

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 15 April 2021 14:00 GMT +05:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	UNFSS Independent Dialogue: Advancing Water- Energy- Food (WEF) Nexus approaches to achieve food systems transformation in Central Asia
CONVENED BY	International Water Management Institute (Responsible: Mr. Oytüre Anarbekov) and International Food Policy Research Institute (Responsible: Dr. Kamiljon Akramov)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8490/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

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

92

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 7 19-30 44 31-50 33 51-65 7 66-80 1 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

77 Male 15 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3	Agriculture/crops	14	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	1	Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing	5	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
32	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce	1	Financial Services	36	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	1	Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	2	Local authority
	Small-scale farmer	13	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	2	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
4	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
30	International Non-Governmental Organization	3	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People		Consumer group
24	Science and academia	10	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue was organized according to the UNFSS' Principles of Engagement. Participants were introduced to the summit vision, objectives and action tracks. To ensure that participants were respectful, rules of engagement were set at the beginning of the dialogue. In recognizing complexity, the dialogue focused on water's transformative role in food systems. The objective was to bring the discussion on food and water systems in a changing climate to the global policy level and to provide tangible inputs into the discussion of the UNFSS. To embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity, the Central Asia dialogue was open to a wide range of stakeholders in the water, energy, food, environment and related sectors ranging from intergovernmental organizations; regional, national and local government departments/entities, development partners; non-governmental organizations; the private sector, research for development organizations; academia; farmers' groups; and networks. As per agreed rule within UNFSS, we introduced a plenary session comprising of global and regional speakers who provided introduction and welcoming to the dialogue. The Dialogue was conducted under the Chatham House Rule, where participants were free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, could be revealed.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue was organized with a focus on developing contributions to the FSS and elaborating pathways toward food systems transformation contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The choice of focus on water security for food systems transformation very much addressed the lack of the direct attention to water within the UNFSS structure. The participation of multiple stakeholders was encouraged by bringing together a diverse group of actors in addition to those that typically engage in the area of water, food security, and nutrition. The Dialogue invitation was sent across actors in research and academia, international financial institutions, farmers at various scales, private sector, etc. Interpretation (English-Russian) was available during plenary sessions, while breakout room discussion facilitators were encouraged to hear from all participants in both English and Russian. The Feedback from the breakout discussion opened the door to questions or comments from participants. Participants were four times engaged in live polls (via Menti) during the dialogue. Breakout room discussion topics covered varying areas and topics within water security for food systems transformation, including both more technical and more policy-oriented topics.

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

We opted for a 'by invitation only' event conducted under Chatham House rules. While this contributed to establishing a safe space for all to discuss and engage freely, it also limited inclusivity to some extent. Next time, we may consider having an open invitation event and not restricting discussion to Chatham House rules. This would allow for great live social media reporting and post-event outreach using specific speaker quotes etc. It is recommended to set the stage early on regarding the 'purpose' of the Dialogue by explaining the UNFSS' objectives and vision and action tracks, particularly for the benefit of participants who may be unfamiliar. This event was an Independent Dialogue with a national focus, thus providing interpretation (English-Arabic) definitely opened the door for contributions and engagement where language may have been a barrier. Engaging participants' active audio-visual interventions by way of live polls and encouraging chat box discussions, actions or comments and questions, etc, increased participants' involvement.

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

Central Asia is considered one of the dynamic growing and developing region in the world. Population growth, socio-economic development, climate change, hydropower development as well as changing consumption patterns of the population contribute to increased demand for water, energy and food. Water scarcity presents one of the greatest challenges for the region as its population grows so does the need to create more jobs, produce more food, more energy - yet water resources are limited.

Irrigated agriculture consumes approximately 80% of all abstracted water in Central Asian countries. The region is well known for its history of mismanagement of water, energy, and land resources that have had widely publicized negative effects on water availability throughout the region. The Aral Sea, a large inland lake, almost disappeared as a result of diverting large portions of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya River flows to expand irrigated agriculture (due to in-efficient irrigation and irrational cropping pattern). Balancing the sectoral needs for agricultural production and the generation of energy through hydropower is challenging, as the transboundary water flow is disrupted. Climate change and population increases will put additional stress on the region's water resources with 10 to 30% less water available in the aforementioned rivers by 2050. Solutions for sustainable food production through irrigated agriculture require a systemic approach to assess benefits and trade-offs across sectors. Here, the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus has become an important concept in natural resource management. It has been conceptualized to analyze linkages and trade-offs between the three sectors, across temporal and spatial scales.

Taking into account, numerous challenges facing Central Asian countries to achieve security in all three sectors of WEF, application of a 'Nexus' approach allows for mutually beneficial responses that are based on an understanding of synergies between water, energy and agricultural systems policies and practices.

