

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 20 May 2021 13:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Transforming food systems with aquatic foods: scaling up sustainable production solutions
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Global Action Network Sustainable Food from the Ocean and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9709/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9709/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

230

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18      12 19-30      23 31-50      22 51-65      3 66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

34 Male      26 Female      Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1	Agriculture/crops	7	Education	0	Health care
39	Fish and aquaculture	2	Communication	0	Nutrition
0	Livestock	2	Food processing	4	National or local government
0	Agro-forestry	0	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
1	Environment and ecology	0	Food industry	1	Industrial
1	Trade and commerce	0	Financial Services	2	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
1	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
2	Multi-national corporation	0	Local authority
2	Small-scale farmer	13	Government and national institution
0	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
0	Large-scale farmer	2	United Nations
3	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
8	International Non-Governmental Organization	1	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
0	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
23	Science and academia	1	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

To ensure respect of the Principles of Engagement, the following measures were taken: □ The Dialogue was designed to highlight actions and solutions by showcasing examples on "how to walk the talk", discuss how to connect research and policy and how to scale up solutions for sustainable production of aquatic foods as an integral part of the whole food system. The dialogue was convened so that it welcomed participants and enabled them to engage purposefully with open exchanges, listen to each other and be open to the co-existence of divergent points of view. □ The Dialogue commits directly to the vision and goals of Food Systems Summit Action Track 3 (boost nature-positive production), and connects to other actions tracks, as well as the UN Nutrition Decade, and UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). □ Recognizing the complexity of the aquatic food systems (healthy waters, sustainable harvesting/ production, food security, nutrition and healthy people, equity etc), the Dialogue included multiple perspectives. A diverse group of speakers and panellists (from policymaking, research, private sectors and NGOs) were invited. The Dialogue was open for all to sign up to thus participants from multiple stakeholder groups around the world could join. □ A holistic food chain approach was taken, highlighting interlinked areas important to the four pillars of sustainability and motivate innovative thinking and approaches to deliver system-level transformation. □ The Dialogue was carefully designed to ensure the diversity of the panels and participants (gender ratio, global representation, participants from middle- and low-income countries, vulnerable groups, women and youth). □ The Dialogue was free and open and provided an opportunity to share promising innovations, connect stakeholders, and broaden partnerships to transform food systems for the common good. □ To ensure the Dialogue contents were transparent and accountable, we incorporated evidence-based solutions, provided contact information of all panellists, and the event recap was sent to all.

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

□ By linking the dialogue to the Food Systems Summit Action Track 3, and also connect to the other action tracks, we increased the awareness of aquatic foods as part of sustainable food systems, and highlighted the importance evidence based sustainable production of aquatic foods as well as the importance of a holistic food system approach. □ By showcasing cross-sectorial solutions to urgent topics in current food systems production we promote the importance of integrating aquatic foods in the Food Systems Summit agenda. □ The selected topics were explored from social, economic and environmental perspectives with multiple stakeholder groups. Recognising the complexity in aquatic foods systems and encouraging collaboration among sectors and stakeholders to achieve the Food Systems Summit goal. We emphasised regional and applicable solutions to demonstrate that sustainable aquatic food production can coexist with local and traditional practices. □ We advertised the Dialogue on different platforms to reach out to all possible stakeholder groups around the world. □ The stakeholders were introduced to the Global Action Network: Sustainable Food from the Ocean and Inland Waters mission which are in line with the Food Systems Summit goals and objectives, and relevant SDGs. □ The private sector, civil society, including academic institutions, and regional and intergovernmental organisations play important roles together with various nations in the world to realise the potential of aquatic foods contribution to food security and nutrition. Recognising the solutions by both the panellists and participants promoted a collaborative environment to stimulate bold and innovative new thinking and approaches that deliver systems-level transformation. □ The Dialogue provided factual examples to give evidence-based solutions to current food production issues in aquatic food systems. The credentials and contact information provided improved trust among multiple stakeholders involved in the Dialogue, and accountability of the information given.

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

The time limit of the 90-minute webinar was adequate and allowed enough time for answering most of the questions from the audience. However, more time could be allocated for questions and answers if fewer speakers invited to the two panels (3 instead of 4). Please note: The numbers above do not reflect the total numbers of webinar participants (which were 504 registered and 230 attended live). Numbers of participants in each sector was retrieved from a post webinar survey that was automatically launched for all attendees when signing off the event. The response rate was 26% explaining a total number of 60.

