

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 31 March 2021 19:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good
CONVENED BY	Cherrie D. Atilano , Founding Farmer and CEO of AGREA, UN Food Systems Summit Champion
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9775/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9775/</a>
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Australia, Philippines, United States of America

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

12

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

8

31-50

4

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

1 Male

11 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

4 Agriculture/crops  
Fish and aquaculture  
Livestock  
Agro-forestry  
Environment and ecology  
2 Trade and commerce

Education  
Communication  
Food processing  
Food retail, markets  
Food industry  
Financial Services

Health care  
1 Nutrition  
1 National or local government  
Utilities  
Industrial  
4 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2 Small/medium enterprise/artisan  
Large national business  
1 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  
2 Government and national institution  
Regional economic community  
3 United Nations  
International financial institution  
2 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance  
Consumer group  
2 Other

# 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

# 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

GrowHer.org is a microsite that provides women agripreneurs the platform to upskill themselves with useful tools and new skills, read inspiring stories of other women in agriculture making their mark, and to collaborate and attend events across the value chain - creating sustainable food systems for generations to come. Major focus of the discussion was: Important roles and contribution of women in the food systems.

On 31st of March 2021, aligned with the celebration of International Women's Month, GrowHer.org launched in the Philippines. The launch was remarkable as it was the first in-country launch of the platform. The program became an avenue for collaboration among civil society groups, government agencies, and the private sector in supporting the GrowHer microsite through contributing content, sharing resources, and partnership opportunities for women in agriculture. The launch also aired and released a Manifesto Video, recognizing the important roles that women play in the food and agri-ecosystem.

The launch was led by AGREA, Corteva Agriscience, and Grow Asia. It was supported by the Netherlands Embassy in the Philippines – a major supporter of agriculture and gender equity initiatives, SPARK Philippines, and UNFSS Dialogues. The launch complemented our 2020 program entitled How Women Feed The World: A Digital Talk on Women in Agriculture. The said webinar complemented the conclusions of Roundtable on Gender Equity and Empowerment last 2019, and support for Magna Carta of Women in Agriculture. It also presented current opportunities and investment for women in agriculture on the following key areas: education, sustainable livelihood, peace and security, and health and nutrition.

### 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

### II. Main Findings

The launch on GrowHer March 31st, 2021 – was a fruitful discussion and call to action and partnerships. Major focus of the discussion was: Important roles and contribution of women in the food systems. Here are the major findings of the discussion:

#### A. Current status of women in the food systems

- Globally, less than 2 in 10 landowners are women. Women farmers in the Philippines make financial decisions with their husbands. Women farmers in the country have more control managing household expenses and are among the most empowered in Southeast Asia (according to a study published in the Scientific Journal Food Policy in 2017).
- In food and nutrition globally, more than 50% of workers (in agriculture) are women. But women have less rights, less income, less access, and not valued. FAO, WFP, and IFAD have looked at it and have researched that if women would have access to all tools in agriculture and food production along the whole food value chain, they would be able to produce better until 10%. And with 'better', it means good quality of food. It is concluded that if women have equal access to public, legal, and financial services, hunger and malnutrition could be down by 25%.
- World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that at the end of last year (2020), there could be some 130 million people who are hungry. It is a huge challenge on how we can help women that are working in the fields, and are working on rural environments to have enough income, to have enough food to feed their families, and to nourish them.
- In 2018, Corteva Agriscience commissioned a global study of more than 4000 women in agriculture to really understand their pain points and their key challenges, and to look into gender inequality. It was across 17 countries, 24% in Asia Pacific. It was found out that universally, women love being in farming and agriculture, but at the same time the challenge of gender inequality is still a prevalent challenge for them. Whether that's the income disparity, the land ownership issues, or access to training, finance, and other resources.
- Filipina agricultural workers are also the most overworked, compared to their South Asian peers. The Filipina farmers juggle the most significant workload at home and at the farm. To cut it short, women farmers work more, but they are also paid less.
- Barriers for women in agriculture include access to farm inputs, credit, market know-how, and land ownership – must be entirely eliminated, and create better and incentivizing farming conditions.
- According to WFP, 97% of the money that families are receiving from the Social Amelioration Program of the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development, was being spent on food alone.

