

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 9 June 2021 10:00 GMT +01:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Diversification - Building food security and resilience into climate change mitigation
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Duncan Macqueen (IIED/Forest and Farm Facility), Sophie Grouwels (FAO/Forest and Farm Facility), Pauline Buffle (IUCN/Forest and Farm Facility), Y Voan - Viet Nam Farmers Union
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8270/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8270/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Our dialogue on "Diversification for climate resilience and food security" led by FFF and the Viet Nam Farmers Union - invited inputs from farmer organisations from ten countries - prompted by the urgency of finding solutions to climate resilience and climate action within the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. By giving voice to farmer organizations on these issues we demonstrate commitment to the vision, objectives and the final outcomes of the Food Systems Summit. Our approach was respectful of the need to let people hear the real efforts by farmer organizations to become resilient in the face of climate change - and we offered an inclusive platform for men and women to present their views. We recognized complexity by bringing examples from Africa and Asia to showcase different strategies for resilience - all of which involved ecological, economic and social diversification to reduce risks of climate-linked failure. We sought to build on the work of others such as the Global Resilience Partnership in developing our thinking on how best to ensure climate resilience in food systems. Our whole approach at the FFF is based on mutual trust between four partners (FAO, IUCN, IIED and Agricord) and more than 200 forest and farm organizations who we support across ten partner countries and through a regional and global programme.

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

Our dialogue drew on inclusive processes through which ten case studies of climate resilience by different farmer organisations were selected and documents. Three of these case studies were chosen for presentation based on the timezone for the dialogue. An open plenary and virtual 'Mural' post-it board was used to ensure that everyone had the chance to shape, register comments and help to revise six main propositions emerging from the dialogue.

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

# 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

This dialogue "Diversification - Building food security and resilience into climate change mitigation" on Wednesday, 9 June 2021 11:00 – 13:00 GMT+2 was scheduled as an official dialogue under the 'Food System Summit – Action Track 5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, stress and shocks'.

Global climate is changing ever faster. Forest loss both contributes to this change (through carbon emissions). Forest loss is also accelerated by climate change (through climate-related droughts, fires, storms, pests and disease outbreaks that kill forests). It's a vicious circle. The World Meteorological Organization records recent years of "exceptional global heat, retreating ice and record sea levels driven by greenhouse gases from human activities." The world's forests and its climate require a helping hand.

Fortunately, the world's 1.5 billion smallholder farmers (<2hectares) embody 3 billion helping hands. They are an efficient and professional bunch. Most smallholder farms (83%) are in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. While operating only 12% of the world's agricultural land, they produce more than 70% of the food calories to people living in those regions. But they, too, are vulnerable to climate threats. What can be done to help them?

This dialogue aimed to collect stories from around the world to show that it is possible to secure food from more resilient landscapes, stop forest loss and mitigate climate change at the same time. The secret lies in organized smallholders diversifying into more resilient agroforestry systems, tree planting and natural forest protection at landscape scales. It's a brilliant nature-based solution!

Following significant early impacts, the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) Phase II (2018-2022) has continued to support the tremendous potential of forest and farm producers' organizations (FFPOs) to develop inclusive business models that both improve livelihoods and enhance climate-resilient landscapes. This virtual dialogue showcased how FFPO diversification has built both food security and climate resilience while also mitigating climate change at significant scales.

The mobilization of large farmer organization to spearhead diversification within and between their multiple membership groups can drive a paradigm shift away from large-scale corporate monocultures, which are highly inequitable and vulnerable to climate threats. FFPO businesses embody greater diversity and equity because they are founded on the multiple diverse smallholdings and democratic interests of their members.

Diverse baskets of products produced from these FFPOs spread risks of climate-related failures and reduce overdependence on the market price stability of single products. Diversification has also stood smallholders in good stead during market shocks triggered by COVID-19. Following an overview of FFPOs and climate resilience, four country case studies from Ghana, Madagascar, Nepal and Viet Nam attempted to answer the research question – "what elements of diversification (ecological, economic and social) have made a telling contribution to resilience for different contexts?" There was then an open discussion and mural post-it session to allow participants to add their views.

