

## OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	3 June 2021
DIALOGUE TITLE	The First Stage Zimbabwe Food System National Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, Dr A J Masuka
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	NA
DIALOGUE TYPE	National Dialogue
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Zimbabwe

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

### Number of participants in each age range

0-18	0	19-30	19	31-50	58	51-65	35	66-80	3	80+	0
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### Number of participants by gender

Male	74	Female	41	Other / prefer not to say	0
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### Sector

Please select the stakeholder group that best represents your identity

40	Agriculture/crops	9	Education	6	Health care
9	Fish and aquaculture	13	Communication	13	National or local government
15	Livestock	8	Food processing	18	Nutrition
7	Agro-forestry	2	Food Retail, markets	1	Utilities
11	Environment and ecology	3	Food industry	3	Industrial
5	Trade and commerce	4	Financial Services	15	Other

### Stakeholder Group

Please select the stakeholder group that best represents your identity

10	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	2	Workers and trade union	43	Government and national institution
3	Large national business	5	Member of Parliament	0	Regional economic community
1	Multinational corporation	0	Local authority	4	United Nations
4	Small-scale farmer	1	Medium-scale farmer	1	Large-scale farmer
10	Local Non-Governmental Organization	2	Indigenous people	5	International financial institution
10	International Non-Governmental Organization	8	Science and academia	5	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
2	Consumer Group	11	Other		

### Principles of engagement

**How did you organize the Dialogue so that the Principles were incorporated, reinforced and enhanced?**

The dialogues were organized following the suggested agenda in the Reference Manual

How did your Dialogue reflect specific aspects of the Principles?

The dialogue was a response to the urgency call thus the engagement of various key players towards the SDG goals in 2030. Members' present showed commitment to making the needed changes within their practice both professionally and personally whilst contributing to the vision of the Food Systems Summit. The engaged stakeholders aimed at promoting food production and consumption of healthy diets and mapping and shaping policies in Zimbabwe that would positively affect Zimbabwean Food Systems. The complexity of the system in Zimbabwe was recognized taking into account how all aspects are interconnected both directly and indirectly. The national dialogue embraced the multi stakeholder inclusivity principle and engaged more than 20 key stakeholders who participated in the dialogues. The dialogue complemented the work of others with shared experience across the board giving insight to the challenges and achievements of the efforts being implemented in their respective sectors.

Do you have advice for other Dialogue Convenors about appreciating the Principles of Engagement?

- Holding a lessons learnt and reflections meeting after stage 1 dialogue with the facilitators and support team ensures exchange of relevant information on planning the following stages
- Meeting with the facilitators to address FGDs Guide Questions and ensure that they align with the Action Tracks and also suite the context of provincial regions
- Creating a feedback loop with the participants after the dialogue using emails sharing a survey tool to gather more information from the engaged stakeholders could get more information for the summit with emphasis on confidentiality and get first-hand experience information

## Method

Did you use the same method as recommended by the Convenors Reference Manual?

Yes

## Dialogue Focus & Outcomes

Major focus

Overall Theme: Transforming Agriculture Production and Food Systems in Zimbabwe

- The major focus of the dialogue was the transformation of agricultural production and food systems in Zimbabwe.
- Taking into consideration of Track 1, our dialogue took focus on measures that can be put into place as a strong human rights approach to the governing food systems so that food companies, food service, retail and media do not shape people's norms and perceptions to prefer unhealthy foods or food produced through unsustainable production systems
- The dialogue explored the role of the private sector, food companies, food service and retail in the country and assessed strategies that can be employed to survive in highly competitive and saturated markets which could possibly shape people's norms and perceptions about food choices.

