

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 7 April 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	ASABA FOOD SYSTEM EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	1. Olusola Idowu Mrs. Permanent Secretary, Budget and National Planning 2. Mrs Chito Nelson
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8676/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8676/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

74

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

13

19-30

23

31-50

38

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

49 Male

25 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

12 Agriculture/crops

6 Fish and aquaculture

4 Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

16 Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

3 Health care

Nutrition

19 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

14 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

3 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

4 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 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

1 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

62 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The participants were actors in the food value chain. Participants were allowed to choose the track that they are most comfortable discussing however, groups that were many were re-distributed so that we have equal number of participant to discuss each track. Facilitators were constantly reminded of the need for every participant to speak and not to allow a participant to dominate the discussion and also to be time conscious during the group dialogue.

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

Overview of the food systems in the South South region was elucidated with the challenges inherent in the food value chain and how they will be addressed. The complexities of the food system was brought to the fore with a call for a holistic course of action that will ensure that Nigeria's food system deliver high quality diet and affordable nutrition, be inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable, and work for everyone.

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

Overview of the food systems in the South South region was elucidated with the challenges inherent in the food value chain and how they will be addressed. The complexities of the food system was brought to the fore with a call for a holistic course of action that will ensure that Nigeria's food system deliver high quality diet and affordable nutrition, be inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable, and work for everyone. Having the profile of invited participants before the Dialogue is very important. It will help in ensuring that the right persons are invited for the dialogues and it is all inclusive. The security of the internet link for the Dialogue is very important and should be well protected to avoid it from been hacked because once the security is compromised the next option will be to block further admission of participants.

# 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

The Exploratory Dialogue in the South South took an in-depth analysis into the nutrition situation, challenges of the food systems and made critical recommendations to government on how to address the identified challenges. The tracks were discussed in the context of the zone and from the outcome of the discussions areas of interrelationship came out clearly. Cross cutting issues that will generally influence actions on all the tracks were identified as funding, provision of farming inputs, improving processing and preservation method of farm produce, research, innovations, women empowerment, provision of rural infrastructure, channelling the energy of the youth to farm work, improving security of the area etc. Food production and consumption in the zone is based mainly on staples. Ignorance on the right food choices, poor purchasing power affects what people eat. People tend to consume more of what is available rather than on what the body needs.

Transportation of farm produce out of the farm to areas where they are needed and where farmers would have value for their labour by selling at a profitable price was identified as a major issue in the region. A lot of food wastage occurs due to the perishability of farm produce, lack of preservation facilities and non-availability of off-takers in the area. The issue of food contamination was also highlighted. Farmers and food handlers still use traditional methods, dangerous chemicals on food to enhance colour and increase shelf life.

Farmers are faced with limited access to production inputs, agrochemicals, livestock seeds and extension services, land degradation, conflict and banditry.

The impact of COVID – 19 pandemics which resulted in restriction in vehicular and human movement at the wake of the pandemic affected agricultural production resulting in very poor harvest, reduced income, limited access to farmland, shortage of labour for farming and harvesting of plant due to be harvested.

Climate change has also affected food production. Excessive dry weather at certain times of the year, flooding and erosion in coastal areas has led to soil degradation, reduced yield of farm produce. The effect of this poor yield is quite discouraging to up-coming young farmers whom might not have the emotional dexterity and resources to continue farming after some terrible losses.

Weak institutional systems hamper effective implementation of government policies. (The need to establish independent monitoring and evaluation structures of government policies, actions and implementations/deliverables) was recommended. Government incentives (loan, grants, farm input) to farmers most times end up in the hands of non- farmers who will not use the incentive to improve agriculture

