# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM



DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 6 April 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00		
DIALOGUE TITLE	Owerri Food System Exploratory Dialogue		
CONVENED BY	1. Olusola Idowu Mrs. Permanent Secretary, Budget & National Planning 2. Nkiruika Enwelum		
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8634/		
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

134

### PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

17 19-30

78 31-50

33 51-65

6 66-80

0 80+

# PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

68 Male

57 Female

9 Prefer not to say or Other

# NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

10 Agriculture/crops

4 Fish and aquaculture

3 Livestock

5 Agro-forestry

4 Environment and ecology

10 Trade and commerce

Education

4 Communication

10 Food processing

5 Food retail, markets

12 Food industry

0 Financial Services

3 Health care

Nutrition

15 National or local government

10 Utilities

7 Industrial

32 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

4 Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

4 Small-scale farmer

5 Medium-scale farmer

4 Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

10 Indigenous People

10 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

20 Local authority

68 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

1 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 organization of the dialogue centred the rules specified in the curator's guidelines. The preparation involved communication with the highest level of office in the state (the office of the governor) State Commissioners of Budget and Planning for Imo and Abia states. In ensuring that the principles were incorporated, we ensured that the urgency of a discourse on the food systems was communicated and that the commitment to the dialogues was ensured through clear communication to the State governors and stakeholder mobilization	

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

The dialogue agenda and structure reflected the principles of multi-stakeholder inclusivity, act with urgency, respectful, complement the work of others. At the meeting, the curator set the tone of the meeting by providing the context to the purpose of the meeting and encouraged participants to look at the food systems holistically as opposed to sectorally. The dialogue was also re-emphasised as a safe space for productive discussions amongst stakeholders towards a better food system.

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

It is important to set the tone for the conversations and provide some background/context before the dialogue deliberations commence. This is because the stakeholders in the room are from a diverse range of sectors and doing this encourages collective thinking about the food systems as opposed to participants thinking of just their sector.

# 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**

Before the meeting held in various regions of the country, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) commissioned a diagnostic study of the food system as it operates in the 6-geopolitical zones of the country. The diagnostic paper explored the agricultural scene, nutrition and food safety, food trade and transportation as well as external factors that affect the food systems including environmental factors, policies and plans, insecurity amongst others in the country. The diagnostic paper revealed that the South-East food system is characterized by agricultural livelihood activities such as crop production and livestock production. Food waste and loss is also high in the region leading to food insecurity, hunger and loss of income for farmers. The South-East has actively processes cash and staple crops such as rice, cassava, oil palm. Food consumption is below recommendations and diets are not diversified in the same vein, malnutrition rates are slightly higher than international average. Adoption of climate smart agricultural practices is low and the region faces climate change. than international average. Adoption of climate smart agricultural practices is low and the region faces climate change effects such as seasonal flooding and soil erosion. Actors involved in the food system in the South-East States include farmers and farmer groups, trader associations, processors, government, private sector, nutrition and health workers and extension (community health and agriculture) workers. The major focus of the south-east dialogue was to drive discussion on reshaping the food systems in the south east to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030 taking into consideration the challenges in the system. Identifying key drivers of the food systems particular to Imo and Abia States and also making outcomes and recommendations for the advancement of the Food System in the South East and Nigeria as a whole. The food system is they post include the South and the South and the South and Sugeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system in the South East and Nigeria as a state of the food system whole. The focus of this meeting was achieved by an exploration of the five (5) action tracks as they pertained to the South-East. Five facilitators who are skilled in the action tracks led participants on discussions on the 5 action tracks as they relate to the South-East.