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- The dialogue assessed the role of consumers and citizens in the food supply chain by considering that the food supply systems are driven by consumer preferences which are influenced by marketing and media.
- Building nutrition sensitive resilient food systems was an integral part of the conversations for track 1, the discussions took into consideration the importance of indigenous foods and their benefits to human health and local agro-ecology.
- This meeting took into account other drivers that shape the food system such as urbanization, income growth, technology, climate change, natural disasters (Cyclone Idai, Cyclone Chalene, El Nino drought etc.), Covid-19 pandemic, and technological changes that can positively impact the agricultural production of the country. An integral aim of this exploration was to assess the risks of the drivers and possible solutions to the challenges brought on to the food systems and improve the food supply chain.
- Power dynamics within existing food systems and how food systems governance are shaped was a key consideration for the national dialogue, how the food systems governance mechanisms influence power dynamics at all levels through multi stakeholder initiatives.
- The influence of policies and regulations to the food systems and implementation in the country was explored, one of the aim was to assess how national food safety standards and food legislations conveys correct and unbiased information to consumers about how and where food is produced and the nutritional value of food empowering them to make informed choices.
- The role that comprehensive traceability systems and appropriate labelling would ensure all consumers have access to clear, reliable information about how and where food is produced, empowering them to make informed choices.
- The national dialogue took into consideration track 2 and observed the cost of diet as a driver for food choices and diet transition in the evolving urban and peri-urban areas, issues regarding food wastage and losses within the food systems and measures that can be put in place to minimise the loses. To ensure a more healthy approach to the food system, discussions surrounding the intake of excess carbohydrate, sugar and salt and the role of traditional foods in the food system were held. Zimbabwe has a strong traditional background with nutritious indigenous foods which could possibly positively affect the food system. Life cycle- age specific food ideal to be marketed through our current system and potential policies and regulations and the consumption of non-timber product, using sustainable harvesting methods for value addition were some of the areas that were discussed.
- In reference to track 3, Zimbabwe acknowledges that sustainable supply chains ensure a responsible use of natural resources by creating water and nutrient efficient chains and addressing the declining agricultural production and productivity and climate impacts on agriculture and food supply. The role of livestock in controlling greenhouse gas emissions in the country was part of the conversations.
- Track 4 focused on National agriculture and food policies that promote the production of affordable nutritious, sustainably produced food while remunerating all farmers and food workers. This aimed to broaden the Government's technical level team to have other ministries beyond the Ministry of Lands to join the food systems movement. There was a heavy emphasis on the need to take into consideration trade (including import/export), transformation, consumption, natural resource management, social protection, health care and wellbeing, nutrition *etc.* Gender sensitive approaches were employed in the discussions.
- Track 5 discussions took into deliberation the role of digital technology in the efficient/ effective running of food systems in crises and strengthening of food systems and supply chains through formal-informal sector linkages. An assessment of the impact of covid-19 and climatic change on food systems was included.

## Action Tracks



Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all

## Key words



Finance



Policy

X	Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns	X	Innovation	X	Data & Evidence
X	Track 3: Boosting nature positive production at sufficient scale	X	Human rights	X	Governance
X	Track 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution	X	Women & Youth Empowerment	X	Trade-offs
X	Track 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities shocks and stress			X	Environment and Climate

## Main findings

### Action Track 1

National Food Safety Regulations ensure all consumers have access to comprehensive information about how and where food is produced, empowering them to make informed choices.

The Generic Aspects that affect food access and food utilization include the following:

- Poverty, low purchasing power, economic issues, shocks and hazards (natural and economic), access to land (land tenure, land suitability to particular agriculture activity), geographic location, access to markets, access to knowledge and information, age of the consumer, disability, gender dynamics affecting access, religious and cultural beliefs
- Knowledge gaps on nutritious benefits, Cultural Dynamics, Underlying Health Conditions at individual level, limited scope modelled by our culture and religious beliefs, our socialization of how foods should be consumed ‘more skewed towards starchy foods’. Taste preferences, food preservation

The safety issues affecting food access

- Food Packaging and Labelling Regulations (Food and Food Standards Act),
- Sensitivity to geographical locations.
- Markets structures’ environment, hygiene issues””,
- Lack of Food preservatives and preservation especially in rural communities. Reliable safe transport for transportation of food to markets, Security issues in transit to markets, poor storage facilities (poor post-harvest management practices), Weak Food systems quality control and monitoring(diseased animals, food on markets), Unethical policy invasions , contamination through on farm practices(Pest Control chemicals, fertilizers, residues or accumulation in the final product),Maximum Pesticide Residual Limits Regulation( formulation of a policy or national guidelines)

