

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 7 April 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Sokoto Food System Exploratory Dialogue
CONVENED BY	1. Olusola Idowu Mrs. Permanent Secretary, Budget & National Planning 2. Prof. Kola Anigo
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8622/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Nigeria

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

277

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

226 Male

51 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Sokoto dialogue centre was made up of participants from Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States. The exploratory dialogue harnessed promising approaches to solving challenges from diverse stakeholders that are critical to food systems in the zone. In preparation for the dialogue there was engagement among the various groups and stakeholders for a common position to be presented during the dialogue. The dialogue had an opening ceremony with goodwill messages from various stakeholders from the participating states with the dialogue declared opening by the host Governor. There was a technical session during which the dialogue took place with focus on the five action tracks with summary of outcome presented in plenary.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Exploratory Dialogue was guided by the United Nations Five Action Tracks and also explored key cross-cutting issues like finance, technology and empowerment of women and young people which can be mobilized to ensure that food system in the North west is inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable in order to deliver quality diet and livelihood.

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

There is need to plan for more dialogues at the rural communities to get to the population that their voices are seldom heard of which many of them their livelihood depends largely on the food system. Such dialogue will give them the opportunity to contribute to finding solution to their challenges.

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

The major focus of the exploratory dialogue in the Sokoto Dialogue Centre was a comprehensive exploration of the Food Systems in the North West Zone with focus on the participating states (Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara). Participants identified the issues/challenges affecting the food systems along the five action tracks and levers of the UN Food Systems Summit. They conducted discussion on the food systems, major stakeholders, potentials, vulnerabilities, as well as opportunities for its transformation so that it can deliver high quality diet and affordable nutrition that is inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable and as means of livelihood.

The discussions revealed that the negative impact of the 2020 flood witnessed in the zone which ravaged the farm lands thereby throwing many families into poverty with implementable strategies that would assist in mitigation against such future occurrences. There are misuse of Agrochemicals and selling of grains to farmers in the place of seeds which affect their production output. There is inadequate knowledge on post-harvest management, lack of clear data on actual requirements of farmers, Government support towards improving agriculture using mechanized agriculture, advanced storage facilities are inadequate and lack of collaborations between federal and state towards improving the food system. Furthermore, there are many challenges across the food systems in the participating states. There is equity issues affecting access to land, loans and agricultural inputs propagated by the existing gender norms, vulnerability, poverty and illiteracy of the peasant farmers. Specifically, there is neglect or improper representation of women in the areas of food production, discrimination against women in sharing of agricultural inputs and credit facilities despite the significant role they play in the transformation of the food system, marketing monopoly by middlemen, poor government implementation of social protection programs, agricultural insurance and farmers loans, poor support for small and medium size enterprises which are major part of a strong agricultural value chain. Insecurity due to banditry and farmer-herdsmen clashes have made it difficult for farmers to access their farms. Effect of environmental changes such as drought, flood and desertification is hitting hard on the farmers with a lots of loss of crops which lead to poor yield.

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

1. The dialogue was able to identify the mentioned food systems challenges from multiple perspectives which include inadequate support from government and agricultural inputs, gender discrimination in terms credit facilities and farm input distribution and land acquisition.
2. The participants identified promising strategies for improving nutrition security, reducing hunger and prevalence of malnutrition in line with the National Policy on Food and Nutrition for Nigeria.
3. We have a unique opportunity to build our new national food systems narrative into our key national development plans for 2025, 2030 and 2050. This will require radical thinking, smart partnerships, but strong political will and courage to advance the food systems transformation we need in Nigeria.
4. There is need to promote more inclusive, healthier food systems, encourage collaborative approach towards building sustainable food security and enhancing the achievement of the SDGs.

□ While these transformations will be a journey, we must start by taking some strategic and immediate transition steps – the suggested steps include