### 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

- The exploratory dialogue brought to the fore the enormous challenges facing Food systems in the zone and government hopes to integrating some of the recommendation into state development plans going forward.
- Nutrition education and awareness need to be intensified at all levels. People eat what is available and what they can afford and do not bother to eat the right type of food. There is general lack of awareness of the importance of healthy living. The general notion that eating well is dependent on ones purchasing power should be addressed. Promoting good food preparation methods that will improve quality of food and encourage consumption of healthy, hygienic, wholesome and nutritious food is an issue that needs to be addressed. Government, food handlers, farmers and actors along the food value chain have a lot to do in this regard.
- Creation of awareness on the dangers to health of the consumption of contaminated food either through addition of harmful chemicals, poor processing methods, and other unhygienic and unwholesome practices.
- The issue of food wastage in the zone requires immediate attention. Government in collaboration with stakeholders need to support the adoption of appropriate technologies in the harvesting, processing and preservation of food. Supporting small holder farmers to acquire cost effective on farm food storage technologies e.g fish smoking kiln.
- The zone will urgently need to address the challenges of farm security, situations that women farmers are raped, killed or kidnapped in the farm has instilled so much fear in the people. Women farmers arrange and paid Vigilante group to provide security while at the farm.ng to the cost of production.
- The zone is blessed with arable fertile land with teeming youthfully unemployed population. Engaging these youths into agriculture will increase food production and reduce a lot of vices.
- Modernization of agricultural practices in the zone will lead to increased food production. Presently, there is adequate production of basic staples like yam, cassava however, there is need for farmers to be more innovative and adopt new technology around nutrition SMART agricultural practices. Training and retraining of agricultural extension workers to enable them provide innovative extension services to farmers will lead to better yield of farm produce.

### (b) Actions that Stakeholders will take together

1. Investment in agriculture. Pulling funds together by stakeholders will help provide funds needed by the sector.
2. The issue of insecurity in the area was seen as everybody's business. Communities should help in securing their areas and providing useful information to security agencies of government.
3. Government and the various stakeholder associations as well as individual food handlers have a role to play in putting an end to the use of harmful chemicals, additives, etc in foods to enhance colour or increase volume.
4. Proper disposal of waste from food is the responsibility of all stakeholders. Most of this waste occur as a result of the perishability of agricultural product. Non availability of off takers, lack of storage facilities, poor food handling results in a lot of waste being generated which are not properly disposed resulting in infection and pollution of the environment.

To achieve the necessary transformation of the Food Systems in the South south region, stakeholders at the meeting made the following strategic and immediate transition recommendations

- Provision of infrastructure in the rural areas e.g good roads, electricity and boreholes.
  - Government to see farming as a social investment and improve funding of the agricultural sector.
  - Increase investment in agricultural research and dissemination of findings.
  - Capacity building of extension officer to strengthen extension services and all actors along the food chain.
  - Improve investment in preservation and storage technology.
  - Public enlightenment and nutrition education of actors along the food chain including women of reproductive age and lactating mothers. This will also minimize some harmful practices identified by the participants.
  - Increase state allocation to the agricultural sector.
  - Government to create enabling environment to attract private investors into agricultural sector.
- Improve access to high quality production inputs – water, improved seedling and fertilizer etc.
- Sensitization of the public and regulating activities to promote food safety
  - Improve security of farm lands so that women and others can go to their farms.
  - Encourage mechanized farming e.g use of tractors.
  - Creation of new farm settlements and strengthening of old settlements by providing basic amenities and agro-facilities.

## ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Discussion Topic ENSURE ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR ALL

