



**FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021**



DIALOGUES

JULY 2021

**Synthesis of
Independent
Dialogues**

REPORT 2



**UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	3
Blue Marble Evaluation Team	4
Executive Summary	5
Part 1: Introduction to the Second Synthesis of Independent Dialogues	11
Part 2: Ten Guiding Themes for Summit Solutions.....	13
1. Transform Food Systems to be Equitable and Sustainable	13
2. Apply Systems Thinking	15
3. Adapt Solutions to Diverse Local Contexts.....	20
4. Shift Perspectives and Change Mindsets.....	25
5. Value Diversity, Engage Inclusively.....	26
6. Ensure Equity	30
7. Integrate What is Already Working into Innovations.....	34
8. Facilitate Conflict Resolutions and Negotiate Trade-Offs	35
9. Mobilize Engaged and Accountable Actors Collaboratively.....	37
10. Be Open and Transparent.....	56
<i>Synthesis of Guiding Themes for Summit Solutions: Connecting & Weaving Solutions Together for Transformation.....</i>	<i>58</i>
Part 3 : Participation And Dialogue Reporting Data.....	60
Data notes	60
Descriptive Participation Data.....	61
Part 4 : Methodology.....	66
Approach to the Synthesis	66
Part 5: A Tasting Menu of Independent Dialogues	71
Part 6: New and Emergent Directions.....	81
Annex A: Ten Agenda-Setting Themes Identified in the First Interim Report	83
Annex B: List of Dialogue Reports Reviewed.....	85

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This report was prepared by the Blue Marble Evaluation Network

Blue Marble Evaluation (BME) is an approach to evaluating global initiatives aimed at transforming systems towards a more sustainable world. Blue Marble Evaluators constitute a global network of evaluators who work in the space of global systems transformation. For this assignment, our BME team brings together evaluators from around the globe who offer an interdisciplinary approach to research and evaluation. As a team, we bring various standpoints yet at the same time we have a shared view seeing the world as a global system of ecological and human interdependence.

Blue Marble Evaluation Team

Dr. Michael Quinn Patton, Team Lead, is the founder of BME. He has 50 years' experience conducting applied research and program evaluations and is a former president of the American Evaluation Association (AEA). He was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota for 18 years, including 5 years as director of the Minnesota Centre for Social Research, has authored multiple research and evaluation books, including [Blue Marble Evaluation](#), and won numerous prestigious evaluation awards. He has hand-picked the core multidisciplinary evaluation team, which he oversees. He will add members to the team as we move forward with our assignment and identifies the need for different insights, values and skill sets. He is based in Minnesota, United States.

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Our core team is supplemented by translators (French and Spanish, and will expand as needed) as well as logistic, curating, and organizational support.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To prepare for the 2021 Food Systems Summit (hereafter referred to simply as “the Summit), Independent Dialogues are taking place around the world. Independent Dialogues are one of three main components of the Food Systems Summit Dialogues (FSSD), the other two being Member State Dialogues and Global Dialogues. Independent Dialogues can be convened by any interested group. The Independent Dialogues aim to offer a seat at the table to food system stakeholders who have an opportunity to “debate, collaborate, and take action towards a better future” (Food Systems Dialogue).

The first interim report, released in May, spotlighted the key agenda-setting themes and ideas identified in 17 Independent Dialogue feedback form reports submitted to an online database from early November 2020 through mid-March 2021.

This second interim report synthesizes guidance from **103** FSSD Independent Dialogue feedback form reports submitted to an online database **through the end of May 2021**.

With the intention of serving as a resource to the Pre-Summit event in Rome, this report presents ten guiding themes for identifying and implementing solutions, which build on the agenda-setting themes for the Summit presented in the first interim report. Using the same methodology as the first synthesis report, these ten themes were identified as the most prominent and relevant themes. A summary of each theme is provided below, with an expanded explanation and supporting quotes detailed in the body of the report.

Participant Data

From early November 2020 to mid-March 2021, a total of 10,142 people have taken part in the 98 Dialogues for which there is participation data (participation data was missing from 5 of the 103 Dialogues synthesized in this report).

An average of 103 people participated per Dialogue with a median of 67 participants. One third (34%) of the sessions were attended by more than a 100 people.

Of those who reported gender data, slightly more females (3822 or 51%) attended than males (3792 or 49%).

Ten Guiding Themes for Summit Solutions

1. Transform food systems to be equitable and sustainable

Dialogue participants expressed and shared visions of food systems transformations that will lead to a more just and sustainable world. This was articulated as major, significant systems innovations and reforms, rather than small, incremental changes around the edges. As a criterion for identifying and selecting Summit solutions, a common encouragement from Dialogue participants was to ensure that what is called “transformation” truly constitutes a trajectory toward sustainable and equitable systems transformation. Sustainability was described and discussed in multi-faceted ways including sustainable production, consumption, incentives, agro-ecological landscapes, and resiliency in the face of the climate emergencies. Sustainability and equity were often discussed together as parallel, interconnected, and mutually reinforcing transformational trajectories.

2. Apply systems-thinking

A significant pattern across many Dialogues was the emphasis on the need for all actors to acknowledge to the high-level of complexity and interdependency in a food system and therefore, to engage in systems thinking when designing, implementing, and evaluating transformational initiatives and solutions. In explaining what was meant by ‘systems thinking,’ participants referred to holistic, cross-sectoral, multi-level, and multidimensional approaches to address the complex issues that are inherent in food systems transformation. On the surface, the very terminology of Food Systems Summit invites systems thinking, but Dialogues often discussed the challenges of really thinking – and acting – from a systems perspective. Participants also illustrated the meaning of systems thinking with examples of the interconnection between food and climate, dealing with livestock and food production issues, working in collaborations and partnerships, and integrating public and private sector initiatives. Interdisciplinary research was another arena where systems thinking is critical. Attention to systems thinking also arose when Dialogues introduced and addressed the [Summit Principles of Engagement](#) which include a **Principle on recognizing complexity**: *We recognize that food systems are complex, and are closely connected to, and significantly impact upon, human and animal health, land, water, climate, biodiversity, the economy and other systems, and their transformation requires a systemic approach.*

This specific principle was consistently affirmed in the Dialogues. Also affirmed were the challenges of thinking and acting systemically when proposal and solution formats, designs, funding and evaluation tend to be siloed, simplistic, narrowly focused, linear and programmatic in conceptualization rather than oriented to systems change. Indeed, some dialogues viewed complex systems thinking as a needed transformation in and of itself, a prerequisite for engaging in food systems transformation.

3. Adapt solutions to diverse local contexts

Different solutions will be needed for different contexts. Dialogue participants were leery about overly broad, standardized, and top-down solutions that are insensitive to local contexts, both in regard to environmental and socio-cultural contexts. Solutions that claim to be “best practices” often lead to inappropriate one-size-fits-all interventions and scaling strategies that are not only inappropriate in some contexts but can have negative consequences. A common thread across dialogues was emphasizing the diversity of agro-ecological landscapes and farming systems. “Localization” and adaptation emerged as imperatives in any scaling of solutions. Being sensitive to options by context applies not just to traditional agricultural and rural landscapes, but to cities. A number of city-focused dialogues emphasized the role of urban residents in not just consuming food but also growing it, for example, in community gardens.

4. Shift perspectives and change mindsets

Systems thinking involves seeing and understanding interconnections among elements of food and agriculture (for example, the farming ecosystem, production, markets, consumption, culture, and human and environment health). Identifying and understanding the implications of diverse mental models and multiple perspectives are also part of systems analysis. Dialogues identified the priority need for education about food systems and transformation imperatives, but more generally the implication was that any and all solutions and initiatives would need to

include engaging with diverse perspectives and changing non-systems mindsets as critical pathways to support transformation.

5. Value diversity and engage inclusively

A corollary to the importance of sensitivity to diverse local contexts is exercising sensitivity to diverse people through intentional and authentic inclusivity. The actions needed to do such is to have platforms which facilitate inclusiveness with attention to diversity within those platforms. Guidance offered in the dialogues included diverse forms of communication, developing collaborations, and building bridges amongst diverse groups (e.g., scientists, producers, consumers, youth, women, indigenous people, farmers, and policymakers). Solutions must also include a commitment to involve those who have traditionally been underrepresented and excluded which will vary by context.

6. Ensure equity

In the first guiding theme, equity and sustainability were often linked as twin pillars of transformation. It is reiterated here because, in most dialogues, equity was distinguished as a priority focus for solutions. Valuing diversity and exercising inclusivity are processes necessary to achieve the desired systems transformations toward greater equity. Equity was also discussed as a multi-level concern; from personal commitments in interpersonal interactions (personal mindset shifts), to local cultural and political systems, to regional, national, and international settings, institutions, and systems. Scaling solutions will involve working across levels and building in a commitment to equity across interdependent levels (systems thinking applied to equity). Equity was also discussed as a major concern in unlocking sustainable finance including distribution mechanisms that ensure equitable value distribution including smallholder farmers.

Other enabling factors discussed to enhance and ensure equity includes supporting and reinforcing women's networks, equal payment for men and women, recognizing women for traditionally unpaid work, and a human rights approach that recognizes a right to food. Ensuring equitable livelihoods for farmers, including smallholder farmers, women, youth, and underserved groups, requires equal access to capital, technology, and land tenure.

7. Integrate what is already working into innovations

Transformation is recognized in the dialogues as requiring the disruption of existing systems and acknowledging that existing systems all too often privilege the few over the many, harm the environment, and are neither sustainable nor healthy. That said, many dialogue participants noted that not everything currently being done within food systems is bad. Cautions about overriding what is going well were expressed along with admonitions to build innovations on strengths and appreciate what is valuable in existing systems. A related theme was valuing traditional and indigenous knowledge and local wisdom when introducing innovations. Failure to appreciate what is working and valued in local settings when engaged in innovative transformations can create resistance, do harm, and undermine needed transformation processes.

8. Facilitate conflict resolutions and negotiate trade-offs

The Dialogue reports include a final section where “Divergences” are reported. This section highlights areas of disagreement, reiteration of complications and complexities to consider, and alerts to inevitable and intrinsic trade-offs that will have to be discussed with facilitation and skillfully negotiated. Attention to trade-offs came with recognition that the urgency of the food systems transformation imperative, the impetus to generate clear and visionary solutions, and the urgent need for action can lead to well-conceptualized and elegantly articulated solutions that ignore the realities of conflicting interests, power imbalances, competing interests, incompatible values, and national versus global and local priorities. Facilitating and negotiating trade-offs applies to trade-offs themselves. There can be a trade-off between acting boldly with urgency to maintain the integrity and fidelity of a proposed transformational initiative versus watering down the initiative through negotiated compromises that achieve wider support, but less significant change. The Dialogues generated long lists of complicated trade-offs that will have to be dealt with in designing, implementing, and evaluating food systems transformations. For instance, one example discussed is where conservation of natural resources could be in conflict with livelihoods or banning deforestation could mean loss of employment and economic losses. Other trade-offs included: production for local consumption versus export, and affordable food for consumers versus increasing small farmers’ income.

9. Mobilize engaged and accountable actors collaboratively

Dialogue participants were highly cognizant that actions require actors, solutions require problem-solvers, and transformation requires people engaged in and committed to transformation. Virtually every dialogue included some discussion of the need for clarity about different roles and responsibilities played by different actors in different organizational and sector positions – and the importance of their networking, collaborating, and partnering together—each engaged and accountable to contribute toward food systems transformation. Governments are identified as having major responsibilities for large-scale change, but the private sector and civil society actors also need to be engaged together collaboratively. As highlighted in our previous agenda-setting report and reiterated here, dialogues often included discussion of the need for partnerships, synergies, and alliances to change food systems collaboratively and strategically. Such collaborative engagements need to be transparent, action-oriented, and attentive to building trust among all the participating actors. Closely related to partnerships, synergies, and alliances, was the discussion of platforms and networks as implementation strategies that should be used to generate solutions, share ideas, build alliances, educate members, and strengthen partnerships.

This report includes an extensive section documenting the guidance reported in Dialogues about how to support and engage diverse actors in collaborative, accountable, and evaluable transformation solutions.

10. Be open and transparent

Transparency is a major and consistent concern across Dialogues and applies to all aspects of food systems transformation decision-making. Who is making decisions? How are decisions made? What considerations, voices, and perspectives are included? What assumptions are made? Who is funding systems transformation? What evaluation criteria are being applied? But

transparency as discussed in Dialogues is not limited to decision-making and operations. Transparency includes openness about the thinking processes and frameworks proposed and used. Indeed, implicit in the Dialogues is the suggestion that transparency applies to each of the preceding dimensions of guidance:

- Be transparent about thinking processes: what kinds of systems considerations and frameworks were used in formulating solutions?
- What mindsets dominate? What mindsets are targeted for change?
- How are local contexts taken into account in transformational scaling?
- How is diversity, inclusivity, and equity defined contextually and ensured in design, implementation, and evaluation?
- What assessment was done of what was working that should be appreciated and reinforced in the face of innovation?
- What trade-offs were considered and negotiated?
- Who decided all of these things? Whose perspectives were included in decision-making?

Suspicion about closed door deals and skepticism about whose interests are being served in systems transformation can squash the momentum of change initiatives.

Summary synthesis of guiding themes for summit solutions: Connecting and weaving solutions together for transformation

This is not a mere checklist of themes to address one by one. Dialogue participants caution that isolated and siloed solutions will not achieve transformational impacts. No singular solutions are likely to be sufficiently powerful to reach the critical mass that can tip systems into new, more equitable and sustainable trajectories. Thus, solutions need to be examined for their cumulative, interactive, interdependent, interconnections that, implemented together in mutually reinforcing momentum, can transform food systems. The Independent Dialogues have emerged as providing important and thoughtful guidance about how food systems transformation should be undertaken, and solutions implemented.

Recognizing *complexity* is a fundamental FSSD Principle of Engagement. Transforming food systems to be equitable and sustainable (Guiding theme #1) means seeing and acting on the interconnections between equity and sustainability as interdependent pillars of major food systems transformations. Because food systems are complex, their transformation requires a systemic approach. Systems thinking (Guiding theme #2) involves developing and undertaking solutions with attention to interdependencies, diverse perspectives, overlapping problem boundaries, and dynamic interactions across levels, initiatives, and actors. Complex systems are not amenable to standardized interventions, so solutions must be adaptable to diverse local contexts (Guiding theme #3). Engaging in, achieving, and sustaining food systems transformations will require shifting perspectives and changed mindsets (Guiding theme #4), which constitutes a foundation for systems change. Those changed perspectives and mindsets must include valuing diversity and engaging inclusively (Guiding theme #5) to ensure equity (Guiding theme #6) in whatever solutions are implemented. Transformation requires innovation but Dialogue participants caution and advise that solutions should integrate what is already working into innovations (Guiding theme #7). Solution proposals will inevitably generate differences of opinion; these should be

anticipated, and processes created to facilitate conflict resolutions and negotiate trade-offs (Guiding theme #8). This will help in mobilizing engaged and accountable actors to work collaboratively (Guiding theme #9). Also critical is being open and transparent (Guiding principle #10), thereby maintaining and deepening the engagement and accountability of collaborations and committed actors. Taken together, the complexity Principle and systems thinking direct attention to connecting and weaving together solutions for transformation.

Index of Independent Dialogue Top 20 Topics

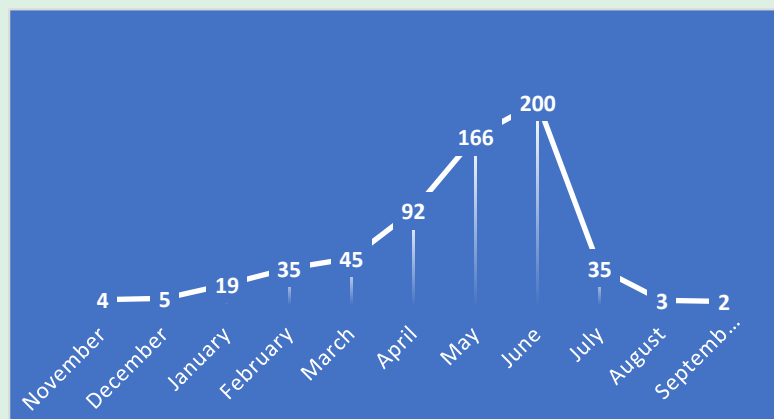
Through mid-June, 606 Independent Dialogues had been registered. This number includes Dialogues registered and scheduled but not yet convened. It also includes Dialogues that were convened but for which reports have not yet been posted. Part 6 provides an index of Dialogue topics based on the registered dialogue's title. Below are the top 20 topics which provide a window into the issues that are getting the greatest attention in the Dialogue announcements.

Sustainability/ sustainable food systems, 74	Youth, 41	Women & Gender, 30	Food Security, 22	Health, 21	Transformation, 19	Resilience, 18	
			Food for All, 22	Inclusion, 17	Localizati... local contexts, 15	Innovation, 12	Meat/ Animals/ Livestock, 12
	Nutrition, 34	Climate, 27	Hunger, 21	Finance/ Investment, 16	Urban/ Cities food, 13	Plants/ Seeds/ Grains, 12	Small Businesses, 12

PART 1: Introduction to the Second Synthesis of Independent Dialogues

Dialogue Registrations

Through June 23, 2021, 606 Independent Dialogues had been registered. Momentum has been building as shown by the dramatic increase in Dialogues registered to take place in June. Note, this number includes both past and future dialogues.



It is helpful to locate the contributions of the Independent Dialogues in relation to the other workstreams of preparation and planning for the Summit. The Action Tracks for the Summit are focused on solutions to food systems problems: ensuring access to safe and nutritious food, shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, boosting nature-positive production, advancing equitable livelihoods, building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress, and governance. The Food Systems Champions Network is mobilizing leaders of institutions and networks to advance food systems transformation and provide thoughtful leadership on substantive issues and proposed

solutions. The Member State Dialogues are highlighting the concerns, needs, and commitments at the national level. The Global Dialogues are aligning food systems transformation with global issues like climate change, economic trends, and humanitarian needs. The Scientific Group is ensuring that proposed solutions are science-based. What, then, is the particular niche and contribution of the Independent Dialogues?

The Dialogues have value in bringing diverse people together on a variety of issues to think about and build momentum for the Summit. People connecting together and interacting around food systems issues and the future of food and agriculture has value in and of itself quite apart from the substance that emerges from the Dialogues. That said, important substantive themes have emerged.

The first Independent Dialogue synthesis report was generative and illustrative. Using the first set of dialogue feedback forms, the team developed data coding categories and the content analysis process. The report was generative in that it presented results in some depth and detail to illustrate the diversity and range of dialogue perspectives, issues, and areas of priority concern. Annex A provides a summary of agenda-setting themes identified in the first synthesis report. This second interim synthesis report presents findings from Independent Dialogue feedback forms that were submitted through the end of May 2021 and serves as a resource for the pre-Summit conference. A third synthesis report will be submitted in August and will support the Summit in September. It will include a narrative that connects

and interrelates the major themes, issues, and proposals that emanate from the Dialogues submitted through the end of July 2021.

The Independent Dialogues provide important and thoughtful guidance about how food system transformation should be undertaken and how solutions should be implemented. The Independent Dialogues typically last 1.5 hours and generally involve at least 25 participants, though often many more. This format does not lend itself to in-depth development of specific solutions, but it does offer an opportunity to provide guidance about the direction, nature and characteristics of food systems transformations, and how proposed solutions should be implemented. That guidance is the focus of this report.

The 10 guiding themes for identifying and implementing Summit solutions build on the agenda-setting themes for the Summit presented in the first interim report. That report emphasized priority issues to be considered in identifying solutions. Dialogue participants spotlighted these considerations:

1. Food systems and climate change are interconnected.
2. Solutions must advance equity.
3. All solutions will require education about food and food systems.
4. Economic and finance issues will cut across any and all solutions
5. Solutions must be consistent with scientific evidence.
6. Policy and regulatory reforms will be needed to support and enable solutions
7. Better use of existing technologies and development of new technologies is critical to improve adaptation and mitigate various problems like greater access to food, climate change, scaling education initiatives, achieving more equity, reducing food waste, and supporting health and nutrition.
8. Partnerships, synergies, and alliances will be needed to change food systems collaboratively and strategically.
9. Platforms and networks will be needed to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement.
10. Trade-offs will need to be managed.

Elaboration of the agenda-setting themes from the first interim report is included in Annex A. This second report deepens and broadens the guidance that emerged from the Dialogues about how solutions should be identified, conceptualized, and implemented.

Dialogue Feedback Forms

The *Manual for the Dialogues* requests that convenors use a standardized Food Systems Summit 2021 Dialogue Feedback Form to share the dialogue's outcomes. The feedback form is organized as follows:

1. **Participation.** Background information on participants in the dialogue.
2. **Principles of Engagement.** How Summit principles were incorporated, reinforced, and included.
3. **Method.** Did you use the method as recommended by the Convenors Manual?
4. **Dialogue focus and outcomes**
 - Major Focus
 - Main findings
 - Outcomes for each discussion topic
 - Areas of divergence
 - Attachments and relevant links

Once submitted, the reports are publicly available and accessible through the Food Systems Summit Dialogues Gateway (<https://summitdialogues.org/explore-feedback/>).

PART 2:

Ten Guiding Themes for Summit Solutions with Illustrative Quotations from Independent Dialogues

1. Transform Food Systems to be Equitable and Sustainable

Dialogue participants expressed and shared visions of food systems transformations that will lead to a more just and sustainable world. This was articulated as a global need that requires major, significant systems innovations and reform, rather than small, incremental changes around the edges.

We know that we need to get back on track; transforming our food systems is among the most powerful ways to change course.¹

Seek transformational approaches and solutions for broad societal interest and the common good.²

The need for transformational changes in the whole system.³

The sustainability of food systems is a global issue, facing diverse challenges, so the response must be global.⁴

While the sustainability issues which were raised varied considerably, most related in some way to the environment; from plastic pollution to food waste, to land degradation, and more.

Negative impacts of pollution (plastics and contaminants) and anthropogenic activities on environmental quality of the sea The Mediterranean Sea is one of the areas most affected by marine litter. Impacts vary: entanglement and ingestion, bio accumulation and bio-magnification of toxins, introduction of invasive species, damages habitats, etc.⁵

The excess of food waste from the global food system has resulted in the emission of methane in the atmosphere causing greenhouse gas effect, which, ultimately, leads to global warming. In this context, rethinking sustainable consumption and lifestyles is a complex system.⁶

¹ 105:69 p 37 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

² 1:10 p 6 in 072_Mar_09_21_Sibanda L

³ 25:33 p 7 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

⁴ 68:58 p 12 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

⁵ 25:54 p 8 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

⁶ 76:21 pp 16–17 in 189a_April_16_21_Ateneo de Manila

Improve the efficiency and sustainability of resources use in agriculture and food-processing industry in order to minimize biodiversity losses, climate change impacts and pollution generation⁷

The food system must be sustainable, and it must be able to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁸

As a criterion for identifying and selecting Summit solutions, a common note from Dialogue participants was to ensure that what is called ‘transformation’ truly constitutes a trajectory toward sustainable and equitable systems transformation. A particular focus emerged on engaging with and incorporating social justice thinking into any transformation.