- o Generate regular appropriate production data through ADP or other agencies and identification of comparative advantage crops in each state for support by government in the area of farm inputs and value addition
- o Organizing training for farmers on good agricultural practices and use of improved seed varieties to optimize yield
- o Encouragement of small scale food processor and aggregating farms for reliable off takers thereby expanding farmers market
- o Support for Mass media education of the public on safe and healthy nutritious diet
- o Government to ensure sufficient fund and adequate support given to agriculture with appropriate timeliness.
- o There is need for strong partnership between government, private sector and other funding agencies both local and international for improvement in the food system.
- o Emphasis were made on the need for urgent and immediate collaboration between the national and state agencies and also engaging all stakeholders, so as to know the actual statistics of the problems, demands and requirements gaps that need to be bridge through Agricultural extension workers.
- o Federal Government to address the issue of insecurities, fertilizer distributions and also take measures to ensure government interventions reach the intended beneficiaries.
- o Active sensitization and mass media communications to the grass root on the importance of fruit and vegetable consumption.
- o Made available access roads for easy conveyance of the farm produce to avoid losses before getting to the market.
- o Adoption of modern techniques of farming by empowering farmers with local technologies and farm implements that can be maintain by the local farmers.
- o Derive a means of reliable and sustainable storage patterns throughout the year.
- o Enlighten women on the process of cooking a healthy food.
- o Empower youth to embrace farming as an occupation/business
- o Make lands available and accessible for farming to take place.
- o Government to enforce price control across all levels
- o Women groups should be created and encouraged to participate and be involved in every decisions with regards to Food System.
- o Enforcement of Deforestation Act by the government in other to reduce the negative effect associated with it.
- o Adoption or implementation of Climate Smart Agriculture System with effective and proactive land preparation like soil testing etc.
- o Government direct investment in Agriculture Extension Education to empower and assist farmers in food production and value addition in order to reduce post-harvest losses
- o Equitable social protection programs and insurance that works for farmers.
- o Government policies should be effectively implemented by agencies e.g., CBN anchor borrower scheme.
- o Involvement of women and physically challenge in agricultural program planning and implementation.
- o Actions on the role of Women in the transformation of the Food system in the North western Nigeria include Women empowerment, Encourage the women cooperative association, Allocating a percentage to the women group when sharing items at all level including credit facilities
- o Actions on the issue of insecurity: use of current technologies and methods such as the use of drones for the application of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides; the use of mechanized farming tools; Geological surveys and mapping of areas of agricultural activities and insecurity prone areas; Group security system/Community security system (Vigilante)
- o Actions on Environmental factors: use improved seed varieties and Pest control measures, Mapping of drought and flood prone areas for necessary mitigation measures; Practice of sustainable agriculture to preserve

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Recommendations from the discussants are as follows:

Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality

- o Identify the vulnerable
- o Addressing poverty by increasing purchasing power of the poor
- o Bio-fortification
- o Address post-harvest losses
- o Government regulation on food price/incentives
- o Encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods

- o Revive and improve on irrigation system
- o Engaging in good agricultural practices GAP to increase food production
- o Harm farmers with skill and knowledge
- o Home gardening and backyard farming
- o Raising official off-takers for crops to have competitive advantage
- o Good road network for easy movement of the farm produce
- o Adequate security in the country to protect farmers and their farms.
- o Educating farmers on the use of agrochemicals
- o Promotion of aquaculture among women and youth
- o Training of the farmers on modern ways on food storage
- o Embracing Mechanization in all our agricultural system
- o Use of ICT to monitor the processes of our production

Strand 3: Ensuring safe food

- o Engaging research agricultural institutes to do the needful
- o Pass the Food Safety Bill and legislate food safety
- o Provision of portable water for all the vulnerable
- o Food Sanitation
- o Regulation of street food vendors and restaurants
- o Greater regulation of ingredients in industrially produced foods
- o Encourage mobile food bank
- o Less use of inorganic fertilizer
- o Training on food handling, cooking and consumption

Actions to be taken the next 3 years:

- o Appropriate production data through ADP or other agencies
- o Identification of comparative advantage of crops in each state
- o M & E Department must be involved
- o Identify the area of value addition
- o Improvement in seed varieties to optimize yield
- o Organizing training for farmer on good agricultural practices
- o Draw out a work plan and achievable time lines
- o Resources must be committed to the project
- o Emergency food security assessment
- o Farmers need to be trained
- o Aggregating farms for reliable off-takers
- o Mass media education on nutritious dieting on weekly basis
- o Training and support for health worker and care givers.

Action plan for next 10 years (2030)

- o It is progressive from what result we get from 3 years work plan
- o Government should release budget allocated to agriculture sufficiently and on time.

Cross cutting

- o Home gardens/backyard farming gives you access to nutritious foods.
- o Revitalization of our agricultural institute of research and regular funding to upscale production.
- o Government should develop nutrition based dietary guidelines for all at all level
- o Financing and Increasing modern biotechnology research,
- o Public education on responsible use of agro-chemicals.
- o Establish credible and integrated data base for detailed food systems information.
- o Establishment of Food Systems Bill

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Discussion Topic SHIFT TO HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

After explaining the track in line with the summit' goals. Definition of some basic terms like the food security, food system, chains involved in the food chain, problems already identified by the FAO reports all in relations to the Track (Track- 2). Then the floor was declared open for brainstorming, which gave out the following recommendations:

Responses Regarding the actions greatest impact in the next 3 years

- Emphasis were made on the need for urgent and immediate collaboration between the national and state agencies to engage all stakeholders, so as to know the actual statistics of the problems, demands, requirements gaps that need to be bridge through Agricultural extension workers.
- Immediately shift away from the use of chemical fertilizers and adopt the use of organic fertilizer. Because residues from chemical fertilizers causes a lot of health hazards.
- Emphasizing on the exclusive system of feeding so as to safeguard the health of infants between 0 to 6months
- FG to address the issue of insecurities, fertilizer distributions and also taking furnishable measures on those misappropriating the government interventions.
- Active sensitization and mass media communications to the grass root farmers on the importance of garnishing the food by some vital vegetables like moringa.
- Provision of access roads for easy conveyance of the farm produce, as some are spoilt before transporting them to the market.
- Adoption of modern techniques by empowering the local technologies to form farm implements that can be maintain by the local farmers.
- Derive a means of reliable and sustainable storage patterns throughout the year.
- Enlighten women on the process of cooking a healthy food.
- Empower youth to embrace farming as an occupation/business for all not for the villagers and old ages.
- Make lands available and accessible for the farming to take place.
- Appropriate Implementation of all the vital information.
- Government to enforce price control across all levels.

Contributions to be made by organizations

- Civil Society Organizations wish to embark on massive sensitization (different age groups) on the health importance of the fruits and vegetables
- Government promised to improve quality production by introduction of a clustered system of farming
- Empowering the farmers and ensuring improve local production.
- Government to assists and empower widows and orphans, to be self-reliant.
- Farmers Associations bow to give a series of orientations to their members on how to access, utilizes and manage government interventions
- The actions can only be possible by implementation of the whole observations/ issues that were raised during the summits.
- Ensuring good governance and sincerity in implementations of action plans
- Ensuring all year-round irrigation system of farming as that of raining season may not be enough.
- The believed that government are doing enough but the farmers are abusing the efforts and majority of the farmers associations disputed the assertions.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Boost Nature Positive Production at Sufficient Scale

The goal is to provide healthy and nutritious food to all people, while creating livelihood opportunities and reducing the negative environmental, climate and health impacts associated with food systems.

The following were observed and recommended:

Challenges Associated with Nature-Positive Production

- Time lag of benefits
- Weak knowledge and advisory systems
- Higher labor demand
- Higher transaction costs
- Policy incoherence
- Poor marketing and processing facilities

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

1. Increasing the knowledge and innovation for Nature-Positive Production which can be achieved through research funding.
2. Women groups should be created and encouraged to participate and be involved in every decisions with regards to Food System. Likewise, their access to land, water and biodiversity should be improved.
3. Promote marketing and processing facilities for nature-positive products.
4. Develop Policy on nature-positive production and its coherence with other available policies should be ensured.
5. Enforcement of Deforestation Act by the government in other to reduce the negative effect associated with the act.
6. Adapt and strengthen the knowledge development of farmers, farm advisors, food technologist and academics.
7. Adoption or implementation of Climate Smart Agriculture System.
8. Promoting the Urban Food Production System
9. Tackling the issues of insurgency affecting the region.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

1. Through proper and effective monitoring and evaluation of:
 - Implementation of Policy on Nature-Positive Production if developed by the relevant MDAs
 - Women participation by both the Federal and States Ministry of Women Affairs
 - Enforcement of Deforestation Act by the Federal and States Ministry of Environment
 - Climate Smart Agriculture System by Federal and States Ministry of Agriculture
2. Through Food Production Inventory Data Base

Conclusions

Policy intervention and prudent governance are needed to transform food production from nature-negative to nature-positive production systems. Nature-positive production systems must be integrated into school and college curricula and vocational educational programs.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Advancing equitable livelihoods in Nigeria.

The Summary of discussions are presented as follows:

1. What actions in the next 3 years will have the greatest impact on the discussion topic?

- Effective and proactive land Preparation – Co-ordination, soil testing, etc.
- Govt. direction and investment in Agric. Extension Education and general education of the population
- Agric. Value chain development by individual with government input
- Strong community board for market control and promoting of finance and agric. inputs.
- Equitable social protection programs and insurance that works for farmers.
- Government policies should be effectively implemented by agencies e.g., CBN anchor borrower scheme.
- Carry women and disabled people along in agricultural program planning and implementation.
- Improvement of security situation in the country to allow farmers to move to their farms with ease and businesses to operate freely.

2. What contribution will our organizations make?

- Religious and community leaders have a role in stabilizing communities and managing gender norms.
- Government should support development of strong market associations.
- State commodity boards should be more effective in monitoring and implementing price control for agricultural commodities as well as regulating the activities of middlemen.