#### **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 Trade-offs Empowerment Environment

and Climate

# MAIN FINDINGS

- South East experience shocks and stresses such as flooding, soil erosion and more recently bouts of insecurity
- Diets consumed in the south east is laden with starchy staples and needs to be diversified
- Over 60% of the farmers in the South-East are women who are disproportionately limited in terms of access to productive
- · Consumption of healthy diets needs focus on production and availability of healthy and safe foods
- Consumer education is important to instruct and inform consumers
- · Budgetary release of funds for capital projects is low
- The South east needs to develop and implement Social Investment Programmes that take into consideration the vulnerable groups and are wide spread.
- The region has active Agro-Processing Zones which farmers are encouraged to take advantage
- While these transformations will be a journey, we must start by taking some strategic and immediate transition steps the suggested steps include
- Development of agro processing zones and Institution of cooperatives and off taker systems for communities
- Collaboration across sectors
- · Addressing vulnerabilities through social investment programmes
- Innovation in agricultural processing e.g. hydroponics, drip irrigation and mechanization of agriculture, biotechnology and genome editing
- Review of existing policies limiting access to resources e.g. the Land Tenure System/Land Use Act. Enforcement of court rulings which grants women right to inherit land
- The Food supply chain needs to be shortened to reduce middlemen and ensure that farmers have adequate value for agricultural products
- Improved Nutrition Education in schools, hospitals and marketplaces
- Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices
   Promotion of Good Agricultural Practices including conservative use of chemicals and processing methods
- Strengthen local regulatory agencies to enforce and monitor food production, processing and packaging for safer food consumption
- Reduction of food losses and wastes through innovative food storage and processing methods from the point of harvest to the point of consumption
- · Home gardening to ensure increased access to nutritious foods all year round
- Linking farmers with large markets in existing initiatives of the government such as HGSFP, Prisons and large institutions
- Development of robust M&E systems that also highlights the key indicators to track development and programme implementation
- Improving access to health care for all through strengthening of the primary health care system
- Advocacy to government, religious leaders, key stakeholders

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

# **OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5**

Discussion Topic [ENSURING ACCESS TO SAFER AND NUTRITIONAL FOOD FOR ALL]

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

Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality;

Addressing the inequalities around access to agricultural inputs by

- · Ensuring women and vulnerable populations have access to inputs
- Land Tenure System improvement.
- Provision of fertilizers and loans to rural, small holder farmers.
- Access to loans for small holder farmers.
- Improvement of Social Services in the rural communities and equitable distribution of farm implements and inputs

Using modern technologies to scale agricultural production

I Preservation and processing of farm produce to make sure that they stand the test of time through the provision of silos and food processing factories at the local government areas.

Improved security for the farmers to curtail the Farmer/Herder clashes

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods:

- Creation of public awareness on improved varieties that will yield more nutritious content e.g fortified foods and biofortified varieties
- Increase in income through increased employment opportunities leading to poverty reduction
- Increase in Nutrition Education and awareness to teach the importance of eating adequately
- Family support for exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding
- Planting of improved near-extinct varieties of food trees
   Guidelines to advice and educate individuals on what to consume

Strand 3: Ensuring Safe food:

- Avoid the use of insecticides and pesticides in the cultivation and preservation of crops.
- Encourage the use of organic fertilizers /manure.
  Avoid the consumption of sick or dead animals.

- Ensure the adherence of food safety compliance at abattoirs and markets Consumer protection Agency should look into what food manufacturers claim.
- The food outlets/vendors should be trained and retrained on best food practices
- Exclusive Breast feeding which is safe for children under 6-months should be encouraged.
- Provision of safe water.

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1	Finance	1	Policy
1	Innovation	1	Data & Evidence
1	Human rights	1	Governance
1	Women & Youth Empowerment	1	Trade-offs
		1	Environment and Climate

# **OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5**

Discussion Topic Shift to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic? Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality

Reduction of post-harvest losses through enhanced and improved storage and processing mechanisms.

Productivity should be targeted at specific crops with comparative advantage in the state. Some of them are; maize,

cassava, oil palm, cashew nuts, poultry, udara, vegetables etc

Provision of hard and soft Infrastructure such as Power, Road networks, Transportation, Security, Processing Facilities, etc.

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods

- Enhanced productivity through provision of mechanization by government and with the assistance of fabricators, partners and investors.
- Offtake through the Home-grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) of the Federal Government and other programmes. Strand 3: Ensuring safe food
- Efficient preservation of available foods, as well as value addition though processing for extended shelf life Cross-Cutting

NIL

What contributions will our organisations make?

- Researchers and research organizations should uncover and validate new and hidden varieties
- ☐ Government and the organized private sector should empower scientists and monitor their activities ☐ Government should improve on Imo State's research and development base through inter-ministerial collaboration and partnerships
- Government should prioritize public-private partnerships. At the present time, the private sector and its private capital is looking to invest its resources in profitable ventures.
- Government and relevant agencies should sensitize farmers and other stakeholders on nutritional benefits of healthy food, as well as consequences of unhealthy diets. This sensitization should be targeted specifically at youths and women through appropriate channels like periodic town hall meetings

  The legislature should lock in policies to ensure continuity

© Government should support and fund technological advancements through targeted policies.

