OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021 DIALOGUES

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 24 March 2021 10:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT
CONVENED BY	Mrs Juliet Ejezie, Volunteer Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Nigeria, Mr Divine Ntiokam Managing Director CSAYN Global
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8856/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

	0-18	9	19-30	18	31-50	3	51-65		66-80		80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

18	Male	12	Female		Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2	Agriculture/crops	3	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	7	Communication		Nutrition
2	Livestock		Food processing		National or local government
	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
5	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	9	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
3	Small-scale farmer		Government and national institution
2	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
2	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
5	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
3	Science and academia	11	Other

Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

Dialogue title | Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT | Date published | 28/03/2021

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was organized through Zoom meeting. During, the meeting the Moderator muted the mic of all participants except the participant that was requested to give his or her presentation. Each speaker was allowed to share their opinion and enough time was reserved for questions and contributions among participants. The contributions of all the participants were welcomed and questions addressed satisfactorily.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue reflected each aspect of the outlined principles as follow: 1. Act with urgency; Being aware of the importance of the food system summit and the goal of reaching SDG 9 of industry, innovation and infrastructure by 2030, the Dialogue developed series of answers that will provide innovative approaches to having an improved food system and achieving the SDG 9. 2. Be respectful: The views of every participant from different regions and from different backgrounds were all respected, despite their cultures. Every context were evaluated to reach a better conclusion. 3. Recognize complexity: The Dialogue recognized that food systems are complex and also interconnected with other systems. Hence, it allowed the opportunity to consider other aspects in answering the questions 4. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: Stakeholders like small scale farmers and large scale farmers (who require reliable means to acquire agro inputs as well buyers of farm produce) and ICT experts who supplied answers to their question were all invited. Opinions from Individuals from various communities were also embraced to reach a better agreement on the outcomes. 5. Complement the work of others: The Dialogue was hosted to benefit from an existing innovation (ICT) that has not being fully utilized by most farmers in Africa. It complements the innovations already existing in information and technology sector and seeks to leverage on its tools for better food system as well as achieving SDG 9. 6. Build trust: This dialogue allowed opportunity for everyone to participate irrespective of gender, allowing mutual respect and trust. It is transparent, evidence based and accessible for decision making and planning.

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

My advice for other Dialogue Convenors is for them to carefully observe the principles of engagement and show high level of commitment to enforcing it as it relates to their Dialogue Themes. This will help us have a successful report from which better planning and decisions can be generated to have an improved and Resilient Food systems.

Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

Dialogue title   Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT   Date published   28/03/2021

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**

Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

Dialogue title   Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT   **Date published**   **28/03/2021**

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The major focus of this Dialogue is to know how seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produce can be monitored and timed with the use of ICT. When farmers are given the right farming inputs, their yield gets improved and when the yield is counted into productivity by being collected / off-taken regularly and on time with proper information management system, Farmers become encouraged to learn more effective ways in order to produce more! Many farmers in Africa need a digital platform where their voices can be heard. They suffer losses due to produce boom or glut and are left to tackle the challenges that comes with it on their own. Sometimes, government aids may take too long to come and when it arrives, it becomes irrelevant because farmers who needed such aids have moved on in life even to the point of quitting farming.
There is an urgent need to use Information Communication Technology as never before in salvaging the needs of farmers, input distributors, and farm produce off-takers for an effective service delivery towards more farm yields. The use of mobile applications, Social media, Web 2.0 and the ordinary GSM technology are tools already running in most country of Africa. This dialogue helped to answer questions on
• How we can utilize these digital tools as building blocks for a smooth running food system value chain.
• How to know when a farmer in 'Town A' is waiting for an off –taker in 'Town Y' who will definitely come despite another being on stand-by.
There is no better period than this digital age. Also, the use of information and communications technologies in farming systems will also promote smart farming and make it attractive for youths who easily deviate from farming because of the traditional method adopted by most local farmers in the remote places. Some of the objective of this dialogue are
• To identify challenges farmers encounter in receiving farm inputs,
• To identify challenges farmers and produce collectors encounter in off-taking farm produces and proffer solutions that will bridge the gaps identified towards giving farmers direct access to verified input distributors and produce collectors / off-takers.
• To create a road map for digitalizing information dissemination to farmers accessibility to inputs and off-taking.

