Independent Dialogues Synthesis Deep Dive Reports

September 2021

Blue Marble Evaluation (BME) teams have been working to synthesize themes across the hundreds of Independent Dialogues, resulting in two interim reports.[1] In doing so, the BME synthesis team and the Food Systems Summit Secretariat identified a need for a deeper dive into the perspectives of several key stakeholder groups: Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers and other small-scale producers, youth, and women.

This became a major theme of the Synthesis: the importance of *amplifying and empowering historically excluded voices*. It is also important for the Summit process to ensure that these voices are highlighted and elevated into all current and future work. Therefore, eight specialists from the BME network were selected to review relevant dialogues (e.g., youth specialists engaged with Convenors who focused on youth dialogues) and provide Deep Dive reports for each of the stakeholder groups noted above. Additionally, the BME specialist team invited Convenors from the selected dialogues to engage in focus group discussions to clarify the key issues raised in relevant Dialogues.

1 Interim Report 1: https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-Interim-Synthesis-Report_FSS-Independent-Dialogues_.pdf
Interim Report 2: Interimhttps://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/unfss_independent_dialogue_synthesis_report_2_0.pdf

Summary of the Reports

The "Deep Dives Syntheses" focused on three areas: (1) why this group's perspectives are important, (2) overview of some of the key perspectives each group brings to consideration of food systems transformations, and (3) strategies for engaging each group in the Food Systems Summit and beyond. Below are highlights from the conclusion of each Deep Dive.

Women bring critical perspectives needed to support sustainable and equitable food systems. Women's insights and knowledge are critical to inform game-changing proposals. Research shows that women are responsible for half of the world's food production and also tend to be primarily responsible for feeding their families. Yet across food systems, women are underrepresented in leadership positions and often denied access to land, training, finance, and other key resources. Data from the Dialogues and focus group support these claims. While disparities and challenges in the food systems cut across multiple issues, a fundamental challenge to a food systems sustainability can be found in gender inequality.

Smallholder farmers and other small-scale producers are a reservoir of traditional and local knowledge on sustainable farming practices. At the same time, they continuously need to advocate for their rights to seed, land, water, food, education, and health, and are more adversely affected by climate change than large scale farmers. Smallholder farmers and other small-scale producers require supports that are often readily extended to more powerful actors (e.g., large-scale farms), such as access to financial and other resources, knowledge sharing on innovations and other practical information, and financial incentives for nature positive agriculture. It is essential to ensure meaningful and active participation at the Summit and other decision-making spaces for a diverse range of small-scale producer perspectives. Attention to small food producers should include those who fish, herders, and other small-scale contributors of food.

Indigenous Peoples' rights, knowledge systems, and belief systems are essential to the achievement of sustainable and equitable food systems. Across and within socio-cultural regions, Dialogues describe great diversity among traditional food systems and context-specific challenges to food security. The Dialogues also demonstrate broad agreement that Indigenous Peoples' food systems are resilient and regenerative, and that they are a game-changing proposition for the achievement of healthy, sustainable food and all SDGs. The contribution of Indigenous Peoples' food systems to the Food Systems Summit and beyond requires acknowledgement of UNDRIP and equitable investments to offset many longstanding systemic forms of marginalization that create food insecurity and interconnected conditions of vulnerability such as ecological instability, gender inequity, and cultural erosion. The engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the transformation of food systems is fundamental to nature-positive solutions that address biodiversity loss and climate change.

Youth are an underutilized asset for food system transformation. The inclusion of youth as equals in key decision-making processes, as opposed to including them as beneficiaries or affected populations, is essential; youth will carry the burden of today's actions. Youth are the future and therefore should have a critical voice in how that future is shaped. Youth voices are far-reaching, and they should not, and cannot, be ignored. Youth are uniquely positioned to provide insight, unique perspectives and advice on issues relating to agriculture, and particularly on conservation, which is essential for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Deep Dive Synthesis Process

Selection of Dialogues

The process of identifying and selecting Independent Dialogues to include in each Deep Dive began by reviewing titles of Dialogues; For example, the dialogue entitled *Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems* would be selected for the Deep Dive synthesis of Indigenous Peoples' Dialogues. A second stage of selection involved identifying dialogues that were coded as having content relevant to a group of interest. A dialogue that was coded as containing quotations about Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, or smallholder farmers and/or other small-scale producers would be selected for the Deep Dive synthesis for that group. Once Dialogues were selected through these two processes, the team would manually review them to ensure relevance. For example, some Dialogues reported very little information, despite appearing to be thematically relevant. Those dialogues that were relevant in content were then selected to be included in the Synthesis. At least 15 Dialogues were included for each Deep Dive group.

