

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 21 April 2021 13:30 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Sustainable Food Systems and Ireland's 2030 Agri-food Strategy
CONVENED BY	Sinéad McPhillips, Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) with Responsibility for Agri-food Strategy and Sectoral Development, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9702/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Ireland

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

865

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?

Ireland strongly supports the call for a 'people's summit' and a 'solutions summit'. Ireland has prioritised the seven principles of engagement as the overarching framework for the planning and preparation of its four National Dialogues. This will ensure a people and solutions focus throughout the national level engagement in the Summit process. The National Dialogues coincide with the launch for public consultation of Ireland's draft Agri-food Strategy to 2030. This new 10-year Strategy has been developed using a food systems approach, making Ireland one of the first countries in the world to implement this approach in national level agriculture and food planning. Ireland is committed to maximising the contribution of the four National Dialogues to the future sustainability of Ireland's food system. The Dialogues will provide an opportunity for all food system actors and stakeholders, from farmers and fishers to consumers, to learn more about Ireland's food system, build a shared understanding of the challenges and the opportunities we face, and enable us to work together to address them. The outcomes of the National Dialogues will be considered in finalising the draft 2030 Agri-food Strategy.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The following are some examples of how Ireland's National Dialogues reflect specific aspects of the seven principles of engagement: 1. Act with urgency Ireland has responded to the call for urgent action by launching a series of four National Dialogues. These coincide with a public consultation on the draft 2030 Agri-food Strategy. This coherence allows for a comprehensive consultation on the future of Ireland's food system in the shortest possible time. 2. Commit to the Summit Ireland has identified the National Dialogues as a central part of its strategic engagement with the Summit. Ireland has demonstrated its commitment to the Summit by aligning the National Dialogues with the national agriculture and food planning process to develop its Agri-food Strategy to 2030. 3. Be respectful Through the involvement of a wide and diverse range of food systems actors and stakeholders in the National Dialogues, Ireland is ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the future sustainability of Ireland's food system. We are all part of Ireland's food system, and so we must respect and listen to all participants. 4. Recognise complexity To reflect the public consultation on its draft Agri-food Strategy to 2030, Ireland has created a series of National Dialogues to discuss the complex and interlinked social, environmental and economic challenges and opportunities we face. 5. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity Ireland's Food Systems Summit Steering Committee, an inter-departmental group tasked with coordinating Ireland's involvement in the Summit, has proactively engaged multiple food systems stakeholder groups and provided regular briefings on Ireland's participation in the Summit Action Tracks and the National Dialogues.

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

Cont. In selecting participants to be involved in the various panel discussions, the Steering Committee actively sought experts from across the entire food system, from civil society, private and public sectors, primary producer organisations, research and academia, youth etc. Ireland created a dedicated webpage for the National Dialogues, and advertised the Dialogues widely through multiple media platforms and partner organisations. To facilitate the broadest possible engagement during the Dialogues, Ireland live-streamed each event on multiple platforms, including YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. Participation was further encouraged through questions and answer, which could be submitted before the event to a dedicated email address, or submitted during the event in real-time using Sli.do. 6. Complement the work of others The Steering Committee has actively consulted with, supported and participated in the many Independent Dialogues that have been held in Ireland since the start of the Summit's Dialogue process. In addition, Ireland will incorporate the official feedback from all Independent Dialogues held in Ireland into its final synthesis report, to ensure the views and opinions of all food systems actors and stakeholders are recorded and reflected in the final outcomes of the National Dialogues. 7. Build trust By ensuring the widest possible engagement, and respectfully listening to and answering questions on the most important and challenging areas of our food system, Ireland will look to recognise and respond to the concerns raised during our discussions. We will focus on solutions that can play a role in the continued enhancement of the sustainability of our food system, to reassure all stakeholders of our shared commitment to future sustainability.