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

Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

Dialogue title   **Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT**   Date published   28/03/2021

MAIN FINDINGS

• It was discovered that most farmers experience huge losses during the sale of farm produce while the middlemen who buy these farm produce below cost price makes the profit. This is more evident with farmers who produce perishable products with low durability. They don't always have better option than to sell off quickly to available middlemen who price down their products. This occurs due to the big gap existing between farmers and direct consumers. There is great need to promote the use of internet based applications or platforms where farmers can showcase their products directly to the consumers or connect with them in other to sell at a good price and attain high productivity.

• It was also revealed that farmers incur much expenses in purchasing basic agro inputs like seeds, feeds and fertilizer. Some of the middle scale and commercial farmers in West Africa spend so much money importing seeds from abroad because it is not easy to source it in their location, where as it exists in large quantity somewhere in their home country but because they have no knowledge of it, it becomes expensive to buy from far away countries who leverage on online technologies to sell their products. There is urgent need to raise the awareness of using affordable agro-commerce platforms or social media handles among farmers locally to trace where agro inputs are available and cheaper in their locality.

• Most farmers lack machineries for effective farming and this accounts for low productivity and high cost of labor. There is great need to establish functional farming equipment hiring services where these equipment can be leased and hired by the government or organizations whose duty is to assist marginalized farmers.

• Lastly, it was made known that there is weak marketing linkage and poor information management in the farming system. Therefore, there is need for actors and stakeholders like farmers, extension agents to frequently consult ICT experts to eliminate this challenge.

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

Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

Dialogue title | **Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT** | Date published | **28/03/2021**

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Agro input challenges as faced by farmers ; Mr Chukwuemeka Ogbuagu opined that the lack of farm machineries (as agro inputs) which makes farming easier and faster can be addressed by possibly finding or establishing functional farming equipment hiring services where these equipment can be leased and hired. Such hiring services can be conducted online with the use of ICT for efficiency and ease of access. He further suggested that there is need for advisory services to go virtual. A good example is virtual adverts on sourcing farm input materials.

Role of Agro input Dealers Associations/ Cooperatives in improving the use of ICT in Food system value chain; Mr Edoja John, CEO of FarmerShop, an agro-commerce platform that creates a link and connects farmers to agro-inputs dealers and farm-produce buyers, suggested that farmers should take advantage of agro- commerce platforms to sell their products where they decide the price they sell their produce to avoid unnecessary losses. Platforms like this helps farmers to list their farm outputs and connect directly with their consumers to sell their products faster.

Application of ICT in Farming systems; Mr Iheanacho Patrick MD of Zardalic Consults listed the tools in ICT that can be used to facilitate different processes in Farming systems. Tools like Telephones for interactive voice response, Computers and websites for agricultural information and markets, Broadcasting for expertise sharing, advisory and information dissemination in communities, Satellite for weather, universal accessibility and remote sensing, Internet and broadband for knowledge sharing, social media, e-community, market platform, trading and so on. Sensor networks for real time information, better data quantity and quality, decision making. Data storage and analysis for precision agriculture and actionable knowledge.

How ICT can help close up emerging gaps in Food systems in event of a disease outbreak; Engineer Chikelue Nwabuike an artificial intelligence engineer and also the Technical state head at Globacom Nigeria suggested that artificial intelligence can be useful for farmers whereby images captured by drones and satellites could be modelled to predict weather conditions, analyze crops and evaluate farms for the presence of diseases. He further said that this can be used to advice farmers and serve as a guide to farmers.

How ICT Can work for farmers, Agro dealers and produce Collectors; Mr Buchi Ikeh an IT consultant, CEO Broad Digital Nig Ltd said that ICT can work for farmers and produce collectors by the use of cheaper digital platforms (Web, Mobile App, USSD, SMS) in accessing, sharing and exchange of agricultural knowledge, price info and sale of produce. He further state that this will help to strategize market activities as it is very useful in solving issues such as traceability, process control, transparency in market information, reduction in transaction costs, and identification as well as tracking of consumer needs.

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

Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

Dialogue title   **Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT**   Date published   **28/03/2021**

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was an opinion of some participants putting the blames on government for the low level of adoption of ICT in the farming system. They strongly believe that government should show high level of commitment in handling issues associated with food systems. While others argue that farmer should not depend on the Government for everything and that the Government has little or nothing to do with a farmer not making use of a smartphone and not having access to agro information already available on the internet.

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

Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

Dialogue title | Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT | Date published | 28/03/2021