

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 14 April 2021 15:30 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Making Nutritious and Healthy Diets Available to All: Empowering a Sustainable and Resilient Fresh Food Supply Chain Worldwide - European Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Secretary-General Eugenia Carrara, World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM), Anne Le More, World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7868/
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

59

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

10

19-30

20

31-50

20

51-65

9

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

32 Male

27 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

4 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

5 Education

Communication

Food processing

30 Food retail, markets

10 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

4 Nutrition

2 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

2 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

28 Large national business

2 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

2 Local Non-Governmental Organization

11 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

5 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

2 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

5 United Nations

1 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 World Union of Wholesale Markets held four independent dialogues, highlighting the role of wholesale markets as a key player in the food system. Through regional sessions held across Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa, the dialogues showcased rich and diverse realities thus, achieving a significant level of complexity, relevance, and collective reflection about food systems throughout the world. All participants were aware of the Principles and asked to review them in the official attendance sheet.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Overall, it reflected each of the Principles of Engagement through its purposeful approach to addressing the SDGs with a focus on the pivotal role of the food sector together with wholesale markets, especially amid ever-evolving regional contexts and consumption trends, and recovery strategies for the Covid-19 crisis. Its multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral approach to discussions ensured that perspectives were inclusive and insights were gained from a representative and diverse sample of the population, ranging from academia, international organizations, NGOs, markets, and other food actors.

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

The Principles of Engagement are an essential tool for making dialogues a success, especially in providing guidance and ensuring discussions yield holistic and inclusive outcomes. It is necessary to also reflect on these principles and understand how to best adapt them based on contexts of participants. For example, in complementing the work of others and building trust, it is important to use existing knowledge of regional specificities or local trends to shape approaches. It must also serve as a reminder of the collaborative and dynamic nature of the desired discussions.

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

This dialogue series focuses on the role of Wholesale Markets in shaping a sustainable food system and its relationship to other stakeholders, including local authorities, smallholder farmers, and logisticians, among others. The four dialogues focused on promoting nutritious diets and ensuring accessibility as important dimensions of food sustainability, as well as fostering smart logistics and urban planning towards making a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The reduction of food waste, was also explored alongside a recognition of the essential role wholesale markers play in this pursuit. The discussion on these topics contributed to development of effective strategies and sharing of best practices in line with addressing contemporary challenges including evolving consumption trends, urbanization, rapid population growth, climate change, disruptions in food systems and livelihoods, and the continuous pursuit of collective recovery and growth amid the Covid-19 crisis.

This Dialogue was based on Action Track 1, 2 and 5 in which wholesale markets make significant contributions through their central position and targeted initiatives.

Action track 1 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of non-communicable disease, thereby enabling all people to become well-nourished and healthy. Wholesale markets are the biggest fresh food suppliers in the world, and experts in the distribution of nutritious, fresh and non-processed food. They are key actors to ensure availability of fresh food, particularly in cities, which are often largely populated. Thus, wholesale markets must increase linkages and cooperation with tenants, farmers, and scientists to expand the availability of nutritious food. In fact, modern wholesale markets are well-known for traceability measures to ensure food safety. This practice must be promoted for the long run while infrastructures and protocols must be adapted and implemented in line with it. In light of this, markets need to continuously safeguard the highest level of sanitation, hygiene, and handling of food. Thus, investments should aim to upgrade existing infrastructures and establish new modern wholesale markets to ensure that all cities benefit from a consistent supply of nutritious fresh food.

Action track 2 aims to build consumer demand for sustainably produced food, strengthen local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote the efficient use and recycling of food resources, especially in aid of the most vulnerable. To build this demand for sustainably produced food, wholesale markets must continue to promote the benefits and implementation of sustainable production methods through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and advocacy among food actors especially the producers, markets, and consumers. In addition, they must strengthen local value chains, increase recycling, and transition to the use of non-polluting energy resources. In fact, in shifting to more sustainable consumption patterns, wholesale markets are examining solutions such as promoting food waste reduction and distribution of food surplus that makes nutritious food accessible to the vulnerable populations. Moreover, further action concerning e-commerce and last-mile-logistics are needed to understand how these tools can be optimized by wholesale markets and help facilitate the supply of nutritious fresh food.

