

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 8 April 2021 17:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Poner al alcance de todos dietas nutritivas y saludables: Potenciar una cadena de suministro de alimentos frescos sostenible y resistente en todo el mundo - Diálogo de las Américas
CONVENED BY	Secretaria General Eugenia Carrara, Unión Mundial de Mercados Mayoristas (WUWM), Anne Le More, Unión Mundial de Mercados Mayoristas (WUWM)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7983/
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

152

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

27

19-30

53

31-50

38

51-65

34

66-80

0

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

98 Male

54 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

4 Trade and commerce

8 Education

Communication

Food processing

54 Food retail, markets

52 Food industry

6 Financial Services

Health care

8 Nutrition

8 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

12 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

8 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

70 Large national business

8 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

4 Local Non-Governmental Organization

20 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

8 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

8 Local authority

8 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 United Nations

4 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

12 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

A great emphasis was put on the wholesale markets ability to ensure resilient, sustainable, healthy and affordable food system in Latin America, articulate private and public sectors and accompany involved actors in sharing experience and knowledge.

Participants pointed out the urgent need to bridge all stakeholder of the food sector and to work together to ensure the supply of healthy, sustainable, affordable and nutritious diet for all, prevent food losses and foster better logistical planification. Wholesale markets are key players to structure all the fresh food actors: producers, consumers, governments, traders, logisticians, associations, street markets, and food banks. During the first topic discussion relative to ensuring nutritious diet for all, the importance to promote and invest in high quality infrastructure for healthy food distribution, reduce the number of intermediaries and strengthen local value chains, ensure affordability of healthy diets and raise public awareness on healthy diets among populations was highlighted.

Fostering better logistics, urban planification and traceability tools were also mentioned as core challenges. The introduction of a full, rapid, transparent model of traceability of produce, and better communication between the supply and demand that imply the identification of production centers and other key stakeholders can help to achieve these goals, as persisting loopholes are mainly due to lack of enough human resources or technologies to check food life cycles, quality and innocuity.

The absence of public sector intervention and multi-stakeholder's instances require to bolster the articulation between public and private sector alongside the value chain actors in Latin America. Hence, this might be translated by the development of multi-level food governance systems that can enhance at each level (national, regional, local) adequate food-policy programs and guidelines that can contribute to create resilient food environments that make it easier to choose healthy and sustainable diets.

The reduction of food waste is a main challenge in the region, and faces many bottlenecks in terms of governance with the lack of governments involvement but also lack of legal frameworks to prevent food waste. To overcome this, there is a need to find a consensus among them, under a given authority and delimited governance.

Education is another key issue, both to encourage higher intake of fresh foods, specifically fruits and vegetables, and to prevent food waste in particular in the domestic sphere. Promoting the consumption of healthy diets for children, including school menus, came out as a solution as well as working hand in hand with municipalities to foster street markets as key places to access healthier diets – in comparison to supermarkets where consumers can mainly buy high-in-fats and sugar, processed food.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

TOPIC: Nutritious Diets Accessible to All

Panelists agreed on the importance to enhance the accessibility and affordability of healthy diets as a core issue of regional agri-food system. It implies the promotion and investments in high quality infrastructure for healthy food distribution to respond to the growing urbanization and demand for fresh food products in cities, shortening the distances between rural and urban areas. In addition, reduce the number of intermediaries, which could promote accessible prices for a larger part of the population. Participants agreed on the role of wholesale markets to achieve this goal.

Panelists also noted the need to strengthen local value chains. For example, with the participation of wholesale markets in territorial food systems - markets that concentrate agricultural supply and allow farmers to sell their products in convenient volumes. This would promote greater communication and operational improvements between producers and distributors.

Guarantees on the accessibility and affordability of healthy diets for all require to move towards sustainable consumption patterns, via the promotion of the preservation and optimization of food resources, especially for the poorest. It can be achieved by working with insertion associations to valorize unsold products and give the poorest people access to fresh and healthy vegetables.

Last but not least, most of the panelists converged on the need to raise public awareness, since the childhood, as a core leverage to ensure nutritious diet for all. First by encouraging nutritional education and promoting dietary proposals that lead to a higher intake of fresh foods, specifically fruits and vegetables. For example, through the promotion of dishes made with local products, or structured education programs on healthy nutrition aimed at all sectors of the population, especially vulnerable groups. Then by promoting the consumption of healthy diets for children, including school menus by working hand in hand with municipalities to foster street markets as key places to access healthier diets – in comparison to supermarkets where consumers can mainly buy high-in-fats and sugar, processed food. Better health guidance and public procurement could also encourage better food consumption patterns and more plant-based diets.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

TOPIC: Smart Logistics and Urban Planning

Among key takeaways from this dialogue, panelists particularly mentioned logistics, traceability and urban planning in order to achieve smart logistics of food value chain in Latin America.