#### B. CALL TO ACTION: What can be worked out to support Filipino women in their role and contribution to the food systems?

- Exposing the inequalities is a first step towards remedy. Listening to the women in the communities, in the farms, in the grassroots about their stories and experiences.
- Implement initiatives that fosters partnerships, brings together stakeholders from all sectors, and puts women at the center.
- Increase efforts in breaking down the barriers that discourage women into agriculture. Barriers such as access to farm inputs, credit, market know-how, and land ownership – must be entirely eliminated, and create better and incentivizing farming conditions for the Filipinas.
- Implement financial assistance program that can further narrow the gender disparity in agriculture, like the AgriPinay of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC).
- Providing women more resources, information on agriculture and business, as well as sharing inspiring stories about women farmers and entrepreneurs.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration for nutrition-sensitive agriculture: growing food that are nutritious.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration for social-behavioral change communication, and seek to understand 'what is it that is a barrier for women having more nutritious food put on their households'?
- Opportunity to link up SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) Business Network to small and medium enterprises, especially those that are women-run: looking at where the value chain opportunities are for them.
- COLLABORATION: It is about the power of SHE, and when women come together – they create the power of WE. If women come together, they start to talk about their experience and about their dreams. And many women dream about a better world for themselves, but most especially for the next generation.
- Invest in good nutrition. It starts at home for all children, boys and girls alike – because that is where equality starts.
- Inform and push our work towards promoting women's economic empowerment.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

A. Best practices in creating and enabling opportunities for women in the food and agriculture sector: what works best, what were the challenges, and how to address these challenges?

- The best way to know what the key challenges are for women in the food and agriculture system, is to talk to them.
- Provide women-only training in some cases so they have access to customized training.
- A lot of women felt that they do not have is recognition. Awareness on the important roles that women in the entire agriculture value chain - amplify the role they play, give them a voice, and make them more visible in discussions about the sustainability of our food systems.
- Building a community of women in the agriculture and food system and empower them through role models. Have a support system of female entrepreneurs and food systems workers who support each other.
- Increase the number of women in the food system workplace, especially in leadership roles.
- Invest in women: when she wins, her family wins, her broader community wins, all of us wins.
- Make sure the pay is reasonable, work hours are reasonable because you have to recognize that they are mothers, and condition of the workplace should be good.
- Have a series of conversations with female farmers. They are parents, they nurture their children and guide them in choosing their career and consult with them. In exploring challenges with the parents, then together we will find practical solutions to these problems.

B. How can you support the advancement of gender equality at the farm level, and network level?

- Create partnerships and support linkages and help the projects in scaling up to support more women farmers.
- Conduct knowledge exchange events, to help in exchange experiences and information with women farmers.
- Collective effort. Identify the gaps, they identify common resources that the companies can work on, and collaborate in building, scaling, and leveraging on these resources to help farmers have access to market, financing, training, and capacity building.

C. How collaboration is imperative to foster gender response in any sector, including agriculture? How can we grow more opportunities for women in the food and agriculture value chain?

- Collaborate with different agencies – national, local, municipal, NGOs and the private sector. Successful projects cannot be implemented without collaborative effort.
- Women farmers not as producers but also as processors. Open women to opportunities that can help them climb up the ladder of the value chain.
- Organize women into groups with legal registrations, so that they can access and participate to other programs of the government and private institutions.

D. Inputs and Suggestions for the Magna Carta of Women in Agriculture

- Establish associations for female farmers at the local level. Coming together as a decision-making body empowers women, and at the same time they can contribute significantly to the well-being of the community.
- Balance of quantity and quality in opportunities for women in agriculture. Put targets in the Magna Carta (ex: increasing the number of women in leadership roles). We also have to take into consideration the quality – how they are engaged, how do they benefit? How can women use and access the opportunities and platforms?

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no areas of divergence.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
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- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Brief Profile of the Speakers and Discussants**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BRIEF-PROFILE-OF-SPEAKERS-1.pdf>
- **Transcription of the launch**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Transcription-of-Keypoints-GrowHer-Launch-1.pdf>
- **UNFSS Full Report**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UNFSS-REPORT-1.pdf>

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **GrowHer launch in the Philippines - Full coverage**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcP4UDnn34I>