# 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

Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets is one of the six cross-cutting, integrative action areas of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). The Global Action Network: Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, is established under the umbrella of the Nutrition Decade. The Network aims to include aquatic foods as a key food source for achieving food security and improved nutrition in the Nutrition Decade and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. In the lead up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the Global Action Network arranged a series of three Independent Dialogues, arranged as webinars, with a holistic food chain approach - from healthy oceans to healthy people. The first webinar focused on Action Track 1 (ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all), the second webinar on Action Track 3 (boost nature-positive production), and the third webinar on Action Track 4 (advance equitable livelihoods). The Dialogues were put together by a task force, including representatives from WorldFish, IFAD, and the Netherlands, and were led by Norway. The Dialogues were co-hosted by the Norwegian leadership of the Global Action Network and WorldFish. This is the second Dialogue of the series, as titled "Transforming food systems with aquatic foods-scaling-up sustainable production solutions". In this Dialogue, cross-sectorial representatives, including one expert panel and one high-level panel with speakers from ministries, national and international governmental organisations, universities, research institutions, innovations private sectors as well as NGOs, came together to showcase possible solutions and discuss important actions to scale-up sustainable aquatic food production as part of the summit's Action Track 3, which aims to boost nature-positive production. The Dialogue included two sessions: the first showcasing possible solutions to scale-up good sustainable production of aquatic foods, and the second session on connecting research and policy. During the Dialogue, two polls were conducted to engage participants. Also, the audience was encouraged by the curator to partake actively in the live chat and post questions in the Q&A box, and they were also notified about relevant links being shared in the chat box for further information. Three open-ended questions were included in the post-webinar questionnaire to enable participants to share their views. The panels took a holistic approach by combining knowledge and solutions on different aspects of sustainable production of aquatic foods along the food chain. Topics included: sustainability standards/labels, circular food production methods, ecosystem-based approaches, and low-trophic aquatic product farming and harvesting. Also, how to accelerate sustainable aquaculture, cross-sectorial engagement, and collaboration with local and/or international partners were addressed. The panels shared opinions on how to bridge research with policy to better inform science-based policy making to scale-up solutions. Event Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement: 504 participants registered for the event and received an event recording and links to other learning materials. 230 people tuned in live to the event, predominantly from Europe (41%), followed by Asia and the Pacific (31%), Africa (16%), North America (10%) and Central and Latin America (2%). With a 46% attendance rate, participants were predominantly from Academia and Research (38%), followed by NGO or Not for Profit (22%), Government (18%) Private Sector (10%) and Others (12%). Participants sent in a total of 31 questions in the live Q&A, 23 were answered during the live event by our panel speakers. In the post-event survey, the majority of the participants said they enjoyed the webinar, gave an average rating of 8/10 and are interested in future webinars on the topic of food system transformation with aquatic foods.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets is one of the six cross-cutting, integrative action areas of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). The Global Action Network: Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, is established under the umbrella of the Nutrition Decade.

The Network aims to mobilise actions to include aquatic foods as a key food source for achieving food security and improved nutrition in the Decade of Action on Nutrition and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Network takes a holistic food chain approach “from healthy waters to healthy people”, highlighting solutions for sustainable aquatic and food security (sufficient, safe and nutritious aquatic foods which meets dietary needs and food preferences, leaving no one behind). Aquatic foods will be important in transforming our global food systems.

