OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 1 April 2021 09:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Toward Resilient and Inclusive Food Systems in Rwanda: Economic, Social and Environmental Resilience.
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Mr MUSABYIMANA Jean Claude, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)-Rwanda; Co-convenors: 1. Dr NDABAMENYE Telesphore, Technical Advisor, MINAGRI; 2. Mrs NEZERWA Martine, Chief Digital Officer, MINAGRI.
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8878/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Rwanda

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

110

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

- [ ] 0-18
- [ ] 19-30
- [ ] 31-50
- [ ] 51-65
- [ ] 66-80
- [ ] 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

- [ ] Male
- [ ] 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?

We kept the Principles at the heart of every stage of the planning process. When choosing thematic areas to be discusses, we identified topics that we felt were the most urgent or that are not already being addressed through existing policy to the extent needed, therefore working to complement the work of others. When deciding on who to invite, we ensured that participants would be representative of Rwanda's food system through the Principle of inclusivity. Being respectful and building trust was central to how we coordinated the event and how we facilitated the Dialogue itself.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

• Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity and recognize complexity: By inviting a representative from Yara to speak on climate smart agriculture, we embraced the complexity of modern agriculture by giving a fertilizer company a platform to speak about its role in creating sustainable food systems. • Complement the work of others: By making the existing National Agriculture Insurance Scheme one of our thematic areas, we sought to identify the gaps in its design and implementation and therefore contribute toward strengthening what is already there.

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

The food systems approach is a way for us to re-conceptualize everything that is being done from a systems perspective and consequently find the gaps we need to fill. The Principles ensure that we keep our thinking at a systems level in the most effective manner possible.

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 focus of the stage 1 dialogue, "Toward Resilient and Inclusive Food Systems in Rwanda: Economic, Social and Environmental Resilience" was Action Track 5. Participants therefore discussed how to build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress, and ensure continued functionality of sustainable food systems in the Rwanda context. The dialogue aimed to facilitate the broad engagement of stakeholders including government, academia, the private sector and development partners. The dialogue divided the action track into three central approaches:
• Economic Resilience: Being equitable and inclusive;
• Social Resilience: Producing broad-based benefits for all people for them to be able to recover effectively and efficiently from shocks; and
• Environmental Resilience: Generating positive and regenerative impacts on the natural environment.
The dialogue opened with brief presentations given by invited speakers to help set the scene for participants. The speakers were followed by four breakout sessions where participants were asked to identify gaps and opportunities in Rwanda's food system on one of the following thematic areas:
Regional food trade: The Rwandan food system is strengthened by integration into East African trade that connects smallholder farms to reliable markets and distributes profits fairly across all actors along the value chain.
Risk mitigation and insurance, focusing on Rwanda's National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS): Crop insurance is a risk management tool which provides dependable support to smallholder farmers facing shocks across Rwanda. Insurance coverage during adverse years prevents households from resorting to negative coping that erodes the natural resource base and degrades ecosystems, while supporting access to credit and financial services at more favorable terms and encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset and innovation. Access to insurance is an effective mechanism to de-risk food systems.
Early warning systems (EWS): Smallholder farmers and other stakeholders along the food systems value chain receive timely warnings on shocks using better data and mobile technology. Rwanda has been expanding its early warning system to help people prepare for extreme weather events so as to reduce vulnerability and economic losses from these.
Climate smart agriculture (CSA): Pervasive use of conservation agriculture, climate resistant crops and other forms of climate smart agriculture (CSA) boost Rwanda's food systems resilience to natural disasters and environmental stresses caused by climate change.
During discussions, each group considered policy, innovation, finance and inclusivity as cross-cutting issues.
Objectives
1. To contribute to national efforts for sustainable food systems by 2030, providing participating stakeholders with a deeper understanding of their food systems and how they can be transformed.
2. To create an opportunity for engagement and interconnection among a broad set of stakeholders, enhancing connectivity and relations among national food systems actors.
3. During the Dialogues, participants that represent different stakeholder groups will work out how they intend to contribute to the sustainability of national food systems and, ideally, make commitments for which they are accountable.
4. To engage participants on future endeavors for sustainable food systems, in line with their intentions and commitments, beyond the Summit.

