creation and revival of commodity boards was proposed as a means of addressing the issue of waste and linkages to off takers. The rehabilitation of, and the use of silos in each of the Local Government areas was also put forward as a means to reducing food post-harvest losses.

To ensure the consumption of nutritious, safe, and diverse foods, stakeholders suggested a massive public enlightenment programme because they believe that a large proportion of the population do not have the information to be able to make informed decisions about what they should or should not eat. They also believe that there should be awareness creation on the benefits of consuming healthy, nutritious, and diverse foods.

The following actions were recommended

- 1) Promotion of private sector agricultural extension systems to complement the public sector system for providing extension service to farmers along with awareness creation on the consumption of healthy diets.
- 2) Promotion of efficient storage techniques for various commodities and facilitating access to such.
- 3) Provision of basic rural infrastructure by government or through PPP.
- 4) Positioning & strengthening of research institutes to engage in demand driven research, clarifying their mandates, and monitoring their performances.
- 5) Setting out regulations and sanctions for environmental degradation from Agro-processing waste.
- 6) Government to work in partnership with private extension service providers, CSOs/NGOs to build capacity and strengthen extension service delivery.
- 7) Ensure that farmers have access to early maturing & disease resistant varieties of crops and livestock.
- 8) Massive enlightenment and sensitization of the general public on the benefits of afforestation and the challenges associated with deforestation.
- 9) Conflict management and reforms aimed at moderating clashes between farmers and herders.
- 10) Creating and maintaining a database of farmers to ensure that productive inputs reach practising farmers.
- 11) Strengthening the agricultural insurance scheme and breaking the monopoly of NAIC in this area.
- 12) Put in place a monitoring framework.

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- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

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- ✓ Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Discussion Topic South West food system eliminates hunger, reduces malnutrition, improves health, and provides food free from all forms of contamination for everyone, including the poor

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality

- Food must first be available before there can be nutritious or safe food. To increase food availability, farmers must be reached with financing, improved seeds that are high yielding, mechanization to reduce drudgery, irrigation to multiply number of planting cycles in a year, and chiefly, security of lives and property.
- To improved access, market linkages must be improved, including roads rehabilitation, to facilitate distribution from areas of surplus to areas of scarcity.
- For the very poor, nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes, including nutritious school meals, are indispensable.

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods

- Promote value addition during food processing.
- In rapidly urbanizing areas, affordable markets that sell fresh food products must be preserved.

Strand 3: Ensuring safe food

- Regulation of informal street food vendors is important. Local governments must strengthen environmental health regulatory system to incorporate supportive supervision practices and education before regulation.
- Inappropriate use of agrochemicals along entire value chains must be addressed, including the regulation of agrochemicals.
- Education of all food system actors to deliver and/or demand foods that meet minimum safety standards.
- Production and promotion of improved packaging materials

Cross-Cutting

- Improved food storage and processing to ensure food availability year-round, prevent waste, preserve nutrient content, and ensure food safety.
- Harness use of technology for information dissemination and education of actors along entire food supply chain
- Homestead food production in both urban and rural areas.
- Focus on women and active engagement of the youth.
- Education of children, including incorporation of school gardens and food production and processing into school curriculum.

What contributions will our organisations make for food systems transformation?

- Local governments must be actively and strategically engaged.
- Ministries of agriculture, environment, and health should facilitate and coordinate actions.
- Associations of farmers, food vendors, and food and beverage manufacturers should be used to reach grassroots.
- Research institutes would identify necessary improved solutions
- Regulatory agencies should facilitate food safety transformation.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- Better performance of children in schools in disadvantaged areas in external examinations
- Reduced incidence of illnesses, evidenced by lower volumes of patients visiting medical facilities
- Strengthened data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Shift to healthy and sustainable consumption pattern

Poor nutritional knowledge and ignorance on nutritious and healthy diets coupled with poverty are the causes of malnutrition among rural and urban dwellers. Shifting to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns requires motivating and empowering consumers to make informed, healthy, safe and sustainable food choices. To achieve this there is need for value reorientation of consumers through community engagements, mass media discussion programmes for parents and school children to rely on nutritious local foods like wholegrains, legumes, eggs and vegetables. Embarking on large scale production of blended foods from local sources to prevent and manage moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and community driven food assistance programmes where communities procure food in bulk and distribute at cheaper rate to members should be explored. Training of food processors on the use of appropriate storage and preservation techniques especially for perishable foods is crucial in addition to consumer education on what constitutes healthy diets as well as reducing the consumption of high calorie, sugar and salt processed foods for healthy living cannot be overemphasised.