In the lead up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the Network arranged a series of three Independent Dialogues. This Dialogue (together with the two others arranged by the Global Action Network Sustainable Food from the Ocean and Inland Waters) aimed to make aquatic foods better integrated in the current food systems debates and seen as contributing as a key food source for achieving global food security and improved nutrition. A dietary shift towards more aquatic foods will contribute to food security within the planetary boundaries. The Dialogue “Transforming food systems with aquatic foods: scaling-up sustainable production solutions” was an exploration of Action Track 3 (boost nature-positive production) but also interlinked to the other Action Tracks. The Dialogue brought together representatives from government, science and research, private sectors and NGOs that covered areas related to healthy oceans, sustainable fisheries and seafood production, food security and nutrition. Stakeholders working with science, policy and in action work were brought together as well as the UN Food Systems Summit Action Track leaders. During the event, we encouraged questions and discussion among and between panellists and participants, and ensured their voices were heard. All stakeholder groups engaged in the Dialogue. The panellists highlighted current issues and showcased successful solutions within aquatic food systems. The participants agreed with the urgent issues mentioned by the panellists and identified several other issues to be addressed in the future. The Dialogue acknowledged the need to increase the awareness of the contribution of aquatic foods in current food systems as well as addressing the interlinkages with terrestrial food production. There is a need to scale-up production of sustainable aquatic foods as a provider of nutrients (not just calories), at lower environmental cost and as a provider of equitable livelihoods. To achieve this, the Dialogue emphasised important aspects and identified actions for an increased sustainable aquatic food production in order to transform future food systems. This was delivered by multiple stakeholders from ministerial level, governments, private sector, NGOs, academia, UN-initiatives, and the Action Track 3 leadership.

The Dialogue exemplified solutions and how to scale-up sustainable production of aquatic foods. It provided multiple stakeholders with options and innovative thinking on how to link aquatic food production with other aspects. The panellists disseminated approaches to bridge science, policy and actions and encouraged holistic approaches and cross-sectorial engagement to make aquatic foods more visible in current food systems.

### 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

Aquatic foods provide solutions to hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Sustainable production of aquatic foods ensures the productivity of aquatic foods while minimising the environmental footprints. We identified key science- and evidence-based solutions that were applicable and scalable. More importantly, we recognized that the food systems are complex, thus, to tackle existing issues requires holistic approaches, cross-sectorial efforts, both when it comes to policy making and actions.

In the Dialogue, international food system experts working in policy, research and innovation career fields provided key solutions to scale-up sustainable aquatic food production for multiple stakeholders and sectors in low- to middle-income countries:

- The current Voluntary Sustainability Standards provide a market-based tool for scaling-up sustainable production in aquatic foods, however such standards need to be tailored for small-scale producers to improve their access to trade and market, and this requires better governance.
- Adopting circular economy approaches in aquaculture which recycle by-products from other industries/systems, including terrestrial, ones ensures that aquaculture can be scaled without putting pressure on the limited resources of the planet. It also lowers the production costs thus increasing the earning potential of poor farmers and decreasing the social volatility of a region in addition to providing nutritious foods to rural families.
- Ecosystem-based approaches should be applied to reduce environmental impacts and protect adjacent natural habitats.
- Social components are important for sustainable development of aquaculture, such as inclusion of female and the youth, providing small-scale female farmers and business leaders with access to finance (e.g. through hatching programs).
- Scaling-up solutions requires cross-sectorial engagement, such as reaching out to terrestrial-focused colleagues, and bridging private, public and research institutes.

The stakeholders in the dialogue called for technological innovations to scale-up solutions for sustainable aquatic food production, areas including:

- Environmental-friendly feeds of good quality by utilising by-products of other systems (e.g. food waste, agriculture by-product) and/or locally produced low trophic ingredients (e.g., seaweeds);
- Post-harvest loss reduction.
- Circular economy approaches to improve both aquatic food production and other components (e.g., health, social inclusiveness, peace and justice).
- Low trophic aquatic food production for feeds, human consumptions and other related industries.
- Approaches to scale-up from small-scale production to large-scale production (e.g. black soldier flies for aquafeeds).
- Traceability of aquatic foods to ensure food safety (e.g. block chain technology).

The stakeholders also emphasised the need to establish better connections:

- Among multiple sectors (government, farmers, consumers, and private sectors) to create scalable sustainable solutions across aquatic food systems.
- Between researchers and the government to better inform environment-based policy making.
- among different social components to improve inclusiveness and awareness, and improve the capacity of aquatic food production.
- between the aquatic food producers and the government to improve efficiency of communication, enforcing of policies, and certification processing.
- within local communities to scale-up community-based approaches in sustainable aquaculture (e.g. Fish Breeding Site project supported by TNC).
- among countries to better share knowledge and technology that can be further tailored for national and/or regional needs.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

The Dialogue was a webinar with high level speakers and two panels, Q&A sessions, chat and a post-event questionnaire. Hence it was not designed with strict discussion topics. However, the Dialogue outcomes can be grouped under topics related to 3 questions:

Discussion Topic 1: How to scale-up production of sustainable aquatic foods as a provider of the nutrients we need at lower environmental cost, and as a provider of livelihoods?