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

- ▣ Provision of infrastructures to ease farm-market movement of produce, preservation, storage and value addition to food produce: Construction of XX kilometer of road per quarter in each LGA.
  - ▣ Timely access to high quality seedlings and other farm inputs: Resuscitate standardization of seed inputs and high quality service, and promote researchers-farmers' linkage.
  - ▣ Government to invest in Agriculture as a social investment: Use agriculture to widen coverage and impacts of social protection programmes and creates enabling environment for private investors to complement government efforts.
  - ▣ Increase innovation and adoption of technology through strengthened extension services: Adequate training and support to extension workers, and devise innovative ways to reduce the cost of production in agriculture.
  - ▣ Promote indigenous knowledge and access to research findings and funding: Uncover old age practices and indigenous climate-smart crops to boost supply and affordability of nutritious foods.
  - ▣ Create awareness and promote education on healthy eating and food demonstration: Targets include general public, food vendors, farmers, and food handlers.
  - ▣ Homestead gardening, small livestock rearing and intercropping should be encouraged: To increase access to various types of fruits and vegetables, spices and shrubs, and animal foods that complement household food system.
  - ▣ Focus on production of crops and animal foods where the region has comparative advantage
- What contributions will our organisations make?
- Communities: Unfreeze land resources and make them available to individuals with interest in agriculture to boost production and aggregation of farm to encourage mechanized farming.
- Private sector: Support the farming system and less exploit the system because of weak coordination mechanism. Support farmers to adopt best agricultural practices to improve yields and embrace diversification of production.
- Civil servants: Support farmers and agro-based actors to enhance access to safe and nutritious foods.
- Farmers representative: Promote creation of vegetable farming cluster to support production of vegetables
- Government/Policy makers: Ensure vegetable cluster farmers have access soft loan.
- How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?
- Conduct baseline assessment and integrate an effective monitoring and evaluation scheme. Notable progress-indicating landmarks include improved extension workers-farmers' ratio, engagement of community extension agents, farmers' increased access to production inputs and other infrastructures, enabling environment for the growth and flourishing of agri-business, and improved youth friendliness of agri-business. Periodic sensitization of the population on healthy eating based on local recipes and increased budgetary allocation to agricultural sector.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

### TRACK 2: SHIFT TO HEALTHY SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

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

The actions include capacity building/empowerment for farmers especially women, massive enlightenment and nutrition education, improved farm land security, encouraging mechanized farming, research and supply of improved farm seedlings.

What contributions will our organisations make?

Organizational contributions include buying into the ideas and providing political will power especially the Government and its agencies. Organizations are the stakeholders and will provide the man power and skills needed to actualise the findings/recommendations in this summit. The organisations include the Local Government, Farmers' Union, NGOs, Nutritionist, Youth bodies, Traditional institutions, Transporters, Academia, Research Institutes, Market women and Women Affairs. These organizations will cooperate will the Government and give the necessary support whenever their services are required.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?2

The key indicators that will show that the actions are being successful will include if in State, there is observed high percentage/increase in production of vegetables, fruits, legumes and nuts. reduction in the cost of food production and consumption, easy access to funding by interested farmers and others, increased percentage of women and youths getting involved in farming and getting loans/grants, reduction in unnecessary levies for farm produces along the food chain by touts, availability of security in farm lands, improved food inputs for farmers such as fertilizers, seedlings and farming tools and good storage and perseveration facilities.

### ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
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		✓	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

### Action track 3: To Boost Nature Positive Production Group

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

1. Activities and ways that support increased production and better Food system Governance .

- i. Mapping and classification of agricultural lands for crop and livestock production, processing and distribution.
- ii. Agricultural land development
- iii. Allocation of developed land to farmers
- iv. Creating new farm settlements, strengthening old settlements
- v. Encouraging high profile agriculture
- vi. Engaging farmers in contract farming.

#### Immediate Actions Needed

- Organize Agricultural Transformation Business Summit to sensitize stakeholders and showcase the business opportunities, for investments, collaboration
- Build capacity of farmers on Climate resilience and sustainable agriculture, modern farming techniques and innovations in value addition
- Provide credit facilities to farmers and monitor utilization to avoid diversion
- Reorientation and awareness creation for Youths and Women on agribusiness

What contributions will our organizations make?

This group was made up of professionals :

Agriculturists working at ADPs, Ministries of Agriculture and other parastatal, agro- allied industries. The group can :

- i. Influence government policies for improved food system, increased food production ,processing and distribution
- ii. Make budgetary provisions to enable the government sponsor the projects
- iii. Work as extension officers to assist in building the capacity of farmers
- iv. Work as consultants to investors v. Organize the agribusiness summit

HOW WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO TELL IF THESE ACTIONS ARE BEING SUCCESSFUL?