Enhancing availability and access to healthy, safe and sustainable diets is also critical. This will involve rebranding the social investment policies to improve the nutrition status of the vulnerable groups, policy reorientation and reintegration of indigenous foods into fast food menu lists, legislation and enforcing regulations guiding fortification of processed foods for improved nutrition. Government assisted branded transportation system to move farm produce from farm gates to rural and urban markets to reduce costs, spoilage, improve availability and access to consumers should be encouraged. School feeding programme has the potential for laying a good foundation for healthy diets and sustainable food consumption among school children and when linked with small holder farmers can also ensure sustainable supply of fresh and safe foods for children.

Governmental, non-governmental organisations, small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) are important stakeholders in shifting to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns. They can contribute by producing dietary guidelines and food recipes for different age groups using National food based dietary guidelines, training farmers, agro processors, retailers in good agricultural practices as it concerns the use of pesticides and chemicals to ensure food safety. Reintroducing the commodity boards for produce uptake and price regulations of farm produce is essential. Low cost interventions that can improve child nutrition should be implemented while civil society organisations and other non-state actors should educate consumers on safe and nutritious foods and dispel food misinformation being peddled on social media. Farmers association should also embark on training of members on good agricultural practices for healthy and sustainable food production and consumption. Primary Health Care facilities should integrate food demonstration to caregivers on sustainable food diversification/consumption.

To ensure the success of these actions, baseline data should be established at the beginning of interventions to know if they are successful or not while developing measurable and time bound indicators to collect data, track and measure the effects of interventions through periodic monitoring of the interventions.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Discussion Topic BOOSTING NATURE – POSITIVE FOOD SYSTEM PRODUCTION

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- The Various government at all level of governance should strengthen the institutions and parastatals that controls food manufacturing ,food processing to assist in logistics and infrastructures such as roads, in order to reduce post-harvest losses and wastages of farmed products.
- Efforts should be geared towards advocacy of qualitative and quantitative production under strict hygienic condition, effective handling, processes and safe distribution.
- Another important factor of greatest impact is the availability and continuous provision of food for children, improving standard of living, realistic infrastructure planning, budgeting and efficiency through partnership support.
- Farmer earnings must be considered and regulated to encourage all season farming with emphasis on subsidy in agricultural input for seasonal food storage.
- Other areas includes the involvement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to provide newer, better and quicker ways for people involved in food production to interact, network, help gain access in boosting nature positive food system production.

What contributions will our organisations make?

- The Multidisciplinary Stakeholders agreed to jointly have regular meeting ,focus on Synergy and Collaboration, Networking together to deliberate on constraints and opportunities to resolving issues around food production system and regulations.
- Other areas of commitments is to take Statistical data collection and analysis of food production system by Multisector stakeholder by domesticating exploration for a speedy action in organizing food system summit at the grass root level.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- The Successful action can be detected through the following : i.e., Proper efficient accurate monitoring and evaluation(M&E),Participatory stakeholder Key Performance Indicator(KPI), to be measured continuously as well as widely publicised results to know the level of progress on the actions, level of compliance and what is lacking.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Discussion Topic 1. Vision for food systems in the next 10 years

2. On changes that must be made so that food systems can meet SDG expectations by 2030

3. On how stakeholders can work well together and differently for collective action

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

1.

Synopsis of AT 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods and this encompasses, the youth; the very future of the food systems, women; statistically more involved in the actual food systems and the vulnerable groups; IDPs and refugees.

☐ Encouraging family centred enterprises may be the fastest way to real changes as women run these families.

☐ Policy makers should tweak policies to favour the youth, women and vulnerable groups. E.g. extending credits, loans and land ownership.

☐ Urban farming to highlight the multiple roles of plants. E.g. Most local vegetables used as food also have highly potent medicinal properties.

☐ Leverage on the Covid-19 pandemic crisis to advance subsistent farming of high value plants.

☐ To advertise Agriculture in an attractive way speaking the language of the youth

2.

☐ Capacity building, exclusively for women, youths and vulnerable peoples because they usually have limited skills and knowledge.

☐ To tackle poverty from multi-dimensional aspects and focus on the the specific groups whose livelihoods and equity are threatened.

☐ Tackling clear and present problems eg. Middlemen superiority and short-changing

3. Agricultural private sector ; corporations, small- and medium- sized enterprises, small businesses, women self-help groups etc. Can be a big help here as Track 4 involves structural changes and resetting of cultural mindsets that take time to achieve

☐ Collective action of stakeholders is mostly in the area of capacity building.