Action track 5 aims to ensure existence of sustainable food systems in areas that are prone to conflict or natural disasters. The strong and diversified supply channels that wholesale markets possess demonstrated significant levels of adaptability during crisis. In fact, amid the Covid-19 crisis, wholesale markets were resilient, showcasing flexibility, resourcefulness, and innovation in delivering supply of fresh food to citizens worldwide. Wholesale markets can further optimize their infrastructures and prepare for future supply chain disruptions (fe. due to disease outbreaks or effects of climate change). In addition, improved communications among wholesale markets worldwide will enhance sharing of best practices and increase resilience.

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

An emphasis was placed on the leadership role that European wholesale markets can play in transforming food systems given their role as linkage of all the major stakeholders of the fresh food chain (producers, logisticians, wholesalers, sellers, retail markets, municipalities, local and national authorities, food banks, etc.).

Carolyn Steel, invited as a key speaker, brought up the crucial idea of the 'urban paradox': the fact that those of us who live in cities think of ourselves as urban, forgetting that most of our food and other resources come from elsewhere. Education to better food habits, connecting consumers with the raw product/impact of the production methods should be in this context a priority. People take cheap quality food for granted. This gives rise to another insight regarding separation between urban populations and rural environments. We must revisit our systems as the impacts of current practices in food production, distribution, and consumption are serious (such as climate change, deforestation, mass extinction, pollution, soil degradation, water depletion, and declining fish stocks).

As Covid-19 highlights, there is an urgent need to move towards resilient food systems and wholesale markets, as fresh food hubs, have an important role to play to reconnect humans with healthy food.

Another key action is to democratize the food system and promote richer and more diversified food ecosystems, by increasing the availability of healthy, sustainable food options. Governments should foster policies and actions that contribute to create a food environment that makes it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets.

Furthermore, in the first area of nutritious diets accessible to all, promotion of healthier diets and awareness-raising about the impact of diets on health and food system sustainability is put forward as important issues accompanied by several notable solutions. In fact, it cites the current lack of consumer awareness and education in this area as the key problem to address, noting the importance of awareness as well on fostering local, seasonal products, reconnecting the consumers with the raw products, etc. Moreover, in the second area of smart logistics and urban planning, a number of solutions were put forward including those highlighting investment in locations and infrastructures to facilitate access to fresh food in growing cities, developing better traceability tools standards along the value chain, and promoting the use of green energy as well as promoting other sources of clean energies. Lastly, in the third area of reducing food waste, solutions to address food waste should be developed at every level of the supply chain. This requires an integrated approach that tackles at each level the main problems which involves processes and support at both local and national levels. The topic of stakeholder involvement is also tackled in terms of the importance of engaging local authorities as well as promoting knowledge-sharing between European members of WUWM and all food sector stakeholders.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

TOPIC: Nutritious Diets Accessible to All

There is a lack of consumer awareness and education on the importance of healthy diets. Therefore, there is a need to promote healthier diets (e.g. starting in schools from an early age) and raise awareness about the impact of diets on health but also about the sustainability of the food systems (fostering local, seasonal products, reconnecting the consumers with the raw products, etc.). This can be done through a number of ways:

First, encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, wholegrain cereals, nuts and pulses, particularly locally-produced varieties.

Second, promote more sustainably-produced food products/meals. It is important to create a food environment that makes it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets. In this sense, it is crucial to increase the availability and accessibility of healthy, sustainable food options by ensuring that citizens can easily access places where a diversity of healthy food is sold. Food governance can be a tool to avoid having places where mainly high processed or/and high in sugar food is sold. It is important to use investments in sustainable and resilient solutions in wholesale markets' operations and supply chain management so they can prepare for disruptions and crises since they are among the most resilient actors ensuring continuous supply of healthy diets. Thus, it is crucial that these structures are prepared for future challenges.

Third, create platforms and mechanisms that bring food system stakeholders together for discussion or shared implementation of effective solutions and compliance. For example, UN Food Systems Summit or shared mandatory due diligence can be implemented in the European Union for instance.

Fourth, use public procurement for public facilities serving food (e.g., school canteens, hospitals) to support the intake of healthy diets and the promotion sustainable produce.

Fifth, promote healthy cooking practices with local fruits and vegetables through local authorities, (inter)national institutions and NGOs in the food and health sector so that malnutrition is addressed.