The main finding of the Regional Dialogue was the need to work with gender transformative, intersectional and intersectoral approach, in all sectors. In this way, it was agreed that to achieve food and nutrition security and to contribute to the sustainable development it is fundamental to pay attention to women’s rights (SDG 5).⁹

The Dialogue showed that a social justice approach is needed when talking about food systems. Access to education, information and participation, as well as basic human rights, such as the right to a healthy environment and the right to be involved in important discussions, were addressed as key elements in the transformation of food systems.¹⁰

Support transformative approaches that strengthen women’s confidence, knowledge and skills, relations and transform structures that withhold gender-based discrimination and improve their rights to earn livelihood.¹¹

Sustainability and equity were often discussed together as parallel, interconnected, and mutually reinforcing transformational trajectories. Some Dialogues highlighted the role of youth in bringing about these transformational changes, while others highlighted the need for partnerships and collaboration to address the challenge of the unsuccessful silo approach.

He stressed the importance of acknowledging a transformative process for the people and the environment allowing to recognize the work behind food without wasting and losing it.

Theme analysis & synthesis

The Blue Marble Team coded each dialogue feedback form to capture outcomes from each Independent Dialogue, then synthesized the information. The analysis involves multiple steps to analyse the data which was done through the development of a Code Book for coding feedback forms. Details about the coding process and Blue Marble Evaluation analysis team are provided in the methodology section of the full report.

⁷ 25:10 p 9 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

⁸ 107:31 ¶ 29 in 176a_Mar_25_21_AGFEP

⁹ 3:1 p 6 in 099_Mar_31_21_FAO_IFPRI

¹⁰ 67:6 p 6 in 050_Feb_23_21_World Vision Ireland

¹¹ 81:48 p 10 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

*When it came to the youths...highlighted the centrality of young people in the transformative process.*¹²

*We cannot unlock the full potential of our food system without collaboration. The food system is highly fragmented one where solutions are provided in silos. Collaboration is imperative in order for us to end the cycle where the same solutions are constantly provided. Cross-sector solutions should become the norm where government, ICT, financiers, universities, entrepreneurs, etc. are working together at solving systematic issues.*¹³

2. Apply Systems Thinking

Dialogues noted the need for all actors to acknowledge the high level of complexity and interdependency in a food system, and the need to engage in systems thinking to transform it. Systems actors need to engage in systems thinking when designing, implementing, and evaluating transformational initiatives and solutions. In explaining what was meant by systems thinking, participants referred to holistic, cross-sectoral, multi-level, and multidimensional approaches to address the multifaceted and complex issues that are inherent in food systems transformation.

*Adopt a systems thinking approach to deal with the complexity inherent to sustainable food systems.*¹⁴

*Food systems are very complex entanglements of relations, some of them are visible, but many of them are hidden and they should be recognised in order to face this challenge. It emerged how food system transformation is a process of democratisation, a process that needs to blur the boundaries between the different actors, the public and the private sectors and the civil society.*¹⁵

Systems thinking and sustainability were often discussed together; systems thinking can help to address the thread of sustainability which runs throughout all independent dialogues. For example, some dialogues pointed out the detriment of linear thinking, such as only discussing resource production and extraction, which does not leave space to create any kind of sustainable system.

*Connecting food with other complex systems and policy priorities is a key factor.*¹⁶

For example, identifying links among local diets, local agriculture, and health policies needs solutions that engage with each aspect and combined contribute to better nutrition, with intended outcomes such as positively influencing obesity and malnutrition. Another example would be how health and

¹² 24:23 p 10 in 191_Apr_16_21_Donati L

¹³ 85:3 p 6 in 152_Apr_29_21_Kubheka M

¹⁴ 1:5 p 6 in 072_Mar_09_21_Sibanda L

¹⁵ 83:1 p 6 in 145_May_6_21_Vandenschrik J_Multi

¹⁶ 83:1 p 6 in 145_May_6_21_Vandenschrik J_Multi

agriculture policies when linked together can address highly prevalent non-communicable diet-related diseases.

[A] food system is like a living organism where everything is inter-connected and it works well only if everything else is in harmony.¹⁷

Food system transformation is a very complex and dynamic process that requires considering food systems in their entirety, linking production and consumption, and in a cross sectorial as well as inter-disciplinary manner.¹⁸

Food loss and waste was a key theme and suggested solutions were often discussed through a systems thinking approach.

Everything it is interconnected and to face a problem it is necessary to look at the entire picture with all the interconnectivities. Regarding the food loss and waste, it is fundamental to look at the framework of public and private actors and the role played by governments, businesses and civil society organisations.¹⁹

While millions of people across the United States go hungry each day, there are times when farmers are forced to dispose of surplus food. Participants cited the need for a cohesive system (vs. present ad hoc models) that connects farmers with hunger coalitions to identify mutually beneficial options that get surplus food into the hands of those that need it most. Dairy farmers expressed their strong and historical support for participating in such systems and referenced the work undertaken by the U.S. dairy community to support address food insecurity when COVID-19 disrupted the food system.²⁰

Systems thinking needs to incorporate multiple stakeholders and sectors, and nearly all Independent Dialogues suggested various sectors, groupings and partnerships that are already taking place, or should be taking place, to bring about transformational changes.

Recognize interconnections: Multisector solutions depend on identifying interconnections across the food system.²¹

Participants wanted to bolster connections between farmers, schools, food banks and urban communities to build mutual support, understanding and resiliency. Specific to dairy, participants recognized the strong connections between animal welfare, environmental

¹⁷ 24:6 p 7 in 191_Apr_16_21_Donati L

¹⁸ 25:19 p 6 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

¹⁹ 83:19 p 13 in 145_May_6_21_Vandenschrik J_Multi

²⁰ 86:26 p 10 in 153_Apr_28_21_GCNF_Multi

²¹ 86:7 p 7 in 153_Apr_28_21_GCNF_Multi

*sustainability and social science to enhance consumer trust and support farmers' livelihood.*²²

*So, it is important to think across the food systems value chain, but also across different sectors - from environment to water sanitation to land use.*²³

*Adoption of a food systems approach that acknowledges inter-system and intersectoral linkages and the multiple outcomes of the food system: food security and nutrition, environmental, social and economic.*²⁴

Governments and those who influence policy and political systems need to recognize the link between food production and the planet, including ecosystems and natural resources. Recognizing systems exist which can be both barriers and facilitators to change, was a theme of many dialogues.

*...[We] need a systemic transformation and there are so many actions needed. We have to change our eating habits, and one step is to change school lunch more plant-based. This should done urgently and it is a political decision.*²⁵

*Stronger collaboration and cooperation across and between governments and its multiple tiers is needed to achieve this, along with strengthening policy synergies with the private sector and civil society. The strong interdependency between water, energy, food and climate change in arid and semi-arid regions such as Central Asia calls for robust interventions, i.e., an approach that integrates management and governance across sectors.*²⁶

Discussions around global climate change and the environment nearly always raised the usefulness of complexity and systems thinking to clarify problems and identify solutions. Many dialogues noted an urgent need to explicitly recognize how the food system is interconnected within a larger, complex, natural global environment bringing in the specific need to think holistically when considering solutions.

*Holistic approach: the environment and people's behaviour should be targeted simultaneously, through a mix of complementary mandatory and voluntary interventions, while considering socioeconomic and health aspects, and having in mind the 'triple wins' of sustainability - health, planet and economy*²⁷

²² 86:7 p 7 in 153_Apr_28_21_GCNEF_Multi

²³ 105:68 p 37 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

²⁴ 38:9 p 6 in 096_Mar_29_21_ESCWA

²⁵ 13:6 p 7 in 207_Apr_28_21_WWF Finland Youth

²⁶ 18:2 p 6 in 164_Apr_15_21_Anarbekov_Akramov

²⁷ 68:80 p 14 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

Food systems are complex... Food systems define our environment. Food systems are central for the future of our young people and this complexity, this interdependence...²⁸

Often the focus is on climate change and similar (more technical) issues, so the message that we are wholly dependent on our natural systems can get lost.²⁹

A systems approach to engaging with the environment also interlinks with societal norms and ethics.

Adoption and integration of an ethical approach to food systems transformation through the promotion of ethics of respect and stewardship for nature especially for ecosystems relevant to food and agriculture productions will significantly accelerate food systems transformative process.³⁰

We have to transform our culture of exploitation and promoting the Rights of Nature can drive forth the cultural realization that humans are part of nature and the environment and cannot be view separately.³¹

A strong system thinking theme emerged around agriculture and food, inviting discussion that went beyond the traditional discussions.

So, it is important to think across the food systems value chain, but also across different sectors - from environment to water sanitation to land use. Soil regeneration is very important so that no one solution adversely affects another part of society.³²

The role of farmers and producers expanded to include discussions around employment, government welfare systems, education, health, environment, food safety, and more.

Many agricultural projects focus on farmers and their production and productivity. Without processing industry and more developed markets, improving production and quality doesn't change the system. Action needs to be taken on the systems as a whole and competence development is necessary on all levels. It's important to increase jobs opportunities in the whole food system, not just in farming.³³

Bringing together the social and the natural, creating or strengthening positive flows and interactions within and between food systems, making space for pluralism and connecting food with other public goods (health, well-being, the environment, the welfare system).³⁴

²⁸ 76:9 p 8 in 189a_April_16_21_Ateneo de Manila

²⁹ 19:46 p 15 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

³⁰ 31:9 p 7 in 066_Mar_5_21_Nkenglefac T

³¹ 31:18 p 7 in 066_Mar_5_21_Nkenglefac T

³² 76:40 p 37 in 189a_April_16_21_Ateneo de Manila

³³ 81:43 p 10 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

³⁴ 83:1 p 6 in 145_May_6_21_Vandenschrik J_Multi

*Holistic knowledge and food system approaches are needed to ensure access to sufficient amounts of aquatic foods that is sustainably produced, nutritious and safe to eat and consumed as part of healthy diets for generations to come.*³⁵

On the surface, the very terminology of Food Systems Summit invites systems thinking. But Dialogues often discussed the challenges of *really* thinking – and acting – from a systems perspective. For example, applying complex systems thinking to the interconnection between food and climate, dealing with livestock and food production issues, working in collaborations and partnerships, and integrating public and private sector initiatives.

*Participants agreed that the link between environmental challenges, climate change, malnutrition and economic inequality is becoming clearer.*³⁶

*Partner with colleagues from water and other sectors (different domains) to brainstorming strategies and Programmes at regional levels...Deliberate efforts at the national scale are needed e.g., through joint sector planning initiatives that break down siloes and optimize resource allocation*³⁷

*There needs to be a focus on how tweaks to the beef production system – better health, better genetics, better grazing, better feeding – as they can improve productivity. We need to recognise that we are dealing with complex biological systems and need tools to help deal with unintended consequences of single topic decision.*³⁸

Interdisciplinary research was another arena where systems thinking is critical. Attention to systems thinking also arose when Dialogues introduced and addressed the Summit principles which include one on *recognizing complexity*:

*This group began the discussion by recognizing the complexity of the interconnections between various aspects of food systems. The importance of learning from nature, linking indigenous knowledge to modern science and disseminating it with the help of digitalization were also acknowledged.*³⁹

*Participants emphasized that progress cannot simply occur in a private sector silo. There's a critical need to link science-based regulations, knowledge transfer from big to small companies, and holistic business policy frameworks. Ideally, this approach will enable momentum, collaboration and accountability...*⁴⁰

The Dialogues consistently affirmed the need to apply systems thinking. At the same time, these Dialogues identified and acknowledged the challenges of thinking and acting systemically when proposal and solution formats, designs, funding and evaluation tend to be siloed, simplistic,

³⁵ 84:6 p 6 in 150_Apr_30_21_GANSFOIWFSN

³⁶ 87:3 p 6 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

³⁷ 19:15 p 10 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I. 19:37 p 14 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

³⁸ 11:3 p 6 in 184_Apr_14_21_Genever_Multi

³⁹ 29:42 p 10 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

⁴⁰ 87:5 p 6 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

narrowly focused, linear and programmatic in conceptualization. Indeed, some dialogues viewed complex systems thinking as a needed transformation in and of itself, a prerequisite for engaging in food systems transformation. These two quotes provide a summary of the thinking described in this section.

*A systems approach to the food system and its supply chain is an imperative.*⁴¹

*It is important to take a larger perspective, embracing the whole value chain from production, transformation, distribution, and consumption.*⁴²

3. Adapt Solutions to Diverse Local Contexts

Different solutions will be needed for different contexts.

*One size does not fit all. There is a need to respect local needs, capacity, particularly in developing geographies.*⁴³

*Participants balked at the notion that there is any one silver-bullet to ‘improving the food system.’*⁴⁴

*It’s important to understand the different actors and their dynamics. Aspects such as land ownership, collateral land use, local solutions, and the power of big companies surfaced as factors that should be taken into consideration. Sustainable solutions need to be based on local solutions and local ownership.*⁴⁵

Dialogue participants were leery about overly broad, standardized, and top-down solutions that are insensitive to local contexts, both ecosystem and cultural contexts. Solutions that claim to be “best practices” lead to inappropriate one-size-fits-all interventions and scaling strategies that are not only inappropriate in some contexts but can bring about harm through negative consequences; diversity needs to be considered.

*In particular, the webinar stressed the need to support locally tailored solutions which are based on the understanding of local context, supported and promoted by actors which have organized themselves, while taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups or groups with special needs such a women and youth.*⁴⁶

⁴¹ 52:2 p 6 in 087_Mar_20_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

⁴² 61:15 p 5 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

⁴³ 17:35 p 13 in 075_Mar_10_21_IFAN

⁴⁴ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

⁴⁵ . 81:56 p 11 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

⁴⁶ 81:13 p 6 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

Participants suggested that to reduce the risk of food production caused by climate crisis, we need to diversify and sustain production strategies that is customized to our geolocations, cultures and different variety of crops.⁴⁷

A common thread across dialogues was emphasizing the great diversity of agro-ecological landscapes and farming systems. “Localization” and adaptation emerged as imperatives in any scaling of solutions.

Different solutions are required for the diversity of the food systems in Latin America with its wide range of products and producers. These solutions already exist for different contexts; however, they need to be scaled up through investments and policies.⁴⁸

Indonesia is such a large country, there are so many options to choose from in terms of processes and products, and potential resources to support the Summit's Objectives. Different regions prefer different processes to be pursued.⁴⁹

Develop solutions that take the specific, local context (including trade-offs) into account, and acknowledge the diversity in mountain regions.⁵⁰

Regional differences must be taken into account when recommending environmental best-practices⁵¹.

Being sensitive to options by context applies to traditional agricultural and rural landscapes.

There is the recognition that best-practices may even differ from farm to farm, let alone from country to country.⁵²

The sustainability, efficiency and adaptability of practices will vary across geographies and farming conditions.⁵³

Differences in soil, terrain, land-use and other factors can vary considerably even within the same area, meaning there is no one-size-fits-all strategy...This applies to farmer-to-farmer education as well as formalized classes through extension or associations. It also can be

⁴⁷ 12:23 p 5 in 192_Apr_19_21_Okafor_A

⁴⁸ 55:14 p 5 in 001_Nov_5_20_CGIAR

⁴⁹ 59:6 p 6 in 008_Dec_19_20_Niode AK

⁵⁰ 100:33 p 10 in 282_May_18_21_Romeo R

⁵¹ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

⁵² 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

⁵³ 8:2 p 6 in 169_Apr_6_21_Shea E

*valuable to learn from farmers in different geographic and commodity backgrounds. A grain farmer might learn something useful from an almond farmer.*⁵⁴

*It is of utmost importance to carve out tailor-made solutions not just based on research alone but according to farmers needs and provide market access and linkages, mobilizing resources and harnessing partnerships for greater leverage, innovation, and impact on nature, people, livelihoods and our ecosystems.*⁵⁵

*Different regions experience different realities, both in terms of the agroecological and also the socioeconomic conditions where they operate.*⁵⁶

In addition, a specific focus and discussion was raised with regards to the livestock sector.

*Participants recognized that the global discussion about livestock usually lacks the nuance that reflects the diversity of the sector and thus the solutions required to ensure its contributions to future food systems. It was emphasized that a polarized debate that has extremes of ‘livestock all bad’ or ‘livestock all good’ is unhelpful and does not reflect the diversity of livestock roles across the world, or the need for multiple, different changes and solutions throughout the sector towards better food systems in future.*⁵⁷

*Embracing change: action within the livestock sector. The diverse livestock sector actors who joined the dialogue all acknowledge that, as with all sectors, change towards better future food systems must be embraced. What that change looks like is incredibly diverse because of the diversity of ways that animals and their products are raised, managed and consumed as well as their multiple roles.*⁵⁸

Caution was also raised with regards to universal policies, frameworks, and models.

*No one-size-fits-all solution: Participants balked at the notion that there is any one silver-bullet to ‘improving the food system’. The food system is too complex to have broad global policy recommendations.*⁵⁹

*Programs and policies must be flexible enough to allow creativity and experimentation to achieve desired results at the hyper-local level.*⁶⁰

⁵⁴ 8:19 p 9 in 169_Apr_6_21_Shea E

⁵⁵ 12:8 p 7 in 192_Apr_19_21_Okafor_A

⁵⁶ 30:11 p 7 in 064_Mar_4_21_Farming First

⁵⁷ 95:3 p 6 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

⁵⁸ 95:7 p 6 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

⁵⁹ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

⁶⁰ 8:19 p 9 in 169_Apr_6_21_Shea E

The food system is too complex to have broad global policy recommendations⁶¹.

The need to consider context specificity and to design context-responsive solutions was emphasized throughout the event, suggesting that any solutions that are high-level and global in scope may be difficult to make locally significant and/or will require a lot of work to be implemented in ways that respond to different local needs and opportunities.⁶²

Being sensitive to local solutions also applies to cities. A number of city-focused dialogues emphasize the role of urban residents in not just consuming food but also growing it, for example, in community gardens.

Community gardens: a local intervention

Community gardens provide one example of how the Independent Dialogues suggested interventions which aimed to provide access to nutritious food and cost-effective solutions for challenges identified in diverse contexts that extend beyond nutrition.

One Dialogue mentioned community gardens as a solution to the multiple food challenges brought by COVID-19.

Displaced people during COVID started food gardens successfully to look at foods that are lacking in the diets such as fresh fruits and vegetables.⁶³

Another suggested community gardens as an intervention to provide access to nutritious food for local communities.

Participants in the Environment group highlighted urban farming initiatives as one of the ways to support availability and access to healthy food for the communities. The local government needs to regulate the use of vacant land for this purpose.⁶⁴

One dialogue was more far reaching, noting how community gardens are part of sustainable eating,

and support a particular approach to sustainable, community-led businesses.

Developing targeted and tailored education programmes for all age groups and communities is seen as critical to ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of sustainable practices. In our community we can take action by educating and creating awareness, encouraging persons to plant and also by setting up community gardens, backyard gardens, expanding school gardens, community food hubs and community based slow food restaurants. Slow food restaurants can be a niche for eco tourism communities that actively promote on organic and regenerative principles on a community scale.⁶⁵

One Dialogue also suggested how community gardens strengthen communities and healthy eating.

Food gardens should be encouraged in communities, government offices, schools and university campuses along with education about local food through planting, harvesting and cooking together.⁶⁶

⁶¹ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

⁶² 44:7 p 6 in 178_Apr_8_21_AGRA_Multi

⁶³ 1:53 p 8 in 072_Mar_09_21_Sibanda L

⁶⁴ 10:6 p 8 in 181_Apr_8_21_Miranda

⁶⁵ 37:92 p 12 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

⁶⁶ 59:15 p 4 in 008_Dec_19_20_Niode AK

Others saw community gardens as a way to reduce nutritional insecurity, especially in low-income communities.

*Community gardens - this is a type of outdoor community center, a place for physical activity, a meeting for the elderly, etc. if we could turn these areas to be more productive and produce local agriculture, it can help reduce nutritional insecurity especially in low-income neighbourhoods.*⁶⁷

*Community gardens place food agency for improved nutrition in the hands of those who are food insecure or cannot access preferred foods like fresh fruits and vegetables...At the local level, each community garden can be tailored to the local community in terms of food types, type of engagement, funding mechanisms and access. The community garden will be completely run by community members themselves.*⁶⁸

One Dialogue saw community gardens more broadly as providing access to local and seasonal fruits and vegetables.

*Encourage establishment of urban gardens so that the inhabitants of Mérida have access to local and seasonal products, and know about them.*⁶⁹

Another Dialogue viewed a community garden as an approach to strengthen communities.

Let the kids know how we grow food, what happens in the field, what is healthy, fresh, local, seasonal; what foods we import; how do we ensure versatile, balanced diets; organise school gardens and cooking classes; to encourage talking about food, promote bidirectional intergenerational learning; encourage people to cook for each other, to shop for food together, to share excess food within community, to jointly

*prevent food waste; organise communal gardens and cooking classes.*⁷⁰

A few spoke about using community gardens to improve equity for women and youth.

*It is essential to improve communities' knowledge of good growing and nutritional practices through well-established programs as well as train women and youth in various agricultural business sectors such as vegetable gardens and livestock.*⁷¹

*Some years ago, people in Cagayan de Oro started with communal gardens. It is very important to have these examples so the youth can engage and take up the demanding issues because this is the challenge of the youth.*⁷²

One Dialogue regarded community gardens as a low-cost solution to accessing food.

*There is a need to invest in low-cost solutions such as kitchen gardens and backyard gardens, as home gardens can supply non-staple foods.*⁷³

A few Dialogues mentioned governments as having a key role to promoting community gardens.

*Partnerships with urban planning and zoning departments- food production areas set aside; urban zoning to allow for farming. Architecture - city planners to mainstream open spaces for urban farming/kitchen gardens.*⁷⁴

*Household level gardens, kitchen gardens, chickens and goats to diversity food system o County could provide more support with ground work policy implementation.*⁷⁵

Community gardens offer more than just access to nutritious food, they offer the potential for multiple positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

⁶⁷ 66:38 p 8 in 041_Feb_17_21_Adler D

⁶⁸ 88:5 p 12 in 162_Apr_16_21_Fountain G

⁶⁹ 77:41 127 in 092a_Mar_24_21_El Ayuntamiento de Meride_eng

⁷⁰ 68:28 p 8 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

⁷¹ 73:7 ¶ 18 in 033a_Feb_6_21_Serge BDS_ENG

⁷² 105:40 p 30 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

⁷³ 93:21 p 6 in 217_May_6_21_Schwartz A

⁷⁴ 103:14 p 8 in 325_May_19_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

⁷⁵ 103:29 p 9 in 325_May_19_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

4. Shift Perspectives and Change Mindsets

Systems thinking involves seeing and understanding interconnections among elements of food and agriculture (for example, the farming ecosystem, production, markets, consumption, culture, and human and environment health). Mental models and actors' perspective are also part of systems.

