

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Tuesday, 4 May 2021 13:30 GMT +01:00 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Promoting an Inclusive Food System for the Future |
| 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/9826/ |
| 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

999

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?

Contd. 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

N/A

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Ireland's third National Dialogue focused on 'Promoting an Inclusive Food System for the Future'. The key note address was delivered by Dr Colin Sage, Independent Scholar on food systems and sustainability. Dr Sage welcomed the conversation on inclusion, and stressed the importance of involving all of society in the transformation to sustainable food systems. Dr Sage highlighted the complex challenges of food security, malnutrition and health in Irish society, where 1 in 8 Irish households suffer from food poverty, while at the same time Ireland has the highest rate of overweight and obesity in the EU. The economic downturn and the impact of the COVID pandemic will place further pressure on global food security and malnutrition, leading to growing health problems, particularly for the less well off in society. The current global food system is simply not sustainable. Dr Sage warned against the misuse of sustainability to mask negative practices, and stressed the need to establish a common understanding of what a sustainable food system is. Dr Sage suggested that sustainability is more complex than establishing the optimum balance between the three pillars of environmental, social and economic, and that real sustainability requires a deeper, more robust conceptualisation. Building on this, Dr Sage suggested that there should be a stronger focus on the interlinkages between human, animal and planetary health; there is a need to adopt a more holistic, transdisciplinary and systems approach focused on building resilience in our food system; and this needs to be supported by a changing ethical framework to take account of our role in the natural world and our coexistence with all other species.

One of the learnings from COVID 19, and articulated so well in the keynote speech and in other Dialogues is the interlinkage of food, community, culture and values. There is expectation that food is not only safe and authentic but that it is sourced in an ethically acceptable way, one that respects the planet, the producer, and for food of animal origin, the welfare of that animal. To 'Build Back Better' from COVID, we must re-form our food system to be healthier, more sustainable and more inclusive. This will start with commitment to and support for a just transition for all farmers and food producers, and will build out to engaging all citizens of society in support of sustainable food systems transformation.

The key note address was followed by two separate panel discussions. The first Panel discussion focused on 'Food Systems Transformation: A Discussion on Future Needs'. Young people will have a critical role in shaping sustainable production and consumption, and forging new connections between rural and urban society. The panel discussed the options, challenges and opportunities that this creates. The second panel addressed 'Food Systems Transformation: The role of Research and Innovation'. Innovation, technology and the bioeconomy present new opportunities for the Irish agri-food sector over the coming decade. The panel discussed how research, entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships can help deliver on these possibilities.

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

- There is a strong commitment across all stakeholder groups to realise a sustainable food system in Ireland.
- There was broad agreement on the need to listen to, hear and involve all citizens and communities across the generational spectrum in the food system debate.
- Urban and peri-urban food systems are an increasingly important part of the local, regional and global food system.
- Young people, and particularly young primary producers, will play a central role in the transition to a more sustainable food system.
- Education and training is key to bridging the growing disconnect between young people and the sustainable production and consumption of food.
- There is full agreement that producers need to be economically viable.
- A cheap food policy is not sustainable, and the value of food must be reflected in the true cost of food production.
- Generational renewal and increasing the role of women in the food system are critical to the long term sustainability of Ireland's food system.
- Sustainability solutions call for long-term political commitment to integrated, cross-departmental policies and actions.
- Food has become a knowledge-based industry, and research and innovation is critical to making food part of the solution.
- Ireland is a small country with a strong reputation for producing safe, sustainable, high-quality food. It was argued that Ireland is well placed to lead this science and knowledge based transformation to healthier more sustainable food using new research and innovations.
- Research and innovation will play an important role in the food system of tomorrow.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

See attachment for details - word count limit.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

See attachment for details - word count limit.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The opening keynote address and the subsequent panel discussions identified a number of diverse views, many of which were noted in previous dialogues.

- Lack of a common understanding of what a sustainable food system means in practice.
- Diverging views on the role of livestock farming in a sustainable food system.
- The challenge of embracing new and emerging innovations and technologies, while protecting consumer health and safety, food quality and enhancing sustainability standards.
- The existence of food insecurity and malnutrition, and the relative unaffordability of healthy diets, coupled with a cheap food policy that is returning less to the primary producer and placing an unsustainable demand on our environment and climate.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/OFFICIAL-FEEDBACK-Promoting-an-Inclusive-Food-System-for-the-Future-FINAL.pdf>