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

- 1 The Imo State government has kick-started the process of developing its rural infrastructure through the Special Agro-Industrialization Processing Zones Project (SAPZ)

  Underscoring of key performance indicators (KPIs) and critical players

  Evolving of targeted timelines

Periodic monitoring and evaluation which can be formal and informal

Some of these indicators are;

Increased production

Targeted Processing and Value Addition Sensitization through workshops, town-hall meetings, adverts, tv programmes

Infrastructural and rural development

**Nutrition Security** 

## **ACTION TRACKS**

Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

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Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

#### **KEYWORDS**

Finance

Policy

Innovation

Data & Evidence

Governance

Human rights Women & Youth

Trade-offs

**Empowerment** 

Environment and Climate

# **OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5**

Discussion Topic BOOSTING NATURE POSITIVE FOOD PRODUCTION

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

1. Infrastructural development.

2. Establishment of Agricultural Processing Zones.

3. Strengthening of policy advocacy for a mind, policy and practice change to take place, from the traditional notion of food as a mere human need to the contemporary notion of food as a fundamental human right in Nigeria.

4. The quick passage of the Right to Food Bill (SB 240) pending before the National Assembly.

5. Intensification of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices and reforestation

6. Guaranteeing of the regeneration of our ecosystems and nature and to substantial reductions in greenhouse gas

7. Creation of National Agricultural Development Fund.

8. Creation of effective relationship between the federal and state governments for agricultural development.

What contributions will our organisations make?

Our organisations will help in:

i. Policy formulations and implementations.

Putting Legislation and enforcements.

- iii. Ensuring compliance: through improved budget oversight by National Assembly
- iv. Strengthening the policy process (Policy framework)

v. Investing in new farming technology (biotechnology, Tissue Culture and Genome editing) – from better seeds to digital tools to machinery

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

Operationalized transformative and smart partnerships.

- Improvement in the Functionality and effectiveness of Food System.
- Improved security-ability of farmers moving freely to their farms
- Ability of Nigeria participating in global trade without challenge

### **ACTION TRACKS**

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Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

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1	Innovation	1	Data & Evidence
1	Human rights	1	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	1	Trade-offs
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# **OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5**

Discussion Topic Action Track 4: Advanced Equitable Livelihoods

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

Address insecurity

Resolve the difficulty in assessing land and the land tenure system

Use of poor implements and farm inputs

Inclusion of vulnerable population into social investment programmes

What actions can be taken within the next 3 years in other to improve livelihoods?

Improved security in rural areas

Improvement of infrastructure at rural areas

Reorientation from local to a more modern way of agriculture

Credit facilities for agriculture financing

Social Investment programs
Revitalization of primary health care facilities
Monitoring budgetary allocations to agriculture

Timely release of counterpart funding from government

Modern agricultural practices and maintenance of standards

Reduction of postharvest losses

What contributions will our organisations make?

Contribution we will provide is in the area of advocacy to government and local/traditional authorities on the issues such as:

1. Land leasing for poor families and women.
2. Empowerment of government agencies like ministry of agric. to provide farm inputs and implements as well as information dissemination to farmers.

3. Provisions of starter packs and support to trained young generation farmers.

4. There should be non-governmental agencies/civil society organizations set for the monitoring of budgets from the source of release and implementation of budgetary allocation to agriculture.

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

The indicators of the success of the action will be

1. Quarterly or yearly assessment of livelihood status of the poor families and poor widows in South east Nigeria.

2. Proactive monitoring and evaluation of the extent of implementation of the inputs from various organisations in advancing and equitable livelihood supports.

3. Generating base line data of the status of livelihoods at the moment to enable build-up of strategies to advance and ensure equitable distribution of livelihood supports.