Mindset change is key for changing the food system, acknowledging its complexity.⁷⁶

At the same time, a mindset shift is required from the one in which we must produce more food to feed the world, to the one in where we must produce foods that are more nutritious and more sustainable, waste much less, and shift towards a plant-rich diet.⁷⁷

Participants acknowledged the need for a change of narrative, with a stronger focus on embracing diversity, bringing about a culture of empowerment, and rethinking our habitats while reconsidering the value of food with the lenses of a true cost approach. This implies that we look at sustainability, a key feature of a true cost-based economy, beyond a technical...approach.⁷⁸

In this discussion, participants concurred on the need to change the narrative around farming such that parents can actually encourage their children to pursue it. In most parts of Asia and Africa, farming is associated with pain and poverty. Moving away from conventional farming practices could help change this narrative to one of hope and productivity.⁷⁹

We have to transform our culture of exploitation and promoting the Rights of Nature can drive forth the cultural realization that humans are part of nature and the environment and cannot be view separately.⁸⁰

Dialogues identified the priority need for education about food systems and transformation imperatives, but more generally the implication was that any and all solutions and initiatives would need to include shifting mindsets as one of the critical pathways to support transformation.

Ultimately, private sector must drive major shifts in mindsets, rules of operation and business models to create equitable, sustainable and healthy food systems. Given that the private sector is often at the forefront of change to keep a competitive edge, participants saw an opportunity to better harness this angle. Through activities such as certification or sustainable investment, there is opportunity to motivate and mobilize further transformation.

⁷⁶ 68:78 p 14 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

⁷⁷ 68:42 p 10 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

⁷⁸ 62:1 p 6 in 021_Jan_27_21_Donati L

⁷⁹ 29:32 p 8 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

⁸⁰ 31:18 p 7 in 066_Mar_5_21_Nkenglefac T

Business must be supported by governments to pursue sustainable practices and to do ‘what is right for the world’ not just what will make the most money. Business should be rewarded for doing good and called out for failing.⁸¹

As we move towards satisfying food production and human nutrition, there is a great opportunity to also influence changes of mindsets, policies and investments globally.⁸²

Participants highlighted the presence of physical and cognitive invisible walls, somehow separating the rural and the urban world, and the need to tear these walls down to allow for a space of social proximity in which producers, transformers and consumers are constantly connected with feedback flowing easily in both directions.⁸³

Need to change the mindset and environment in which people eat in schools and institutions, in favor of a slower, more community based meal format.⁸⁴

Open mindsets to new solutions.⁸⁵

5. Value Diversity, Engage Inclusively

A corollary to the importance of sensitivity to diverse local contexts is exercising sensitivity to diverse people through intentional and authentic inclusivity.

No one-size-fits-all solution: Participants balked at the notion that there is any one silver-bullet to ‘improving the food system’. The food system is too complex to have broad global policy recommendations.⁸⁶

Programs and policies must be flexible enough to allow creativity and experimentation to achieve desired results at the hyper-local level.⁸⁷

The food system is too complex to have broad global policy recommendations.⁸⁸

⁸¹ 101:8 p 6 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

⁸² 37:23 p 6 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

⁸³ 41:12 p 8 in 175_Mar_16_21_Donati L

⁸⁴ 51:34 p 11 in 086_Mar_20_21_Rosatan B

⁸⁵ 101:42 p 13 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

⁸⁶ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

⁸⁷ 8:19 p 9 in 169_Apr_6_21_Shea E

⁸⁸ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

Not all models are scalable to different scale and contexts and may only be useful in a single context. This is an important factor to consider in the discussion of applicability of WEF models and tools.⁸⁹

The need to consider context specificity and to design context-responsive solutions was emphasized throughout the event, suggesting that any solutions that are high-level and global in scope may be difficult to make locally significant and/or will require a lot of work to be implemented in ways that respond to different local needs and opportunities.⁹⁰

Participants agreed that the FSS should focus on making diets more sustainable and more nutrient-dense, not focus only on a narrow set of policies, practices, and products that target specific foods and/or are not inclusive of diverse needs and choices. For example, fruits and vegetables provide great nutritional value, but meat, poultry, dairy and eggs are very nutrient dense and should not be discouraged.⁹¹

Inclusiveness and diversity are closely linked and interdependent (systems thinking). The actions needed to support both is to have platforms to facilitate inclusiveness with attention to diversity within those platforms.

Diversity will be the unifying factor and the narrative won't imply a homogenization of diversity but will rather embrace it as a source of richness.⁹²

Sense of urgency is required, but we must bring all stakeholders along the journey.⁹³

There is a need to establish national and regional coalitions and partnerships that promote and implement actions on these standards. There is a need to develop a national and regional, informal and formal, systems/mechanisms/processes that support ongoing engagement and partnerships of interested parties such as CSO, academia, private sector, international donors, national and local governments in planning, implementing, studying and improving actions, interactions and impacts.⁹⁴

Need for wider and ongoing engagement on the issues. Active engagement in the solution finding, solution design and solution execution and joint action in monitoring (studying) and improving actions implemented⁹⁵

⁸⁹ 19:58 p 17 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

⁹⁰ 44:7 p 6 in 178_Apr_8_21_AGRA_Multi

⁹¹ 4:17 p 9 in 104_Apr_8_21_Animal Agriculture Alliance

⁹² 47:7 p 6 in 043_Feb_17_21_Donati L_Multi

⁹³ 36:27 p 9 in 089_Mar_22_21_Gee S

⁹⁴ 52:14 p 6 in 087_Mar_20_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

⁹⁵ 54:9 p 6 in 080_Mar_13_21_Impact Youth Sustainability_Multi

Diversity will be the unifying factor and the narrative won't imply a homogenization of diversity but will rather embrace it as a source of richness.⁹⁶

Participation of those who are further down the food chain, such as farmers and consumers, must be ensured in decision making processes, and the general public needs to be included in this discourse.⁹⁷

Guidance offered included diverse forms of communication, developing collaborations, and building bridges amongst diverse groups (e.g., scientists, producers, consumers, youth, women, indigenous people, farmers, and policymakers). Solutions must include a commitment to involve those who have traditionally been underrepresented and excluded which will vary by context.

Due to the complexity of the challenge, and to address the needs of different people and environments, we need to ensure all stakeholders are represented in defining solutions. Civil society groups and farmers are often left underrepresented.⁹⁸

Although the majority of participants were in some way connected with the livestock sector, there was consensus that further engagement is needed with those beyond the sector, whether in health, nutrition, food security, equity, environment, etc., or those who believe that animal agriculture and the consumption of livestock products should stop. Facilitating such engagement will require deliberate efforts from livestock stakeholders, including multi-stakeholder processes within and beyond the sector.⁹⁹

The success of the 2021 Food Systems Summit depends on the engagement of representatives from a wide variety of actors, organizations, movements and initiatives.¹⁰⁰

Most of the worlds farmers are smallholder farmers and through this dialogue, it was found that they needed a stronger voice at the negotiating table. Their interests should be prioritized moving forward in the discussions on food system transformation.¹⁰¹

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.¹⁰²

Diversity also included recognizing and exploring country, regional, and contextual diversity.

⁹⁶ 47:7 p 6 in 043_Feb_17_21_Donati L_Multi

⁹⁷ 67:11 p 7 in 050_Feb_23_21_World Vision Ireland

⁹⁸ 68:39 p 9 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

⁹⁹ 95:1 p 6 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

¹⁰⁰ 96:8 p 7 in 228_May_18_21_Kovnat K

¹⁰¹ 40:4 p 8 in 101_Apr_1_21_DoaA A

¹⁰² 9:17 p 8 in 171_Mar_31_21_Atilano C

*Different solutions are required for the diversity of the food systems in Latin America with its wide range of products and producers. These solutions already exist for different contexts; however, they need to be scaled up through investments and policies.*¹⁰³

*Indonesia is such a large country, there are so many options to choose from in terms of processes and products, and potential resources to support the Summit's Objectives. Different regions prefer different processes to be pursued.*¹⁰⁴

*Develop solutions that take the specific, local context (including trade-offs) into account, and acknowledge the diversity in mountain regions.*¹⁰⁵

*Regional differences must be taken into account when recommending environmental best-practices.*¹⁰⁶

Independent dialogues also offered specific examples of diversity in farming and livestock.

Farming examples

*There is the recognition that best-practices may even differ from farm to farm, let alone from country to country.*¹⁰⁷

*The sustainability, efficiency and adaptability of practices will vary across geographies and farming conditions.*¹⁰⁸

*Differences in soil, terrain, land-use and other factors can vary considerably even within the same area, meaning there is no one-size-fits-all strategy...This applies to farmer-to-farmer education as well as formalized classes through extension or associations. It also can be valuable to learn from farmers in different geographic and commodity backgrounds. A grain farmer might learn something useful from an almond farmer.*¹⁰⁹

Sector specific examples- Livestock

Participants recognized that the global discussion about livestock usually lacks the nuance that reflects the diversity of the sector and thus the solutions required to ensure its contributions to future food systems. It was emphasized that a polarized debate that has extremes of 'livestock all bad' or 'livestock all good' is unhelpful and does not reflect the

¹⁰³ 55:14 p 5 in 001_Nov_5_20_CGIAR

¹⁰⁴ 59:6 p 6 in 008_Dec_19_20_Niode AK

¹⁰⁵ 100:33 p 10 in 282_May_18_21_Romeo R

¹⁰⁶ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

¹⁰⁷ 92:4 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

¹⁰⁸ 8:2 p 6 in 169_Apr_6_21_Shea E

¹⁰⁹ 8:19 p 9 in 169_Apr_6_21_Shea E

*diversity of livestock roles across the world, or the need for multiple, different changes and solutions throughout the sector towards better food systems in future.*¹¹⁰

*Embracing change: action within the livestock sector. The diverse livestock sector actors who joined the dialogue all acknowledge that, as with all sectors, change towards better future food systems must be embraced. What that change looks like is incredibly diverse because of the diversity of ways that animals and their products are raised, managed and consumed as well as their multiple roles.*¹¹¹

6. Ensure Equity

In the first guiding theme, equity and sustainability were often linked as twin pillars of transformation. It is reiterated here because equity was also a distinct priority focus for many dialogues.

*To have an inclusive conversation and truly embrace diversity, thus avoiding a Eurocentric (or romantic?) vision of the future, we must discuss and dive deeper into the topics of inequality, power concentration and accessibility.*¹¹²

*The decision-making power of current economic systems was challenged as being unfair, particularly to local/indigenous/seasonal ways of life that are not included in most decision-making processes for large international summits.*¹¹³

*Critically in this respect are pre-conditions, where inequalities and power concentration is persisting as this might be a frustrating factor, especially in terms of accessibility. Changing the status of food from commodity to public good, might help. After all, food is a recognized right. This recognition leads to taking into account its true cost but also its true value.*¹¹⁴

*Ensure inclusivity, equality and equity in all processes, decision-making and representation.*¹¹⁵

*The goal of restructuring is not just to make these value chains inclusive, but also equitable, to eliminate poverty through better jobs, better incomes and value distribution, and the reduction of risks for small-scale producers without compromising the environment.*¹¹⁶

¹¹⁰ 95:3 p 6 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

¹¹¹ 95:7 p 6 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

¹¹² 62:12 p 6 in 021_Jan_27_21_Donati L

¹¹³ 39:9 p 6 in 097_Mar_30_21_EcoAgriculture Partners

¹¹⁴ 62:9 p 6 in 021_Jan_27_21_Donati L

¹¹⁵ 100:31 p 10 in 282_May_18_21_Romeo R

¹¹⁶ 105:26 pp 21–22 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

Participants emphasized that women—including women of color—must have equal access to vital resources including financial capital, technology, and land tenure. That women need educational opportunities. That women must have a voice in decision-making.¹¹⁷

Valuing diversity and exercising inclusivity are processes necessary to achieve the desired systems transformations toward greater equity. Equity was also discussed as a multi-level concern; from personal commitments to equity in interpersonal interactions (personal mindset shifts), to local cultural and political systems, to regional, national, and international settings, institutions and systems.

Promote legislative and parliamentary actions for gender parity and the incorporation of an intercultural perspective in decision-making.¹¹⁸

Equality and dignity should be integral part of the nutrition security policies.¹¹⁹

Ensure inclusivity, equality and equity in all processes, decision-making and representation.¹²⁰

Equitable food systems with regards to access to food, and its integral relationship to health and nutrition, was also highlighted.

Another key theme was that food security equates to national security. Private sector must ensure that nutrient-dense, responsibly produced food is accessible, particularly in the most vulnerable communities. There was clear recognition that private sector efforts must go beyond food security and environmental sustainability, and support livelihoods and social equity.¹²¹

There is a need to produce food that supports regenerative growth and holistic biodiversity support. Equitable food production includes equity for plant and animal kingdoms.¹²²

Fairness throughout value-chains is needed, including incomes and costs. For some economies this means citizens being willing (and able) to pay more for quality livestock-derived foods. Consumer decision-making needs to be linked to its influence on food systems.¹²³

Hunger and diet-related disease are almost always due to economic inequality, those in power need to be re-humanized and see all lives as valuable and that food is a human right.

¹¹⁷ 56:40 p 9 in 002_Nov_19_20_CGIAR

¹¹⁸ 3:19 p 11 in 099_Mar_31_21_FAO_IFPRI

¹¹⁹ 66:60 p 10 in 041_Feb_17_21_Adler D

¹²⁰ 100:31 p 10 in 282_May_18_21_Romeo R

¹²¹ 87:6 p 6 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

¹²² 93:22 p 6 in 217_May_6_21_Schwartz A

¹²³ 95:40 p 12 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

*All human beings are holy, and food is holy. All people should have the right to safe, healthy and culturally appropriate food.*¹²⁴

*Subsidies for healthy foods: the current food system subsidizes livestock and therefore meat consumption. If fruits and vegetables production was provided with government subsidies, the consumer would not have to pay higher prices for healthier foods. By making the playing field between food options more level and fair, corporations can have less ability to influence the narrative around what food should be and what foods should be promoted.*¹²⁵

Scaling solutions will involve working across levels and building in a commitment to equity (systems thinking applied to equity). Equity was also discussed as a major concern in unlocking sustainable finance, including distribution mechanisms to ensure equitable value distribution at all levels, with a particular focus on women, youth, indigenous peoples, and smallholder farmers.

*Need for more tailored finance that is responsive to the unique needs of youth and women in developing context food systems*¹²⁶

*To unlock sustainable finance, a distribution mechanism is needed to ensure equitable value distribution all the way down to the farmers. Working hand by hand with the private, public sector and civil society, as well as the establishment of sound regulations and policies will create an enabling environment for money to flow into the region.*¹²⁷

*Additionally, a distribution mechanism is needed to ensure equitable value distribution all the way down to the farmers*¹²⁸

*Ensure equitable livelihoods for farmers, including smallholder farmers, women, youth, and underserved groups.*¹²⁹

*There exists a clear link between increased gender equality and a more sustainable meat industry.*¹³⁰

Other enabling factors discussed to enhance and ensure equity include supporting and reinforcing women's networks, equal payment for men and women, and recognizing women for traditionally unpaid work. Ensuring equitable livelihoods for farmers, including smallholder farmers, women, youth, and underserved groups, requires equal access to capital, technology, and land tenure rights.

¹²⁴ 93:11 p 6 in 217_May_6_21_Schwartz A

¹²⁵ 94:12 p 10 in 225_May_13_21_Schwartz A

¹²⁶ 70:12 p 6 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

¹²⁷ 55:23 p 7 in 001_Nov_5_20_CGIAR

¹²⁸ 55:11 p 5 in 001_Nov_5_20_CGIAR

¹²⁹ 56:14 p 5 in 002_Nov_19_20_CGIAR

¹³⁰ 6:1 p 6 in 166_Apr_14_21_Meat Business Women

*Inform and push our work towards promoting women's economic empowerment.*¹³¹

*Participants emphasized that initiatives to incentivize and empower participation of vulnerable groups particularly youth and women are needed. These should include access to land and other resources that can facilitate their participation in food production.*¹³²

*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.*¹³³

*Panelists agreed that inclusivity and equity, based on a people-centered approach, is key to ensuring better food livelihoods in rural areas for vulnerable groups including women, youth, indigenous peoples and other communities with distinct livelihood systems.*¹³⁴

*Review land and water tenure modalities to ensure equitable access to resources and allow land access to nomad Bedouins, make available different sets of food pricing to enable access to cheap food for the most deprived, and ensuring access to basic food as basic right for all*¹³⁵

*Addressing issues of inequalities associated with gender, age and marginalization, especially but not exclusively those relating to the food system and that impinge on food security and nutrition and equitable, sustainable and resilient livelihoods including equal pay for equal job, access and ownership of resources, and forced child labour.*¹³⁶

*Provide equal access to capital, technology, and land tenure to smallholder farmers, women, and underserved groups.*¹³⁷

*Participants also discussed challenges and opportunities for enabling entrepreneurship and addressing uneven access to resources.*¹³⁸

*Adjust land tenure practices to address access issues for women and young people.*¹³⁹

¹³¹ 9:10 p 6 in 171_Mar_31_21_Atilano C

¹³² 104:8 p 6 in 326_May_5_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

¹³³ 9:16 p 8 in 171_Mar_31_21_Atilano C

¹³⁴ 58:20 p 8 in 006_Dec_16_20_UNDESA

¹³⁵ 33:14 p 7 in 077_Mar_09_21_ESCWA_FAO

¹³⁶ 38:12 p 6 in 096_Mar_29_21_ESCWA

¹³⁷ 56:15 p 5 in 002_Nov_19_20_CGIAR

¹³⁸ 4:23 p 11 in 104_Apr_8_21_Animal Agriculture Alliance

¹³⁹ 16:21 p 9 in 251_Jan_25_21_World Vegetable Center

7. Integrate What is Already Working into Innovations

Transformation is recognized in the dialogues as requiring the disruption of existing systems and acknowledging that existing systems privilege the few over the many, harm the environment, and are neither sustainable nor healthy. That said, many dialogue participants noted that not everything currently being done in food systems is bad. Cautions about overriding what is going well were expressed along with admonitions to build innovations on strengths and appreciate what is valuable in existing systems.

There is a need for new platforms and fora to examine these issues with different lens and flexible arrangements to impact on communities. We must find ways to allow communities to influence sustainable actions that affect their lives.¹⁴⁰

Involve citizens in innovation processes from early on, to secure a buy-in and get ownership of the process.¹⁴¹

We need to demystify the sector and the innovation that is happening, allow people to see and understand it.¹⁴²

Meanwhile, innovation and advancement are also key. For example, to improve the linkages, efficiency, and transparency between markets, producers, and consumers, digital innovations need to be supported.¹⁴³

A related theme was valuing traditional and indigenous knowledge and local wisdom when introducing innovations. Failure to appreciate what is working and valued in local settings when engaged in innovative transformations can create resistance, do harm, and undermine needed transformation processes.

First, about renewed traditions, the group underlined the importance of taking the best out of both traditions and innovations, as it would reduce the fear of losing something. It highlighted that while intergenerational dialogues are key, the voice of the youth should be strengthened in decision-making arenas, in a real and honest manner, in particular when it comes to taking actions with a sense of urgency.¹⁴⁴

Small actors in the food system need a greater voice, that goes from the small farmer to the individual consumer and includes SMEs which are the majority of the food systems actors

¹⁴⁰ 52:10 p 6 in 087_Mar_20_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

¹⁴¹ 68:54 p 11 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

¹⁴² 17:2 p 6 in 075_Mar_10_21_IFAN

¹⁴³ 79:20 p 9 in 108_Apr_13_21_Carrara E_Multi

¹⁴⁴ 41:17 p 9 in 175_Mar_16_21_Donati L

(99%) and are often not accessing the innovation being produced by researchers and innovation providers.¹⁴⁵

8. Facilitate Conflict Resolutions and Negotiate Trade-Offs

The Dialogue reports include a final section where “Divergences” are reported. This section highlights areas of disagreement, reiteration of complications and complexities to consider, and alerts to inevitable and intrinsic trade-offs that will have to be discussed with facilitation and negotiated skillfully.

Need to address trade-offs among different sustainability dimensions and also among different food systems actors.¹⁴⁶

Is decreasing the national herd the only way to simultaneously reduce emissions, increase biodiversity, improve water quality and ensure food security, both in Ireland and globally and if so, how can this be reconciled with the current agri-food growth strategy?” • “Most funding goes towards the ‘traditional’ sectors of dairy and meat. Building expertise and capacity in other sectors will take time and money.” • “Can legislation and regulation stay ahead of new product development?”¹⁴⁷

Attention to trade-offs came with recognition that the urgency of the food systems transformation imperative, the impetus to generate clear and visionary solutions, and the urgent need for action can lead to well-conceptualized and elegantly articulated solutions that ignore the realities of conflicting interests, power imbalances, competing interests, incompatible values, and national versus global and local priorities.

Facilitating and negotiating trade-offs also applies to the trade-off management itself. There can be a trade-off between acting boldly with urgency to maintain the integrity and fidelity of a proposed transformational initiative versus watering down the initiative through negotiated compromises that achieve wider support but less significant change.

Our dialogue highlighted the existing tradeoffs which present 'sticking points' in the progress of food systems transformation. One such issue is finding the balance between the desire to reduce trade restricting non-tariff barriers (such as SPS and TBT measures) to allow developing countries greater access to more lucrative export markets and the need for such barriers to safeguard against harmful foods and prioritize food safety. ¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁵ 101:2 p 6 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

¹⁴⁶ 25:27 p 7 in 205_Apr_27_21_CiHEAM_Multi

¹⁴⁷ 36:19 p 8 in 089_Mar_22_21_Gee S

¹⁴⁸ 40:3 p 8 in 101_Apr_1_21_Doaa A

*The trade-off between tailored diets and its implication or interference with the personalized diets of others and the costs both in economic and environmental terms that such diets could have.*¹⁴⁹

*Local and nature-positive production should be favored but some products will still need to be imported because it's impossible to produce everything locally and export revenues are important for many countries.*¹⁵⁰

*Unfortunately, many innovative practices are cost prohibitive.*¹⁵¹

The Dialogues generated long lists of complicated trade-offs that will have to be dealt with in designing, implementing, and evaluating food systems transformations. An example is where conservation of natural resources could be in conflict with livelihoods or banning deforestation could mean loss of employment and economic losses. Other trade-offs included: production for local consumption versus export, affordable food for consumers versus increasing small farmers' income.