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

Ireland's first National Dialogue focused on 'Sustainable Food Systems and Ireland's 2030 Agri-food Strategy'. The Dialogue was opened with a key note address by Dr Martin Frick, Deputy Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit. Dr Frick stressed the need for urgent action to deliver the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He highlighted the potential for sustainable food systems to help address the complex and interlinked challenges and create opportunities for enhanced health and nutrition; climate action and GHG emissions reduction; biodiversity and ecosystem restoration; and improved livelihoods – 'agriculture is part of the problem as well as part of the solution'. Dr Frick introduced the UN Food Systems Summit as a 'People's Summit' and a 'Solutions Summit', and stressed the importance of the Food Systems Summit Dialogues to the success of the Summit and the future sustainability of our food systems.

The opening address was followed by two separate panel discussions. The first Panel discussion focused on 'Ireland's Food Systems Approach: A view from Home and Internationally'. Ireland's draft 2030 Agri-Food Strategy has been developed using a 'food systems approach' which takes account of the links between policies for food, climate and environment, and health, as well as the role of all players in the food value chain in realising a future vision. The second panel addressed 'Environmental and Economic Sustainability: Synergies and Trade-offs'. The central vision for the draft 2030 Agri-Food Strategy is that Ireland will become a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems (SFSs) over the next decade. Sustainability in its three dimensions – economic, environmental, and social – is at the heart of this vision. The panel discussed the synergies and trade-offs between economic and environmental sustainability in the context of this objective. Both panels were followed by a dedicated questions and answers session. Details of both panel discussions and the questions raised by participants are provided below.

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

- Ireland has a unique food system with many opportunities and challenges to improved sustainability.
- Ireland has a strong international reputation as a producer of high-quality, safe and sustainable food and drink.
- Ireland has strong sustainability credentials, which have been independently verified (relatively low dairy and beef carbon footprint per unit).
- Ireland faces sustainability challenges over the next 10 years to 2030 and urgent action is needed by all food systems stakeholders.
- Economic development, particularly in the dairy sector post-quota, has had an impact on environmental sustainability.
- Monitoring and accountability of sustainability targets along the entire food supply chain is essential to improving the sustainability of Ireland's food system.
- It is in the interest of all food systems actors and stakeholders to continuously improve the sustainability of Ireland's food system.
- Primary producers and food industry stakeholders are 'up for the challenge' of food systems sustainability.
- This 'transition-by-design' can only be achieved through an industry wide shift towards more sustainable production and consumption practices, facilitated by a combination of sustainability solutions and supports.
- There is an urgency to addressing the challenges we face, particularly the climate and biodiversity emergencies.
- Blaming one part of the food system over another is not constructive, and we should focus on moving together towards a more sustainable food system.
- The draft 2030 Strategy, which has been carefully developed using an inclusive food systems approach, provides a strategic framework for action.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

See attached report for full feedback on Panel A (exceeds 3600 characters)

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 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

See attached report for full feedback on Panel B (exceeds 3600 characters)

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

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

While there was broad recognition by all stakeholders of the urgent need to improve the sustainability of Ireland's food system, there were diverging opinions on the fundamentals of how we move towards a more sustainable food system by 2030. Divergence was noted in the following main areas:

- What is a sustainable food system – what is the correct balance between social, environmental and economic sustainability?
- How sustainable is Ireland's food system today – divergent views on the environmental, social and economic sustainability of Ireland's food system.
- How do we achieve a more sustainable food system by 2030 – e.g. how do we simultaneously achieve greater environmental and social sustainability while ensuring economic sustainability for all stakeholders – highlighting the challenge of adopting a holistic food systems approach, as well as the potential for delivering multiple objectives across the three pillars of sustainability.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Sustainable Food Systems and Ireland's 2030 Agri-food Strategy**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/OFFICIAL-FEEDBACK-Sustainable-Food-Systems-Irelands-2030-Agri-food-Strategy-FINAL.pdf>