HOW TO MEASURE PROGRESS OR HOW SUCCESSFUL THE PROPOSED ACTIONS ARE

The following parameters can be used to assess the level of success achieved:

- i. Increased utilization of agricultural resources - arable land, water resources, etc
- ii. Diversification of food production- production of exotic vegetables, fruits etc
- iii. Reduced "importation "of food items from neighbouring states.
- iv. Number of people getting involved in agricultural activities.
- v. Number of extension workers effectively mobilized to build the capacity of farmers.
- vi. Number of high investors

To achieve the above, there is urgent need for:

I. Baseline Survey on agricultural activities and potentials to enable the identification and enumeration of stakeholders and resources for improving the food system.

II. Create effective and achievable monitoring and evaluation Plan (M&E)

III. Data Banks to be created to record farmers' population, specialization, scope, outputs , progress etc

IV. Regular updates on all data collated.

## 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

## KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

### DISCUSSION TOPIC ADVANCE EQUITABLE LIVELIHOOD

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

- Programs to mitigate the effect of natural disasters and deficiencies. Irrigation, weather forecast be made available
- Strengthening human capital development in technical and vocational programs in the agriculture and agro allied sectors
- Provision of adequate credit and relaxing the conditions (Bottle Necks) to accessing finance for agriculture and agro allied sector.
- Social norms that are discriminatory and limit equitable livelihood should be identified and dismantled
- Awareness and mentoring to change the mindsets on gender and age

What contributions will our organizations make?

- Mobilization and sensitization
- Awareness campaigns and mentoring sessions
- Develop strategy to eliminate credits for agriculture and agro allied getting to unintended persons (beneficiaries)
- Monitoring of input distribution and farms through drones and GPS. And introduction of voucher payment system, which interfaces with farmer and the input suppliers directly.

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

- Monitoring by use or deployment of ICT, video conferencing where possible.
- Collect baseline data against which change can be assessed.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation plan (M&E plan)

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Discussion Topic Building resilience to vulnerability, shock & stresses in Food System  
What actions in the next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?  
Need Assessment  
Sensitization & Verification of Facts  
Security for farmers  
What contributions will our organisations make?  
Training of stakeholders  
Follow-up of developmental plans  
Capacity building  
How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful  
Physical result in the field  
Livelihood developments  
Increase in food production and food security  
Practices in value addition

### ACTION TRACKS

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

### KEYWORDS

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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### GROUP 1

Surprises on the high burden of malnutrition in the region despite rich and diverse food culture. Strategies for government risk-sharing in agriculture and regulate inputs supply chain. Depowering of smallholder farmers by investment in costly green-houses and mechanized farming.

### GROUP 3

#### DIVERGENCIES

A. Challenges improving the food system cannot be achieved through the farmers without direct involvement of the various governments as farmers have the potentials to develop if government removes bottlenecks.

#### B. MANAGEMENT OF THE DIVERGENT

Need to educate policy makers on their role in setting the motion for the expected improvement in food systems.

A. Youths poorly motivated in agriculture attributed to change in societal values .

#### B. MANAGEMENT OF THE DIVERGENT

Need for reorientation of youths, making agriculture more attractive.

### GROUP 4

- Cultural and social norms that promote gender imbalance and access to productive assets (Identify and Eliminate)
- Credit to unintended beneficiaries (In managing, there is need to establish proper disbursement, management and evaluation mechanisms)
- Weak institutional systems hampering effective implementation of government policies. (The need to establish independent monitoring and evaluation structures of government policies, actions and implementations/deliverables)
- Science and technology weak link with practices. (Extension service delivery system strengthened)

### GROUP 5

Mitigation & adaptation process  
Capacity Building  
Peace talk/dialogue

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Asaba-Report-on-the-Exploratory.docx>