*The trade-offs between consumers' access (buying capability) and producers' income.*¹⁵²

*The trade-offs between production and export need to be re-examined, as Irish agriculture is focused on dairy and meat exports, very little land is used for crops (human consumption) and most grain (60%) is grown to feed animals.*¹⁵³

*Reconciling local and global food systems - Tradeoffs between local and global food systems need to be reached.*¹⁵⁴

*Do a better job thinking through the hard trade-offs in livestock issues—figure out who pays, how and how much. Do not underestimate the challenges the sector needs to face.*¹⁵⁵

People are able to access food for a cost that is not artificially raised because of the desire to protect only the producers, as the interest of consumers are also protected. Dr. Habito added that while it is possible to be both self-sufficient and competitive in the production of certain products and crops, there are other products that can never achieve 100% self-sufficiency,

¹⁴⁹ 47:16 p 10 in 043_Feb_17_21_Donati L_Multi

¹⁵⁰ 81:7 p 6 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

¹⁵¹ 86:23 p 10 in 153_Apr_28_21_GCNF_Multi

¹⁵² 62:30 p 9 in 021_Jan_27_21_Donati L

¹⁵³ 67:19 p 9 in 050_Feb_23_21_World Vision Ireland

¹⁵⁴ 68:66 p 12 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

¹⁵⁵ 95:49 p 12 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

and for which it has to be more open to supplementing competitive domestic production with imports.¹⁵⁶

9. Mobilize Engaged and Accountable Actors Collaboratively

Dialogue participants were highly cognizant that actions require actors, solutions require problem-solvers, and transformation requires people engaged in and committed to transformation. Virtually every dialogue included some discussion of the need for clarity about different roles and responsibilities played by different actors in different organizational and sector positions – and the importance of their networking, collaborating, and partnering together—each engaged and accountable to contribute toward food systems transformation.

Governments are identified as having major responsibilities for large-scale change, while the private sector, youth, academia, women, indigenous peoples, communities, donors and philanthropies, farmers, consumers, and financial institution actors are further identified as actors who need to lead engagement to bring about change. Finally, the dialogues identified how various groups need to proactively engage in a collaborative fashion to make change happen.

Government responsibilities for large-scale change:

Government's role in regulation, policies, and laws

Government should make deliberate efforts to incentivize women and youth to participate in the food system.¹⁵⁷

The regulatory framework (transparent, science-based, pragmatic) needs to allow innovations into the market.¹⁵⁸

The state's role was another topic highlighted at the dialogue roundtable. There is an opportunity seen for modernizing regulatory systems, seeking to improve regional standards and regulations, which could represent a decrease in transaction costs.¹⁵⁹

For true change to happen, politics need to make the first step by putting supporting regulations in place, and it needs to happen NOW.¹⁶⁰

To promote local food systems, Government should take proactive steps for decentralization of the procurement rules for public service program.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁶ 105:53 p 34 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

¹⁵⁷ 70:17 p 7 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

¹⁵⁸ 101:60 p 6 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

¹⁵⁹ 91:23 ¶ 61 in 186a_Apr_15_21_Caballeros_eng

¹⁶⁰ 101:58 p 6 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

¹⁶¹ 7:22 p 8 in 167_Apr_13_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

*The local government needs to regulate the use of vacant land for this purpose.*¹⁶²

*Of course, government and policymakers...using food policy as a way of addressing sustainability and health issues in Wales.*¹⁶³

*Government policies are needed to raise awareness on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' food systems, the health benefits of Indigenous Peoples' traditional diets and the need to limit consumption of ultra-processed foods.*¹⁶⁴

*The hope is that this document (e.g., a shared manifesto) can be included the Summit outcome, as a special recommendation to the Governments. Specifically, it is desirable to identify the correct criteria and information for setting prices in order to avoid price fluctuations that harm both consumers and producer.*¹⁶⁵

*Governments are the primary stakeholders to many of the actions related to enhancing productivity as any sustainable production process requires relevant policies and providing the needed infrastructure that enables stakeholder make use of needed technologies for sustainable production processes.*¹⁶⁶

*Government should monitor integration of the operating framework of state and non-state actors as disintegration leads to contradicting [agricultural advisory] messages at grassroots level*¹⁶⁷

*Policy making, which includes developing incentives, financing relevant industries, strategies for different time and spatial scales, equal opportunity for small scale fisheries, following the 3 pillars of FAO, and incorporating aquatic food into policies.*¹⁶⁸

*National and regional bodies will need to examine how hydroponics and aquaponics can be brought into the organic certification regimes and framework.*¹⁶⁹

¹⁶² 10:17 p 8 in 181_Apr_8_21_Miranda

¹⁶³ 22:34 p 10 in 116_Apr_21_21_Hein JR

¹⁶⁴ 23:7 p 7 in 180_Apr_7_21_GHIPFS

¹⁶⁵ 26:3 p 7 in 323_Apr_28_21_Giuliodori A

¹⁶⁶ 32:45 p 7 in 071_Mar_11_21_ESCWA_FAO

¹⁶⁷ 70:19 p 7 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

¹⁶⁸ 84:29 p 9 in 150_Apr_30_21_GANSFOIWFSN

¹⁶⁹ 37:14 p 9 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

Governments/policy makers: to create enabling environments for sustainable production; to regulate other aspects of the food system, incl. the labelling and marketing of food products; to harmonise food labelling at international level¹⁷⁰

Government's role in education and capacity building

Governments should invest in educating the youth on business, technology, and entrepreneurship from an early age. Capacity-building especially among women and youth through training to resolve the lack of human resources and technical skills for easier access to Finance is critical. Such education usually takes place at the tertiary level, but this is considered too late.¹⁷¹

Therefore, government and relevant stakeholders need to develop and strengthen programs to improve knowledge and access to quality food, for the poor and marginalized groups.¹⁷²

Finally, governments/stakeholders should push for conservation farming techniques to reduce agricultural emissions across the board.¹⁷³

Participants agreed that governments, researchers, and development institutions should focus more effort into capacity/knowledge building for farmers who might benefit from implementing low carbon technologies in their production, as well as greater investment in the sector. Because such technologies are new and may involve expensive initial implementation, there is hesitation to adopt, but in the long run such technologies could improve water and energy efficiency while improving farm-level outcomes.¹⁷⁴

The Dialogue called for concerted efforts by the Government and other stakeholders to catalyze agro zones, reactivate localized investments and upgrade smallholder farmers (especially women, youth, the disabled) to become investable through adequate training and support, advisory services and access to research opportunities.¹⁷⁵

The group also underlined the importance at the governmental and city level to provide knowledge through school/workshop/etc. to make sure there is easy access to information about food systems¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁰ 68:1 p 7 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

¹⁷¹ 61:7 p 7 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

¹⁷² 10:18 p 10 in 181_Apr_8_21_Miranda

¹⁷³ 18:39 p 7 in 164_Apr_15_21_Anarbekov_Akramov

¹⁷⁴ 18:43 p 6 in 164_Apr_15_21_Anarbekov_Akramov

¹⁷⁵ 35:4 p 10 in 084_Mar_17_21_UnyimeAbasi B

¹⁷⁶ 41:1 p 7 in 175_Mar_16_21_Donati L

Government's role in changes in farming and farm systems, and with farmers

In meeting the aim of Boosting Nature-Positive Food Production, respective Government agencies have responsibilities of providing farmers with biofortified crop seeds and adequate training to boost production of farm outputs as well as incentivizing regenerative food production¹⁷⁷.

Government needs to play a role in incentivizing natural farming and setting up Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), especially for small and marginal farmers.¹⁷⁸

The role of the government in this transition was also discussed, in terms of incentivizing and subsidizing natural farming (such as compensation for ecosystem services) instead of chemical intensive agriculture.¹⁷⁹

The role of the government in this transition was also discussed, in terms of incentivizing and subsidizing natural farming (such as compensation for ecosystem services) instead of chemical intensive agriculture.¹⁸⁰

Participants argued that government needs to partner with both private and international development institutions to enhance market access for farmers¹⁸¹

Government's role in consumer behavior

The consensus was that the government's role should involve providing information and awareness to consumers while also implementing behaviour change interventions such as removing sugary foods from checkout counters and promoting indigenous foods and kitchen gardens in schools.¹⁸²

The government could also play a role by regulating the food waste of food retail businesses, through certifications or ratings.¹⁸³

In a macro approach, the state/government is important in increasing consumer access to healthy and sustainable traditional foods.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁷ 35:2 p 9 in 084_Mar_17_21_UnyimeAbasi B

¹⁷⁸ 28:2 p 7 in 023_Jan_29_21_Bharat K S

¹⁷⁹ 28:7 p 9 in 023_Jan_29_21_Bharat K S

¹⁸⁰ 28:14 p 9 in 023_Jan_29_21_Bharat K S

¹⁸¹ 104:35 p 6 in 326_May_5_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

¹⁸² 28:12 p 8 in 023_Jan_29_21_Bharat K S

¹⁸³ 28:13 p 8 in 023_Jan_29_21_Bharat K S

¹⁸⁴ 59:1 p 4 in 008_Dec_19_20_Niode AK

Government's role in environmental issues

Governments should recognize the protection and preservation of the environment as a public interest because our ability to produce food is directly link to the state of our planet, ecosystems and natural resources.¹⁸⁵

Transform food systems to address climate and biodiversity crises. Conservation measures including pollinators and nutrient management. Incentivize farmers. Who: Businesses, government agencies, and schools.¹⁸⁶

Government's role in promoting equity and equality

Access to healthy and sufficient food at all time is a right and requires intervention from governments.¹⁸⁷

Managing the root causes of vulnerabilities and investing in stopping conflicts and wars based on human rights are primordial. Humanitarian aid needs to be focused and promote locate food systems and that governments are required to make sure that the aid received considers national priorities that protect the most vulnerable people.¹⁸⁸

Government should make deliberate efforts to incentivize women and youth to participate in the food system.¹⁸⁹

Government should set up institutions to govern the marketing of agricultural products - Ensure the financial inclusion of women and youth.¹⁹⁰

Government support needed in various areas: Review existing relevant policies and ensure that youth and women roles / challenges in food systems are mainstreamed, which should the strengthening of youth and women groups and the deliberate provision of income earning opportunities for them.¹⁹¹

Government at all levels could provide incentives (especially those involved in the food system) to increase their minimum wages through tax breaks, subsidies, and other programs.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁵ 31:5 p 7 in 066_Mar_5_21_Nkenglefac T

¹⁸⁶ 56:7 p 7 in 002_Nov_19_20_CGIAR

¹⁸⁷ 32:44 p 7 in 071_Mar_11_21_ESCWA_FAO

¹⁸⁸ 32:46 p 7 in 071_Mar_11_21_ESCWA_FAO

¹⁸⁹ 70:9 p 7 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

¹⁹⁰ 70:9 p 7 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

¹⁹¹ 70:10 p 8 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

¹⁹² 88:4 p 9 in 162_Apr_16_21_Fountain G

Government's role in nutrition and access to food

Actions directed at the policy makers: Use policy tools to encourage plant rich diets¹⁹³

Government is encouraged to effectively implement a sustainable national home grown school feeding program.¹⁹⁴

The government and communities need to diversify food sources in an effort to fulfill diversify carbohydrates sources.¹⁹⁵

The state can promote healthy and sustainable traditional foods through policies, programs, promotion, building relevant infrastructure, and to reduce the distance travelled during the distribution of traditional foods to minimize carbon footprint In a micro approach, the community as an agent of information dissemination can disseminate the positive impact of healthy and sustainable traditional food.¹⁹⁶

... governments should encourage the production and consumption of locally sourced foods.¹⁹⁷

States should also increase the budget for school lunch and breakfast programs. These should be offered and accessible even when school is not in-session, such as over summer and winter breaks, and students should be allowed to take food away from the programs to be consumed (at home or at school or to share with their family members).¹⁹⁸

Government's role in food waste concerns

It is felt that government should play more visible and facilitative role in the management of waste.¹⁹⁹

Government led sustainable solutions for packaging are critical; we need tighter regulations and financial charges for non-sustainable packaging, recognizing the true cost of packaged food on the environment.²⁰⁰

¹⁹³ 68:3 p 13 in 052_Feb_25_21_EUFIC

¹⁹⁴ 35:1 p 7 in 084_Mar_17_21_UnyimeAbasi B

¹⁹⁵ 59:2 p 5 in 008_Dec_19_20_Niode AK

¹⁹⁶ 59:4 p 4 in 008_Dec_19_20_Niode AK

¹⁹⁷ 29:9 p 7 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

¹⁹⁸ 88:2 p 8 in 162_Apr_16_21_Fountain G

¹⁹⁹ 37:6 p 6 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²⁰⁰ 51:4 p 10 in 086_Mar_20_21_Rosatan B

Government needs to prioritise food waste reduction – especially climate change links²⁰¹

Government • An agreed definition on what is “food waste” • Measure food waste to create a national baseline and track progress • Cross-collaboration within government departments: MfE, MPI and others.²⁰²

Action to be taken by Government and agencies in the food sector provide decently rewarded employment across the supply chain, with skills and training.²⁰³

Government’s role in finance

To get private sector engaged Government can and needs to play the role of catalyst and specifically focused on risk reduction, not just investment risk but also government stability within and across regions as the agriculture sector is highly fragmented, with diverse and context specific production, financial and investment costs.²⁰⁴

Governments have a key role to play to provide the right environment to promote new financing modalities as even successful start-ups and high-growth opportunities must often be self-funded because the financial industry shows no interest until a threshold of EBITDA is attained.²⁰⁵

Actors at national government, county government, private actors and donors are key in providing financial and technical resources for improvement of infrastructure such as market infrastructure and installing warehouses and cold rooms in order to handle the produce with minimal loss and waste. Programs should benefit both formal and informal actors across the food system.²⁰⁶

Government’s role in supporting private sector or small business initiatives

Government support needed in various areas: - Setting up business incubation schemes for women and youth - Review existing relevant policies and ensure that youth and women roles / challenges in food systems are mainstreamed, which should the strengthening of youth and women groups and the deliberate provision of income earning opportunities for them. Establish special loan facility for youth and women agri-entrepreneurs, but ensure effective management, accountability and impact.²⁰⁷

²⁰¹ 89:2 p 11 in 173_Mar_25_21_Mayne A

²⁰² 89:3 p 7 in 173_Mar_25_21_Mayne A

²⁰³ 57:1 p 5 in 005_Dec_11_20_Aggrey J

²⁰⁴ 61:1 p 6 in 020_Jan_26_21quan1_IFAN

²⁰⁵ 61:6 p 5 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

²⁰⁶ 103:41 p 10 in 325_May_19_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

²⁰⁷ 70:5 p 8 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

*Government should set up institutions to govern the marketing of agricultural products.*²⁰⁸

*Governments should give incentives to promote food donation when possible and foster the link between wholesalers and associations.*²⁰⁹

*Government support needed in various areas: Setting up business incubation schemes for women and youth*²¹⁰

Government's role in research

*Public sector investment in research or pre-competitive research were considered key to identify and scale, but that information must be available publicly so that all farmers can benefit.*²¹¹

*Governments can play a key role in research for cross-cutting environmental information (i.e. valuation of ecosystem goods and services as one example) which the private sector can then use for benchmarking.*²¹²

*Flowing therefrom, governments can provide assistance with respect to research & technology transfer and ensuring producers are correctly incentivized to adopt beneficial practices.*²¹³

*The role of government is also critical in the ongoing research and information transfer that is needed to develop and disseminate sustainability metrics and benchmarks. A wide range of suggestions were provided in response to what the grazing livestock industry should be measuring to achieve a sustainable food system including: biodiversity (both above and below ground), water, emissions and nutritional benefit of the end product.*²¹⁴

Actors who need to lead engagement to bring about change:

The Private Sector

*Technology companies have a moral requirement to contribute to our food systems transformation.*²¹⁵

²⁰⁸ 70:6 p 7 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

²⁰⁹ 78:31 p 10 in 103_Apr_8_21_Carrara E_Multi

²¹⁰ 70:10 p 8 101:59 p 6 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Mult

²¹¹ 86:43 p 10 in 153_Apr_28_21_GCNEF_Multi

²¹² 92:27 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

²¹³ 101:58 p 6 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

²¹⁴ 92:29 p 8 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

²¹⁵ 106:25 p 5 in 051a_Feb_24_21_Google

But most of the participants thought that politics and businesses have more power and they should use it to make consumers choices more sustainable.²¹⁶

Sustainable procurement practices need to also be more widely applied by the private sector. These should support preference for local and regionally produced foods.²¹⁷

There is a need for processors/manufacturers to evaluate their inputs, consider replacing foreign inputs where practicable and consider shorter/regional shipping lanes.²¹⁸

Deliver good quality of food in order to meet consumer and cultural aspirations. Action to be taken by Government and agencies in the food sector 3. provide decently rewarded employment across the supply chain, with skills and training. Action to be taken by Business owners, and Government.²¹⁹

Practitioners, government and private sector stakeholders should provide information to women and youth to build their knowledge and capacity to enable them to better engage in the food system. This should be with the aim of changing mindsets and equipping them with knowledge and skills to effectively participate in the food system²²⁰.

The need to promote widespread diverse "foodscapes", cities should ensure that their citizens are in close proximity to a diverse availability of food commerce. Wholesale markets should promote this ideal and be empowered to supply all communities with fresh food.²²¹

An emphasis was placed on the leadership role that European wholesale markets can play in transforming food systems given their role as linkage of all the major stakeholders of the fresh food chain (producers, logisticians, wholesalers, sellers, retail markets, municipalities, local and national authorities, food banks, etc.).²²²

Supermarkets and retailers could have a strong role in helping consumers to make sustainable consumption decisions, but they need to be supported by other actors and lean on predictable rules.²²³

The system itself needs to change. Entrepreneurs can catalyse those changes across public, private, and community networks, but they aren't lone heroes who go out and do these

²¹⁶ 13:10 p 8 in 207_Apr_28_21_WWF Finland Youth

²¹⁷ 37:19 p 12 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²¹⁸ 52:33 p 9 in 087_Mar_20_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²¹⁹ 57:3 p 5 in 005_Dec_11_20_Aggrey J

²²⁰ 70:9 p 7 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

²²¹ 79:15 p 8 in 108_Apr_13_21_Carrara E_Multi

²²² 80:1 p 7 in 110_Apr_14_21_Carrara E_Multi

²²³ 81:5 p 6 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

*things alone. They need teams behind them, and we need “intrapreneurs” and entrepreneurial thinkers in all roles across society.*²²⁴

*Another key theme was that food security equates to national security. Private sector must ensure that nutrient-dense, responsibly produced food is accessible, particularly in the most vulnerable communities. There was clear recognition that private sector efforts must go beyond food security and environmental sustainability, and support livelihoods and social equity.*²²⁵

*Participants noted that the private sector – along the entire value chain – has an essential role to play and is the driving transformation in many parts of the world, but there is room for improvement. Food and agriculture companies have significant power to enable food systems change, but there needs to be a focus on shared value across the system, rather than siloed business entities...They felt that private sector can move faster and could ideally help broker conversations with government for urgency and speed.*²²⁶

*Participants shared that the private and public sectors must collaborate and design science-based messages based on best practices and existing technologies, which will feed into transparency. Participants noted that public private partnerships are critical for enabling emerging practices, but they are often high risk for not delivering on promised outcomes. Guidance must be given to make sure they are successful, especially regarding the development of new technologies and emerging sectors.*²²⁷

*Private sector must ensure that nutrient-dense, responsibly produced food is accessible, particularly in the most vulnerable communities. There was clear recognition that private sector efforts must go beyond food security and environmental sustainability, and support livelihoods and social equity.*²²⁸

*Ultimately, private sector must drive major shifts in mindsets, rules of operation and business models to create equitable, sustainable and healthy food systems. Given that the private sector is often at the forefront of change to keep a competitive edge, participants saw an opportunity to better harness this angle. Through activities such as certification or sustainable investment, there is opportunity to motivate and mobilize further transformation.*²²⁹

²²⁴ 85:5 p 5 in 152_Apr_29_21_Kubheka M

²²⁵ 87:6 p 6 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

²²⁶ 87:8 p 8 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

²²⁷ 87:8 p 8 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

²²⁸ 87:19 p 6 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

²²⁹ 87:19 p 6 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

Participants noted that the private sector – along the entire value chain – has an essential role to play and is the driving transformation in many parts of the world, but there is room for improvement.²³⁰

They felt that private sector can move faster and could ideally help broker conversations with government for urgency and speed.²³¹

Participants also emphasized the importance of a company’s environmental and social sustainability efforts being prioritized across teams; they should be cross-cutting versus siloed to one division.²³²

Enablers to innovation: Who: Entrepreneurs and innovators; farmers; agile players; consumers; private companies; regulators/policymakers; scientists/academics; NGOs; young people; retailers.²³³

Youth

Youth are central to innovation and more programs are needed for students and to inspire youth globally to work in food systems.²³⁴

More youth voices taking up spaces to address environmental challenges.²³⁵

There are several key actions within the food system that need to be engaged, however, here are some of the priority actors that emerged from the dialogue session: Youth are key to a sustainable food system. They must be engaged in ways that are economically viable through education and job training.²³⁶

Young people are already driving initiatives on organic food, climate and the environment.²³⁷

Youths in low-income countries should engage at the beginning of the production chain to determine working conditions, they should be end-consumers to help determine demand for

²³⁰ 87:20 p 8 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

²³¹ 87:21 p 8 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

²³² 87:21 p 8 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

²³³ 101:70 p 11 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

²³⁴ 17:26 p 6 in 075_Mar_10_21_IFAN

²³⁵ 19:50 p 16 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

²³⁶ 21:20 p 6 in 115_Apr_24_21_Foronda_Multi

²³⁷ 21:27 p 6 in 115_Apr_24_21_Foronda_Multi

*food, they should start the transformation by minimizing loss and waste, and they should engage in partnerships allowing them to play in the field with big corporations.*²³⁸

*Youth and women constitute a huge resource as agent for change and the future of each country's development.*²³⁹

*Youth and women constitute a huge resource as agent for change and the future of each country's development. They are and can be a catalyst for positive change and a source of creativity and innovation, if an enabling environment is provided.*²⁴⁰

*The involvement of youth was also considered crucial in facilitating the shift.*²⁴¹

*Youth inclusion and intervention in the food systems will bring about a change in the trajectory because of their creativity.*²⁴²

*Youth inclusion and intervention in the food systems will bring about a change in the trajectory because of their creativity.*²⁴³

*Women, youth, all participants and citizens: need to play our part for a radical mindset shift.*²⁴⁴

*Participants talked about how young people can contribute to a sustainable food system in innovative ways...*²⁴⁵

Academia

*The African University Vice Chancellors committed to driving the sustainable food system transformation agenda not just from the faculties of agriculture but university-wide in partnership with governments, development partners, private sector, civil society, consumers and international university partners in order to ensure healthy food, healthy people and a healthy planet.*²⁴⁶

²³⁸ 24:2 p 10 in 191_Apr_16_21_Donati L

²³⁹ 25:1 p 14 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

²⁴⁰ 25:4 p 14 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

²⁴¹ 29:1 p 9 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

²⁴² 63:1 p 10 in 030_Feb_4_21_CAFS_CSAYN

²⁴³ 63:3 p 10 in 030_Feb_4_21_CAFS_CSAYN

²⁴⁴ 70:1 p 8 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

²⁴⁵ 83:21 p 10 in 145_May_6_21_Vandenschrik J_Multi

²⁴⁶ 1:42 p 6 in 072_Mar_09_21_Sibanda L

Universities can share and learn from each other in regards to developed online courses and resources.²⁴⁷

Universities (in the cities) must connect with farmers in rural areas to ensure relevant research.²⁴⁸

Agricultural colleges should make conservation and agroecology compulsory elements in all their agricultural courses.²⁴⁹

