

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>       | Tuesday, 30 March 2021 10:00 GMT +03:00   |
| <b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>      | KUWAIT National Food Systems Dialogue   |
| <b>CONVENED BY</b>         | Dr. Reem Al-Fulajj- Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN)                                  |
| <b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b> | <a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8054/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8054/</a> |
| <b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>       | Member State  |
| <b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>  | Kuwait  |

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

156

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

4 0-18      16 19-30      84 31-50      51 51-65      1 66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

79 Male      75 Female      2 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

|    |                         |    |                      |    |                              |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 6  | Agriculture/crops       | 28 | Education            | 6  | Health care                  |
| 1  | Fish and aquaculture    | 5  | Communication        |    | Nutrition                    |
| 11 | Livestock               | 2  | Food processing      | 25 | National or local government |
| 3  | Agro-forestry           | 15 | Food retail, markets | 1  | Utilities                    |
| 10 | Environment and ecology | 11 | Food industry        | 2  | Industrial                   |
| 24 | Trade and commerce      | 5  | Financial Services   | 1  | Other                        |

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

|    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 19 | Small/medium enterprise/artisan             | 5  | Workers and trade union                     |
| 20 | Large national business                     |    | Member of Parliament                        |
| 3  | Multi-national corporation                  | 6  | Local authority                             |
| 1  | Small-scale farmer                          | 45 | Government and national institution         |
| 1  | Medium-scale farmer                         | 1  | Regional economic community                 |
| 1  | Large-scale farmer                          | 7  | United Nations                              |
| 4  | Local Non-Governmental Organization         | 2  | International financial institution         |
| 1  | International Non-Governmental Organization | 3  | Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance |
|    | Indigenous People                           | 4  | Consumer group                              |
| 28 | Science and academia                        | 5  | Other                                       |

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Kuwait recognized the importance of hosting phase one of National Food Systems Dialogue as part of Member State Dialogue. Thus, Kuwait was the first Arab country to hold a member state National Food System Dialogue on 30 March 2021. The event embraced the Summit principles of engagement: Act with Urgency, commit to the Summit, Be Respectful, Recognize Complexity, Embrace Multi Stakeholder Inclusivity, Complement the Work of Others, and Build Trust.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Kuwait National Food Systems Dialogues invited multiple stakeholders from different backgrounds and sectors to participate in phase one of the National dialogue in preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021. Phase one of the dialogue was organized by the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) - Kuwait and was held virtually. Participants included stakeholders from across the food systems, ranging from farmers, food industry, government, Non-Governmental Organization, activists, research and academic institutions, financial agencies, media, telecommunication, and most importantly school students. This diverse group of stakeholders provided a comprehensive view of the country's food systems. Participants shared diverse perspectives, and managed to identify challenges, discover opportunities, and suggested applicable solutions. There were five breakout rooms, each room had a curator and two facilitators. The Chatham House Rule of non-attribution encouraged participants to engage in the discussion. During the last hour of the dialogue, all participants returned back to plenary and a facilitator from each breakout room read aloud the important points that were discussed and covered in each breakout room.

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

It is very important to appreciate the principles of engagement when preparing for the dialogue. Spending enough time to list all stakeholders is important for a successful dialogue. It is advisable to encourage women to voice their opinions as they have proved themselves in many developmental sectors such as academia, environment, social issues and more. It is also noted that the inclusion of school students added value to the dialogue and ensured that no one was left behind. Every opinion is important, and everyone shared their views in a very respectful manner.

# 3. METHOD

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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

Kuwait held a National food systems dialogue virtually on 30 March 2021 in preparation for the Food Systems Summit (FSS) in September 2021. Different stakeholders participated in the dialogue representing the different roles and interests along the food systems chain. More than 156 participants spent four hours exploring Kuwait food systems along the five action tracks and levers of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Participants conducted a thorough diagnosis of Kuwait food systems with the aim to address the challenges, potentials, and vulnerabilities of our food systems, and to come up with concrete actions to support the transformation of food systems in Kuwait.