Focus Groups

Once the Dialogues were selected, Convenors of those dialogues were sent an invitation via email to participate in a focus group to review themes identified in the dialogues. Not all Convenors replied or were available to participate in the focus group. The Blue Market Evaluation team for each Deep Dive then conducted the focus group with Convenors who agreed to participate. To increase participation and to account for time zone differences, more than one focus group was held in some cases. Responses from the focus groups are included in the Deep Dive reports in addition to direct Dialogue feedback.

Deep Dive Facilitators

The authors of these four Deep Dive synthesis reports were selected because of their knowledge of specific issues of concern to these groups and their support for including these voices and perspectives in research and evaluation. Focus groups were conducted by the specialists for each topic of interest. The interpretations expressed in this report, based on their analysis of dialogues and the subsequent focus groups, are solely those of the report authors and offered to support Summit deliberations. Author bios can be found at the conclusion of each report.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge support for the Synthesis of the Independent Dialogues from the McKnight Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, IKEA Foundation, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and the Blue Marble Evaluation Network.

AN INDEPENDENT DIALOGUES SPECIAL SYNTHESIS REPORT

Women's Perspectives on Food Systems

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Blue Marble Evaluation Team

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Blue Marble Evaluation Preface

This report was prepared by members of 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 (BME) teams have been working to synthesize themes across hundreds of Independent Dialogues, which resulted in two interim reports.[1] In doing so, the BME synthesis team and the FSS Secretariat identified a need for a deeper dive into the perspectives of several key stakeholder groups: smallholderfarmers, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and women. The data presented in this synthesis are from Independent Dialogues that focused on women and gender-related issues. Conveners of those dialogues were invited to participate in a special focus group to discuss cross-cutting themes, common issues, and divergent perspectives.

The authors of this report were selected for this deep dive synthesis because of their knowledge of the issues faced by women and their support for including the voices of women in research and evaluation.The interpretations expressed in this report, based on their analysis of dialogues and the subsequent focus groups, are solely those of the report authors and offered to support Summit deliberations.
Author bios can be found at the conclusion of this report (p. 24).

[1] Interim Report 1: https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-Interim-Synthesis-Report_FSS-Independent-Dialogues_.pdf; Interim Report 2: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/unfss_independent_dialogue_synthesis_report_2_0.pdf

Executive Summary

Women bring one of many critical perspectives needed to support sustainable and equitable food systems. This report provides a deep dive into the perspectives of women on food systems and their importance to the Food Systems Summit. It is organized into three sections: (1) why a focus on women'sperspectives is important, (2) overview of some of the key perspectives women have on food systems, and (3) strategies for engaging women in the Food Systems Summit. Each section of the report offers key themes that emerged from a qualitative analysis of 17 Independent Dialogue reports and a focus group with 7 Dialogue convenors. The key themes in each section are summarized below. In the report that follows, quotes from Dialogue reports and conveners provide depth and context to these themes.

Why a Focus on Women's Perspectives is Important

Equality. While women play important roles across food systems, their voices are often underrepresented and undervalued.

Vulnerability. Women are more adversely affected by, and vulnerable to, instability across food systems.

Leadership. Women are already leading the change across food systems; however, they need more support, space and voice to bring about transformation.

Knowledge-sharing. Women are deeply connected to their communities and cultures and bring forward different perspectives and experiences than men.

Women's Perspectives on Food Systems

Improved Data. Women called for improved data gathering on gender across food systems, as well as more effective use of empirical data to reduce barriers faced by women.

Increased Access. Funding, financing mechanisms, education, capacity building and technology need to be more accessible to women and focus on gender transformation and women's empowerment.

Inclusive Policies. Design and implementation of policies need to be gender-transformative and inclusive.

Local Context. While a systems-level approach is necessary, solutions must be localized and take into account politics, social context and cultural beliefs.

Shifting Mindsets. Perspectives and practices in various sectors need to shift to see the systems and to value the role of women, as well as to see critical connections across food systems.

Transformative Vision. Food systems need to be regenerative and equitable.

Leveraging Opportunities. COVID-19 and the climate emergency provide a chance to rethink

the culture and practices.

How Women Want to Engage in the Summit & Beyond

Support Integration. Ensure women (and other marginalized groups) are not seen as an "add-on," but are integral to all Summit convenings and decisions.

Encourage Connections among Women. Women benefit from spaces where they can connect with peers and mentors across the food system.

Develop Partnerships. Women stressed the importance of working with men as allies, as well as building cross-sector partnerships.

Recognize Various Roles & Identities. Acknowledge, value and make space for the multiple roles and identities that women hold.

Provide Support. Address barriers to participation in the Summit and across food systems.

