

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| DIALOGUE DATE | Wednesday, 31 March 2021 08:30 GMT +07:00 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Introducing Food Systems at a technical level to the ministries and institutions of the Royal Government of Cambodia |
| CONVENED BY | His Excellency Sok Silo, Secretary General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7967/ |
| 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

75

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

6

19-30

44

31-50

25

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

56 Male

19 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops

2 Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

2 Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

3 Trade and commerce

4 Education

2 Communication

1 Food processing

Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

Financial Services

12 Health care

Nutrition

12 National or local government

1 Utilities

4 Industrial

26 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

2 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

8 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

31 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

6 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?

The dialogue was directed at engaging government staff in the dialogues and broadening their understanding of food systems. For this purpose, invitations were issued widely to allow interested staff to join the event and invitation letters were also sent to key ministries to request that the Ministers allocate staff to join for the purposes of formal representation. Key ministries involved in food production, processing and regulation of markets were specifically invited and given opportunity to present information on the role of the ministry in the food system. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation and the Ministry of Commerce accepted the invitations and presented an account of their role. This was to incorporate principles of inclusivity, to gain commitment to the summit and for building trust amongst government staff. This is necessary because the COVID-19 situation has prevented the conduct of a high-profile event involving senior government officials across the range of ministries engaged in the food system.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The presentations from the representatives of three ministries reflected a commitment to the dialogues on their part and the wide interest of other government staff to join the event also showed interest on the part of many staff, including at least 14 ministries and institutions and a number of senior officials. The event was successful in building a climate of trust for the staff present and their participation in subsequent events will be the test of the commitment to the dialogues. Although the starting point for many participants was that their existing strategies and plans are all that is needed for planning to 2030, there was some understanding amongst participants that recognition of complexity and learning from new ideas and approaches may yield new insights and contribute to a more sustainable food system. There will be an ongoing challenge for stakeholders to acknowledge that concepts such as food systems may make a substantive contribution, and for them not to fear that new thinking challenges the existing order or the basis for the current planning and policy.

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

Pay particular attention to securing broad, high level understanding and engagement. This will help to reduce the threat posed by 'new' paradigms for dealing with complexity. If the education system and academia are rooted in reductionist thinking and a prevailing orthodoxy of positivist science, there will be a challenge for the technical and scientific communities to accept a systems approach deliberately embracing complexity. This challenge will likely extend beyond scientific discussion into the political arena as points of disagreement and trade-offs are brought to the surface and openly discussed. Prepare yourself for handling the discomfort that accompanies transformational thinking. Try to keep discussion focused on 'real' issues and experience, allow differences in points of view to be recorded and leave the resolution of differences to other forums. Leave room in the agenda for contributions from women and youth and for consideration of issues that may be overshadowed by the mainstream voices in a crowded 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 focus of this event was to introduce the food systems dialogues to technical staff from the line ministries and relevant institutions, to provide a basic explanation for the food system and to give key ministries an opportunity to describe their role in food systems. The dialogue was very broad and designed to serve as an entry point for many government staff who are likely to be involved in the in-depth dialogues over coming months.

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

There is much discussion with ministries required to explain food systems, to determine the legitimacy of any outputs of the dialogue and the relationship of the vision and the roadmap to existing strategic planning. The dialogue will help determine the need for changes in the food system to promote sustainability and allow government, civil society and the private sector to discuss these matters. The dialogues will encourage thinking beyond existing approaches and recognition of new challenges. All stakeholders must join hands and act to address the issues of increasing population and demand for food, malnutrition in all forms, natural resource degradation and food losses and waste. Improved production capabilities have created surpluses of commodities for export and production continues to increase. The agriculture sector will focus on increasing the competitiveness of value chains; improving the resilience of infrastructure and trade facilitation; sustainable management of land, forests and fisheries; and improving the institutional and legal framework and capacities of human resources. In relation to food processing, the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation provides technical support for factories and for small and medium enterprises involved in food services. MISTI is focused on value creation, an area for great potential increases in the contribution of agriculture to the national economy. The Ministry of Commerce and the Cambodia Import Export Inspection and Fraud Repression Directorate in particular are deeply involved in issues relating to governance of the trade aspects of the food system. The Ministry of Commerce also provides a virtual food reserve system under management of Green Trade, monitors and responds to fluctuations in food prices in the markets, controls food losses and wastage, and regulates markets for food safety and for consumer protection. The Ministries recognise the multi-agency system is complex and requires cooperation along the value chain to ensure food quality and safety standards.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

THE VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR 2030

The vision should centre on ensuring sufficient safe and nutritious food for local needs of all Cambodians and a surplus for export. The farm to table approach should be promoted to manage food safety and quality. The food system should also be adapted to climate change and to reduced environmental impacts. Use local and indigenous crops and varieties to develop greater resilience in food systems and to promote nutrition. Maintain emergency reserves of seed and other supplies to assist farmers in the event of disasters. The food system should be independent and autonomous in food production and distribution and the management of waste. As much as possible the Cambodian food system should be independent of food from other countries. Promote local production. The promotion of local produce should also emphasize organic production methods.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

HOW TO ADDRESS THE CHANGES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE VISION

Ensure collaboration between the public and private sector is vital, with continuing opportunities for multi-stakeholder discussions and information sharing. This is critical for a consistent approach when doing business with trade partners.

Recognise the importance of consumers in the food system and provide consumer education to help consumers to access a healthy diet. There should be a fundamental change in emphasis away from a production driven system to one that is responsive to consumer demand.

Invest in new technologies and research to keep up with the challenges and the farmers and businesses involved must be kept informed. There will be fewer and fewer farmers as we move forwards, greater returns to labour through mechanization and technology are necessary to keep up. We need to make a special effort to attract and retain youth in employment within the food system. Invest in the human resources to support new technology and innovation.

Relevant laws need to be enforced.

There is no need to wait until 2030 to achieve the vision, every Ministry should have their own roadmap and be working on these issues.

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some representatives argue that it is not necessary to conduct food systems dialogues. The National Planning Process under the National Strategic Development Plan and Sectoral policies and plans already in place will guide the nation towards a prosperous and sustainable future. This is partly related to the systems nature of the dialogue which by definition is multi-sectoral and challenging to some entrenched sectoral interests. Nevertheless, the discussions were rich and generated many points of common interest.

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/H.E.-Sam-Sarat-Speech-for-National-Food-Systems-Dialogues-March-31-2021.pdf>
- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/MAFF-and-Food-Systems-31.3.2021.doc>