Motivations need to be put in place for practitioners e.g. tax exemptions.

What contributions will our organizations make?

Our organizations, made up of mostly agricultural private sector (corporations, small- and medium- sized enterprises, small businesses, women self-help groups, Youth groups, Leaders at IDP camps etc.),

Intensive game-changing advocacy directed at the youth, women and vulnerable peoples. To adopt novel ways of creating awareness.

To use Techy terms in the same breath as food systems, agriculture. To make agribusiness attractive to young people.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

Effective monitoring and evaluation;

Generating data and records which are currently unavailable in order to study the trends of the changes.

Statistically taking data of youth and women involvements in a serious way profitable to the authentic data generator.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Discussion Topic Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- To have in place structures such as cottage processing facilities, cold chain logistics, and proper storage system to reduce post-harvest losses.
- An improved agricultural practices that ensure all year-round production by having a robust dry season farming/irrigation, taking advantage of numerous inland waterways, streams and lakes in the states.
- Capacity building for farmers to embrace new technologies such as insitu production of organo-mineral fertilisers, farmer friendly soil testing techniques, principle of zero tillage farming and other simple methods of environment friendly farming practices like exsitu conservation of fauna species.
- Good road network to ensure effective transportation of farm produce, so as to bridge gap between farm gate and markets
- Decentralise National grain reserve services, establish functional commodities markets and establish functional agricultural insurance schemes to cater for shocks from failures due to disasters and other emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic.
- Frantic efforts by the government to strengthen security network in order to recover farmlands from bandits and build the confidence of farmers back to the farm
- A more robust extension service system that will incorporate contemporary environment friendly protocols to protect soil and biological diversity.
- Policy reforms and enabling acts to ensure preservation of forest reserves, greenbelts, wetlands, watersheds and other critical ecosystems to improve during adverse weather conditions.
- Develop traditional foods like wild vegetables, wild fruits, condiments, spices, organics like mushrooms, to feature more in the national food system.
- Development of home-based agriculture like aquaponics, and other home-based gardening, animal domestication like grass-cutter farming, snailery etc.
- Well structure credit facilities which are farmer friendly accessible and sustainable will help to cope with stresses from poverty.
- More investment in demand-driven research activities in various higher institutions of learning and research institutes, as well as collating research findings that can help in building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses.

What contributions will our organisations make?

- The Academia will assist in conducting demand driven research that will bring about environment friendly agriculture, while ensuring sustainable functioning of the ecosystem.
- Farmers association will be willing to collaborate with government and development partners to ensure compliance with regulations on how to ensure a resilient food system for the benefit of all.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- Establishing effective monitoring and evaluation strategies that will be multisectorial, multidisciplinary and with wide stakeholder participation.
- Evaluate various interventions that have been done especially those on smart agricultural practices, National fadama and Critical ecosystem management projects, National erosion and watershed management projects in the time past.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

GROUP 1

- Actors benefitting from irregularities and inefficiencies in current systems are likely to be divergent. Food system transformation must incorporate inclusiveness and negotiation.
- Conflicts among farmers and extension agents due to seeming incompatibilities between indigenous and new knowledge. Advances need to be introduced with sensitivity and innovative approaches.

GROUP 3

- Some of the issues of divergence discussed are :
 - Many states are running different programs that are not having positive impact on boosting nature food production systems, for example the Development Agenda for Western Nigeria Platform (DAWN) that was in operation before election has been abandoned.
 - Constant agitations and disagreement on land tenure, acquisition and politics, different opinions of technocrats inclusion on governance and the policy makers on food production system,
 - Inability to collaborate on boosting nature food production by different divergent opinions by relevant stakeholders .
 - Suggested management option advises all Southern government to go back to the drawing board and reappraise, overhaul their capacity building that will have a positive impact on boosting all season food production system that will not be affected by climate change .
- Stakeholders with land shortage will need to be trained on diverse methods of urban farming; aeroponics, hydroponics etc and these are available already at least in Lagos.

GROUP 4

Stakeholders with abundance of land resources, need encouragement through tax exemptions, subsidies on products, easy access to loans.

GROUP 5

There were divergences in the definition and classification of migrants leaving as destitute, miscreants and other categories of migrants not leaving in IDP camps but require adequate attention for shock resistance for attainment of a sustainable food system in 2030.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Lagos-Exploratory-Dialoge-Report.docx>