This regional dialogue therefore seek to unpack the questions: how can food systems be localized and transformed in a water-constrained region such as Central Asia in a manner that acknowledges WEF nexus linkages in climate uncertainty? The UN Food Systems Summit Central Asia dialogue highlighted seven key thematic areas on which participants were required to engage in an interactive manner that allowed for small group discussion, collective brainstorming, and agenda-setting.

The thematic areas covered by breakout groups were: 1) Moving towards low carbon energy for food production; 2) Climate change impacts on water and food security; 3) Policy coherence and institutional coordination in water, food, energy and climate change that operationalize the WEF nexus; 4) Advancing technical WEF models, tools and frameworks for decision making at multiple scales; 5) Enhancing resilience of water system across multi-sector (agriculture, domestic, industry and environment) demands; 6) Socio-Economic Benefits of WEF Nexus and Community approaches to operationalize the WEF nexus.

Expected key outcome of this dialogue was getting involved and sharing the views of Central Asian stakeholders on sustainable irrigated foods systems transformation and importance of WEF nexus under climate uncertainties. Reaching a common understanding of the challenges and finding local solutions to the challenges facing food security/water systems transformation along with attendant issues of water security for a range of other sectors were explored.

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

Water scarcity presents one of the greatest challenge for the region as its population grows so does the need to create more jobs, produce more food, more energy - yet water resources are limited. It is negatively affecting the agriculture, energy, health, environment and other sectors, further exacerbated by the dramatic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, climate change and population increases will put additional stress on the region's water resources - with 10 to 30% less water available in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers by 2050. Managing the water risks in the food system is going to be of highest priority in the future for food system of Central Asia. Rising temperatures will pose major challenges for the region's major crops such as wheat, rice, and cotton, as well as challenging research on new crop varieties and crop production systems. The production of relatively low-income crops such as cotton and wheat will become less profitable due to high transportation costs.

The participants of the dialogue stressed that the WEF nexus approach requires a shared vision for water and food security in the Central Asian region, and one that is facilitated by improved policy coherence and institutional coordination. Stronger collaboration and cooperation across and between governments and its multiple tiers is needed to achieve this, along with strengthening policy synergies with the private sector and civil society. The strong interdependency between water, energy, food and climate change in arid and semi-arid regions such as Central Asia calls for robust interventions, i.e. an approach that integrates management and governance across sectors, and where conventional policy and decision-making in 'silos' gives way to an approach that reduces tradeoffs and builds synergies across sectors in line with the global UN SDGs and climate targets. There is required to develop the long term regional limited planning for water allocation between sectors. Regional programs like the regional program for the basin of the Aral Sea is still rather sectoral and has only limited nexus elements. Also, the problem of the original programs is that they are developed mainly by water and ecology experts without referring to knowledge from other sectors like energy and agriculture.

There is a need to create enabling environment, formal and informal platforms to discuss WEF nexus at national and regional level and highlight its importance via mass media in a nutshell publicize nexus to maximum extent. Regional and International organizations together with development partners should play important role in this process in upcoming years.

Participants agreed that governments, researchers, and development institutions should focus more effort into capacity/knowledge building for farmers who might benefit from implementing low carbon technologies in their production, as well as greater investment in the sector. Because such technologies are new and may involve expensive initial implementation, there is hesitation to adopt, but in the long run such technologies could improve water and energy efficiency while improving farm-level outcomes. Additionally, stakeholders should push for the implementation of conservation farming policies, which will result in better land use while reducing emissions.

For WEF Nexus approaches to result in better socio-economic outcomes, first, national and research institutions should put more effort into disseminating and implementing research findings in collaboration with government and with support from international research/education organizations. For example, data on water management could greatly improve through micro-level assessments (e.g. household surveys), and tools/models could be developed so policy making entities have a greater base of evidence. Additionally, with help from the research sector, governments should develop national strategies and legal frameworks for developing bioeconomy in the region, which currently do not exist.

Finding ways to manage the water-energy-food nexus will be key then in ensuring a sustainable supply of water to the food system.

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 - 1/7

Moving towards low carbon energy for food production

Participants agreed on the importance of completing projects that expand low carbon irrigation (e.g. gravity and solar irrigation, repairing inefficient infrastructure), carried out by government/development organizations like the World Bank with research institution support. Stakeholders should focus more on knowledge/capacity building among farmers who may not see immediate benefits of implementing low carbon technologies. Finally, governments/stakeholders should push for conservation farming techniques to reduce agricultural emissions across the board. The process of transitioning to low-carbon agriculture, especially where infrastructure improvements are needed, will be expensive. Therefore, a huge investment push is needed.