How food consumption is being driven by marketing from the food producing companies

- Price of healthy foods vs fast foods , traditional foods price on the market (costly)
- Convenience and Lifestyles transition that is happening in the country
- Advocacy and promotion of traditional foods especially for the Young generation
- Innovation in the food preparation methods (presentation of the prepared dishes)
- Repositioning of our local traditional foods and their marketing

### Action Track 2

- Staple Diets are mostly consumed because they remain cheap and affordable in urban and peri-urban households. There in need to promote the production of other more nutritious diets, through reducing the prices for alternative nutritious foods. Cereals remain the most affordable food staffs they can be strengthened through fortification and bio fortification.
- Cost of diet has driven farming in urban and peri-urban households, as it has become cheaper to produce one own food rather than purchasing food.

- The Government is in the process to make interventions through the Urban and Peri-Urban agriculture plan as a plan to boost productivity in urban and peri-urban spaces, and also boost food security in urban and peri-urban areas.
- Promotion of micro food processing and preservation in seasons of plenty is an important measure to be considered. There is need to investment is cold storage and preservations facilities, that help conserve food staffs, that is produced and to decentralise (Grain Marketing Board, Pig Industry Board, Markets) in order to reduce the risks of food going bad and aflatoxins.
- Training and capacitation of rural farmers in marketing, packaging and storage of their produce. This important to ensure food safety standards. This will also enable food produced to meet export quality standards and improve the income generation of smallholder farmers.
- Regulations to do with vending should take into consideration wastages that occur in the process of consideration wastages that occur in the process of raids that are conducted specifically by the City Council.
- Home grown school feeding programs, that will develop a taste in feeding for healthy food in children and also help develop nutritious and health menus for children should make compulsory home-grown food lunches at school *e.g.* sadza (pap) from small grains such as sorghum, millet, and soya mince *etc.* This will ensure a healthy diet at schools if not given at home. This will also shift food nutrition awareness, therefore promoting demand and production of theses.
- Breast feeding substitutes tend to be unhealthy and risky, thus there is a need to raise awareness on the risks of breast feeding substitutes.

#### Action Track 3

- There is need for the country to adopt approaches that can be used to improve agro ecosystems and crop efficiency for water and nutrient use
- Introduction of agroforestry systems in agriculture to create sustainable farming systems. In these systems, trees or shrubs and their products would be used within the agricultural systems of Zimbabwe to optimize and increase productivity, improve the economy of the country and social outcomes.
- Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) was observed as an approach that could transform agricultural systems and support positive development towards food security with regards to climate changes. This approach if adopted could sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change; and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible and reliving the pressure on irrigation schemes.
- Precision agriculture was discussed as a highly productive approach in agriculture for Zimbabwe as it has a potential to increase crop yields and agricultural profits through data collection, processing and analysis that informs decisions and operation of production. The use of Information, Communication and Technology driven approaches to sustainable farming practices and precision farming have seen the recent increase in the use of drones in agriculture, the Chameleon and Wetting Front Detector Sensors being used in Zimbabwe to cut down irrigation frequency fifty times and double productivity have proven useful in agriculture.
- The group recognises the importance of Indigenous Knowledge of protecting the environment and the need to apply measures that can help restore soil health.

#### Action Track 4

- Creating an enabling policy environment in Zimbabwe is essential to adopt inclusive development approaches through the value chain stages.
- There are a number of compliance issues related to adhering to market and consumer standards *e.g.* on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary standards to meet what is required (global market standards).
- Financial and technology equitable access are important to improve food production in Zimbabwe, some of the approaches that are being used in the country include microfinances, community clubs and bank loans. Most financial institutions do not have soft friendly terms that are suitable for the youths and women and vulnerable populations who do not have collaterals, the interest rates are high and very often disadvantages the borrower.

