

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 8 April 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	CALABAR FOOD SYSTEM EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE
CONVENED BY	Olusola Idowu Mrs. Permanent Secretary, Budget & National Planning 2. Mrs. Elizabeth Egharevba
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9778/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Nigeria

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

135

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

84 Male

51 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

21 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

6 Education

3 Communication

2 Food processing

Food retail, markets

5 Food industry

3 Financial Services

3 Health care

Nutrition

88 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

2 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

88 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

47 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The participants cut across the various facets of the food system. The urgency of actions to make the food systems work for everyone and the environment was stressed during the preparations for the inception dialogue, and in all speeches, good will messages, and presentations. None of the action tracks was given more importance than another.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue recognized complexities of the food system in the South-South region of Nigeria to the fore with a call for a holistic course of action that will ensure that region's food systems deliver high quality food and affordable nutrition in an inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable, manner

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

Organizing a Summit of this nature in a country like Nigeria comes with several challenges especially in the era of a Pandemic. In order to mitigate this problem and have an all-inclusive dialogue, - ICT infrastructure limitations need to be addressed adequately and every potential participants adequately informed early on the facility and medium to be adopted for the 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

The main focus of this exploratory dialogue was to look at the South-South region's Food Systems in tandem with the five action tracks and levers of the UN Food Systems Summit. Participants conducted a thorough diagnosis of the food systems, the functioning, major stakeholders, potentials, vulnerabilities, as well as opportunities for its transformation so that it can deliver high quality diet and affordable nutrition; be inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable; and work for everyone within the region.

It was clear from discussions that excessive focus on agriculture and food security resulted in an unintended consequence of creating a less diverse food environment that is unable to provide an adequate variety and affordable, safe, and nutrient dense food. Food systems in Nigeria are vulnerable to shocks, stresses, and disruptions. Our food systems are threatened by climate change and stresses due to the impact of drought, flooding, erosion, inflation, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflict. Poverty, unemployment, and insufficient food reserves limit the capacity of our food systems to cope with shocks and stresses.

The COVID pandemic has amplified the fragility, inequities and suboptimal functionality of our current food systems thus requiring significant transformations in policies, practices and business models that would make our food systems fit for purpose and enable the delivery of the most important functions rooted in robust evidence base, country context and emerging global trends and realities.

There are significant food safety challenges across the food systems domain. Most investments in food safety have been for food exports. Because of unsafe food, 1 in 11 Nigerians fall ill yearly, 21 million cases of foodborne diseases are documented and the annual loss of human capital due to foodborne diseases is estimated at about \$16 billion. Most times, the vulnerable group are the most affected by the challenge of food safety and also the most nutritious foods have the most complicated challenge around food safety. It is therefore important to note that as Nigeria allows unsafe foods are allowed to pass through the borders to the people, the sovereignty of the nation is surrendered to others.

There are huge post-harvest losses within the food systems; we lose more than half of what we produce, and this comes with significant impact on the environment. Inequality and power imbalances at the household, community, national and global levels are consistently constraining the ability of our food systems to ensure poverty reduction and sustainable, equitable livelihoods. Despite many years of investment in policies, programmes, institutions, and the broader enabling environment, we see glaring indications of a broken food system.

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

- Privatization of Government investments in the Agricultural sector for Management and sustainability
- Need for review of Agric policy and framework for a sustainable food system as policies are obsolete
- Need for integration and coordination into the Policy
- Integration of women in the agricultural sector
- Empowerment with interest free loans and inputs to farmers
- Timely distribution of inputs to farmers in terms of crop and animal farming
- Engagement with traditional rulers and Local Government Chairpersons to provide lands to women
- Leasing of demonstration farms to women to encourage more women to farm
- Need for the South-South zone to diversify to onions farming and goat herding.
- Research on land productivity should be carried out
- Research and education on Agric Extension should be encouraged
- Research results and findings should be made public and Government should be engaged for effective dissemination
- Bio fortification of foods and nutrition research should be encouraged by Government
- Nutrition education and awareness should be strengthened at Antenatal levels
- Need for integrated farming (crops, fishery, animal, livestock farming) for profiting at irrigation outlets
- Agro logistics is key
- Proper farmers' data/records to be maintained by relevant bodies
- Need for central farmers' data that is accessible to all Agric sector stakeholders
- Value chain and development financing by Central Bank of Nigeria should be encouraged
- All stakeholders should be carried along from programme conceptualization, inception and research instead of imposing research findings
- Road map development for the sector
- Business plan development training
- Idea sharing by Chief Executives in the sector is key
- Need to capture information on all informal/private sector players in the Agric sector