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 - 2/7

Climate change impacts on water and food security

Central Asia is a region that is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – which is negatively affecting the water, agriculture, energy, trade, health, environment, and other sectors. Transitioning from competition among sectors to cooperation – including across the water-energy-food nexus - will be a vital part of the story of food system transformation in the region. Global and regional climatic changes are directly affecting the hydrological regime of river flow and food security in Central Asia. The group has concluded that taking into account climate change, there is required to develop regional rational water resource use as well as water protection concept. It is recommended to develop and adopt water, food, energy and environmental doctrines of Central Asia in the context of climate change. There is strong necessity to develop cooperation between national and regional research and academic institutions in the field of climate change. Taking into account COVID 19, it is necessary to improve the program "Food security and nutrition" in all countries of Central Asia. Strong attention should be directed towards introduction of water-saving technologies (drip, sprinkling, subsurface and other micro-irrigation methods) for irrigation of agricultural crops; It is necessary to develop regional cooperation on prevention of natural disasters (mudflows, floods, etc.) and protection of water bodies; Develop joint research programs on intensive technologies, the creation of drought-resistant crops, agricultural diversification, rotational water use and other innovative approaches for the rational use of water and land resources; It is necessary to create a unified database platform (DB) and develop an information system. These aspects have been proposed by the members of the group and ways in which progress could be assessed, it has been indicated necessity to develop and implement a monitoring system to assess the actions taken.

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 - 3/7

Policy coherence and institutional coordination in water, food, energy and climate change that operationalize the WEF nexus. It has been concluded that there are existing relevant institutions and organizations at the regional and national level who shall consider WEF nexus in their operations. One of such structures at the regional level is considered International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS). However, IFAS hasn't fully integrated the full competencies for the sectoral cooperation. This organization shall and can unite different sectors and develop regional WEF nexus programs and initiatives. Setting correctly at the Regional level policy coherence and institutional coordination provides good conditions to move it at the national levels. Participants have also highlighted the role of academic and research institutions who generate knowledge for policy through applied research. There has been also stressed importance of bringing private sector, specifically bilateral interstate projects conducted by private companies or consortia.

It was admitted that existing structures, they undergo challenges related to the fact that currently developed plans for the management for the incorporating WEF nexus are merely of national level and focused on national interest. Regional programs like the program for the basin of the Aral Sea is still rather sectoral and has only limited nexus elements. Also, the problem of the original programs is that they are developed mainly by water and ecology expert without referring to knowledge from other sectors like energy and agriculture. To overcome these challenges there is a need for raising more regional awareness at the level of decision makers about the need of WEF nexus approaches. Also, there's the need for more knowledge to support the limited available human resources to implement such an approach to develop long term plans.

Participants of the session highlighted that currently WEF nexus mainly applied within on-going projects and working groups on WEF nexus also established and promoted by donor supported projects. These donor supported initiatives are not sustainable in the long run and there is a need stronger engagement from Central Asian government representatives and they should feel that outcomes of WEF nexus improve inter-sectoral cooperation and help to develop coordinated policies on WEF nexus at national and regional level in Central Asia. There is a need to create enabling environment, formal and informal platforms to discuss WEF nexus at national and regional level and highlight its importance via mass media in a nutshell publicize nexus to maximum extent. Regional and International organizations together with development partners should play important role in this process in upcoming years.

It was highlighted and that there is a need for systematic capacity building which the participating organizations could offer. Secondly there is a need for platforms for leading discussion on the intergovernmental and multi stakeholder levels where participating institutions interest to facilitate.

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 - 4/7

Advancing technical WEF models, tools and frameworks for decision making at multiple scales

The group participants highlighted that WEF models, tools and frameworks will work for the decision makers when the data which is going to be used for modelling is accurate and trust is established from the source of data. From the practical perspective, WEF models are becoming more complex, expanding its narrative, and require whole institutions to code and run them. This induces high requirements to a technical background of the personnel, working with WEF models, and also a technical background of the policy-related personnel, who will be analyzing the results. Group indicated that most of the staff based in the provinces, districts and local on-farm irrigation systems requires to go through the trainings. There is a need in investing in stakeholders and building relevant knowledge and understanding of the importance of the WEF framework. The stakeholder community working under the WEF framework needs to have a clear sense of ownership of the process (“understand and accept it”) and be actively involved throughout its implementation in order to reach necessary results. The WEF process is still at its preliminary stage of application and none of the existing stakeholders in the region have the power to trigger its wider application. So, finding that entry point both in Uzbekistan and in the region would stimulate the wider acceptance of WEF.

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 |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/7

Enhancing resilience of water system across multi-sector (agriculture, domestic, industry and environment) demands. The group highlighted that the legislations in the region does not clearly state the "rights" of ecosystems to water. There is no clear methodology for assessing and recording ecosystem water requirements. There is weak coordination of actions between sectors of the economy in terms of meeting environmental needs. The existing principles of water allocation provide for releases for deltas and ecosystems, but they are implemented in reality according to the residual principle - therefore, there is no guarantee of stable water supply for ecosystems.