Overall, the data confirmed that a woman's perspective is important to ensure an equitable and transformed food system. Women's insights and knowledge are critical to inform and to reality-check game-changing proposals against lived experiences. Balancing the different perspectives, needs and roles of women, as with all stakeholders, will be key to the success of the Food Systems Summit. Our primary recommendation is to look closely at the strategies suggested in Section 3, specifically create space for a diversity of women's voices to be heard and ensure that these women actively engage in allaspects of the Food Systems Summit and beyond.

Introduction

Women bring unique and critical perspectives needed to support sustainable and equitable food systems. To better understand these perspectives, our team identified 24 Independent Dialogues (hereafter Dialogues) that focused specifically on women.[2] A qualitative analysis of these data resulted in identifying key themes. Our BME team then explored those themes by engaging with the Dialogue convenors in an online focus group discussion. Seven conveners attended the focus group, in which we asked three primary questions:

- Why do we need to focus on women's perspectives on food systems?
- What are women's perspectives on food systems?
- How should women be engaged in the Food Systems Summit?

Within each question, we heard how women are often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, and yet at the same time bring key knowledge, lived experience and leadership to food systems. The voices that we present in this synthesis could never represent the diverse and sometimes divergent women's voices across food systems. Yet this report provides a particular insight -- that of women represented through these Dialogues; voices which need to be heard in an inclusive and meaningful dialogue at the Food Systems Summit in support of food systems transformation.

Section 1:
Why a Focus on Women's Perspectives is Important

The global goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognize women's rights as an explicit cross-cutting catalyst to ending poverty (Goal 1); seeking to achieve food security and improved nutrition (Goal 2) and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment (Goal 5).[3]

While women constitute just over half the world's population, their voice is often drowned out of political and social processes where decisions are made or reinforced. Hearing women's voices at the Summit will bring unique, specific and needed perspectives on food systems that emanate from women's moral, ethical, social, economic, and cultural standpoints, substantiated by their lived realities and scientific knowledge and research. With this understanding, our research identified key themes thatneed to be addressed at the Summit, particularly around (1) equality, (2) vulnerability, (3) leadership, and (4) knowledge-sharing.

Each of these themes is further explored below.

Equality. While women play important roles across food systems, their voices are oftenunderrepresented and undervalued.

Research shows that women are responsible for half of the world's food production. [4] They also tend to be primarily responsible for feeding their families. Yet across food systems, they are underrepresented in leadership positions and often denied access to land, training, finance, and other key resources. Datafrom the Dialogues and focus group support these claims. While disparities and challenges in the food systems cut across multiple issues, a fundamental challenge to a food systems sustainability can be found in gender inequality. One Dialogue report noted,

> *The transformation of food systems is a political, economic and environmental issue, but above all it is a question of gender equality. The stark inequalities experienced bywomen and girls are both a cause and a result of unsustainable food systems, unfair access to food, consumption and production.* ***Addressing gender injustice*** *and truly empowering women is not only a fundamental prerequisite for transforming food systems, but also a goal in itself.*[5]

[2] See Annex A for a complete list of these Dialogues.
[3] United Nations, 2015.

Another Dialogue held in Africa offered this perspective:

> *Ownership of land for women is still a major hiccup leading to limited access to finance due to lack of collateral and consequently resulting in productivity gaps of up to 30% between men and women. The triple burden of malnutrition affects women and their households more in African households and this has been exacerbated by the COVID-19pandemic.* ***Gender inequality is one of the causes and results of unsustainable food systems.*** *Women are inadequately involved in decision making and this has had an impact on: (1) health, (2) poverty levels and (3) general quality of life. Women led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are less likely to access formal finance loans and support.*[6] (emphasis added)

Women fulfil multiple roles beyond their role of "farmer", which also contributes to their challenges, and their potential to influence food systems in multiple ways, at multiple levels, if inequality is addressed. A Dialogue from India provides insight regarding the multiple roles that women fulfil and the relationship to inequality:

> *Women are the back-bone of an informal worker's household and most commonly shoulder the responsibility of fulfilling the family's food and nutritional needs. At the same time, women play a major role in the Food system – in production, processing, trading of food and in making decisions about consumption and purchase of food at household level. Despite their importance in the food system, women are constrained by their lack of land ownership and access to other resources due to patriarchal farming systems and gender discrimination. Additionally, agricultural support systemsin India are mostly composed of men, affecting women's access to resources to increase their incomes.* ***Therefore, tackling gender injustice and truly empowering women is not only a fundamental prerequisite for food systems transformation but also a goal****.*[8]*(emphasis added)*

Several convenors echoed these ideas during the focus group:

> *If the agricultural labor force is mostly composed by women, then morally, they should reap the benefits as well. It is a matter of justice.*
> *Looking at the whole system, the different nodes are not equal. Especially when it comes to women….at the production level, we find a lot of women. But as the system expands becomes more complicated, and in some cases becomes more lucrative whenit comes to money, then we have fewer women and more men. So, it will be very important to have a more inclusive system from farm to fork.*

[4] FAO, n.d.
[5] Diálogo Regional sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres, 31 March 21, 6646, page 5.
[6] Strengthening and Amplifying the Voices and Leadership of Women in Food Systems, 18 June 2021, 24972, page 5.
[7] Dempsey, 2020.