4. Training of individuals for the data collection, records and statistics on the trending of livelihood supports

#### **ACTION TRACKS**

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#### **KEYWORDS**

Finance

Policy

Innovation

Data & Evidence

Human rights

Governance

Women & Youth Empowerment

Trade-offs

Environment and Climate

# **OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5**

Discussion Topic Building Resilience to Vulnerability Shock and Stress

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

• Preservation and Storage Facilities; improving the storage facilities in the SE zones to modern and standard storing system, to accommodate more perishable food items . government should go into partnership with cooperative societies, and individuals to build storage facilities in all communities in the south east zone

Government should partners with society in providing solar panel cold rooms
• Climate- the government should cooperative with the metrological unit (NMETS) to monitor forecast and plan with farmers association on climatic emergencies and response such as drought and flooding,

Urban Agriculture planning; government policies should be consistence on school gardening ensuring that all schools have a garden . government to allot land in urban areas on urban agricultural farms
 Agro- processing zones – making agriculture more accessible, govt should make aggregate or cluster for processing zones which will have most aspect of the food saddinitiation in which apply and making agriculture produces will engine a solution processing, storage

- Off takers a system a community-based initiative in which small and medium scale farmers produce will easily be bought
- by involving other stakeholders and multisector
   Food distribution and Marketing strategy govt interventions on Agriculture produce group who tax farmers heavily, and also curtail the security issues of curfew to allow identified farmers to easily distribute their goods curfew.

• Home gardening sensitizing the people on the importance of home gardening for sustainable food chain

- · Hydroponics systems of agriculture to be encouraged such as hydrophonics, Aerophonics farming especially in urban areas with limited land
- · Gender mainstreaming in all policies formulation and removal of gender baise or determinants in accessing agricultural loans and land acquisitions. Gender sensitive policies in Agriculture.
- SMART AGRICULTURE by farmers planting plants with shorter duration of maturity in flood prone areas or drought resistance crops in drought areas. Sensitizing farmers on climate smart practices such as cover cropping, mulching. Food tracking system - food surveillance and equitable distribution of food supplies and food data base for evidence-based intervention and policy formulation
- Cooperative societies expanding registration in the cooperative societies and encouraging transparency in seedlings distribution, loans tax exemption, and price regulation of food produce by biodiversification and comparative competitions among farmers
- Mechanized farming through government support to cooperative to expand farming. What contributions will our organisations make?
- Supporting the Government of the South east zones on developing a Agro-processing zones
- · Financially supporting small and medium scale farmers through cooperatives by giving incentives and soft loans
- Building up a data based to track progress in the food system of the South east zones

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

Through simple indicators such as tracking food supply, malnutrition indices in the south east, and agricultural indigenous innovations

### **ACTION TRACKS**

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# AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

#### **GROUP 1**

Divergences revealed include:

- 1. Continuous use of traditional methods of farming because some farmers trust the methods they are used to
- 2. Lack of modern farming implements and improved varieties from Research Institutes
- 3. Different levels of government attempting to do the same thing in favour of households and farmers thereby duplicating efforts and resources that could be channelled into other uses
- 4. Considering some farmers more important than others in the provisions inputs

How to manage them:

- 1. Team Work
- 2. Policy formulation
- 3. Synergy
- 4. Partnership
- 5. Nutrition education and awareness

- Sensitization and media activities should not be prioritized over primary production and processing
- Conversations and brainstorming should be replicated at grassroot levels
- Sincerity and political will on the part of government is key

#### **GROUP 3**

The divergences are 'healthy diet' and 'sustainable diet'. The members of the Global Panel (2016) recognize that "While there is no universal 'diet quality index', there is general agreement on what a healthy or high-quality diet should include", [that is] "a diversity of foods that are safe and provide levels of energy appropriate to age, sex, disease status and physical activity as well as essential micronutrients.

The answer is clearly: not necessarily. It is dangerous, therefore, to unconditionally associate a healthy diet with a sustainable diet and promoting too broadly win-win scenarios. While evidence suggests that synergies can, in principle, be identified (e.g., such as reducing animal protein in meat-based diets), these are often very difficult to achieve. On the other hand, completely decoupling healthy diets from the sustainability of value chains that deliver them would also not be desirable from a food system's, environmental and climate change perspective.

In sum while synergies are feasible if we capitalize on innovations, trade-offs and hard choices are more likely to characterize the near future of food systems and it is important to understand how diets (as proxy for health) and sustainability interactions play out at different scales and in different contexts.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

# **ATTACHMENTS**

Owerri Exploratory Dialogue Report <a href="https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Owerri-Exploratory-Dialogue-Report.docx">https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Owerri-Exploratory-Dialogue-Report.docx</a>