Schools and agricultural colleges, along with other further education colleges, also need to ensure that their students understand food, including how to cook: a sustainable food production education programme was suggested.²⁵⁰

Research and academia can contribute significantly more to development and a systemic effort should be done in order to explore how to ensure this connection... Research needs to be more connected to the field, and pilot actions can help on this regard.²⁵¹

Universities could be enlisted to provide financial and capacity building training to these communities.²⁵²

The Universities and Colleges should be allowed to be investors in social enterprises that help scale climate mitigation, adaptation, community resilience and other activities that give support to improving food sustainability, quality and safety.²⁵³

Hereby, science should take the role of translating and bringing science-based solutions to farmers through technical assistance.²⁵⁴

Academia and food producers must collaborate to reflect the realities at different scales for better policy and impactful finance.²⁵⁵

²⁴⁷ 1:48 p 8 in 072_Mar_09_21_Sibanda L

²⁴⁸ 1:49 p 10 in 072_Mar_09_21_Sibanda L

²⁴⁹ 22:29 p 7 in 116_Apr_21_21_Hein JR

²⁵⁰ 22:31 p 9 in 116_Apr_21_21_Hein JR

²⁵¹ 25:3 p 14 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

²⁵² 29:15 p 10 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

²⁵³ 37:13 p 9 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²⁵⁴ 55:37 p 5 in 001_Nov_5_20_CGIAR

²⁵⁵ 61:9 p 5 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

Women

There's a need to invite women in: The meat industry workforce is made up of 36% women.²⁵⁶

A large-scale mainstream supported program on women led climate resilient ecological farming to be framed and advocated to the government.²⁵⁷

Women play a key role in food production but also in ensuring that food on the table is healthy.²⁵⁸

Indigenous women hold key roles in Indigenous Peoples' food systems, and are more often than men affected by unsustainable and unhealthy diets.²⁵⁹

Youth and women constitute a huge resource as agent for change and the future of each country's development.²⁶⁰

Indigenous Peoples

Finally, the participants committed to promote and contribute to the vision, objectives and the final outcomes of the Food Systems Summit with their indigenous knowledge, skills and experiences.²⁶¹

The indigenous people in the coastal communities are looking forward to fostering new engagements and partnerships that will stimulate the emergence of innovations and ways to advance collectively and creatively towards the future of agriculture while embracing the entire scope of opinions erupting from other stakeholders in the food system.²⁶²

Indigenous groups have knowledge on food systems that can result in equity, food security, sustainability and environmental protection.²⁶³

²⁵⁶ 6:21 p 7 in 166_Apr_14_21_Meat Business Women

²⁵⁷ 7:11 p 7 in 167_Apr_13_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

²⁵⁸ 21:22 p 6 in 115_Apr_24_21_Foronda_Multi

²⁵⁹ 23:3 p 7 in 180_Apr_7_21_GHIPFS

²⁶⁰ 25:1 p 14 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

²⁶¹ 12:15 p 3 in 192_Apr_19_21_Okafor_A

²⁶² 12:16 p 3 in 192_Apr_19_21_Okafor_A

²⁶³ 21:17 p 8 in 115_Apr_24_21_Foronda_Multi

*Indigenous peoples are leading the way in food policy yet do not feel they have a seat at most decision making tables regarding food systems.*²⁶⁴

Communities

*Any transition has to be community-driven to be sustainable over time. Thus, communities should be empowered to take ownership of this transition.*²⁶⁵

*As such, as a global community, we can reduce our environmental footprint by increasing the proportion of plant-based products that we eat Open up new growth opportunities with Cross Marketing; utilize various media when marketing and promoting Having to compete with imports prices.*²⁶⁶

*There is need for greater community involvement in land reform. Policies that may include taking vacant lots and making agriculture plots as part of a promising community intervention.*²⁶⁷

*The government and communities need to diversify food sources in an effort to fulfill diversify carbohydrates sources.*²⁶⁸

*Mountain people have the right to decide their own development trajectory*²⁶⁹

Donors and philanthropic institutions

*Regional and International organizations together with development partners should play important role in this process in upcoming years.*²⁷⁰

*Global funds and grants should target and support investments that address the nexus*²⁷¹

*Investors and donors should prioritize climate-smart investments across food systems and value chains. Green bond issues, carbon credits, and sequestration should create income for farmers to cover the cost of transition to more sustainable agriculture.*²⁷²

²⁶⁴ 93:28 p 6 in 217_May_6_21_Schwartz A

²⁶⁵ 29:20 p 6 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

²⁶⁶ 37:3 p 11 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²⁶⁷ 37:15 p 9 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²⁶⁸ 59:2 p 5 in 008_Dec_19_20_Niode AK

²⁶⁹ 100:56 p 11 in 282_May_18_21_Romeo R

²⁷⁰ 18:37 p 6 in 164_Apr_15_21_Anarbekov_Akramov

²⁷¹ 52:34 p 11 in 087_Mar_20_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²⁷² 61:5 p 7 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

Development practitioners and local organisations (such as YES Malawi) to facilitate the creation of cooperatives among women and youth in the food system for better financial inclusion.²⁷³

Development entities need to focus on supporting bioregionally specific foods and local farmers to produce robust, diverse, and healthy diet that are culturally appropriate.²⁷⁴

Actors at national government, county government, private actors and donors are key in providing financial and technical resources for improvement of infrastructure such as market infrastructure and installing warehouses and cold rooms in order to handle the produce with minimal loss and waste. Programs should benefit both formal and informal actors across the food system.²⁷⁵

Donors: Donors are important. However, they require good policies and systems to be put in place by the government so that they can be encouraged to come in and to ensure that their efforts are impactful.²⁷⁶

Development partners were urged to play more active roles in providing training and services including trainings on how nature-based solutions can be incorporated in agriculture.²⁷⁷

Small holder farmers

Smallholder farmers play a crucial role in the growth of rural economy, not only in Jharkhand, but many part of the world by their multifunctional role of diverse food production, seed conservation and nature-positive production pattern.²⁷⁸

Farmers and landowners have a vital role here, especially those already following these practices. Large landowners can encourage their tenants to implement certain practices such as carbon sequestration and carbon neutral / positive actions. Those already involved should act as exemplars for other farmers and landowners, demonstrating what is possible in food production through new effective, economically viable, ecological and enjoyable farming models. Farmers are also encouraged to participate in the ongoing debate over what works and what needs to change. Younger farmers are urged to talk to other young people and

²⁷³ 70:7 p 8 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

²⁷⁴ 93:27 p 5 in 217_May_6_21_Schwartz A

²⁷⁵ 103:41 p 10 in 325_May_19_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

²⁷⁶ 104:30 p 8 in 326_May_5_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

²⁷⁷ 104:37 p 6 in 326_May_5_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

²⁷⁸ 7:23 p 6 in 167_Apr_13_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

*children about where food comes from and support teachers with the provision of appropriate resources / information.*²⁷⁹

*Lastly, dairy farmers have a long history of hosting farm tours and serving as “farm ambassadors” to generations of school children. They can continue to serve in this capacity to bridge the gap between farm to school.*²⁸⁰

*The critical roles of farmers as part of the solution for changes requires addressing incentives (including transparency of reporting) for farmers to do things differently.*²⁸¹

Consumers

*Who has the most important role to make a change? Some think that consumers have the most significant role: they should change their habits.*²⁸²

*Consumers across the population as a whole need help to regain/maintain their connection with the land and its products.*²⁸³

*Consumers were identified as imperative to ensuring ‘sustainable consumption’ because consumers drive market trends and are the buyers of the product.*²⁸⁴

Financial institutions

*Banks should aim to commit a significant portion of their loan books to regenerative agriculture.*²⁸⁵

*Banks and NBFCs should also be incentivized to provide credit to small farmers, for use in nature-positive production.*²⁸⁶

*Investors and donors should prioritize climate-smart investments across food systems and value chains. Green bond issues, carbon credits, and sequestration should create income for farmers to cover the cost of transition to more sustainable agriculture.*²⁸⁷

²⁷⁹ 22:25 p 7 in 116_Apr_21_21_Hein JR

²⁸⁰ 86:19 p 9 in 153_Apr_28_21_GCNF_Multi

²⁸¹ 95:82 p 11 in 227_May_18_21_Tarawali S

²⁸² 13:10 p 8 in 207_Apr_28_21_WWF Finland Youth

²⁸³ 20:28 p 12 in 114_Apr_19_21_Maurer H_Roskruge N

²⁸⁴ 92:28 p 6 in 206_Apr_27_21_CCANCC

²⁸⁵ 16:25 p 8 in 251_Jan_25_21_World Vegetable Center

²⁸⁶ 29:4 p 6 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

²⁸⁷ 61:5 p 7 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

Financial institutions to develop youth focused finance packages, such as those with lower interest rates, non-traditional collateral and re-payment terms that are contextualized to the type business that women and youth are engaged in the food system²⁸⁸.

As highlighted in our previous agenda-setting report and reiterated here, **dialogues often included discussion of the need for partnerships, synergies, and alliances to change food systems collaboratively and strategically.** Such collaborative engagements need to be transparent, action-oriented, and attentive to building trust among all the participating actors. Closely related to partnerships, synergies, and alliances, was the discussion of platforms and networks as implementation strategies that should be used to generate solutions, share ideas, build alliances, educate members, and strengthen partnerships. While the above quotes mostly address single actors, the next set of quotes document the need to engage diverse actors in collaborative, accountable and evaluable transformation solutions.

Multi-partner and collaborative efforts to bring about change

Educate consumers about waste. Who: Farmers, businesses, researchers.²⁸⁹

Actions: Transform food systems to address climate and biodiversity crises. Conservation measures including pollinators and nutrient management. Incentivize farmers. Who: Businesses, government agencies, and schools.²⁹⁰

Participants agreed that governments, researchers, and development institutions should focus more effort into capacity/knowledge building for farmers who might benefit from implementing low carbon technologies in their production, as well as greater investment in the sector.²⁹¹

Participants agreed that governments, researchers, and development institutions should focus more effort into capacity/knowledge building for farmers who might benefit from implementing low carbon technologies in their production, as well as greater investment in the sector.²⁹²

Women, youth, all participants and citizens: need to play our part for a radical mindset shift.²⁹³

²⁸⁸ 70:7 p 8 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

²⁸⁹ 56:6 p 6 in 002_Nov_19_20_CGIAR

²⁹⁰ 56:7 p 7 in 002_Nov_19_20_CGIAR

²⁹¹ 18:38 p 6 in 164_Apr_15_21_Anarbekov_Akramov

²⁹² 18:38 p 6 in 164_Apr_15_21_Anarbekov_Akramov

²⁹³ 70:1 p 8 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

Academia and food producers must collaborate to reflect the realities at different scales for better policy and impactful finance.²⁹⁴

Both State and private sector needs to align and act as a driver for improved sustainability and standards throughout the food system.²⁹⁵

Actors at national government, county government, private actors and donors are key in providing financial and technical resources for improvement of infrastructure such as market infrastructure and installing warehouses and cold rooms in order to handle the produce with minimal loss and waste. Programs should benefit both formal and informal actors across the food system.²⁹⁶

Academia and Ministries of food production need to work closer together to provide additional research and technical assistance in the communities and in putting research and development into action.²⁹⁷

Farming unions, landowners and schools need to work together to improve access to land for children and encourage them to consider agriculture or horticulture as a career.²⁹⁸

Farmers and growers must work together, both with similar producers and across sectors, while the wide variety of organizations and advisers from the farm, food and business sectors must also work to join these functions up.²⁹⁹

Enablers to innovation: Who: Entrepreneurs and innovators; farmers; agile players; consumers; private companies; regulators/policymakers; scientists/academics; NGOs; young people; retailers.³⁰⁰

The event was organized as a multi-stakeholder dialogue focused on identifying barriers to entry for financiers and developing innovative solutions to address the needs of SMEs at all phases of development seeking to impact health and wellness by increasing access to healthy, affordable food will require engagement from different sectors and stakeholders such as: Public institutions; Financial institutions and other development banks and funds; Foundations and other philanthropic organizations; Entrepreneurs in the food sector; Social

²⁹⁴ 61:9 p 5 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

²⁹⁵ 37:10 p 6 in 095_Mar_27_21_Chinapoo C_Multi

²⁹⁶ 103:41 p 10 in 325_May_19_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

²⁹⁷ 61:9 p 5 in 020_Jan_26_21_IFAN

²⁹⁸ 22:30 p 9 in 116_Apr_21_21_Hein JR

²⁹⁹ 22:33 p 10 in 116_Apr_21_21_Hein JR

³⁰⁰ 101:70 p 11 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

*impact investors; Nutrition experts; Policy makers with focus on agriculture, nutrition and public health; Private sector and food industry.*³⁰¹

*Women, youth, all participants and citizens: need to play our part for a radical mindset shift.*³⁰²

*Controversies on which group should take leading role as an agent of change; individuals, women, youth, indigenous groups or community-based Organizations*³⁰³.

*Governmental support creating enabling conditions for developing and supporting landscape partnerships to transform food systems, while managing socio-ecological needs through effective governance.*³⁰⁴

10. Be open and transparent

Transparency is a major and consistent concern across Dialogues. Transparency applies to all aspects of food systems transformation decision-making. Who is making decisions? How are decisions made? What considerations, voices and perspectives are included? What assumptions are made? Who is funding systems transformation? What evaluation criteria are being applied? But transparency as discussed in Dialogues is not limited to decision-making and operations. Transparency includes openness about the thinking processes and frameworks proposed and used.

*Decision-making processes were felt to not always be inclusive of all stakeholders, in particular the most vulnerable. For example, it was noted that while sustainable development is linked to innovation and there is a general need for new ideas, there are possible trade-offs in terms of social inclusion. We need to be vigilant in order to avoid that technology fosters exclusion in the most fragile parts of society. Women can lead on this process. Exchanges and peer to peer interactions were recognised as providing a way to bridge the skill gap in this regard.*³⁰⁵

*According to the participants, the assumption is that producers and consumers present differences that must be taken into account when it comes to trading. In this regard, it is important to find a balance between the needs of both and to avoid the loss of traceability in trade. In fact, traceability also serves to increase consumer awareness and explain to them what are the impact on the environment, on the health, on their own well-being, and try to make the trade in the supply chain less harmful as possible and leaving no one behind.*³⁰⁶

³⁰¹ 65:1 p 5 in 037_Feb_12_21_Food Systems for the Future_Multi

³⁰² 70:1 p 8 in 057_Feb_26_21_YES

³⁰³ 31:2 p 8 in 066_Mar_5_21_Nkenglefac T

³⁰⁴ 39:1 p 7 in 097_Mar_30_21_EcoAgriculture Partners

³⁰⁵ 25:62 p 16 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

³⁰⁶ 26:6 p 8 in 323_Apr_28_21_Giuliodori A

Participants discussed how transparency is key in setting sustainability standards and being accountable if they are not met. It is important to be transparent about what was reached and what was not rather than simply changing the metric after the fact to align with the outcome.³⁰⁷

Some Dialogues focused on transparency among key actors.

Create spaces for transparent dialogues between farmers, consumers and authorities.³⁰⁸

In this regard, one of the most burning issues raised by consumers was precisely that of receiving guarantees about the transparency and traceability of food products and this can be remedied through clear regulatory processes that can grant fair and transparent information to consumers.³⁰⁹

Strong partnerships require transparency and interdisciplinary communication.³¹⁰

Meanwhile, innovation and advancement are also key. For example, to improve the linkages, efficiency, and transparency between markets, producers, and consumers, digital innovations need to be supported³¹¹

There is a need to encourage transparency and traceability. It is important to provide transparent, voluntary product information to consumers (e.g. through digital means) and foster responsible food marketing and advertising practices by setting standards, certification and labels.³¹²

A few Dialogues focused on the need for the supply chain and private sector to be transparent.

Food systems affect us all, and it is important to create a fully accessible virtual space where all actors across the agri-food value chain feel comfortable sharing their priorities, aspirations and challenges in an open manner.³¹³

Indeed, transparency and trust in the food chain should be improved and supported by normative work in a more coherent way.³¹⁴

³⁰⁷ 87:14 p 12 in 160_20_Apr_21_GSI

³⁰⁸ 17:33 p 11 in 075_Mar_10_21_IFAN

³⁰⁹ 26:2 p 6 in 323_Apr_28_21_Giuliodori A

³¹⁰ 55:3 p 5 in 001_Nov_5_20_CGIAR

³¹¹ 79:27 p 9 in 108_Apr_13_21_Carrara E_Multi

³¹² 80:14 p 8 in 110_Apr_14_21_Carrara E_Multi

³¹³ 6:24 p 3 in 166_Apr_14_21_Meat Business Women

³¹⁴ 24:5 p 7 in 191_Apr_16_21_Donati L

*Implement transparency in the supply chain to ensure equity to all stakeholders.*³¹⁵

*We need transparency and trust, accompanied by a change in regulations in a way that waste and losses are considered either as expensive or as a resource to close a loop.*³¹⁶

Indeed, implicit in the Dialogues is the view that transparency applies to each of the preceding dimensions of guidance:

- Be transparent about thinking processes: what kinds of systems considerations and frameworks were used in formulating solutions?
- What mindsets dominate? What mindsets are targeted for change?
- How are local contexts taken into account in transformational scaling?
- How is diversity, inclusivity, and equity defined contextually and ensured in design, implementation, and evaluation?
- What assessment was done of what was working that should be appreciated and reinforced in the face of innovation?
- What trade-offs were considered and negotiated?
- Who decided all of these things? Whose perspectives were included in decision-making?

Synthesis of Guiding Themes for Summit Solutions: Connecting & Weaving Solutions Together for Transformation

This is not a mere checklist of themes to address one by one. Dialogue participants caution that isolated and siloed solutions will not achieve transformational impacts. No singular solutions are likely to be sufficiently powerful to reach the critical mass that can tip systems into new, more equitable and sustainable transformational trajectories. Thus, solutions need to be examined for their cumulative, interactive, interdependent, interconnections that, implemented together in mutually reinforcing momentum, can transform food systems.

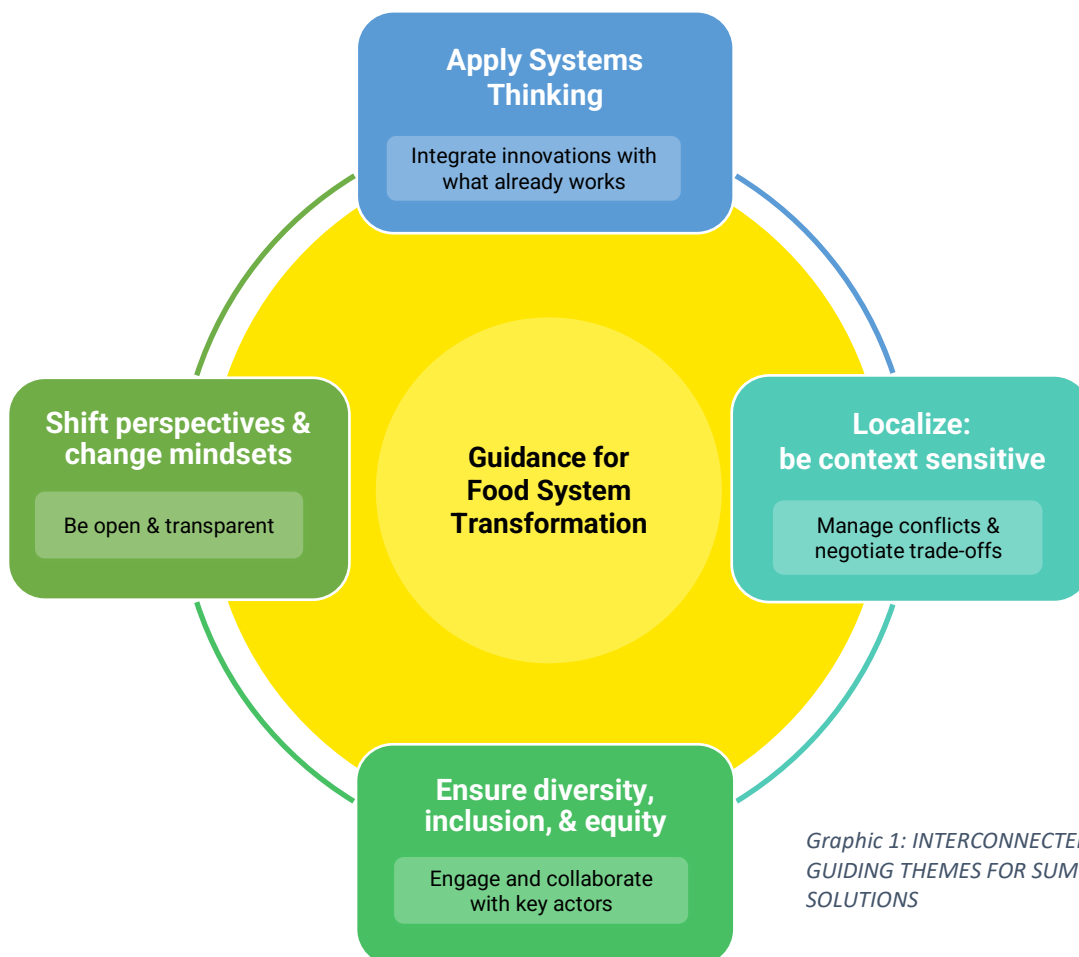
The Independent Dialogues have emerged as providing important and thoughtful guidance about how food systems transformation should be undertaken, and solutions implemented. *Recognizing complexity* is a fundamental FSSD principle. Transforming food systems to be equitable and sustainable (Guiding theme #1) means seeing and acting on the interconnections between equity and sustainability as interdependent pillars of major food systems transformations. Because food systems are complex, their transformation requires a systemic approach. Systems thinking (Guiding theme #2) involves developing and undertaking solutions with attention to interdependencies, diverse perspectives, overlapping problem boundaries, and dynamic interactions across levels, initiatives, and actors. Complex systems are not amenable to standardized interventions so solutions must be adaptable to diverse local contexts (Guiding theme #3). Engaging in, achieving and sustaining food systems transformations will require changed mindsets (Guiding theme #4) which constitutes a foundation for systems change. Those

³¹⁵ 36:2 p 9 in 089_Mar_22_21_Gee S

³¹⁶ 62:36 p 7 in 021_Jan_27_21_Donati L

changed mindsets must include valuing diversity and engaging inclusively (Guiding theme # 5) to ensure equity (Guiding theme #6) in whatever solutions are implemented. Transformation requires innovation but Dialogue participants caution and advise that solutions should integrate what is already working into innovations (Guiding theme # 7). Solution proposals will inevitably generate differences of opinion; these should be anticipated, and processes created to facilitate conflict resolutions and negotiate trade-offs (Guiding theme #8). This will help in mobilizing engaged and accountable actors to work collaboratively (Guiding theme #9). Also critical is being open and transparent (Guiding theme #10) thereby maintaining and deepening the engagement and accountability of collaborations and committed actors. Taken together, the complexity principle and systems thinking direct attention to connecting and weaving together solutions for transformation.