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Discussion Topic Access to Safe and Nutritious Food

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- Contextualize the concepts of Access, Safe and Nutritious Food in the specific milieu and needs of communities and households. These will aid policy/decision making.
- Equitable access to factors of production especially for women in both urban and rural communities will enable and enhance the availability and affordability of nutritious food.
- Innovative knowledge in the production and processing of food will improve household nutrition
- Development value chains will improve access and food safety
- Advocacy and sensitization on the need to have nutritious food using local and readily available ingredients
- Promotion of community and school feeding programme

Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality

The conclusions are;

☐ More families and households are becoming increasingly hungry with widening inequality. The reasons include;

- i.) Shift in family system, means and mode of production
 - ii.) Constraining land tenure system
 - iii.) Collapse of extension services
- Education of households on income and livelihoods
 - Equity in access to land and means of production
 - Support private sector extension services
 - Use of data and empirical evidence

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious food

Involves the following;

- ☐ Value addition
- ☐ Improvement of household incomes and alternatives
- ☐ Fortification of food
- ☐ Encourage all year production
- ☐ Improvement on infrastructure
- ☐ Adoption and adaptation of technology and science

Strand 3: Ensuring Safe food

Food safety will entail;

- ☐ Availability of Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services
- ☐ Attainment of Open defecation free status
- ☐ Accreditation and certification of farms and value chain operators for competitiveness
- ☐ Regulations/Guidelines
- ☐ Legislations

What contributions will our organizations make?

- Dam and irrigation services available to farmers for sustained food production
- Agro-logistic support
- Finance and risk mitigation
- Technology and technical assistance
- Knowledge Management
- Reporting systems
- Monitoring and Evaluation systems
- Data and Information Management platform
- Coordination, facilitation
- Capacity building for stakeholders
- Advocacy and sensitization

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

1. Supervision, Monitoring, tracking and evaluation
2. Comprehensive regional roadmap and implementation strategies peculiar to the states.
3. Outputs, Outcomes, Results and Impact

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Discussion Topic Shift to healthy and sustainable consumption pattern

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- Regulation of advertisement and marketing of unhealthy food (sugary beverages, ultra-processed food) through increasing tax/tariffs.
 - Nutrition education highlighting the dangers of unhealthy diet targeted at communities and schools, empowering community members and school children to demand for healthy food.
 - Mainstreaming of nutrition into all agricultural programme and education system.
 - Provision of enabling environments for civil society organizations involved in community mobilization and sensitization on healthy nutrition, to access free or subsidized airtime for nutrition education.
 - School feeding programmes should be implemented more effectively and monitored to ensure meals are provided with adequate quality and in the right quantities.
 - Encouraging local farmers to prepare and package locally made complementary food to strengthen complementary feeding for children under the age of five.
 - Provision of good storage facility to address waste recorded by small scale farmers who are cannot afford proper facilities to preserve their produce.
 - Encouraging appropriate technology for food preservation at household, retail and service levels to minimize wastage.
 - Building relevant infrastructures to aid food logistics management e.g. good road network to shorten supply distance and duration to avoid spoilage and wastage.
 - Establishing food collection centers within LGAs to enable fast and easy access will minimize need for storage and reduce wastage.
 - Building infrastructure for food processing and developing sustainable systems for food recycling and conversion of waste for productive use.
 - Institution of proactive measures to increase consumption of nutritionally adequate food e.g. increase farmers' (especially women) access to land for farming and animal rearing to improve animal-sourced intakes for children.
 - Food safety policy should be developed to ensure producers/ food processors are properly guided on food standard and also to protect the consumers from unhealthy food
 - Robust public-private partnerships that support quality input and effective distribution of farm produce under the regulation and oversight of relevant government organs.
 - Multi-stakeholder engagement for an all-inclusive policy formulation
 - Investing in, and scaling up evidence-based and proven interventions for reducing malnutrition (under and overnutrition) among children under five, e.g. management of severe acute malnutrition at community level, conditional cash transfer for healthy food consumption etc.
- How can donor agencies and private sector organisations help?
- Robust and mutually beneficial partnerships between private sector organizations and local small scale farmers with a focus on healthy food consumption should be developed with government's oversight and regulation.
 - Local and international NGOs can support the design and implementation evidenced-based interventions targeting the most vulnerable, especially children and women, to improve nutrition.
 - Support innovative ideas and proof of concepts that will result in the shift from unhealthy to healthy and sustainable consumption.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Discussion Topic Boost nature-positive food production at scale