Participants were assigned to one of the five break out rooms, each room addressing one action track. These action tracks are: 1) Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all. 2) Shift to sustainable consumption patterns. 3) Boost nature positive production. 4) Advance equitable livelihoods 5) Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress.

It was clear from discussions that there was an excessive focus on the vulnerability of Kuwait's food systems that is import dependent and the need to have a clear vision aiming to transform Kuwait into a self-sufficient country.

COVID-19 pandemic exposed the suboptimal functions of Kuwait food systems and proved that it is vulnerable to shock and stress despite many years of investment in policies and programs. There is an urgent need of significant policy reformulation and shift in business models to strengthen national food systems.

### 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

Kuwait has the capacity to build its national food systems, but this will require radical change in the country's government structure, public-private partnerships, and above all strong political will and courage to set up food and nutrition security action plan in Kuwait. This is achievable by establishing a supreme council for food and nutrition headed by a decision maker at the highest administration at the national level accompanied with proper legislations, implementation, and monitoring. This will enable all key players across the various subsystems and domains to align their action plans towards achieving common goals that are effective, efficient, and sustainable. Kuwait national development plan 2035 needs to include a food and nutrition security plan that focuses on prioritizing nutrition policies and healthy lifestyle behavior that is culturally applicable, resilient, and sustainable.

There is an urgent need to transform Kuwait from a country that depends on importation of all types of food to a country of self-sufficiency.

While these transformations might take some time to achieve, Kuwait must start by taking some immediate strategic transition steps that include:

- Forming Supreme council for food and nutrition security.
- Increase investment in Food Systems research and development.
- Enhance investment in infrastructures that support critical innovations and increase resilience and productivity.
- Engage youth and women in agriculture using technology.
- Educate children and youth about adequate food consumption.
- Put in place risk management in food systems.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Nutrition surveillance results of the State of Kuwait since the beginning of the millennium indicate that one of the most important risk factors associated with chronic diseases are overweight and obesity, not consuming the recommended quantities of fruits and vegetables, and physical activity in all age groups, especially among school children and adult women are below the required standard for disease prevention.

One of the recommendations was to implement intervention programs to raise the level of community nutritional awareness, with an emphasis on school students to improve their nutritional health.

It is also recommended to adopt policies that strengthen partnership with the private sector: manufacturers, producers and suppliers of food and supporting small enterprises and youth initiatives to adopt the WHO and FAO recommendations to locally produce and import food commodities with low content of added salt, added sugar and free from trans fatty acids.

This will improve the nutritional status of the population and reduce risk factors associated with chronic diseases, while aiming to reduce the cost of these food products to facilitate their availability.

It is also important to support farmers by providing smart technologies in all stages of agriculture. It is important to identify and exchange experiences with the countries of the region regarding success stories of increasing local production of fruits and vegetables using modern scientific methods that ensures sustainable water usage to reduce waste and access to quality products.

It is important to revise the current food subsidies policy that includes food that does not comply with the recommendations of international organizations concerned with health and nutrition that contributes to increased consumption, waste and possibly misuse. It is extremely important to make the appropriate amendments to the quantities allocated to everyone in addition to replacing some of the items while adding others that are healthier and more nutritious.

Youth nutritional health is important; thus, it is a priority to review and amend food items sold in school canteens, complying with the approved regulations and requirements, following up on their implementation, and making appropriate adjustments based on the assessment of results. Imbedding health and nutrition into the school curricula in an attractive and interesting manner will encourage students to consume these foods in a scientifically proven methods such as front of pack labeling.

Participants shared the success stories of public-private partnership with regards to Kuwait flour mills and bakeries company which added micronutrients to flour to protect the community from health problems. Furthermore, fruit juice and nectar manufacturers agreed and reduced significant percentage of added sugar in their products. Also, manufacturers of salted snacks agreed and reduced percentage of added salt in their products.