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

MAIN FINDINGS

Topic 1. Economic Resilience (Regional food trade)
Existing Challenge within Food Systems
• Lack of awareness of regional compliance standards among stakeholders so that Rwandan produce can become marketable in the regional trade system
• Lacking infrastructure keeps transport prices high
• Significant gaps in trade standards between East African countries continue to create challenges for trade
Game changing solutions
Increase the participation of smallholder farmers in regional food markets through a private sector friendly business environment
• Harmonize border inspect procedures through regional blocs (namely EAC)
• Target infrastructure investments based on market demand to reduce logistic costs and expand participation by smallholders
• Capacity building for MSMEs on trade standards

Topic 2. Economic & Social resilience (Risk mitigation and insurance)
Challenge:
• Low awareness of insurance products among smallholder farmers, which affects trust and uptake
• Underdeveloped data collection, M&E and Knowledge systems on all aspects related to agricultural insurance, including historical data on yields, losses, weather-related data points, etc…
• Despite the government subsidy, perception is that insurance premiums remain too high
Game changing solutions
Increase coverage of livestock and crop insurance
• Continue increasing awareness through national media campaigns
• Leverage innovative technologies (including satellite/drone technology) to enhance the data systems linked to insurance, as well as customer feedback mechanisms to ensure use of lessons
• Continue initiatives aimed at reducing premium costs through de-risking the sector

Topic 3a. Environmental & Social resilience (Early Warning Systems)
Challenges:
• Underdeveloped data management systems linked to EWS technologies
• Limited access to information on EWS, particularly among vulnerable and isolated communities in an accessible and low-cost manner.
Game changing solutions
Expand access to Early Warning System (EWS) data for enhanced decision making among smallholder farmers
• Pilot EWS initiatives in vulnerable districts with a view to stress test and fine tune data sharing protocols
• Design human-centered, user-friendly information delivery systems using accessible technology for the end users of information (mainly smallholder farmers)

Topic 3b. Environmental resilience (Climate Smart Agriculture)
Challenges:
• Lack of a multi-sectoral coordination approach to promote CSA practices.
• Limited application of CSA practices and technologies that are contextualized for Rwandan agriculture

Game changing solutions
Increase area under climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices through enhanced coordination and smart incentives for green production
• Ensure coordination among stakeholders through strengthened national systems, including public-private dialogues (PPD), value chain platforms (VCPs) among others
• Incentivize Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices (smart subsidies, tax breaks), as well as create stronger partnerships with institutes (e.g. RICA) promoting such practices

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

1. Regional food trade: There was divergence between the relative importance of harmonizing trade standards across East Africa and raising the awareness of smallholder farmers to regional standards. On the one hand, there is a gap between East African countries related to trade with Kenya having a higher level of standards than its neighbors for example. One proposal is therefore to bring in expertise on issues related to policies, food safety regulations, and post-harvest handling to harmonize policy. Others noted that while differences in standards exist, there are legal and economic frameworks in place, notable the EAC trade forum to address trade disputes in the interests of vulnerable stakeholders. Following this, raising awareness of differing standards is key so that farmers are able to export to other markets competitively.
2. Risk mitigation and insurance: There was divergence on the percentage of insurance premiums that should be paid for by government. It was mentioned that in some parts of India, 80-90% was required to attract interest compared with 40% in Rwanda. Others noted that this was not feasible in Rwanda and that the emphasis should instead be on integrated crop insurance into existing social protection programmes. There were also difference in the role that insurance companies should play with some arguing that they were not doing enough while others mentioned that the larger problem lies with the lack of trust farmers have in the insurance providers. This fed into the larger theme of public-private partnerships and the balance that must be found between business interests and social protection.
3. Early warning systems (EWS): The use of technology to disseminate EWS information was mentioned as a possible game-changing solution to tackle low awareness but there was divergence on how to make it user-friendly and accessible. The success of an FAO smartphone application that provided information about the weather, hazards, nutrition and animal resources to help farmers deal with climate change was used as a case study. However, the issue of not all farmers, particularly the most vulnerable, not having access to a smartphone was raised. With 80% mobile phone coverage in Rwanda, simple SMS messages could be an alternative although the effectiveness of transmitting complex information in such a limiting format would remain a challenge.
4. Climate smart agriculture (CSA): There was some divergence over the promotion of biodiversity and the use of more nutritious and drought-resistant crop species

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CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES - 1/2

Title	Game-changing actions for promoting and creating demand for healthy and sustainable diets in Rwanda and reduce food waste.
Date	02/06/2021

Array

CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES - 2/2

Title	Game-changing actions for promoting and creating demand for healthy and sustainable diets in Rwanda and reduce food waste.
Date	02/06/2021

Array