- While there has been notable advances in policies related to agriculture and food, there is a need to ensure implementation of these policies from beginning of the value chain to the consumer
- The soft technology-knowledge and skills for food production, storage, preparation and value addition –with the changing trends are not readily available to the vulnerable-the poor, youths and women. Most of the poor do not have access to knowledge, no radio, smart phones, TVs.
- The government extension staff development to equip them of both the changing trends and new technologies –they are stuck with traditional technologies. They are not mobile to reach all the places of their areas of work. Very few have motor bikes or vehicles to go to all their areas.
- Hard ware-equipment for production, (tractor, planters, rippers, *etc.*) and food processing (millers, peanut making machines, chips fryer, *etc.*) are available on the market but access of these is finance.
- Financial and technology equitable access are important to improve food production in Zimbabwe, some of the approaches that are being used in the country include microfinances, community clubs and bank loans. Most financial institutions do not have soft friendly terms that are suitable for the youths and women and vulnerable populations who do not have collaterals, the interest rates are high and very often disadvantages the borrower.

### Action Track 5

- The group began by first acknowledging the importance of digital technology at every level and stage of the whole value chain making up our Food Systems though it was also emphasized that over reliance on it as a panacea in solving and dealing with all of our problems could be a problem, this is so because digital technology only plays a supportive role in implementing the solutions that we would have come up with and want to implement. The group identified the roles which can be played by digital technology as follows:
  - Through its use, decision makers can have access to information wherever they are and that on its own leads to improved coordination among key stakeholders
  - It's critical for information availability, its access and simplification for all people across all value chains
  - It has a strong appeal to the youths (sexy)
  - Helpful for establishment and functioning of early warning systems
- The shorter the value chain the more resilient the food system, in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, borders were closed and several people could not have access to a variety of cheaper and quality food, some farmers experienced serious losses consider for example a farmer who had invested all his money in producing cabbages and about the time that we reached the peak of the pandemic, his cabbage was ready for the market but couldn't truck it to the market because of the nationwide lockdown, those people are still trying to recover from that loss. There is lack of investment in the cold chains, a lot of produce went to waste because several people did not have access to cold chains for those producing perishables
- Some of the shocks and stresses can be mitigated through the availability of supportive infrastructure e.g. enough electric power to enable farmers to use cold chains

#### Action Tracks

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| X | Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all     |
| X | Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns            |
| X | Track 3: Boosting nature positive production at sufficient scale |

#### Key words

- |   |              |   |                 |
|---|--------------|---|-----------------|
| X | Finance      | X | Policy          |
| X | Innovation   | X | Data & Evidence |
| X | Human rights | X | Governance      |



Track 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution



Women & Youth Empowerment



Trade-offs



Track 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities shocks and stress



Environment and Climate

## Outcomes of Discussion

**Action Track 1 Topic: National Food safety regulations ensure all consumers have access to comprehensive information about how and where food is produced, empowering them to make informed choices.**

- Maximum Pesticide Residual Limits Regulation( formulation of a policy or national guidelines)
- Probe Industry and the informal sector for in-country Quality Assurance Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)
- Food product labels to specify organic vs inorganic, this would provide choice for consumers
- Consumer Awareness on food safety issues along the food value chain by the Consumer Association of Zimbabwe
- Awareness campaigns on food safety and quality for both producers and consumers
- Creation and wide sharing of a National Data Base of food safety violators
- Marketing and Repositioning of our local traditional foods
- Research on science of labor saving techniques around traditional foods
- Export markets for traditional foods ( innovative and attractive marketing and packaging of the traditional foods)

**Action Track 2 Topic: Sustainable supply chains ensure a responsible use of natural resources, healthy food choices and a reduction of food loss and waste.**

- With the bumper harvest predicted for the 2020/2021 farming season there are inevitable post-harvest losses. The Grain Marketing Board and the Governance has created a monopoly platform that would not enable other players to sell their products even on the export market, some of the yields are not reaching markets and food safety measures are not being applied. The Government can consider adopting policies or strategies that would assist farmers to reduce post-harvest losses and enable them to export products or have access to affordable markets.
- Certain households tend to waste food, there is need to regulate household consumption trends through education or awareness on consumption.
- There is need to map supply chains, commodities at national level so as to raise awareness on production of agriculture commodities in specific regions. This will enable strengthening of food systems in the local communities that produce the agriculture commodities.