Adopting unhealthy dietary patterns due to unfair advertisements and promotions in media of processed foods, sugar-sweetened and carbonated beverages, energy drinks, which are characterized by empty calories, is a major challenge that needs to be addressed.

It is important to educate mothers about maternal, infant and child nutrition, implementation of baby-friendly hospitals, and regional and international cooperation in this field.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Participants unanimously agreed on the importance of establishing a crisis management policy within the sustainable development programs. They are also stressed on the importance of developing comprehensive and up-to-date statistical studies on consumption patterns and volume of food waste.

It is important to implement food waste recycling in food industry, and the application of waste management systems, as well as encouraging competition among all companies committed to the food waste reduction.

As for government support for farmers, opinions differed about it, with some pointing to the necessity of maintaining government support and linking it to production. Others believed that government subsidies should be canceled in order not to be misused. Everyone agreed that there is a need to raise a new generation concerned with reducing food waste. This is achieved through educational curricula and tightening legislation to impose supervision on school canteens.

Participants suggested adding tax on lost and wasted quantities of food, with the aim of rationalizing consumption.

Participants stressed the importance of adopting policies and programs that contribute to reducing costs and encouraging work to reduce water and electricity consumption in agriculture. There is a need to encourage local agriculture to achieve self-sufficiency in food. As for voluntary work to provide food to families in need, participants suggested the importance of cooperation with retailers and food establishments to withdraw food before its expiration date for distribution to these families, thus reducing food waste.

Participants noted the importance of the existence of units for the safe disposal of carcasses of dead livestock and the need to develop feed mills to serve livestock breeders, combat animal epidemics, and develop plans to vaccinate livestock in line with scientific evidence and international guidelines in this field.

### 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

|   |                           |   |                         |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
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| ✓ | Innovation                | ✓ | Data & Evidence         |
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|   |                           | ✓ | Environment and Climate |



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

The participants suggested that the enactment of legislation and government support is essential and that there is a need to incorporate modern technology in agricultural and industrial fields, but the most prominent challenges were the high prices that needed government support. It is important to enforce laws and impose taxation to force companies to recycle agricultural and industrial waste and reuse it to protect the environment.

The importance of cooperation between agencies and encouraging joint work between private and government institutions and public benefit associations is urgently needed. The relationship between the Public Authority of Environment and the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources must be strengthened due to their mutual interests. Learning from success stories in the use of technology in agriculture is cost effective. Companies expressed their willingness to share their successful experiences and provide consultations and capacity building to small and medium enterprises in water waste management.

Participants stressed the importance of establishing a higher council for food security, or a national company concerned with food security. In addition, the participants expressed the need to support research in agriculture and food production as well as supporting environmentally friendly food production by the small and medium enterprises companies.

They also suggested the need for capacity building about agricultural technology and food industries and promoting the incorporation of environmental citizenship in school curricula.

### ACTION TRACKS

|   |  |
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|   | 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

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|   |                           | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Establishing policies and laws or amending current laws for the advancement of agricultural and industrial sectors and developing professional skills to promote equitable livelihoods, equality, and justice for all segments of society. Enacting new laws to protect small and medium food enterprises is needed.

Participants discussed the need to develop curricula to encourage the younger generation to enroll in specialties related to veterinary medicine and agriculture such as agricultural engineering and other either in Kuwait or abroad. This will contribute to increase job opportunities and raise the rates of local food production.

There is an important need to revise food subsidies in line with the current economic, social and health circumstances. The importance of allocating lands to support entrepreneurs to increase and diversify agricultural production while identifying strategic food items needed by the consumers to contribute to food security. Legislating laws related to equity and equality in job opportunities and allocating funds to support entrepreneurs in the field of food production to ensure sustainability was strongly emphasized.

Encouraging recycling and utilizing excess food, which reduces food waste. Many participants expressed their concerns regarding challenges that limit local food production such as unfairness of agricultural land distribution, misuse of agricultural lands and lack of accountability.