Consistent with this overarching guiding theme of *interconnectedness*, Graphic 1 portrays the interrelationship among these 10 Guiding Themes for Summit Solutions. The four themes in the circle offer guidance for **how to identify and conceptualize solutions**: apply systems thinking, localize (be context sensitive), shift perspectives and change mindsets, and increase inclusion and diversity to ensure equity. Within each theme, a lighter-shaded box offers **guidance for the processes of implementing solutions**: integrate innovations into what is already working; facilitate conflict resolutions and negotiate trade-offs; mobilize and engage accountable actors to work collaboratively; and be open and transparent throughout. These themes are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.



Graphic 1: INTERCONNECTED GUIDING THEMES FOR SUMMIT SOLUTIONS

PART 3:

Participation and Dialogue Reporting Data

This section provides descriptive demographic statistics of people who participated in these dialogues. We begin with our *Data Notes* section, which describes the data issues we encountered, and a few of our “workarounds” used where we encountered these challenges. The remainder of the section provides insights into the number and kinds of people who attended and participated in the Independent Food System Dialogues.

Data notes

Incomplete or not provided participant data: The following five dialogues are excluded from the demographic analysis due to incomplete or inaccurate data.

- Dialogue 007. December 18, 2020. *Independent Food Systems Dialogue in China*. (No participation data recorded)
- Dialogue 176. March 25, 2021. *Independent Sustainable Food System Dialogue (SFSD) in China*. (No participation data recorded)
- Dialogue 217. May 6, 2021. *Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice*. (No participation data recorded)
- Dialogue 225. May 13, 2021. *Faith + Food: Healing the Earth, Healing our Bodies*. Schwartz A. (No participation data recorded)
- Dialogue 189. April 16, 2021. *Pathways to Sustainable Food & Nutrition, Consumption and Livelihoods is excluded due to partial and inaccurate data*. (The only data provided in the age range group is 250 participants older than 81 years and in the gender sector three participants chose the option, ‘prefer not to say’ or ‘other’).

Incomplete data for specific categories: In some instances, the total number of participants is documented but the breakdown for four categories is incomplete or not provided, namely: age, gender, sector, stakeholder.

- 15 (or 15%) of the 98 dialogues do not have gender data for participants.
- 18 (or 18%) of the dialogues do not include age data.
- 22 (or 23%) of the 98 dialogues do not include sector data.
- 33 (or 34%) dialogues do not have stakeholder data.

Calculated data: The total number of participants is calculated for dialogues where it is not specified. The total number of participants is derived from the total number of participants per age group or the total number of participants per gender, whichever is the greater number.

New categories: The nutrition stakeholder group was not included in the stakeholder breakdown from the commencement of the dialogues, but was added in later to capture a more complete picture of participants. Therefore, the number of nutrition stakeholders who attended the dialogues is not an accurate reflection of nutrition stakeholders for all dialogues.

Double counting. A few dialogues counted participants more than once if they fell within more than one sector or fulfil two or more stakeholder roles. For example, a person could be both a small-scale farmer and an indigenous person – this person is counted twice under two different stakeholder roles.

Descriptive Participation Data

This section presents the participation data analyzed for 98 dialogues held between 5 November 2020 and the end of May 2021. Most dialogues were convened in April of 2021.³¹⁷

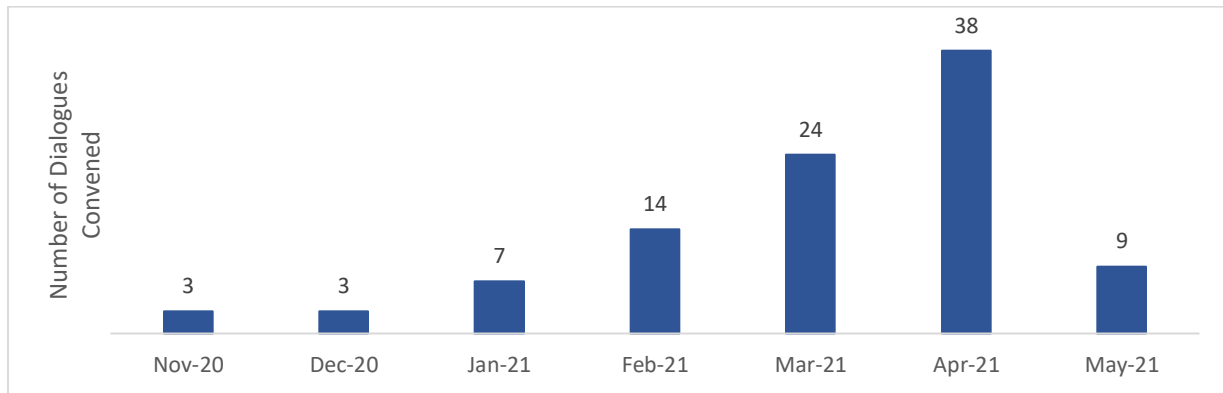


Figure 2: Number of dialogues per month (N=98)

Total number of participants

A total number of 10 142 participants took part in the 98 dialogues, averaging 103 people with a median of 67 participants. More than 100 people attended one third (34%) of the sessions.

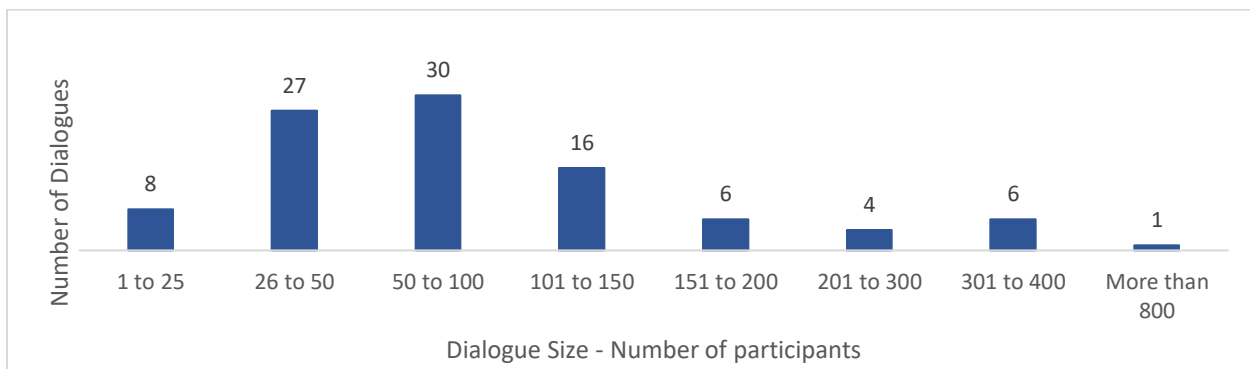


Figure 3: Number of dialogues per size category (N=98)

³¹⁷ The data notes detail why five dialogues are excluded from the analysis.

Participation by gender

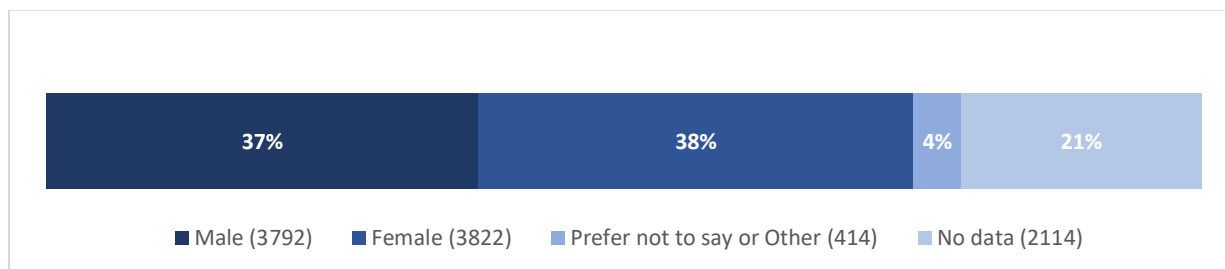


Figure 4: Population breakdown by gender for 98 dialogues (N=10142)

Of those who reported gender data, slightly more females (3822 or 51%) attended than males (3792 or 49%). Gender data are available for 83 dialogues. Both genders participated in 82 of these dialogues. One dialogue in Cameroon, convened by Bertha Yenwo, *The Role of Rural Women in the Transforming Food Systems towards Achieving the Economic Creativity for Sustainable Development*, was attended by fifty women and no men.

Participation by age

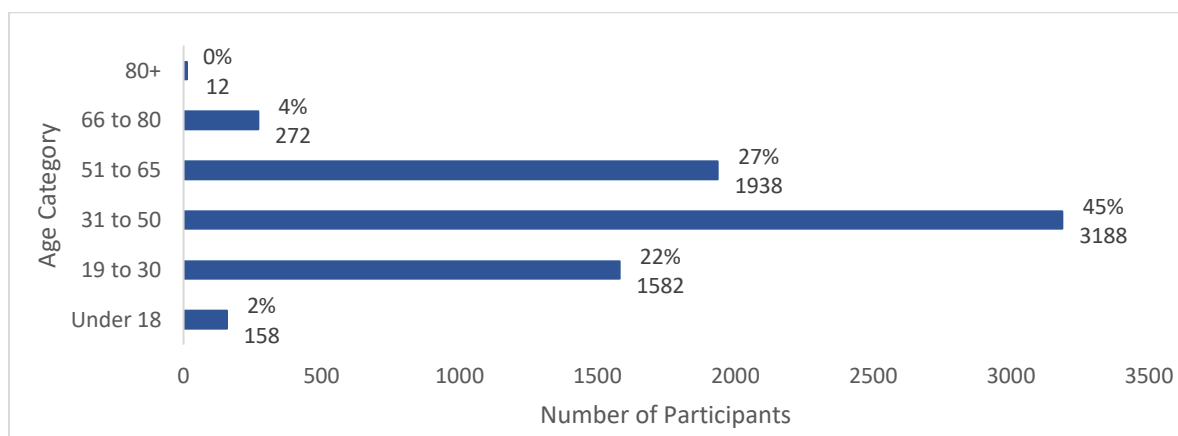


Figure 5: Population breakdown by age for 7150 participants, no data for 2992.

Approximately eighty (82%) dialogues reported age group data. Almost half (3188 or 45%) of the dialogue participants were 31 to 50 years old, only two percent (158) participants were younger than 18 years of age and 12 people were older than 80 years.

Table 1: Representation per age group across 80 dialogues

Age group	Under 18	19 -30	31 -50	51 -65	66-80	80+
Number of dialogues with at least one person per age group (maximum is 78)	21	73	78	74	41	6

Most Dialogues included representation from age groups ranging from 19 to to 65. Twenty-one dialogues included participants younger than 18 years and six Dialogues included people 80 years.

Participation by sector

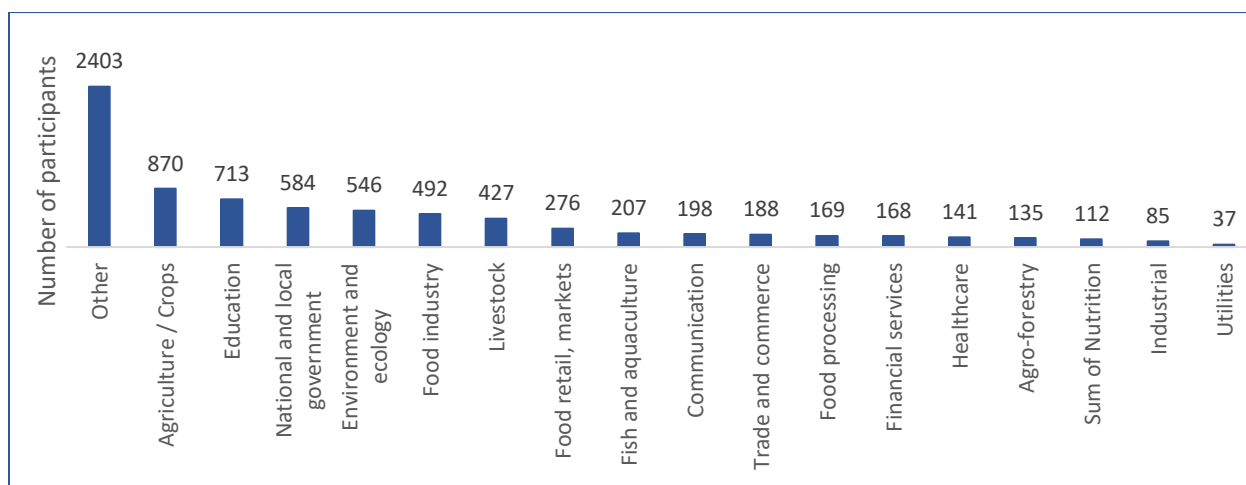


Figure 6: Population breakdown by sector for 7751 participants, no data for 2391

The “Other” category had the most representation. Reported categories with the most represented sectors are: Agriculture/Crops, Education, National and Local Government and Environment and Ecology, with more than 500 representatives.

Participation by sector at total number of dialogues

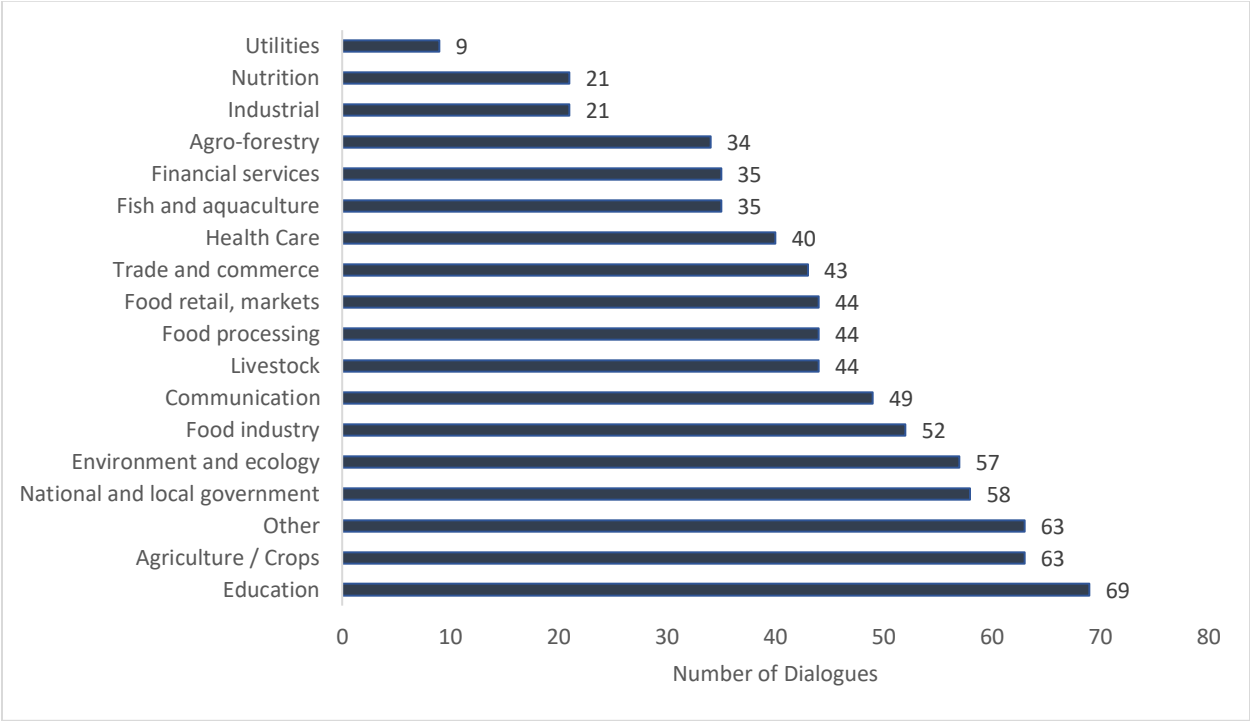


Figure 7: Sector Representation per dialogue (N=98)

Many dialogues included participants of various sectors. While “Other”, Education, and Agriculture sector attended more than 60% of dialogues, the Utilities and Industrial sector were not well represented. Please note the Nutrition sector was only included as a sector in some attendance forms, therefore data for this sector should be used with caution.

Participation by stakeholder type

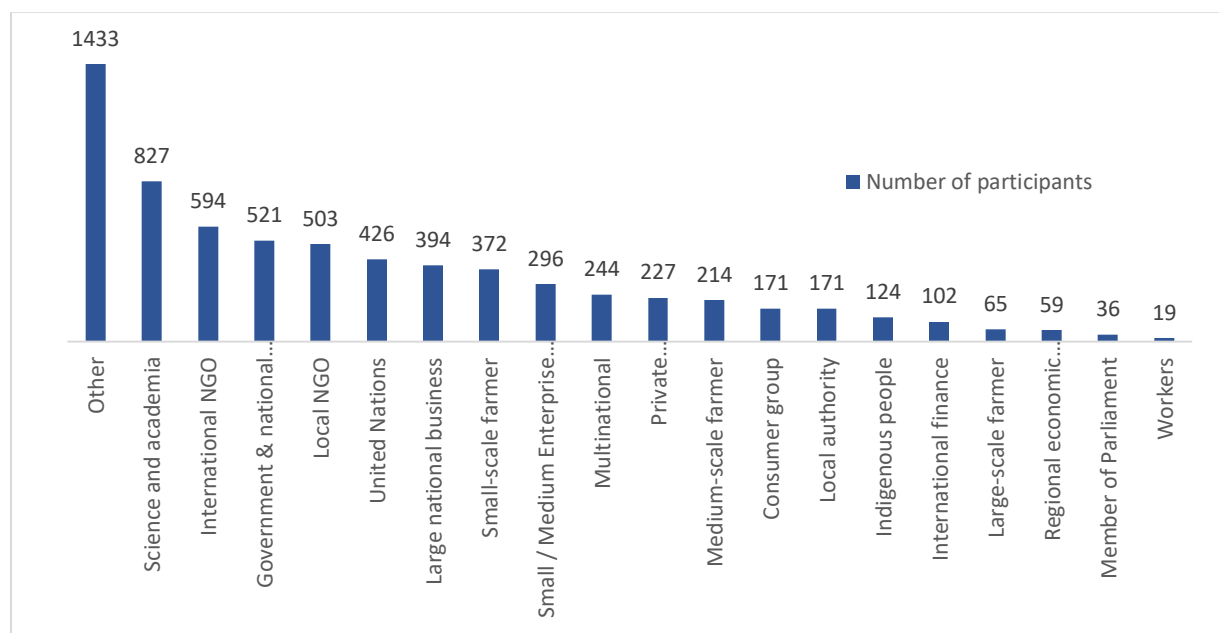


Figure 8: Population breakdown by stakeholders for 6798 participants, no data for 3344.

Excluding those who marked “other,” science and academia attended the dialogues far more than any other stakeholder group, with 827 participants at 58 dialogues. International NGOs had 594 participants in 50 dialogues while local NGOs provided 503 participants in 59 dialogues. Finally, government and national institutions had 521 participants in 48 dialogues. The farmer group attendance is discussed next.

Farmer Groups	Number of Participants	% Participants	Number of Dialogues with at least one representative
Small-scale	372	5%	39
Medium-scale	214	3%	34
Large-scale	65	1%	16
Total	651	10%	

Farmers made up 10% of the recorded participants. Small and medium scale farmers attended about one third (39 and 34 respectively) of the 98 dialogues, while large scale farmers attended less than 20% (16).

PART 4: Methodology

Approach to the Synthesis

The Synthesis process involved retrieving, organizing, coding, and analysing independent dialogue reports to identify themes and patterns emerging from the Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogues. We selected the documents reviewed based on availability by a specified cut-off date, then used a software program (ATLAS.ti, <https://atlasti.com>) to code and organize the data.

Retrieving reports

To retrieve the Independent Dialogue reports, the research team relied on email notifications about published reports received from Food Systems Summit Dialogues team. The available reports were downloaded, followed by a manual search on the [Summit Dialogues website](#), to ensure that all available published reports had been downloaded.

The research team developed an Independent Dialogue List in EXCEL to facilitate the process of tracking the retrieval of Independent Dialogue reports. The Dialogue list had several fields. These are illustrated in the table to the right.

Coding Process

A combination of inductive and deductive coding was used to code reports. Initially, the reports were coded using inductive coding, also called open coding, to create codes based on the data itself. Through this process codes arose directly from within the data itself. A process of inductive coding was selected to enable the researchers to identify patterns emerging in the data. The codes that emerged were categorised according to the following themes: Actors, Principles, Problems, Strategies, Divergences, and Trade Offs – these are aligned with Dialogue Forms key content areas.

As the coding progressed, the researchers decided to incorporate a deductive approach to illuminate findings. To do this, the researchers consulted a Food Systems Specialist (Marlene Roefs, University of *Wageningen*) and related literature to develop a pre-defined set of codes based on theoretical ideas. The result was a total of 247 Codes, organised into 55 themes/categories as illustrated with a few examples in the table and the picture below.