- The value chain process needs to conserve food systems so that food is not lost at every stage of the value chain. The Value chain system needs to reduce loss in Food Systems through marketing and value addition.
- There is need for campaign and awareness of healthy food staffs (In the case of traditional grains).
- The ministry of health and child care and relevant NGOs (UNICEF, FAO, UNDP *etc.*) should consider adopting a Zimbabwe specific code of marketing breastfeeding substitutes that would apply to the challenges in marketing and production of breastfeeding substitutes.
- There is need for health sensitive marketing for fast food, the government could draw regulations on the information shared and or images displayed when marketing fast food to control food choices
- There is need for national businesses such as the Grain Marketing Board and the Pig Industry Board to decentralise their services to districts so that farmers can have access to the much needed training and capacitation in improving their yield and market access.
- While there has been notable advances in policies related to agriculture and food, there is a need to increase market infrastructures across Zimbabwe to avoid food loses, make use of technology to ensure farmers access markets and avoid post-harvest losses due to lack of marketing infrastructure for coordination purposes.

### **Action Track 3 Topic: Farmers adopt home-grown nature positive agriculture practices**

- Stewardship of natural resources at community level can create positive agriculture practices.
- Increase on education and awareness on conservation methods for small holder farmers through various implementing partners, AGRITEX offices and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, Consider the role of nature and maintain its cycle path and systems approach
- There is need for an integrated approach of conserving water and soil taking into consideration the agro ecological zones in Zimbabwe.
- Climate change affect the food supply and agriculture production and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation policies can help minimise the effects of climate change
- Zimbabwean farmers should balance the use of organic and inorganic fertilisers, there is need to therefore utilize available biodegradable matter including human excreta, food waste piles at the food markets etc.
- Government stakeholders participating in policy and legislation in Zimbabwe should make use of the indigenous knowledge systems and there is need to ensure that implementation of blue prints is put into practice to enforce laws and regulations that have been set in the country.
- Participatory plant breeding to come up with relevant seed varieties that suits different agro ecological zones

- Implementing partners, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, should develop climate change models that help to forecast the effects of climate changes across the region

**Action Track 4 Topic: National agriculture and food policies that promote the production of affordable nutritious, sustainably produced food while remunerating all farmers and food workers.**

- Creating an enabling policy environment in Zimbabwe is essential to adopt inclusive development approaches through the value chain stages.
- There are a number of compliance issues related to adhering to market and consumer standards e.g. on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary standards to meet what is required (global market standards).
- There is need to incentivise the production of small gains in Zimbabwe, considering that most of the financial support with regards to agriculture is channelled to Tobacco farming, a portion can be used to capacitate smallholder farmers in the same manner that tobacco farmers are capacitated to ensure a more sustainable food system
- There is need for policies that adds value to small grains in Zimbabwe to encourage and support its production.
- Policies that govern imports and exports should create an enabling environment for farmers to sell their products on international markets by ensuring access to import permits to the farmers. It is crucial however to ensure that the products meet the expected standards of quality so that they remain competitive in the market.
- Zimbabwe farmers can benefit more by becoming part of the African Continental Free Trade Area by developing our agro-processing industry and build our standards to make our products competitive, we can diversify our crops and livestock within our ecological regions, improve quality on our products and reduce production costs to improve competitiveness of our products on the market.
- Private sectors should consider investing in contract farming and offering access to inputs, markets and information about farming.

**Action Track 5 Topic: Building Resilience of our Food Systems so that they can be able to withstand shocks and stresses**

- The food systems and supply chains in Zimbabwe can be strengthened by both formal and informal sector linkages.
- As a nation there is need to correct the motive and drive for formalization of the informal sector-if the motive is so that as a government we can collect more revenue from them a blueprint should indicate this notion.