- ☐ Increase low trophic aquatic food production.
- ☐ Develop and apply of circular food systems.
- ☐ Integrate blue and green coproducts as feed ingredients.
- ☐ Promote pond polyculture to reduce the need for feed ingredients from the global fish catch.
- ☐ Enforce environmental standards and regulations.
- ☐ Remove challenging regulatory barriers.
- ☐ Increase expertise and capacity to maintain successful aquaculture operations.
- ☐ Conduct Marine Spatial Planning.
- ☐ Selective breeding of aquaculture species.

### 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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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

The Dialogue was a webinar with high level speakers and two panels, Q&A sessions, chat and a post-event questionnaire. Hence it was not designed with strict discussion topics. However, the Dialogue outcomes can be grouped under topics related to 3 questions:

Discussion Topic 2: How can global aquaculture be upscaled; ensuring sustainable feed without challenging food security for others?

- ☐ Generate knowledge and tools for sustainable feeds and feed systems.
- ☐ Ensure that production of aquatic foods does not compete for arable land.
- ☐ Further explore consumption of low trophic aquatic foods.
- ☐ Adopt recirculating aquaculture systems in areas with scarce water resources.
- ☐ Increase focus on the link between sustainable feed ingredients and the nutritional value of fish for consumers.
- ☐ Utilise locally available feed ingredients.
- ☐ Adopt circular approaches with better integration of agriculture and aquaculture.
- ☐ Manage forage fisheries.
- ☐ Utilise fisheries and aquaculture processing waste.
- ☐ Replace fish feed ingredients with alternative sources (e.g. plant-based and other low trophic ingredients, terrestrial animal by-products, microbial ingredients, algae).
- ☐ Increase non-fed aquaculture (e.g. seaweed and molluscs).
- ☐ Optimise feeding management to reduce feed loss.

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

The Dialogue was a webinar with high level speakers and two panels, Q&A sessions, chat and a post-event questionnaire. Hence it was not designed with strict discussion topics. However, the Dialogue outcomes can be grouped under topics related to 3 questions:

Discussion Topic 3: What can smallholders teach us about sustainability and the importance of accelerating and scaling-up the good solutions?

- Sustainable solutions need to be context-specific (e.g. complement local solutions with new knowledge and innovations).
- Advance our understanding of the value of small-scale fisheries (e.g. Illuminating Hidden Harvests) and increase efforts to capture their contributions in national accounts.
- Adopt seasonal farming to provide livelihoods and sustainable solutions (e.g. alternating between hilsa fishing and seaweed farming).
- Apply multiple farming systems to increase resilience to changes in feeds, feeding practices, and environmental conditions.
- Include multi-sectorial efforts (e.g. social, economic and environmental) to promote inclusiveness (e.g. the poor and marginalised, women and youth) and strengthen the circularity of agri-food systems.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

In the Dialogue and the post-webinar surveys, there were a few areas of mild divergence. These include the prioritisation of issues and the applicability of mentioned solutions.

In the Dialogue, the panellists highlighted challenges and solutions for sustainable aquatic food production, including overfishing, post-harvest loss and marginalisation of small-scale farmers. Participants suggested other issues to be addressed (e.g. social inequality, lack of funding, and high cost for sustainable production).

The panellists and the participants had a thorough discussion on the solutions suggested in the Dialogue. And a few participants expressed their concerns about the applications of these:

□ Regarding the solution to convert food waste to fish feeds via black soldier flies, a few participants showed their concerns about the financial feasibility of this approach. In addition, the essential fatty acid levels in black soldier flies were insufficient to meet the nutritional needs of the consumers. Thus, the substrates should be improved for the black soldier fly larvae.

□ Seaweed farming has been applied in multiple regions/countries to enhance different aspects of the society. A few participants shared their concerns about heavy metals and other contaminants potentially found in marine algae. Further research is required prior to scale-up seaweed farming.

□ The Voluntary Sustainability Standards labelling has improved the sustainable production. However, obtaining certifications might be time-consuming and costly.

### 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

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Event recording, program and presentations**  
<https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean/meetings-and-events/webinar-20-may/>