Fields in Dialogue List template

Fields
ID
Dialogue Date
Dialogue Month
Dialogue Year
Full Dialogue Date
Location
Document Title
Dialogue Link
Convenor
Document ID (ATLAS.ti)
Language
Report Coded (Yes/No)
Estimated MAX time to Code
No Document identified
Document Download on Dropbox
Notes

Example of Codes and Code Groups for Action Track 1

Action Track	Action Areas	Code Group	Code
1. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION	Enabling, Inspiring and Motivating People to Enjoy Healthy and Sustainable Options	S_FOOD CONSUMER TRENDS	S_change diet S_diet S_healthy choices S_traditional food
		S INFO, AWARENESS & EDUCATION	S_aware/educ/comm for community S_aware/educ/comm: food consumers S_aware/educ/comm: food vulnerable
	Slashing Food Loss & Waste	S FOOD LOSS & WASTE	S_waste S_production loss

ATLAS.ti code groups and codes

D 26: 323_Apr_28_21_Giuliodori A Code Manager

Search Code Groups Search Entities

Code Groups

- AGENTS TO ACTION CHANGE (15)
- DIVERGENCES (21)
- DONNA HIGH LEVEL (2)
- P AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (1)
- P CAPACITY AND TRAINING (3)
- P CLIMATE CHANGE (1)
- P EQUALITY (1)
- P EQUITY (1)
- P FINANCE (4)
- P FOOD ACCESS (3)
- P FOOD CONSUMER TRENDS (5)
- P FOOD NUTRITION (3)
- P FOOD PRODUCTION (6)
- P FOOD SUPPLY (6)
- P GOVERNANCE (3)
- P INCLUSION (4)
- P INFO, AWARENESS & EDUCATION (3)
- P INFRASTRUCTURE (1)
- P INNOVATION (3)
- P MIGRATION (1)
- P PARTNERSHIPS/LINKS/NETWORKS (2)

Show codes in group AGENTS TO ACTION CHANGE

Name	Grounded
A_academia~	26
A_citizens	5
A_community~	17
A_consumers~	9
A_donors and philanthropy	16
A_farmers~	12
A_financial institutions~	9
A_government~	98
A_indigenous~	20
A_NGO~	11
A_private sector~	34
A_producers~	8
A_public figures	2
A_women~	20
A_youth~	32

Comment: Select a single item to show its comment

The overall coding process followed the following steps:

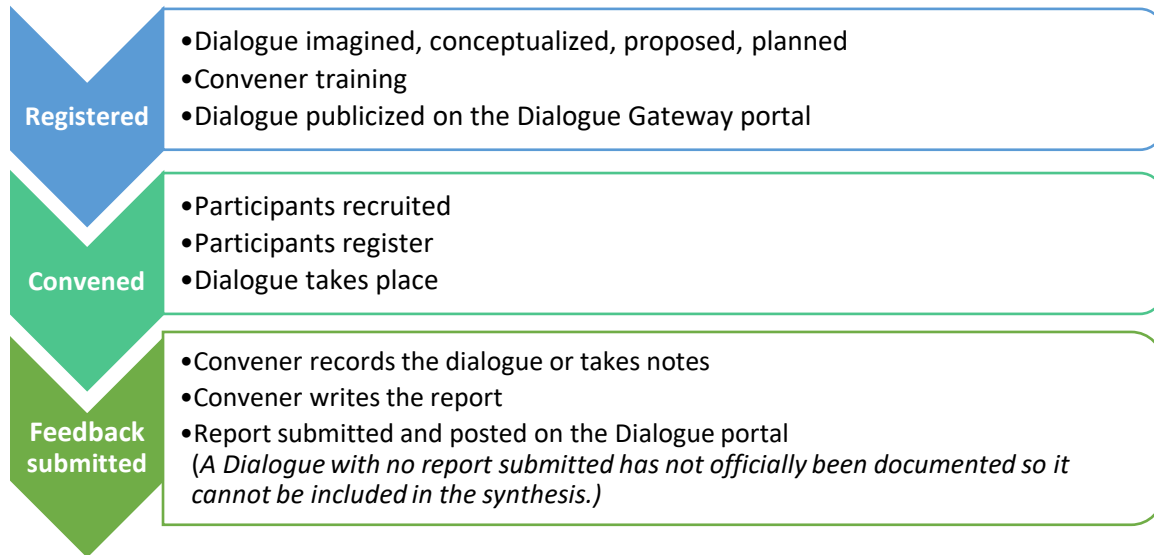
1. *Quality check.* An initial quality check of reports assessed completeness and identified language. French and Spanish reports were translated to English, then coded.
2. *Organize reports.* Rename reports, assign an ATLAS.ti ID and upload reports to ATLAS.ti for coding.
3. *Read and code initial reports.* This included a process of internal cross-checking where the research team reviewed each other's coded reports to check for consistency in interpretation of codes.
4. *Develop and validate coding framework.* A Food Systems Specialist and the overall Team Lead reviewed and refined the Code Book. The final Code Book was developed based on a lengthy, iterative process that coded an initial 17 reports.
5. *Apply the Code Book.* The Code Book was then used to code 103 reports, which provided an opportunity for the codes to be refined.
6. *Coding.* Two team members each coded approximately 50 reports (one coded 51 and one coded 52). The third Team Member coded for specific codes in all 103 reports (e.g., principles, actors). The team coded all reports submitted by May 7th, 2021 on the Dialogue database
7. *Identify patterns and themes.* The coded data were then used to identify the patterns and themes shared in this report. To prepare a report for the writing of a mid-June draft, the Team needs adequate time to code the reports, review all coding for consistency, and then analyse the data.

The team also included two additional steps to support inclusion of voices.

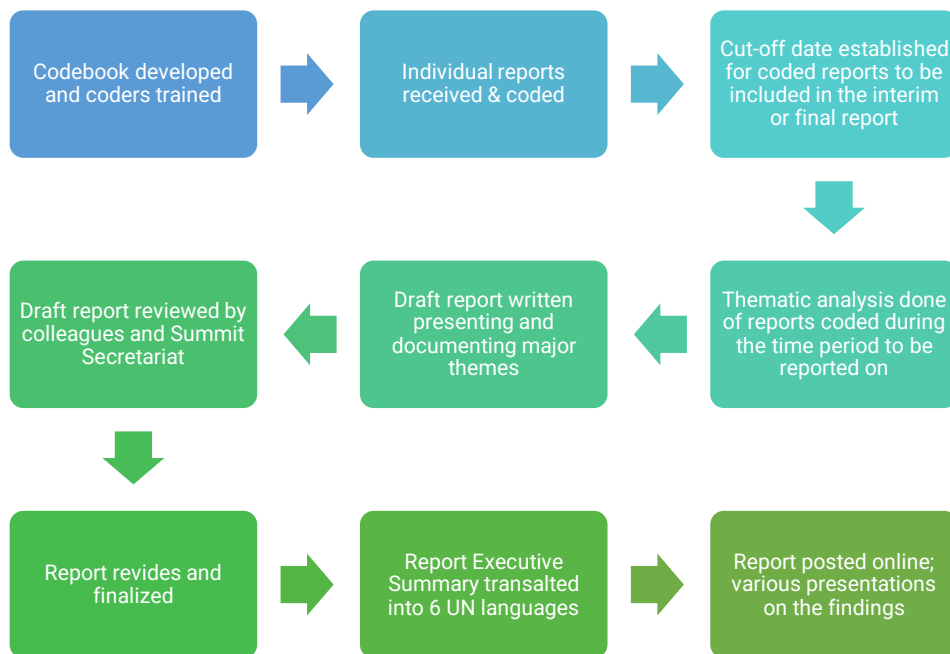
- *Support to Conveners to submit reports.* Due to the low submission rate, we trained a small group of Blue Marble Evaluators (BME) to support Conveners to write and submit their reports. To date, we have received requests from five convenors, with one Convenor asking for support for two separate Dialogues.
- *In-depth engagement with voices not often heard.* Four constituency group voices not often heard in global Summits—namely, youth, women, Indigenous People, and small farmers—had the potential to be drowned out. Therefore, we selected eight specialists from our BME network to reviewed relevant dialogues (e.g., youth specialists engaged with convenors who focused on youth dialogues) and provide *Deep Dives*. The BME specialist team requested that these convenors engage with our Team through transparent focus group discussions to clarify the key issues raised by these groups. These findings will be included in the Final report, as the initiative commenced in June 2021.

Independent Dialogues Process

Dialogue Registration and Feedback



Independent Dialogues Synthesis Process



Limitations to the synthesis

There are several challenges to analysing the data. These include:

- 1. The term “dialogue” does not necessarily mean the same thing for each event.** While all dialogue reports identified that they followed the suggested approach, reading the dialogues suggest otherwise (e.g. some were panels). Further, it is questionable if participation of over 800 people, as seen in one instance (*Advancing equitable livelihoods in food systems*), could still be considered a dialogue.
- 2. Dialogue titles do not have standardized information.** For example, region, country, sector, convenor is not clear or often identified. At times the convenor’s information is mixed (e.g. on the organisation is listed).
- 3. Lack of variance to question on the approach.** The question regarding “Did you use the same method as recommended by the Convenors Manual?” does not offer any variance. All responses thus far are “yes” however it is clear from some reports that that method was not always used.
- 4. Participation categories are not always completed.** Further it is not clear if these are participation rates or registration rates. This data also does not always add up (e.g. the total number versus the participants in each sector).
- 5. The dialogue reports do not follow any consistent approach for reporting challenges, strategies and innovative ideas.** While some reports identify challenges and strategies separately, others seemingly fold the two together, and at times intermix ideas.
- 6. The strategies do not always offer details but rather offer general statements.** At times, the researchers had to discern and make interpretations among unclear statements and ambiguous descriptions.
- 7. It is not clear whose voice is being heard.** The dialogues are written as a summary. Therefore, there can be no attribution of quotes, comments, ideas or suggestions to a certain group or person (e.g. farmers said this, government said that). Anonymity was an intentional design feature of the dialogue reporting to protect confidentiality.
- 8. The various report sections do not always offer clarity for reporting.** Some reports have repeated information throughout the reports, while others offer summaries that then have no additional information to support that summary in the remainder of the report.
- 9. Action tracks are “ticked” by report writers, but do not always accurately appear to reflect the report’s content.** At times, report writers tick all the action tracks. At other times the Action Track is ticked however the content analysis does not identify that Track as being covered.
- 10. Attribution.** The formatting approach for attributing quotes changed several times during the writing and formatting of the final report. While all quotes can be attributed to a specific Dialogue Report and place in that report, our final report may have some errors. Should mistakes be identified, the authors can identify all quotes based on the initial analysis.

These kinds of coding challenges are not unusual for this kind of decentralized, voluntary engagement process. It is to be expected that there would be variation in how reporters interpret and undertake their task. We mention these challenges to be open and transparent about the data strengths and weaknesses.

PART 5: A Tasting Menu of Independent Dialogues

Amuse-bouche is a single, bite-sized food offering selected by a chef to offer a glimpse of quality in anticipation of the choices on the full menu. As of the writing of this second interim report, over 600 Independent Dialogues have been registered. Many more are anticipated. We have analyzed and synthesized roughly the first hundred reported submitted through May. It seems unlikely that anyone outside our dedicated Blue Marble Evaluation team of coders will read all the reports. The volume of Dialogues is both impressive and overwhelming, which is why this synthesis was commissioned. But the synthesis cannot capture the flavor, tone, texture, and substance of individual Dialogues or the whole set. Still, we are commonly entreated thusly: “If I only have time to read one or two Independent Dialogues, which ones would you recommend?”

Our task has been to synthesize not evaluate reports. Moreover, great variation is the most pronounced characteristic of the Dialogues. Some reports stand out for only having a few lines of information. Others are notable for being anything but dialogic: formal presentations, panels without participant engagement, official pronouncements by dignitaries, and advocacy statements by those promoting a particular point of view. None of those would be on our list of recommended reading though each manifests some engagement at some level and in some way with the Summit preparation and momentum-building process. We have included all of them in the coding and synthesis.

Then there are the Dialogues that are genuinely and deeply interactive, organized and carried out with attention to diversity and inclusiveness, carefully adhering to the Summit principles, conscientiously following the guidelines in the Dialogue Convener’s manual, and thoughtfully offering insights, proposals, reflections, and guidance for food systems transformation. There are a great many of these high-quality Dialogues worthy of full consumption and digestion. But creating such a comprehensive list is beyond our mandate.

Still, we are persuaded that reading this synthesis report is insufficient to appreciate and do justice to the Dialogues. By highlighting four diverse Dialogues we want to give readers and users of this report a better sense of the nature of the reports and the challenges of coding and synthesizing them. So, we urge readers to savor these *amuse-bouche* selections as a kind of tasting menu, offering a window into the quality and contribution of the Dialogues -- and hopefully an enticement to read more.

Four samples of dialogue feedback reports

1. Bites of Transfoodmation - Dispute

DIALOGUE DATE: Friday, 16 April 2021

DIALOGUE TITLE: Bites of Transfoodmation - Dispute

CONVENED BY: Ludovica Donati, Bites of Transfoodmation project coordinator

DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE: <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12315/>

DIALOGUE TYPE: Independent

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS: No borders

The organizing team has selected a group of young and motivated individuals already (or ready to be) projected into the realm of food systems and provided them with a safe space to discuss, openly and creatively, the way forward for a more sustainable and resilient future. As such, both the organizing team and the participants understand the need to act with urgency and are committed, either personally or professionally, to contribute to the vision, objectives and outcomes of the Food Systems Summit. The Bites of Transfoodmation (BoT) participants aim to be agents of change and wish to contribute to the outcome of the FSS. David Nabarro's intervention during the first BoT virtual meeting clearly inspired them and helped them better to understand the process behind the Summit. In the organization of the Dialogue, the BoT organizing team made sure to embrace multi stake-holder inclusivity by inviting participants from different countries, backgrounds and sectors, including, but not limited to civil society, government, academia and private sector. It must be pointed out, however, that the Dialogue has been organized and carried out with a focus on the youth and on the Middle Eastern - Mediterranean region geographically speaking. The facilitators selected were all part of the organizing team and had been briefed with attention to ensure the creation of a safe space conducive for dialogues based on respect and trust. A number of 'principles' for discussion were shared with the participants at the beginning of each session to foster this sense of inclusivity, mutual respect and trust. These included the need to complement the work of others, build on what the person before has said, challenge only when you have an alternative to propose, and finally seek compromise.

Main findings

The main findings of the first panel were that there is a profound disconnection between producers and consumers, especially in cities, due to an invisible wall dividing the urban from the rural area and making it impossible to have true awareness of the origins and related production systems of food. Moreover, the panel highlighted the importance of supporting hybrid and cross-sectoral professions, as well as investing in education as a very first starting point, to break this wall and ensure social proximity.

The main findings of the second panel were the recognition of digital technologies as the vehicle of change brought by the people, as well as the importance of filtering good information from bad one, the same way as we select good quality food from bad quality one. Furthermore, the panel found that social media represents an important tool, especially for younger generations to advocate for better and more inclusive and sustainable narratives.

In the third panel, the main findings were that everyone has (theoretically) the right to food and that there is a strong need to make the food system more inclusive for women, the youth, minorities, the poor, indigenous people, refugees, etc. In addition to this, it was recognized during the whole panel that a true cost approach is needed to change the system and make it more sustainable, by internalizing positive and negative externalities in the prices of food, in terms of environmental, social, economic, health and animal welfare implications. In this perspective, the character of food as a potential public good was discussed.

Some interesting points were raised by the panelists of the final Debate. Indeed, not only food was recognized as a Human Right in terms of accessibility and affordability, but also the work behind the production of food and the related waste and loss was highlighted. Moreover, the important role of the youth and future generations in enhancing the needed change to reach sustainable food systems was stressed again, especially in relation to spreading the mantra on social media. For this reason, the panelists underlined the importance of including younger generations in decision-making processes. Other main findings of the panel were related to a fair distribution of resources, revenues and end products through sustainable production and social inclusiveness, as well as the recognition of health-related problems in our food system, in terms of undernutrition, malnutrition, over-nutrition and obesity.

2. The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature-positive production to ensure safe, nutritious food and conservation of our biodiversity for a sustainable food system

DATE: Monday, 19 April 2021

DIALOGUE TITLE: The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature-positive production to ensure safe, nutritious food and conservation of our biodiversity for a sustainable food system

CONVENED BY: Asikaralu Okafor Organization: Maklummy Technology

DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE : <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12151/>

DIALOGUE TYPE: Independent

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS: Nigeria, No borders

The Summit dialogue was organized and convened in a physical informal community gathering bringing together multiple stakeholders from the indigenous people in coastal communities working across the food system from production to consumption including the fishermen. They are inclusive and strive to showcase as many voices as possible, capturing diverse cultural, professional and gender specific perspectives. We also recognized the utmost urgency of sustained and meaningful action at all levels to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals involving action tracks 1,2,3,4,5 in our discussions. With this urgency mindset, the Dialogues are organized as contributions to the Food Systems Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Finally, the participants committed to promote and contribute to the vision, objectives and the final outcomes of the Food Systems Summit with their indigenous knowledge, skills and experiences.

The indigenous people in the coastal communities are looking forward to fostering new engagements and partnerships that will stimulate the emergence of innovations and ways to advance collectively and creatively towards the future of agriculture while embracing the entire scope of opinions erupting from other stakeholders in the food system. The dialogue strategically focused on developing and scaling up indigenous knowledge and capacities peculiar to the culture and traditions of the indigenous people to inform decision makings, policy and governance at all levels for a sustainable food system. The participants were urged to give their audience for effective collaboration with multiple stakeholders in fostering the enabling environment that will replicate and scale up community actions that requires immediate take off.

Main findings

After an interactive and robust discussions with our indigenous people, the following conclusions emerged from our Dialogue:

1. We need to scale up indigenous knowledge and promote generational knowledge transfer that is rapidly dying out due to the pressures of food security and urban rural migration through adequate collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders at the national, state, local government levels, civil society organizations and the private sector.
2. To build indigenous people's skills with sustainable technology and digital tools that will integrate trainings, research and service to community to close the gender gap and enhance sustainable food systems.
3. Indigenous people are closer to nature and the importance of indigenous knowledge cannot be overemphasized because traditional farming practices are more ecologically sensitive, nature friendly and sustainable. We suggested linking grassroots organizations in need of funding with financial/donor institutions that are looking to finance green initiatives to consolidate more on the diversification of our biodiversity and enhance sustainable food systems.
4. Research institutions, Universities, civil society organizations and private sectors should be made to provide capacity building training and agricultural technologies solutions to these indigenous people in the socially and economically disadvantaged communities. We shouldn't leave it for the government alone.
5. To be mainstreamed in our policy making that agriculture should be seen as a business and not just a culture that can provide financial as well as ecological returns to our households, community and the planet.
6. There is an urgent call to action to empower the indigenous women and youth from the disadvantaged and underserved coastal communities to mobilize and become the core of generational knowledge transfer facilitating development that spreads from not just farmer to farmer but also to the children in their households and also the men in their lives.
7. It is of utmost importance to carve out tailor-made solutions not just based on research alone but according to farmers needs and provide market access and linkages, mobilizing resources and harnessing partnerships for greater leverage, innovation, and impact on nature, people, livelihoods and our ecosystems.

3. Embracing change and harnessing diversity: the roles of livestock in future food systems

DIALOGUE DATE: Tuesday, 18 May 2021

DIALOGUE TITLE: Embracing change and harnessing diversity: the roles of livestock in future food systems

CONVENED BY: Shirley Tarawali, Assistant Director General (International Livestock Research Institute, ILRI) and Chair (Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, GASL)

DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE : <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12562/>

Engagement

Urgency, commit to summit: group work included focus on action in relation to 5 action track areas. Complexity, multistakeholder: some 13 different stakeholder typologies participated. Respect complement work of others, build trust: careful selection and training of facilitators; ensuring groups were as mixed as possible. Participants and facilitators alike were alerted to expect difficult conversations, sometimes with ‘people who trouble them’, with an emphasis on being creative, having new conversations and finding innovative solutions. [NOTE the numbers of participants do not include curators, facilitators, rapporteurs]

We made a special effort to include diversity, with almost half the registered participants indicating ‘non-livestock’. However, the final composition had more livestock participants. About 30 registered people did not join and many were the non-livestock folks. Our dialogue had two curators who shared the tasks of: Moderating the plenary sessions and providing participants with an overview of the process before, during and after the dialogue. Group guidance included: • Provide safe, inclusive spaces to discuss issues around specific topics • Seek consensus while allowing diverse opinions to be aired; • Identify a desired scenario - by 2030 - and the key outcomes • Listen and be respectful • Recognize complexity - no magic bullet or binary solutions • Acknowledge the diversity of perspectives • Identify practical actions and ways forward • All voices count – every contribution is essential but will not be attributed (Chatham House rules for discussion groups) Following a short plenary session in which the dialogue context and ambition were highlighted, there were short plenary remarks covering food security, and visions for livestock in future food systems in relation to ‘food’ ‘environment’ and ‘livestock sustainability’. The opening and closing plenary sessions were webcast and can be found here: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5566/icode/>.

Discussion groups were organized around topics related to the five-food system dialogue action tracks, with two groups per track and one group entirely Spanish: one group entirely French. We had a team of facilitators and note takers (one of each per group) who were able to join a pre-dialogue training session to ensure all were familiar with the task in hand, aware they must include all participants and ensure that both convergence and divergence should be respected and surfaced. Each discussion group had a set of google slides, which were shared as the group was underway so that that the participants could see and agree to the recorded notes which have been consolidated for this report.

Main findings

Embracing change: new connections. Although the majority of participants were in some way connected with the livestock sector, there was consensus that further engagement is needed with those beyond the sector, whether in health, nutrition, food security, equity, environment, etc., or those who believe that animal agriculture and the consumption of livestock products should stop. Facilitating such engagement will require deliberate efforts from livestock stakeholders, including multi-stakeholder processes within and beyond the sector. The UN FSS provides a forum to expand and continue these conversations.

Participants recognized that discussions about livestock often focus on the production aspects of the sector, and that these discourses need to expand, especially to include communications across the sector and especially with consumers.

Harnessing diversity and nuancing communication. Participants recognized that the global discussion about livestock usually lacks the nuance that reflects the diversity of the sector and thus the solutions required to ensure its contributions to future food systems. It was emphasized that a polarized debate that has extremes of 'livestock all bad' or 'livestock all good' is unhelpful and does not reflect the diversity of livestock roles across the world, or the need for multiple, different changes and solutions throughout the sector towards better food systems in future.

The most-cited examples of global discourse that does not account for livestock sector diversity concerned the consumption of livestock-derived foods and the impacts on the environment. For the former it was noted that for wealthier countries and segments of the population across the world, the message about reducing consumption of livestock-derived foods or making dietary choices (such as veganism or vegetarianism) facilitated by easy access to diverse nutrients may be appropriate. For less-wealthy countries and populations, improving access, availability and affordability of quality, safe, livestock-derived foods could make a significant, positive difference to nutritional wellbeing (and its wider ramifications for stunting, cognitive development etc.), especially for the most vulnerable (pregnant and lactating mothers, children in the first 1000 or even 3000 days, elderly).

Regarding livestock and the environment, participants again highlighted contrasting narratives, between the damage livestock production inflicts on the environment and the positive benefits that must be harnessed. These range from emissions of greenhouse gases from ruminant animals where improving production efficiencies (emissions per unit of product) is paramount in most LMICs, to opportunities for carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation across the world's vast rangelands, to opportunities for regenerative agriculture approaches based on livestock management.

Both of these (and other, such as One Health) areas will benefit from stronger, credible, well-communicated scientific evidence to inform all stakeholders, from policy makers to farmers to consumers and schoolchildren on the choices and implications as well as appropriate incentives. Presently, this is hampered by multiple very different global statistics which are often inappropriately extrapolated.

Communication also needs to better incorporate very diverse, often essential roles of livestock for livelihoods, women and youth. Embracing change: action within the livestock sector. The diverse

livestock sector actors who joined the dialogue all acknowledge that, as with all sectors, change towards better future food systems must be embraced. What that change looks like is incredibly diverse because of the diversity of ways that animals and their products are raised, managed and consumed as well as their multiple roles.

Key areas for change that were recognized include tackling those hard areas where livestock are indeed problematic – where environmental impacts, consumption patterns and production strategies are harming the planet and its people.

Change also means grasping opportunities where incentives, information and policy can better support livestock's positive contributions to environmental, health and livelihood outcomes. All livestock sector stakeholders must engage and commit to diverse and significant change. Such change needs to be informed by robust evidence and must include engagement well beyond the livestock sector itself. The livestock sector's commitment to change must however go well beyond changing conversations and nuancing debates.

It requires collective action, potentially facilitated through multisectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogues. Importantly, it is incumbent upon the sector to provide and embrace practical solutions to mitigate the challenges and harness the opportunities for livestock to fully play a role in sustainable future food systems. Among the 2030 outcomes for the sector were: healthier, more productive, and well cared for animals; reducing carbon emissions from livestock; quality over quantity; improve productivity, efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of the livestock sector; moving to regenerative farming; change the negative image of the sector; and to acknowledge and secure the contributions livestock for a healthy planet, its people and their diets.

