

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 13 April 2021 09:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Making Nutritious and Healthy Diets Available to All: Empowering a Sustainable and Resilient Fresh Food Supply Chain Worldwide - Asian 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/7976/
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

56

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

9

19-30

12

31-50

20

51-65

15

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

38 Male

18 Female

10 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

4 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

4 Education

Communication

Food processing

27 Food retail, markets

10 Food industry

2 Financial Services

Health care

2 Nutrition

3 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

2 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

22 Large national business

2 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

2 Local Non-Governmental Organization

10 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

4 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

3 Local authority

5 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 United Nations

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

Feeding citizens with healthy, accessible and safe food will be a major challenge for the most populated continent of the world. Wholesale markets occupy a central role amid rapidly growing urban cities in the Asian region, ensuring a solid supply chain, and fostering fresh food distribution to overcome associated challenges and supply disruptions. Thus, they should be provided with necessary support and frameworks to complement their knowledge and capacity to continuously supply fresh quality and accessible food to megacities. This also includes the establishment of an inclusive ecosystem across diverse food systems stakeholders in Asia to collectively tackle pressing contemporary challenges such as climate change and the adverse health and economical effects of future pandemics. Furthermore, in the first area of nutritious diets accessible to all, it was noted that transportation, cold chains, and the quality of packaging need to be improved to ensure better food security. Improved education and awareness-raising activities on the health benefits of nutritious and fresh diets is also needed to combat increasing trends in the consumption of processed food. However, beyond this knowledge-based approach to addressing issues, there is a need to upgrade food infrastructures supporting cold chain, food safety and logistics through investments and technology, especially in fostering digital transformations of the fresh food supply chain. Moreover, in the area of smart logistics and urban planning, the importance of food governance and its coherence is highlighted, having among the propositions, a medium-term plan for fresh food availability and improving the proximity of wholesale markets to all stakeholders. This involves the need to strengthen existing linkages between stakeholders or establish new ones, for example, through blockchain technology and by improving last mile logistics. The role of capacity building among farmers is also put forward as the region counts with a lot of small-medium size producers. Lastly, in terms of reducing food waste, the need to improve not only the services within wholesale markets but also the whole Asian food chain was highlighted relating to reinforcement of roads, supply chain system, and collaborating with farmers to improve handling, packaging, and prevent post-harvest loss. This initiative must be complemented by better tracking systems in Asia, especially concerning its transportation periods and coherent policy that facilitates perishable goods rapid transportation within a country. It is increasingly important to ensure that wholesale markets have access to collective food waste management systems to address food waste with the example of organic waste as fertilizers and biofuels through collaborations with startups or organizations specialized in this area. The overall aim is always to promote best practices in the Asian region.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

TOPIC: Nutritious Diets Accessible to All

The rapidly growing population in Asia increases the importance of food security and access to healthy diets for all. To better ensure food security in the region, several points need to be improved, including transportation, cold chains, and the quality of packaging. In some countries, there is the risk of increased intake of processed food. Therefore, improved education and raising awareness on the health benefits of nutritious and fresh diets is key.

The need to promote widespread diverse "foodscapes", cities should ensure that their citizens are in close proximity to a diverse availability of food commerce. Wholesale markets should promote this ideal and be empowered to supply all communities with fresh food. Food infrastructures need to be upgraded through investments and technology (cold chain, food safety, logistics). Fostering digital transformations of the fresh food supply chain to ensure better price, improved access to healthy quality diets, and for better connections between producers, markets, and consumers (for example, by connecting farmers' groups to electronic national markets where machines check food quality, develop e-commerce platforms, etc.). Actors pointed out the need to strengthen local value chains: For example with the involvement of wholesale markets in territorial food systems (markets concentrating agricultural supply and enabling farmers to sell their produce in convenient volumes) and the necessity to promote a broader integration with the urban retail network not only in fruits & vegetables but also in meats, fish & seafood and dairy products.

The Asian region needs to evolve practices in order to ensure the highest level of sanitation, hygiene, and handling of foods. This could be done through consults, workshops, guidelines, and improved sector communications. In this regard wholesale markets can stay up-to-date with the latest best practices on sanitation, hygiene, and handling of foods. They can implement these practices and continue to be sustainable places of excellence in the food system. They can commit together to common guidelines.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

TOPIC: Smart logistics and urban planning

In the area of urban planning, it is essential to have a coherent food governance that includes a reflection on how to secure in the medium-term – 20 years- fresh food availability and identifying the fresh food actors that can do this as to increase the ability to supply growing Asian populations. For instance, governments should plan where to develop wholesale markets, positioning them in such a way that their reach and connections are extensive in the best way possible. Food security can be improved through farming in peri-urban areas with systems as central to a holistic approach to proximity, logistics, and planning.

Meanwhile, innovation and advancement are also key. For example, to improve the linkages, efficiency, and transparency between markets, producers, and consumers, digital innovations need to be supported. An example is blockchain technology which can help ensure safe, timely, low-cost, and good quality food through proper traceability. There must also be support provided for short-circuits alongside the fostering of local supply. Another example is the Market Information Systems which must be improved with more multi-stakeholder considerations (e.g. transport, stakeholder consultations, etc.) to enhance the efficiency in disseminating information to traders and farmers and in addressing late or not very useful information. Meanwhile, better recycling, green energy usage, and improved last mile logistics are also identified as critical points moving forward. In Asia, as there are many small farmers, there is a need to strengthen capacity building efforts to help them comply with better standards. In this context, digital tools and innovations is an option and should be financed not to leave anyone behind.

It is important to evaluate the price of technologies applied across contexts and the accompanying need for good internet connection. If these tools are not accessible, it may exclude small scale traders and farmers, making food systems less inclusive. Blockchain can be adapted to large scale farming or crop farmers' cooperatives, and innovations in food traceability can be achieved in a less demanding way (e.g. labeling of food and farmer's commitment to refrain from dangerous chemicals). The former is not very well attended to in wholesale markets in Asia, despite being an integral part in Europe and North America, and reforms worldwide

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	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

TOPIC: Reduction of food waste

There is a need to improve the whole Asian food chain, not just services within wholesale markets, but also the roads, the supply chain system, working hand in hand with farmers to improve handling, packaging, and post-harvest loss (today some countries in the region waste more than 50% of the production). Improving cold chain infrastructures during the transportation and storage logistics is key in this regard. There is a need to raise awareness and create capacity building among all the actors of the chain at the policy level (local national authorities), at the wholesale market level, and among small holder farmers. Three opportunities to decrease food waste in Asia were identified: (i) physical and information connectivity between production and consumer areas of markets, (ii) availability of post-harvest infrastructures enabling small farmers to sell their produce locally and in a fast-secure way (could be done by capacity-building to create more cooperatives), and (iii) to have financial means available to examine food waste decrease. A collective food waste management system located within the wholesale market can help address food waste. Asian markets need also better tools to measure food waste. Several markets are lacking methodology and a procedure to collect information on food waste. There is also a need to give value to waste. For example, organic waste can be used as fertilizers and biofuels - explore collaborations with startups or organizations that are specialized in this area. Moreover, the best practices must also be promoted in the region. For example, a wholesale market in Hongkong was able to decrease food waste with financial support from the government by setting up a system to distribute food waste to communities in need. Beyond this, it is also important to have a better tracking system in Asia concerning backward and forward linkages to decrease transport periods

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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KEYWORDS

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