- The informal sector is the food system of the majority and we must work with them and prioritize them
- When it comes to land tenure, most players in the food chain face challenges with access to finance when it comes to collateral .However, security of tenure documents can be used as collateral by the farmers to secure loans from banks, farmers can use their livestock as security.
- The diversity of our seed system is held by our smallholder farmers so we must protect them as custodians of seed and food diversity
- Measures or ways that can be adapted in Zimbabwe to facilitate market access for greater food system efficiency include:
  - The materialization of the agricultural food commodity exchange facility
  - Policy consultation on issues that affect marketing of agricultural commodities
  - The establishment of out grower centres where goods can be brought from instead of ferrying them to urban market centres only
  - Strengthening Zunderamambo (cultural local ways of storing grains) and community granaries programs
  - Encourage local production of nutritious and bio fortified foods
- To strengthen agricultural research development and technology innovation we need to adopt updated science informed farming systems that incorporate biological understandings of how the soil functions-e.g. regenerative agriculture that captures carbon into the soil than releasing it into the atmosphere, have national programs to incentivize good farming behaviours like regenerative agriculture and not penalize it or leave it behind and address the causes and drivers behind the promotion of research and development of one type of crops e.g. so much research on maize compared to other crops
- Local procurement and local economies be supported to strengthen national supply chains by encouraging organizations like WFP and other NGOs to buy their maize, beans and other food products, which they distribute to vulnerable communities from local markets as opposed to importing them Latin America. The basket of inputs which the presidential input supply program offers to people needs to be dietary diverse rather than offer vulnerable communities maize the government can offer other food products. There is need for a flexible voucher system in the input supply scheme to offer farmers more choices
- Food systems are responsible for producing about 30% of the greenhouse gases so in that sense, we should adopt regenerative agriculture so as to cut down on carbon emissions, harnessing water for irrigation to mitigate against erratic rainfall, coupled with greater irrigation scheme management approaches and promotion of local production of solar power production systems to reinforce the zero duty policy on their importation

- Social protection systems play or are an integral part of well-functioning food systems. Applauding the work of various stakeholders in giving people cash to buy basic food items particularly in the light of the pandemic and the stresses caused by food insecurity. The government can consider decentralizing the presidential input and food schemes so that provinces distribute themselves and inject cash into local economy (local agro-dealers) since handing out food and seed undermines local markets. The input schemes should be diverse and support other crops not just maize.

### Action Tracks

- X Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all
- X Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns
- X Track 3: Boosting nature positive production at sufficient scale
- X Track 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution
- X Track 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities shocks and stress

### Key words

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

### Areas of divergence

#### a) Strengths and vulnerabilities within food systems,

- Nutrition should be central in the food systems value chain especially knowledge on the nutrients.
- Disposable income influence on the choice of food consumed (affordability of foods)
- Most imported food staffs (maize from SA) have age restriction for consumption, and these may not meet the standards for consumption within Zimbabwe, and may prove harmful for consumption.
- The presence of cartels that are running the informal markets at various markets in Zimbabwe affects the food system.
- Sustainability challenges associated with inorganic fertilisers *e.g.* nitrogen and phosphate fertilisers include mono cropping which is bringing an imbalance in nutrient use; our agriculture practices that support the use of inorganic fertilisers negatively affects nature positive agricultural practices; ignorance on the use other micro nutrients and emphasis is much on NPK nutrients creating a negative balance in nutrient use throughout production; the majority of inorganic fertilisers are causing greenhouse effects contributing to global warming, while the use of these fertilizers are too expensive, damages the soil microorganisms and causes soil acidity.

- There is lack of definition of roles on who is responsible for the preservation of natural resources especially at grass roots level
- Lack of a transition strategy from the use of inorganic fertilisers to the use of organic fertilisers
- Climate changes has caused droughts and floods *e.g.* devastating floods in Chimanimani and Muzarabani, affecting the distribution of pests and diseases which have negatively impacted our crops and livestock. The same climatic changes have exacerbated food insecurity because of low yields from smallholder farmers. There has been complete shifts of the planting seasons and poor crop quality, reduced output which meant that most of the produce would not reach the international market for export.
- In Zimbabwe livestock contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming through inappropriate feeding practices which contributes to the release of methane gases, inappropriate stocking densities and inbreeding of livestock
- Access to technology and financial support for farming in Zimbabwe is limited because of the high interest rates and lack of collateral disadvantaging women, young people and vulnerable populations,