Active work is underway to develop environmental codes in each countries. A number of projects are being implemented to develop clear environmental legislation and test innovative methods and approaches to improve the sustainability of protected areas (UNDP and GEF, GIC, USAID, CAREC, etc.). Water conservation programs in agriculture are being actively implemented, as well as the transition to less water-intensive and more productive crops - however, how the saved water will be used is not yet clear.

The creation of agriculture clusters should be supported and developed, including the creation of cross-border clusters. There are reclamation expeditions in the countries that monitor the processes of land degradation (salinization, groundwater levels, the state of the drainage network) - it is necessary to strengthen the technical potential of these services in order to move from simple monitoring to real management of reclamation regimes.

Environmental portals are being created in the countries - it is necessary to accelerate their development in order to bring up to date the process of exchange of environmental and water management information between all sectors.

It is necessary to raise the status of protected areas of groundwater deposits, groundwater monitoring should become part of ecosystem management.

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 - 6/7

Socio Economic Impacts of WEF nexus:

The main way stakeholders can implement WEF nexus approaches to improve socio economic outcomes is by having the research sector generate up-to-date data and scientific evidence that governments can use to improve food and energy production, water saving, transboundary water management, sanitation, and health. Markers for the success of such initiatives would be less water conflict (including inter-farm), better water/energy use efficiency, stronger agricultural value chains and farmer incomes, more sustainably managed land, better data availability, lowered unemployment/migration, higher incomes, and improved cooperation between countries.

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 - 7/7

Community approaches to operationalize the WEF nexus

The group has discussed following question in the breakout: how could be promoted equity and inclusion in WEF nexus governance to create opportunities for transformation towards more just food, water and energy systems? Participants of the discussion pointed out that communities can exert a possible influence on the policy in the field of foreign economic activity only by uniting in public professional and non-professional organizations (PA), while the organizational and legal format of such associations is determined by the legislation of each individual country.

The existing role and influence of communities on the policy in the field of renewable economic activity are very different in different countries (they are at different stages of development). Therefore, action planning should be maximally adapted to the situation in each individual country. The realistic goal is to raise the status of communities in the planning and implementation of the WEF policy in the country by one step. At least to the role of an "observer", it is better to the role of a "participant in the process" with an advisory vote, ideally to the status of a "full member" of a collegial body for shaping the national policy of the WEF.

The main success of the actions is effective communication between the PA and other participants in the process of forming a policy of interrelation of WEF at the state and local levels.

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

During the discussion subject of “moving towards low carbon energy for food production”, participants agreed on most points, there were some areas of divergence. For example, there was constructive debate over the feasibility of widespread renewable energy implementation in agriculture (initial and long-term costs). There was also much focus on poor water and irrigation use/management as a main source of agricultural emissions, but some participants put more emphasis than others on the need for land-use changes.

During the discussion subject of Community approaches to operationalize the WEF nexus, participants highlighted inconsistencies in the degree of consideration of the role of community organizations in the management of the interrelation of WEF in the legislation of the country or in regulations, procedures and mechanisms. Furthermore, there is inconsistency in the level of financing of measures to involve community based organization into the governance of the WEF nexus.

Group which discussed Enhancing resilience of water system across multi-sector: the expediency was expressed to establish an exchange of information in the region on ecology and water resources and to create a unified database in these areas, since this is not organized at the proper level.

Group which discussed topic advancing technical WEF models, tools and frameworks for decision making at multiple scales highlighted there is a need to move away from the competitive behavior in the transboundary planning of CA states. The potential integration of different sectors across different levels within the WEF cannot be successful without a good transboundary cooperation of Central Asian countries. Hence, advocating for a basin planning, integration of WEF-related tools and methodologies in other sectors (as IWRM for the water sector and stakeholder participation) would set the scene for a common regional vision.

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

- **Group photo 1**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Dialogue-Group-photo-1.jpg>
- **Group photo 2**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Dialogue-Group-photo-2.jpg>
- **Concept Note (Eng)**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Eng_Central-Asia_UNFSS_Dialogue_Concept-Note.pdf
- **Concept Note (Rus)**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Rus_Central-Asia_UNFSS_Dialogue_Concept-Note_Apr.pdf
- **Invitations**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/UNFSS-Invitation-Central-Asia-Eng-Rus.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Invitation to UNFSS Independent Dialogue in Central Asia**
<https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/events/unfss-independent-dialogue-in-central-asia/>
- **Innovations and smart water technologies key to food systems transformation in Central Asia**
<https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/2021/04/innovations-and-smart-water-technologies-key-to-food-systems-transformation-in-central-asia/>