3. How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- Peaceful, prosperous, and productive farmers who are using technology in their farms to improve output.
- Effective and functional agricultural extension services which are supporting farmers' activities.
- Religion and culture are fundamental gender issues but are enablers for empowering women and disabled people at the grassroots.
- Use of technology and mechanization is widespread with the adoption of simple tools and more complex machinery.
- Reduction of poverty.

Vision of Success/Solutions

- An organized value chain is in place in every agricultural community.
- The well-educated workforce who has basic education who are involved in the agricultural value chain.
- Sufficient numbers of well-trained agricultural extension workers are available to help all farmers of different gender, ability, and locations.
- A well-established, well-funded and equipped agricultural extension service.
- Reduction in poverty in the rural areas among the peasant farmers
- Widespread adoption of technology with evidence of improvement of activities and output by local farmers
- More environmentally friendly agricultural activities in local communities.
- Organized, effective, and functional agricultural cooperatives, farmers associations and commodity boards that provide strict price regulation and guarantee value for the rural farmers and others in the local agricultural value chain.
- Other types of farming activities beyond arable farming are established and people across all strata, gender and capability are participating in the food system.
- Well-Functioning insurance schemes available to farmers to mitigate unforeseen shocks.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Discussion Topic Building Resilience to Food system in North western Nigeria to withstand Vulnerability, Shock and Stresses

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

The actions that can have the greatest impact in the next three years:

1. Role of Women in the transformation of the Food system in the North western Nigeria:

- i. Women empowerment
- ii. Encourage the women to form corporative and association
- iii. Allocating a certain quarter to the women group

2. Actions on the issue of insecurity:

- i. Technological equipments and methods such as drones for the application of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides; the use of mechanized farming tools
- ii. Improved seed varieties
- iii. Geological surveys and mapping of areas of agricultural activities
- iv. Group security system/Community security system (Vigilante)

3. Actions on Environmental factors:

- i. Improved seed varieties
- ii. Pest control measures
- iii. Mapping of drought and flood prone areas
- iv. Practice of sustainable agriculture
- v. Measures to make sure the agricultural inputs reach the grassroot farmers

4. On shocks such as the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020:

- i. Provision of storage facilities
- ii. Provision of food processing facilities
- iii. Provisions of credit facilities and other palliative measure

What actions in next 10 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

1. The use of high tech modern farming equipments
2. Construction of Earth dams and water reservoirs across the communities
3. Sustainable agricultural measures such as afforestation.

What contributions will our organizations make?

1. Ministry of Animal Health and Fishery development:

- i. Artificial insemination
- ii. Cross breeding
- iii. Provision of quality breeds of animals including fish fingerlings
- iv. Provision of extension service
- v. M & E

2. Ministry of Water resources:

- i. Geological survey
- ii. Laboratory assessment of Water

3. Ministry of Agriculture and rural development:

- i. Pest control measures
- ii. Provision of extension services
- iii. M & E

4. Nigeria Cassava Growers Association

- i. Improve seedlings
- ii. M & E

5. National Sheeps and Goat Development Association

- i. Tracking of activities
- ii. Monitoring and evaluation of how credits facilities are utilized

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

Monitoring and evaluation of projects and activities by various stakeholders including government MDAs and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The divergent was on the approaches to avert the effect of insecurity:

- i. Issue of Group security
- ii. Government been responsible for securing the population
- iii. Individuals should be empowered to provide securities for themselves

Way forward on the above issues:

1. The government should do more on handling the issues of insecurity and should work with the community leaders in this respect putting into considerations the peculiarities of each community.

Recommendations

- i. Women empowerment at all level of government
- ii. Government should work with various stakeholders
- iii. Government should utilize the services of stakeholders that can provide various extension services.
- iv. The farmers and other stakeholders should form groups/cooperatives/associations.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

GROUP 1

- o Delay in release of funds for farmers to address by Government.
- o Researchers should liaise with farm to update them in useful methodology
- o Government need to be buying directly from the farmers not off-takers

GROUP 3

The divergence revealed was the possibility for continue of the Irrigation System of farming considering its negative effect with regard to our natural environment.

However, the issue was managed by ensuring its negative impact has being reduced through the creation or provision of Digital Elevation Model, Small Earth Dam and Water Harvesting System.

GROUP 4

- Political inference in allocation and distribution of land, loans, and input should be addressed.
- Government should address the issue of land grabbing de wealthy individuals.
- Female and disabled farmers need to be supported, carried along and given opportunities.
- Use of technology on the farm should be promoted.

GROUP 5

The divergent was on the approaches to avert the effect of insecurity:

- i. Issue of Group security
- ii. Government been responsible for securing the population
- iii. Individuals should be empowered to provide securities for themselves

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Sokoto-Exploratory-Dialogue-Report.docx>