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- 1) Increase budgetary allocation: A policy stipulating the minimum budgetary allocation to agriculture.
- 2) Policy harmonization within the land use sectors to maximize use of available land
- 3) Encourage Climate-Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices, e.g.:
 - encourage crop rotation, intercropping and homestead gardening; as well as Agroforestry system, which has multiple uses, including protecting the soil;
 - integrated farming to incorporate animal husbandry/livestock farming; this is the success behind the Songhai farms;
 - Use of improved varieties of input, e.g., stress- tolerant, high-yielding varieties, etc.
 - Discourage the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides and encourage organic farming
 - Using the ash obtained from palm tree wastes to enrich nutrient depleted soils;
 - Use of cover crops like legumes to control weed.
 - Introduction of local/traditional irrigation system
- 4) Introduction of out-grower's scheme, for youth participation in Agriculture
- 5) Availability if data was conceived to be key for evidenced-based policies and programmes
- 6) Bio-security to maintain hygiene and health in livestock production

What contributions will our organizations make?

Many of the organizations participating in the discussion have one or two things to contribute.

- 1) Veterinary section: prevention and control of Zoonosis;
- 2) Boarder Commission: Advocacy and advice against conflict, crisis and wars before onset of farming
- 3) Department of Forestry: Building capacity of local communities to engage in agroforestry in nature-based production, raising seedlings and maintaining plantations; forming forest management committees
- 4) Economic Planning: Development of medium-term plan for agriculture.
- 5) Private sector: eliminate affluent/waste to environment by use of filters; treatment of waste water; backward integration for economic sustainability; incorporation of cassava flour into wheat flour; encourage local grain plantations and harvest; Ensure that animal feeds are produced under controlled hygienic condition;
- 6) Ministry of International Cooperation; Source for fund for sustainable agricultural practices;
- 7) ureau of Statistics: Conduct meta-evaluation and evidence-based monitoring and evaluation.
- 8) Ministry of Climate Change & Forestry: deforestation initiatives, especially tree planting: helping soil fertility; reducing heat & desertification; advocate against harmful practices such as bush burning and poaching.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- Through periodic monitoring and evaluation. The following indicators will show success
- Improved yield, access to credits/inputs
- Improved nutritional status and health
- Inclusive participation and community ownership of programmes
- Economic enhancement
- Reclamation of degraded land
- Reduced carbon dioxide emission

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Discussion Topic Advancing Equitable Livelihoods

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion topic?

Considering the peculiarities of the three focused States (Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Rivers), suggestions to uplift the livelihoods of farmers and other value chain actors in the region were discussed. Actions proposed to have impact in the next three years include:

1. Tackling Insecurities: The group proposed regional security, particularly amongst the focused states who share almost similar security challenges and implored stakeholders (Government, Private sector, local/community leadership, etc.) to collaborate in tackling insecurity in the regions.
2. Setting up Off-taking infrastructures: To address the problem of bonded contracting faced by local farmers, government in collaboration with private investors would set up accessible central centers to off-take produce directly from farmers at best market prices and to end post-harvest losses experienced by farmers so as to improve their income level.
3. Pricing Policy: Team members called on stakeholders to initiate policies that would stabilize macro-economic variables like taxation, inflation, exchange rates.
 - They identified the need to cap a Guaranteed Minimum Pricing policy as a requisite to tackling the problems of bonded contracts on small holder farmers.
4. Enhancing Social Capital Formation: it was noted that most farmers and value chain players lack stable financial support perhaps due to low knowledge of finance so they need financial leverages including zero interest facility and targeted agricultural loans (with low interest rates).
 - Capacity building on financial management was also identified for enhancing social capital.
5. Youth Involvement in Agriculture: the introduction of Smart-Agric as part of entrepreneurship course in curriculums or as skill development initiative would entice young people to engage in agriculture.
6. Climate Action: optimization of the meteorological agency by establishing sub-national hubs where timely weather condition and forecast would be disseminated in local languages to farmers to support their planning was identified as well as training of value chain actors on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

The following indicators were highlighted:

- Improved income level
- Increase in yield
- Reduction of farmers per area

What contributions will our organisations make?

- Representative of Educational and financial institutions sought for collaborations to train farmers

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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	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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Discussion Topic Building the Resilience of Food Systems in Nigeria to withstand Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion Topic?

- * Long-term solution is to raise agricultural productivity
- * Review the land use act to allow both gender equal access to agricultural lands.
- * The vast mangrove swamps of the Niger Delta should be sustainably managed for agricultural and artisanal production.
- * Cluster farming should be encouraged to allow for agricultural mechanization
- * The Forest Reserves in the South-South Region such as the Cross River National Park should be managed in such a way that host communities are not denied access to agricultural lands.
- * Enrolment in farmer cooperatives in the region is unacceptably low. Farmers should be encouraged to join cooperative societies to enable them benefit from CBN and World Bank assisted projects such as Anchor Borrowers' Programme, APPEALS Project and NIRSAL. The politicization of these schemes should be discouraged.
- * Developing mechanisms for establishing weather index insurance schemes for farmers. Current programmes to improve the density of operational weather stations in the zone, thereby improving weather forecasting to farmers.
- * Provision of irrigation facilities for dry season farming
- * The agricultural extension services departments in the various state ADPs should be revived and enhanced to facilitate dissemination of improved agricultural practices. Value chain heads should be trained and re-trained to enlighten farmers on best agricultural practices
- * States in the region should establish agricultural produce processing hubs for value addition and curbing of post-harvest wastage.
- * Social safety net policies to reduce vulnerability especially for children and women should be encouraged.
- * Reintroduction of commodity boards and agricultural buy-back policy.
- * Taming the insecurity problems in the region: militancy, kidnapping and communal conflicts
- * Improved access to finance for small-holder farmers, especially women, to enhance productivity
- * Create a robust marketing network that directly and seamlessly link farmers to the market and private sector.
- * Social Consumer protection: Social insurance/support for producers to de-risk production.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

GROUP 1

The Food Systems in the South-South region is inherent with divergences in;

a.) Production, processing, storage, packaging and distribution approaches

- There is need to develop standards to enable competitiveness
- Improve shelf life of foods
- Provide data and empirical information on the value chain

b.) Consumption patterns

- Data and scientific explanation

c.) Ecological integrity

- Embark on ecological restoration, build resilience, frameworks and mechanisms for climate change mitigation
- Balance conservation with livelihood

d.) Cultural and traditional orientations

- Taboos
- Mythologies and belief systems
- Gender inequality

GROUP 3

There were disagreements on whether to include some cross-cutting issues that were not directly related to CSA; however, after extensive discussions, it was agreed that the issues were directly or indirectly related to the topic under discussion

GROUP 4

□ Farmers loans: it was argued whether or not commercial banks in Nigeria have packages (like loans) for farmers. A banker informed that banks have such facility while other group members (largely value chain actors) emphasized that agricultural loans should have lower interest rates and different moratorium considering that farmers engage in different crop production and yield period varies.

GROUP 5

* The south-south region has comparative advantage in the production of fish, crayfish, prawns, etc.

* Contrary to FAO claims, women are equally involved in crop farming as well as processing, marketing and distribution of agricultural produce

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Calabar-Exploratory-Dialogue-Report.docx>