### ACTION TRACKS

|   |  |
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| ✓ | Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods                          |
|   | Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress |

### KEYWORDS

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|   |                           | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

There are many challenges that face Kuwait regarding action track 5 and the need to ensure adequate supplies of safe and nutritious foods. Due to the limited agricultural production, rapid growth in food demand, the huge dependency on imported food and the presence of several regulatory bodies working in the field of food, agriculture, and health leads to an overlap of responsibilities and thus leads to ineffective implementation.

Providing safe and nutritious food by following laws, legislations and updated standards helps to improve food production systems and ensures the principle of "If it is not safe, it is not food". It is also important to establish food traceability mechanisms to track food production of imported and locally produced food, and the necessity to apply penalties to violators on the misuse of pesticides for example.

Many opinions emphasized the necessity of investing in the field of modern agriculture technologies due to its importance in steadfastness and standing in the face of natural changes. This would help in agricultural production opportunities and supports the production system by urging the adoption of good agricultural practices.

One of the most important solutions discussed to amend the current conditions of food systems namely, manufacturing, cultivation, import, through all the food and nutrition chain systems to ensure quality and food safety for the consumer. Risk based analysis must be properly implemented. It was also mentioned by the participants that community awareness of food security and sustainability is important during the early stages of education.

### ACTION TRACKS

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all      |
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|   | 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                   | ✓ | Policy                  |
| ✓ | Innovation                | ✓ | Data & Evidence         |
| ✓ | Human rights              | ✓ | Governance              |
| ✓ | Women & Youth Empowerment | ✓ | Trade-offs              |
|   |                           | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Different action tracks had different areas of divergence. Action Track 1: 'Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all' showed no disagreement. Rather, there was consensus and agreement on the importance of enacting necessary laws, legislations and activating partnerships between all concerned sectors, whether governmental, private, and civil unions to achieve the desired goals.

Action Track 2: 'Shift to sustainable consumption patterns' opinion divergence involved different opinions regarding the need to recycle food wastes whereas others focused on eliminating food waste altogether.

Action Track 3: 'Boost nature-positive production' revealed no disagreements. In fact, everyone agreed on the challenges facing agricultural and industrial production. Also, it was agreed on the lack of legislation and laws related to agricultural waste and loss.

Action Track 4: 'Advance equitable livelihoods' showed no differences in opinions. On the contrary, it was noted that there is a great agreement among all participants on the importance of promoting a culture of justice and equality among all segments of society and ensuring the achievement of justice and equality for all and combating discrimination as one of the foundations supporting the promotion of fair livelihoods.

Action Track 5: 'Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress' showed agreement among participants.

### ACTION TRACKS

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

## ATTACHMENTS

- **14 Year old student participating in the dialogue- Siham Al Roumi**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Siham2.jpg>
- **14 Year old student at the dialogue - Siham AlRoumi**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Siham-3.jpg>
- **PAFN team working on the dialogue preparation.**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/PAFN-team-at-the-dialogue-scaled.jpg>
- **Certificate of attendance.**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Food-Summit-Dialogue-2021-Certificate.pdf>
- **Kuwait report in Arabic.**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/تقرير-الكويت-لحوار-النظم-الغذائية-باللغة-العربية.docx>
- **16 year old high school student at the dialogue- Jana Al Mutawa**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Jana-Al-Mutawa.jpg>
- **14 Year old high school student at the dialogue- Reema AlSayer**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Reema-Al-Sayer.jpg>
- **14 Year old high school student at the dialogue- Reema Al Sayer**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Reema-Al-Sayer1.jpg>

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Dialogue coverage on National TV**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtRKdMOGcZ4>
- **Video clip of PAFN work during the preparation for the dialogue**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaH0Jhzqhg4>
- **Good morning Kuwait coverage of the dialogue**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvgUiu2c-rg>