### 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		Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights		Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

Participants discussed and endorsed a series of statements that they felt reflected the current potential of smallholder farmers and their organizations to build climate resilience for food security, their current marginalisation from decision-making and direct climate finance, and steps that needed to be taken to address that gap.

The farmers organizations committed to working with the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) to further develop farmers understanding of climate resilience through peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges facilitated by the FFF, through new training and information materials and through active small grants programmes funded by the FFF. A set of 30 resilience options for forest and farm producers will be widely circulated as the basis for increasing farmer knowledge of these issues.

Particular emphasis was placed by participants on the resourcefulness of forest and farm producer organizations that is borne out of acute need and chronic stress. More direct support for such organizations especially to engage in peer to peer knowledge exchange can help people adapt more successfully. Investments that strengthen local organizations capacity to engage and negotiate were recommended - and while difficult to realise at a global level, there were felt to be real gains to be had in creating space and building capacity for local organizations to find a voice in local and national fora. Above all, the dialogue felt some consensus around the need for farmer organizations to be both better represented in decision making and more frequently the direct recipients of climate finance.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Participants discussed six main discussion topics relating to: (i) the nature and scale of farmer smallholdings; (ii) the type of landscape in which resilience actions were required; (iii) the diversity of forest and farm products and services requiring resilience; (iv) the nature of the shocks across climate, economic, political and health concerns (v) the best route towards resilience in food systems; (vi) the priority going forward. Participants had the opportunity to shape, edit and revise a series of six statements based on food security in forest and farm smallholders and indigenous people's territories. The final edited statements are as follows:

1. In comparison with industrial agriculture, the collective smallholdings of forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs), and the territories of Indigenous Peoples together constitute substantially the largest private sector food system with greatest reach to the world's poor.
2. In contrast with industrial agriculture, FFPOs and Indigenous Peoples territories routinely integrate biodiverse patchworks of agricultural land with forests in agroforestry systems, woodlots, fallow lands and conservation areas that are offering inclusive climate resilient development.
3. In contrast with industrial agriculture, the patchwork forest and farm landscapes of FFPOs and Indigenous Peoples routinely produce a wide diversity of subsistence agroforestry foods (including the wood energy to cook with, and the construction materials for shelter) alongside cash crops that together are constituting an integrated approach to food security (stable, nutritious, available, accessible and sustainable)
4. For their own survival, FFPOs and Indigenous Peoples territories are by necessity becoming resilient in sophisticated ways to climate change, economic shocks, pandemics, political inequalities and conflicts that embrace multiple socio-cultural, ecological, economic and physical / technological diversification strategies and both adapt to and mitigate climate change over collectively vast areas.
5. Strengthening the organizations of FFPOs and Indigenous Peoples territories from local groups, through regional associations to national and international federations constitutes a much neglected but efficient route towards climate risk reduction and management.
6. Increasing the decision making processes such that they invite greater representation of FFPOs and Indigenous Peoples territories in national and international decision-making and action on food systems, and in global climate negotiations, finance, and implementation modalities represents a huge opportunity for upscaling climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was some divergence as to whether it was improved farmer representation that was needed to shape more resilient food systems or better processes of decision-making that actually made representation possible.

Some participants felt that in addition to climate change adaptation and resilience - more emphasis needs also to be placed on how smallholder food systems can frequently outcompete industrial agriculture in terms of climate change mitigation - and that smallholder farm organizations ought to be channels for climate mitigation programmes such as REDD+ - rather than all the finance ending up with brokers and consultants.

Finally there was some discussion about the best arena in which to act - with some preferring to work towards farmer unions and federations with substantial numbers and power - while others felt that often, local federations and local authorities had the capacity to shape more enabling environments for climate resilience (e.g. through local infrastructure development)

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate



# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Case study from Madagascar**  
<https://pubs.iied.org/13620iied>
- **Case study from Viet Nam**  
<https://pubs.iied.org/13624iied>
- **Case study from Ghana**  
<https://pubs.iied.org/13618iied>
- **FAO news story**  
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/news/98644/en/>