It was discussed of the integration of a full, rapid, transparent model of traceability of food distribution. This implies the identification of production centres, like farms and small-sized properties, then processors or rural-wholesale markets, logisticians, before accessing urban wholesale markets and therefore consumers. This must be accompanied by the improvement of the cold chain, better logistics and can be improved by the development of digital tools.

In what concerns traceability, control of the supply and food safety, technology can play an important role to have accurate monitoring and to collect information's on food life cycles, quality, and food safety. Today the lack of effective traceability is often due to the lack of human resources available or easy technologies. Cold chains also have to be better integrated into logistics and infrastructures, that diverge from a territory to another, and to effectively cover populations needs in order to meet the 2030 Agenda commitments. Participants stressed the important role that data mining and the development of digital tools can play to ensure best fresh food supply and logistics (eg . Colombia develop a project to monitor the characteristics of the cargo and analysis obtained data (e.g : cost check, consumption). This data collection and analysis will enable to design a supply planning without disruption and shortage of food.

In terms of logistics, and to limit the traffic of supply in major metropolitan areas, the development of smart urban agriculture would be useful (agriculture next to cities). Wholesale markets could facilitate the selling of products through communication between supply and demand, and they can help improve last mile logistics solutions to comply with more efficient and eco-friendly urban distribution schemes. They could play a major role bringing accessibility to a broad scale of actors and reaching cities requirements in terms of emissions, transports, optimize logistics and traffic congestions.

Collaborations with national, regional, and local governments could ensure that wholesale markets are empowered to build sustainable food supply systems. For example, by discussing effective locations for wholesale markets in urban planning and including the different stakeholders participation.

Panelists also mentioned the importance on reinforcing multi-stakeholder dialogue by creating dialogue platforms. There is currently in Latin America a lack of articulation between public-private sector (lots of markets are not in touch with authorities). Yet, this is crucial for the regulation of markets actors to overcome current difficulties, to distribute food efficiently spatially, to diversify centers of supply and to implement food governance policies/urban food planning. Public sector investment was identified as crucial, as the development of efficient and feasible projects requires public national and international incentives.

By gathering all stakeholders of the agri-food sector in round tables that could be organized with wholesale markets and in cooperation with local and regional governments, it is also expected that capacity building will be bolstered. With the aim to ensure the development and the integration of supply centers at the national level, this scheme has been set up notably in Mexico with "competitividad agricultural circuits" in four different regions.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

TOPIC: Reduction of Food Waste

The reduction of food waste and losses are at the cornerstone of building a resilient and sustainable food system in Latin America and to ensure access to diet for all. Yet, the regional food system is bagged down into paradox, consisting of surplus of supply and production, while many livelihoods are still in a situation of food insecurity, further exacerbated with the outbreak of Covid-19. The reduction of food waste is a core strand in the region, and faces many bottlenecks, that require the improvement of governance ins-and-outs and incentives on best practices platforms.

First regarding governance, panelists agreed on the fact that raising awareness and finding a consensus/best practices on the issue of food waste are key. However, one of the major regional bottlenecks is the current legal framework. There is a need to adopt required legislation not only for raising public awareness but also to prevent food waste and to incorporate all sectors (e.g : foster legislation that facilitates reduction of food waste/give incentives to do it).

Moreover, in order to reduce food waste and losses that occur along the food value chain, there is a need to improve the cold chain to increase the life span of fresh products, alongside with capacities of recycling food (compost, forage, energy), and to a larger extent to have better planning of the production considering the seasonality of the food to avoid surplus of production of some items.

This issue can only be resolved collectively, by gathering all food sector stakeholders, throughout best practices platforms, as sharing experience and knowledge among centers of supply is critical to understand the ins-and-outs of food waste and what role they can have. Wholesale markets must accompany involved actors in this dynamism. Inclusiveness implies the participation of academics and field-experts (they have better understanding of actual "pain points" and propose accurate solutions), civil society organizations (ensure that they can count on good storage and logistics facilities). Governments should give incentives to promote food donation when possible and foster the link between wholesalers and associations. In addition , it was identified during the discussions that a great share of food losses happened in domestic spheres, and hence requires actions through prevention and education since childhood.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Divergences were raised during the discussion on ensuring access to nutritious food for all, regarding the reason of the current low consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in Latin America. If most of the participants explained that this was due to lack of knowledge, others noted that people were actually aware about the importance to consume this type of food, but were hindered by their high costs and the aggressive marketing of high-processed- high in fat/sugar food industry.

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