**b) Areas that need further exploration,**

- Knowledge on the micronutrient composition of the foods and labelling on the products
- Formulation of data on the available nutrients in particular foods and the effects of cooking
- Food safety regulations in Zimbabwe
- Organic production of livestock and food crops
- Regulations that to limit consumption of sugar, sodium and trans-fats
- How food producers are driving marketing
- Legislation on giving consumers including food and youth a voice to advocate for policy changes that affect food systems and consumer education.
- Enforcement of SMEs to follow quality standards and adhere to these. Examples can be seen in the new local products that are emerging some which contain dangerous additives which are not controlled. This is critical when discussing food safety.
- Sugar and salt/fat tax to make unhealthy food less affordable and incentivise the sale of healthy food
- Transition strategy on the use of inorganic fertilizers in Zimbabwe
- Research on the use of other sources of water, emissions from livestock,
- Strategies to ensure veld improvement including controlled grazing should be considered in livestock management
- Raising awareness on livestock management and the emissions that contribute to global warming, this would require mobilization of resources for climate change activities.

- Enforcement of legislation and laws for by the City councils in the markets to ensure that food wastages and losses are minimal, produce reaches the market in good condition and that the food safety standards are regulated within the markets.
- Innovation approach-identify value chain and form a multi-stakeholder platform and bring together everyone.
- Market Research skills for farmers to identify the demand required for their produce
- Reinforcement of the zero duty policy on the importation of solar power production systems

### **c) Practices that are needed for food system sustainability**

- Community-centred strategies around the influential members at household level through education or awareness on consumption.
- Information sharing to women and children through schools
- There is need to increase production in the rural areas in order to influence the market prices in urban markets
- Gender empowerment (knowledge and resources to access the foods to prepare ; increase women involvement in key decision-making positions; socialisation of women groups)
- Promotion of healthy harvest (nutrition gardens)
- Strengthen the Food innovation hubs
- Create a balance between the economic and production of healthy/nutritious foods
- Promoting the production, preservation technologies, value addition, and marketing of neglected species, which are both nutritious and cost effective.
- There is need for sustainable production in the sense that transient urban cultivation does not affect the environment and water tables in urban areas.
- There is a need to incentivise small grain production, small grains have more nutrition content that will help improve diets.
- An introduction of a food warehousing system at Markets to ensure storage, preservation and distribution. Standardised and food preservation technology are important for preservation. This will also combat the problems like cartels at the Markets.
- Labelling of processed food clearly showing sugar, salt, fat levels versus the recommended level
- There is need to map and strengthen the value chain of traditional food systems. Furthermore, there is a need to also identify and map out the value chain substitute traditional grain.
- Management practices in livestock *e.g.* Artificial Insemination
- To reduce inequality (gap between the poor and rich), the farmers need to participate in the revenue earnings. Their earnings are mostly earned by other value chain players such as the middle man. There is need for a collective action. Within our constructs there is need for policies that ensures that women and young people have access to financial support and are included in the

value chain. An enabling policy environment which allow for mutual benefit for every player within the value chain should be created. Policies and regulations that are in support of these players should be considered.

- Improved accessibility (transport and communication) to the markets by smallholder farmers, women and young people to allow movement of food produce, and avoiding the use of middle-man.
- Reduce the issue of monopoly with regards to Grain Marketing Board regulations by creating mutual benefit operating environment between all key players
- Zimbabwe should not sign to the ARUSHA Protocol as it undermines diversity

#### d) Stakeholders whose interests should be prioritized

- Engagement with the private players already in traditional foods and leverage on the advantages
- Availability of information on nutritious foods to the consumers, tap into CSR and develop messages around nutritious food
- Food Producers to respond to set standards and improve traceability through coding of products
- There is need to involve the city authorities in these dialogues so that they understand the value chain and they can better run the city or more knowledgeable on the impact of regulations they put in place.
- One of FAO's strategic objectives is CSA which is an essential component to consider for resource mobilization in Zimbabwe.
- Consumer Council of Zimbabwe prioritizing food waste and losses at household level has been engaging and continues to engage consumers through education or awareness on consumption.
- Standards Association of Zimbabwe to participate in the enforcement of food safety regulations in Zimbabwe, there are a number of food products being produced without proper control, using harmful chemicals which requires regulations to be applied.

#### Action Tracks

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