Sixth, address the issue of affordability, including through specific demonstrated nutritional needs for vulnerable groups and support diet-related health programs. Seventh, promote short supply chains, learning from present practices, for example, promotion of street markets that offer a wide variety of fresh products with a discounted price at the end of the market, facilitating access to healthier diets for lower income households. Another example is Florence wholesale market where leftover fresh food is sold for a lower price to the public twice a week. Food re-distribution and collaborations with food banks should also be fostered. There is a need to encourage transparency and traceability. It is important to provide transparent, voluntary product information to consumers (e.g. through digital means) and foster responsible food marketing and advertising practices by setting standards, certification and labels. Lastly, improve policy coherence and highlight the role of wholesale markets in ensuring virtuous linkages among actors to ensure fresh food availability.

However, key challenges still remain. In fact, many of the innovations or promotions of healthy diets proposed requires an extra investment from different stakeholders, including producers, without any guarantee of having this effort rewarded. They not only have an economic interest in continuing with current practices but also these new implementations take time to be understood and accepted by them all.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

TOPIC: Smart logistics and urban planning

As EU countries are evolving in order to reduce their emissions and citizens are asking for more transparency and traceability several challenges were raised in order to ensure that smart logistics and urban planning are optimally implemented. First, enable better product traceability given that at present it is not easy to find out where food is coming from. For example, the UK government has a new law punishing entities that offer food that comes from illegal deforestation. However, there still remains more to be done to harmonize policies and legislation so there is more transparency. Second, foster trust and quality guarantee given that better information availability from producers, enables wholesale markets to become places of information collection and ensure quality and safety throughout the food supply chain. Third, wholesale markets need to be further included in urban planning. In fact, many urban planners do not have sufficient information on the importance of wholesale markets in food security and supplying sustainable healthy diets through their network of local food suppliers with sustainable practices. Fourth, European small and medium sized companies need to be empowered to make use of new technologies that are driven by renewable energy (e.g. electric vehicles) and big companies should also be able to make investments. Fifth, city regulations must evolve and wholesale markets can work on improving last mile logistics solutions in order to comply with more efficient and eco-friendly urban distribution schemes. This would bring accessibility to a broader scale of actors, and reach city requirements such as emissions transports and optimizing logistics and congestions. Sixth, markets could develop the diversification of their facilities, with collection points in the cities to deconcentrate food logistics and distribution schedules. Seventh, investment must be considered in locations and infrastructures that facilitate access to fresh food in growing cities. For example, this includes investments for markets in the modern infrastructure, the consideration of market locations, inter-modal logistics, labels and certification, as well as securing sufficient supply from producers to consumers, including necessity and particularities of the different food sectors as well as the development of combined logistics lines (fruit/meat, etc.). Better traceability tools standards along the value chain must also be developed, for example, through "blockchain services" for tenants that can guarantee high standards in the supply process. Lastly, green energy must be promoted. For example, through the use of solar panels on roofs of markets and parking facilities, electric trucks and vehicles with associated infrastructure, the promotion of green energy for materials used by tenants, as well as by promoting other sources of clean energies (such as those coming from gas de-licensing), especially to drastically reduce emissions from refrigeration and freezing centers.

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	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

TOPIC: Reduction of food waste

To promote more sustainable consumption patterns, food waste reduction is key. In fact, "Zero food waste" should be a vision, and the goal should be to reduce as much as possible food waste. Solutions to address food waste should be developed at every level of the supply chain. This requires an integrated approach that tackles at each level the main problems. In Europe one of the key issues is to reduce food waste at the level of consumption, both in home and out of home. We need to implement tools in each level. The priority should be to move away from food waste disposal. Food waste reduction should be included within the "quality management systems" of companies since at present, food loss and waste reduction is not defined as a priority. It is generally only focused on producing consistent and high-level quality of products. Current solutions must evaluate how to make it "a payoff" to reduce food waste for every actor in the chain. This necessitates being "wasteless" by design, or by finding value in the waste itself by redistributing, upcycling and recycling it as food for humans, food for animals, or bio-fuel and natural fertilizer. Ensuring the redistribution of food not sold, including through partnerships with food tanks, apps (such as too good to go) and civil society organizations, would make it available to people in need. Further, involving authorities at both local and national levels is also critical alongside developing 'enablers' to donate. For instance, it is important to foster innovative "food waste legislation" whereby products at the end of "shelf life" which can still be consumed must undergo a change in the label to "better before" and not "last day life" to facilitate its donation. More significantly, the importance of sharing experience and knowledge between all European members of WUWM and universities, professors, scientists and other professionals will also help to improve and implement shared guidelines and conclude agreements with social organizations (e.g. food banks) for the improvement of food systems in the European region and worldwide.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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