4. Reconstructing our food systems

DIALOGUE DATE: Wednesday, 21 April 2021

DIALOGUE TITLE: Reconstructing our food systems

CONVENED BY: Ms Tiina Huvio, Convenor, Programme Director at Food and Forest Development Finland

DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE : <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7431/>

DIALOGUE TYPE : Independent

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS : Finland

As we organized the dialogue, we recognized the urgency of actions and wanted to come up with solutions that could be implemented within a reasonable time frame and we recognize that farmers in developing countries need our help now due to climate change and other challenges. The sooner we can shift to more sustainable practices globally, the sooner we will start to see positive changes and effects. We commit to the Summit and hope that our outcomes will be useful in the Summit. We are respectful and with our own work strive to improve health and well-being of individuals. We also recognize the complexity of food systems and that's why we wish to continue the discussions throughout the year and next year. We embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity as we invited participants from different fields and different backgrounds to our Dialogue. We will continue with this approach in our future webinars and discussions in order to gain a more diverse and wide perspective on the food systems. We mentioned that the outcomes of our Dialogue are part of the Food System Summit and that our outcomes will be sent to the FSSD. We built trust by opening the event to anyone who is interested in the topic and by sharing the group discussion outcomes at the end of the webinar. We also shared a summary of the webinar with all the participants and also on our website.

The Dialogue participants understand the urgency with our actions and want to be part of the solution. Participants were from different industries and fields representing a wide range of stakeholders. This enabled lively discussions regarding each Action Track and took into account a variety of perspectives. The Dialogue facilitators were chosen based on their facilitator experience and their knowledge of each topic. This enhanced participants' trust and increased their participation in the discussions. Each participant was respectful of other people's comments and other cultures. Complexity of the food systems was recognized in group discussions as well as in the opening and closing speeches. Many participants and speakers emphasized that there's no easy solution for well-functioning food systems globally but with awareness and discussion, we can start to form solutions to the complex issues.

Main findings

More discussion is needed in order to create viable solutions for the challenging topic. FFD will host more webinars related to food systems to continue the discussion. Topics will be more focused and

will concentrate on a specific field such as nature-positive food production or the role of forests in food production.

Main findings of this webinar include the following: (1) Cultural methods and norms should be respected and used as a foundation when looking for a transition in food systems. (2) The role of schools can be pivotal in providing nutritious meals to children but also educating children on sustainable food production and systems. (3) Trade and legal policies should support sustainable and ecological production. (4) Supermarkets and retailers could have a strong role in helping consumers to make sustainable consumption decisions, but they need to be supported by other actors and lean on predictable rules. (5) If we want lasting change, the process needs to start at the grassroot level and be gradual to be effective. (6) Local and nature-positive production should be favored but some products will still need to be imported because it's impossible to produce everything locally and export revenues are important for many countries. (7) The proportion of plants in diet needs to be promoted but this doesn't exclude animal husbandry which has multiple roles for many households. (8) Smallholders should get organized to have more support, more resilience and have a stronger position in food systems. (9) Co-operation between actors within food systems (research institutions, companies, farmers, government) should be increased to build practical solutions. (10) Increasing women's resilience via transformative approaches that strengthen women's confidence, knowledge and skill, relations and improve their rights to earn livelihoods (11) Youth's engagement in agriculture should be promoted via a decent income and increased access to technology, digital tools and mechanization to ensure decent income.

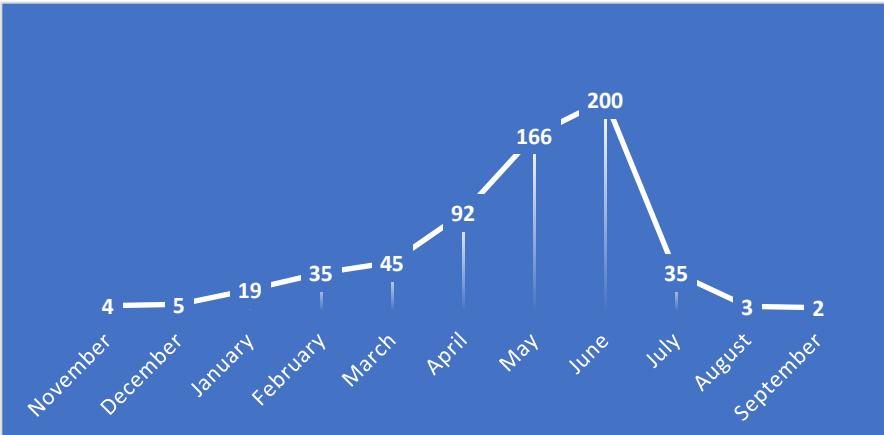
In particular, the webinar stressed the need to support locally tailored solutions which are based on the understanding of local context, supported and promoted by actors which have organized themselves, while taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups or groups with special needs such a women and youth. Many important aspects came to light through group discussions, and they highlighted the complexity of global food systems.

PART 6: New and emergent directions

Current index of registered dialogues

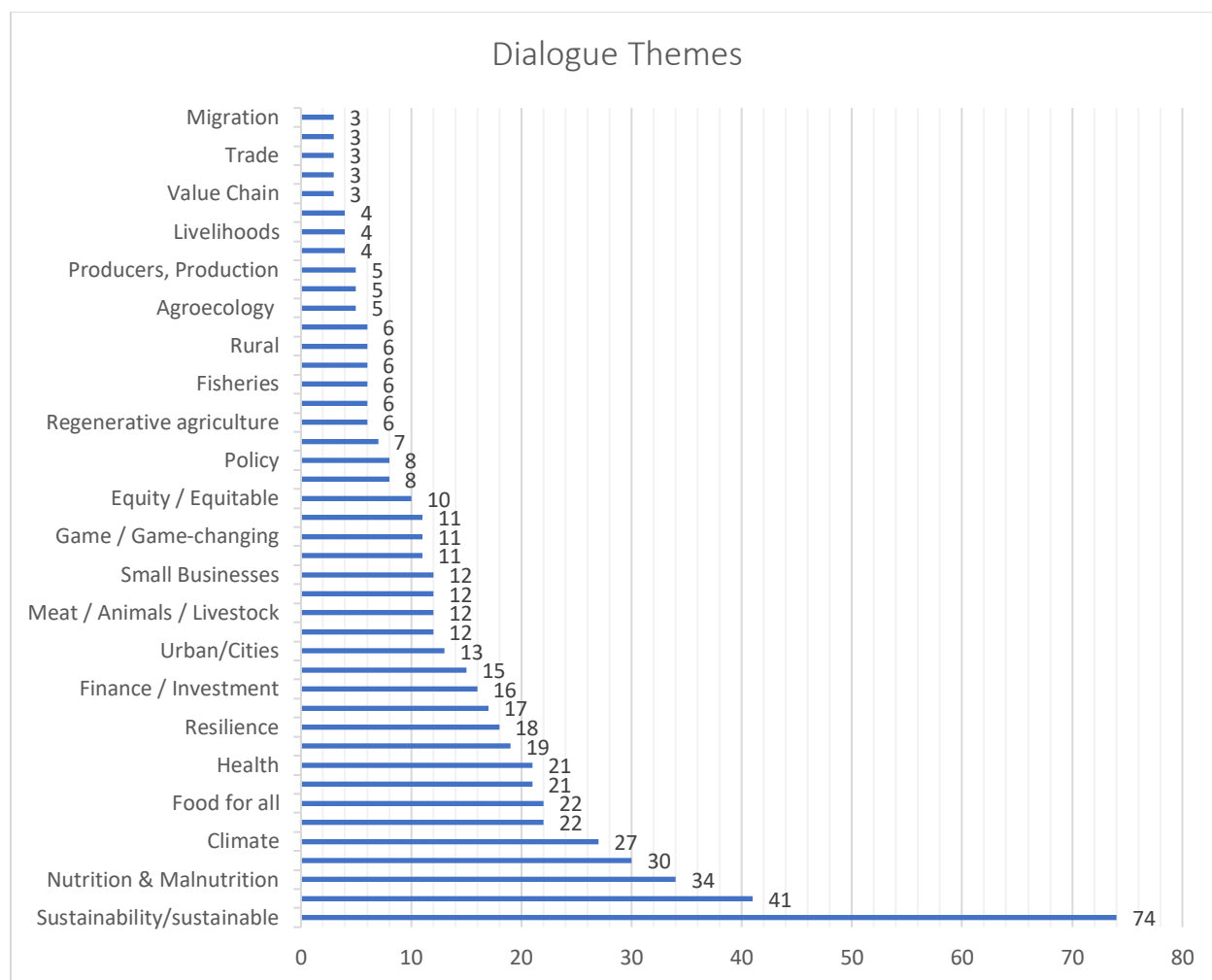
Through mid-June 606 Independent Dialogues had been registered. This number includes Dialogues registered and scheduled but not yet convened. It also includes Dialogues that were convened but for which reports have not yet been posted.

Monthly number of Independent Dialogues registered



As part of this synthesis, these registered dialogues have been indexed by topic based on the dialogue title. The chart below provides the frequency of dialogue topics and thus provides a window into the issues that are getting the greatest attention in the Dialogue announcements.

Registered dialogues by theme



Looking forward

While the original mandate for this synthesis was to identify and synthesize the cross-cutting themes of the Independent Dialogues, as the work has unfolded, new opportunities have emerged to deepen the contributions of the Dialogues to the FSS.

1. **Support for report writing.** The Blue Marble Evaluation team is offering support to conveners to help complete their reports.
2. **Deep Dives.** Blue Marble Evaluation deep dive teams are examining and synthesizing Dialogue reports on small farmers, Indigenous People, women, and youth. Dialogue Conveners in these focused areas will be invited to participate in focus groups to further illuminate the perspectives of these four priority groups identified in the first interim report.
3. **Action Tracks Support.** Blue Marble Evaluation team has identified Dialogues that are especially relevant to Action Track solutions and provided those Dialogues to the Action Tracks.

Annex A: Ten Agenda-Setting Themes Identified in the First Interim Report

The Independent Dialogues typically identify issues and concerns that participants believe the Summit should address and how they should be addressed. Specific solutions and concrete proposals are not clearly identified in most feedback reports. Rather, the Dialogues more often yield system insights and priority concerns that participants hope the Summit will address in identifying and implementing solutions. The first interim report presented 10 of the most prominent crosscutting and overarching themes that emerged from the analysis, which we presented as *agenda-setting themes*. Because these themes provide an essential context and foundation for this second interim report, we briefly review them here.

1. Food Systems and climate change are interconnected

Dialogue discussions link sustainable food systems, sustainable agriculture, environmental sustainability, global climate change, and the need for nutritional, accessible, and environmentally friendly diets.

2. Equity.

Dialogues discussed supporting equity as a framework for increasing access to affordable, nutritious food. Equity also concerns fair remuneration to farmers and strategies to address the needs of women, youth, and minorities in order for them to fully participate in all elements of a sustainable food system.

3. Education about food and food systems

Education was discussed as critical at all levels of food systems, from schools to consumers, including farmers, distributors, and producers, and engaging the very young to the not so young. Myriad educational topics were identified from planting, harvesting, and cooking, to preproduction, processing and marketing with a focus on nutrition, health, and other critical information. Education included formal and informal approaches using various kinds of traditional or innovative communication, teaching, and capacity building activities.

4. Economic and finance issues

Economic and finance concerns were wide-ranging, from issues of inclusion and job creation to a focus on strengthening rural economies. Strategies that deserve attention and deeper analysis include: financial incentives for food systems transformations; the effects of subsidies; policy and finance approaches that better reach farmers, women, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); accelerating, de-risking, and promoting public and private finance and investment; and the need for collaboration, alliances, partnerships, and innovation in investment and finance.

5. Engagement with science and scientists

Understanding food systems and the implication of change requires active engagement with science and scientists, especially making scientific knowledge accessible to farmers and producers, and using science to inform government policies. Ideas ranged from ensuring that scientists' work is translated into lay terms, to ensuring that science is used to inform policy and farming decisions. The need for partnerships with scientists was often stressed.

6. Partnerships, synergies, and alliances

Dialogues often included discussion of the need for partnerships, synergies, and alliances to change food systems collaboratively and strategically. Such collaborative engagements need to

be transparent, action-oriented, and attentive to building trust among all the participating actors.

7. Platforms and networks

Closely related to partnerships, synergies, and alliances, was the discussion of platforms and networks as implementation strategies that should be used to generate solutions, share ideas, build alliances, educate members, and strengthen partnerships.

8. Policy and regulatory reform

Reformed policies, regulations, and new frameworks were identified as essential to influence changes needed to support a sustainable, equitable, and environmentally friendly food system. While governments play a key role, multiple actors are needed to help bring about and implement policy and regulatory reforms including both consumers and producers of food, and both private sector and nongovernmental groups.

9. Technology

Better use of existing technologies and development of new technologies to support food systems transformations was discussed. Technology was viewed as critical to improve adaptation and mitigate various problems identified such as greater access to food, climate change, scaling education initiatives, achieving more equity, reducing food waste, and supporting health and nutrition.

10. Managing trade-offs

Most reports mentioned some kind of trade-offs with regards to the complexities and negotiations involved in shaping, informing, or otherwise shifting food systems, and the need to be able to assess these trade-offs. An example is where conservation of natural resources could be in conflict with livelihoods or banning deforestation could mean loss of employment and economic losses. Other trade-offs included: production for local consumption versus export, affordable food for consumers versus increasing small farmers' income.

Elaboration of these agenda-setting themes and supporting documentation from the Dialogues can be found in the first interim report here (https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-Interim-Synthesis-Report_FSS-Independent-Dialogues_.pdf)

Annex B: List of Dialogue Reports Reviewed

Full Dialogue Title	Footnote reference number <i>For example:</i> 001_Nov_5_20_CGIAR	Dialogue Link
Transforming Latin American food systems to build back better from COVID-19 and tackle climate change & nature loss	001	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1081/
Game-changing Partnerships for Game-changing Solutions for Food and Climate	002	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1717/
Cross-sector partnerships for developing and scaling food system solutions in the northeast U.S.	003	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/4517/
Maintaining Functionalities By Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities	005	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1260/
Advancing equitable livelihoods in food systems: a UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue	006	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1589/
INDEPENDENT FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUE IN CHINA	007a	https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-of-the-1st-FSD-in-China.pdf
Preserving Indonesian Traditional Foods for Sustainable Consumption	008	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1696/
Programme d'appui des jeunes dans l'agroalimentaire et la promotion de l'agriculture intelligente face au climat	010a	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2025/
Agri-SME finance at the Food Systems Summit	011	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2711/
Fostering Resilient, Inclusive and Equitable Food Systems in Nigeria	014	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1334/

High Level Dialogue on Finance at CFS 47 - Finance & Investment	020	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2880/
Bites of Transfoodmation - Journeys of Transition in Food Production and Distribution Practices	021	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2337/
UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from India	023	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1956/
Adaptive Approaches for Food System Sustainability in Nigeria	030	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2931/
APPROCHE COMMUNAUTAIRE DES SYSTEMES ALIMENTAIRES D'ICI 2030 EN LIEN AVEC LES ODD DANS UN VILLAGE COSMOPOLITE EN COTE D'IVOIRE	033a	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2160/
High level Round table - For Ethiopia Food System	035	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/4202/
Financing Food Systems & Nutrition Transformation	037	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2119/
Food Nutrition security, Nutrition security, agriculture, and climate crisis	041	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/3917/
Bites of Transfoodmation - What will be the role of food in defining people's health?	043	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/3657/
UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from Asia & Africa	044	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2060/
Catalyzing finance for young food entrepreneurs	049	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/3390/
Good Food For All	050	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/3940/
Retail and Workplace Foodservice Food Systems Virtual Dialogue	051a	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/3198/

Walking the talk: healthy & sustainable food systems through aligned, evidence-based communication & policy	052	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1256/
Towards the Sustainability of Local Food Systems and Public Policy Design in México	054	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2643/
Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi	057	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/5560/
Food Systems, Climate Change & Youth Power	060	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6540/
What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems	064	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/4362/
Rights of Nature as An Enabler to Transforming the Food Systems in Africa	066	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/5731/
Arab Stakeholders Dialogue on Food Systems	071	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7080/
Africa Vice-Chancellors' Regional Food Systems Dialogues: Stakeholder engagement to discuss future pathways for sustainable food systems in Africa	072	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/4137/
High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 - Innovation	075	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2887/
Arab Youth Dialogue on Food Systems	077	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7085/
Changing the future of food in UCC - https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7356/official-feedback-7356-en.pdf?t=1616154767	078	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7356/
Pathways to sustainable and resilient food systems and communities	080	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2965/

Food Agility Summit 2021: Mission Food For Life	081	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7592/
Innovation Towards Boosting Nature-Positive Production in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Region	082	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/4170/
Enabling Sustainable Food Systems through the Agricultural Value Chain in Nigeria	084	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2333/
Envisioning Sustainable Food Service by 2030	086	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1514/
Pathways to Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems - 2	087	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2970/
Dialogue on trade-offs in meeting Ireland's climate change commitments while developing its agri-food sector	089	DIALOGUE RECORD NO LONGER ON WEBSITE
Diálogos por Mérida: hacia un sistema alimentario saludable, sustentable, resiliente y próspero para toda la ciudadanía.	092a	https://summitdialogues.org/es/dialogue/7369/
Pathways to sustainable and resilient food Systems - 3	095	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2987/
Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue	096	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7089/
Strengthening Landscape Partnerships: A “game-changing” solution?	097	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6291/
Diálogo Regional sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres para la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios de América Latina y el Caribe	099	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6646/

Enabling Agricultural Trade; An Independent United Nations Food Systems Summit Dialogue by the WTO Secretariat	101	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7013/
Poner al alcance de todos dietas nutritivas y saludables: Potenciar una cadena de suministro de alimentos frescos sostenible y resistente en todo el mundo - Diálogo de las Américas	103	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7983/
U.S. Animal Agriculture as a Solution to Global Food Systems Challenges	104	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7117/
Migración y Nutrición Liderazgo femenino para la innovación en seguridad alimentaria nutricional: Colombia y Venezuela	105	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7349/
Making Nutritious and Healthy Diets Available to All: Empowering a Sustainable and Resilient Fresh Food Supply Chain Worldwide - Asian Dialogue	108	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7976/
Managing the water and energy we eat advancing water-energy-food (WEF) nexus approaches to achieve food systems transformation in Southern Africa	109	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7859/
Making Nutritious and Healthy Diets Available to All: Empowering a Sustainable and Resilient Fresh Food Supply Chain Worldwide - European Dialogue	110	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7976/
The Future for Fruit & Vegetable Kai Systems in Aotearoa New Zealand	114	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6597/
Healthier islands through sustainable food systems-1: Honoring culture, diversity and identity	115	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6510/
Food for future well-being in Wales	116	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/5278/

Reconstructing our food systems	118	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7431/
AGROECOLOGIA, SISTEMA ECOAGROALIMENTARIO Y SALUD SOCIOAMBIENTAL: CAMINO HACIA EL DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE / AGROECOLOGY, ECOAGRIFOOD SYSTEM AND SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: A WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	128	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/4600/
Timing Seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produces with the use of ICT	137	
For a sustainable future food system	145	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9217/
Transforming food systems with aquatic foods – access to sustainable, safe and nutritious food for all	150	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8643/
Using systems thinking to change the “Rules of the game” in South Africa’s food system	152	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7993/
Advancing food systems transformation to nourish the health of future generations and enable a sustainable planet	153	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8433/
Mobilizing food system change with private sector leadership: Lessons from aquaculture	160	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7576/
Food Systems, A Multi-Disciplinary Examination	162	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1226/
UNFSS Independent Dialogue: Advancing Water- Energy- Food (WEF) Nexus approaches to achieve food systems transformation in Central Asia	164	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8490/

Gender Equality in the Meat Sector as a Sustainability Solution	166	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8888/
UN Independent Food System Summit Dialogue Grassroot Perspective for Jharkhand, 2021	167	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8532/
Boosting Nature-positive Agricultural Solutions: U.S. Farmer, Rancher, Grower Perspectives	169	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9149/
GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good	171	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9775/
Independent Aotearoa FSSD - Focusing our Lens on SDG 12 & Fast-Track 2 with 1.5oC on our minds	173	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8835/
Culinary Heritage for Future Food System of Indonesia	174	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8445/
Bites of Transfoodmation - Hands on the Bites of Transfoodmation Manifesto	175	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7905/
Independent Sustainable Food System Dialogue (SFSD) in China	176a	https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-of-the-Sustainable-Food-System-Dialogue-SFSD-in-China-11.doc
The Role of Rural Women in the Transforming Food Systems towards Achieving the Economic Creativity for Sustainable Development	177	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12180/
Catalyzing finance for women food entrepreneurs	178	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7508/
Contributions from Indigenous peoples' food systems to Action Track 2 and the	180	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10770/

shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns		
Achieving a sustainable food system in Bandung City - towards a diverse, equitable, healthy and resilient food system in Indonesia	181	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10429/
What do Future Beef Farms need to look like?	184	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12538/
Lanzamiento Cumbre de los Sistemas Alimentarios 2021: Una mirada desde la visión de la integración regional	186a	https://summitdialogues.org/es/dialogue/10225/
Pathways to Sustainable Food & Nutrition, Consumption and Livelihoods	189a	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11436/
Bites of Transfoodmation - Dispute	191	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12315/
The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature-positive production to ensure safe, nutritious food and conservation of our biodiversity for a sustainable food system	192	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12151/
Nigeria UN Food Systems Summit Youth Dialogue 2021	204	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/5793/
Pathways for the future of food systems in the Mediterranean	205	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6814/
Grazing Livestock: Building Sustainable Protein Supply Chains	206	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10553/
Kestävä ruokavalion murros	207	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12989/
Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice	217	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12769/

Faith + Food: Healing the Earth, Healing our Bodies	225	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12784/
Embracing change and harnessing diversity: the roles of livestock in future food systems	227	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12562/
Independent Dialogue in Support of the 2021 Food Systems Summit: "Different routes, similar goals"	228	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11634/
How Food Systems Help Our Living	249	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14771/
Game changers to tackle the food loss and waste challenge	250	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13865/
Power on Your Plate: All-Africa Summit on Diversifying Food Systems with African Traditional Vegetables to Increase Health, Nutrition and Wealth	251	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14604/
EU Dialogue: Exploring Options to strengthen our Global Science Policy Interface for improved Food Systems Governance	252	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10758/
Strengthening Quelimane's Urban Agri-food Systems and Actors through Investment and Innovation	255	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16709/
The role of grains and oil seeds in Sustainable Food Systems – The Western Hemisphere's perspective towards the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit	258a	https://summitdialogues.org/es/dialogue/13293/
Mountains and sustainable food systems – Drivers of sustainable development	282	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/9095/
Enabling game-changing innovation and next-generation entrepreneurs in the EU	285	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14088/

Nourrir l'humanité durablement, Assises juridiques pour des systèmes alimentaires plus durables / Feeding humanity sustainably, the legal foundation for more sustainable food systems	323	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10686/
Swiss Roundtable Meeting on Agricultural Commodities and Food Systems: 1st Session	324	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16249/
Towards a Future of Food that is Sustainable, Equitable and Secure in Nairobi City County	325	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15410/
Building Collaborative and Effective Food Systems Governance Frameworks in Kisumu County	326	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16701/