Data from one Dialogue report provides a concrete example of how women's equity supports asustainable food system:

> *Research has shown that empowering women leads to several positive outcomes along the food value chain and hence addressing the unique challenges faced by women is key. Moreover, research has shown that when women farmers have equal access to agricultural inputs (fertilizer and seed) as men, yield can increase by 19%.*[9]

Vulnerability. Women are more adversely affected by, and vulnerable to, instability across foodsystems.

Despite the key roles that women play in maintaining all four roles of food security, women also face extreme vulnerability across food systems. One Dialogue report noted some barriers that contribute tothat vulnerability:

> *Women…are central elements to ensuring food security and nutrition in their families and communities. However, they suffer from a higher vulnerability to food insecurity inrelation to their male counterparts: as smallholder farmers, they produce the majority of the food in their countries, but few own the land they cultivate, and many don't haveaccess to public services and lack basic rights.*[10]

Other Dialogues explored women's vulnerability from a systems perspective. For example, a Dialogue that focused on women's nutrition offered this perspective:

> *Food and health systems have failed women, causing detrimental effects on their health and resilience...*[11]

This unequal vulnerability is supported by other research. At the global level, the gender gap in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity has grown even larger in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity being 10 percent higher among women than men in 2020, compared with 6 percent in 2019.[12] These disparities were also highlighted byseveral convenors. For example,

> *In the area of COVID-19, the women, especially the women working in food systems, have been affected more than even the men. Especially because they carry the burdenof the household and poverty.*
>
> *Why it is important now in this Summit is because COVID showed in a very clear waythe disproportionate burden on women of hunger and food insecurity.*

[8] Women, Work and Food Systems - South Asia and South-East Asia Dialogue on Gender and Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4789, page 5.
[9] Strengthening and Amplifying the Voices and Leadership of Women in Food Systems, 18 June 2021, 24972, page 6.

Leadership. Women are already leading the change across food systems; however, they need more support, space and voice to bring about transformation.

Despite the vulnerability and inequality described above, data show that women can and, in many cases,are making a difference across food systems. Several Dialogues and convenors suggested that women are both the most adversely affected and the most proactive in trying to shift their lived reality and bring about change. During the Focus Group, one convenor stated,

> *The main reason it is important [for women to be leaders and involved food system change] is that women are the most affected by COVID and by the situation we are going through, but they are also the ones who are leading the project, trying to fix it.*

Investing in women as leaders and influencers has the potential to have a ripple effect across communities in a range of areas, from malnutrition to climate change. The Dialogues identified several examples of women's empowerment across food systems. These examples can provide rich case studies for future studies. For example, a Dialogue in the Philippines identified how women already play a strong leadership role:

> *Women farmers in the Philippines make financial decisions with their husbands. Women farmers in the country have more control managing household expenses and are among the most empowered in Southeast Asia (according to a study published inthe Scientific Journal Food Policy in 2017).*[13]

Still, barriers to women's leadership across food systems persist. The obstacles women face stem from political, cultural, economic and social systems, norms and behaviours. One theme that emerged in the data was the need for women to be given space by policymakers and decision-makers to voice their insights, opinions and ideas. Some Dialogue and focus group data suggested that those in power are notalways willing to listen to women, which is compounded by too few women at the top levels of the foodsystem. Below we offer several examples drawn from the focus group discussion with convenors.

> *When you listen to women, when you allow women to speak, the key issues arebrought to the fore.*

> *This process of the Food Systems Summit is a lot about making sure everybody concerned is around the table, but it is also about making sure that the ones who have less space to be around the table will have more. So, in that sense, especially in certain regions of the world, this is very important and can bring completely different discoursewhen we gather women around an issue.*

> *It's super important to give women a voice. A lot of women are caretakers. Women ina time of crisis are very resilient. They take a lot of actions for their family.*

[10] Food for Life: The Role of Women in Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 5.
[11] Women Nutrition: Resilience and Recovery on the Road to 2030, 8 June 2021, 23761, page 3.
[12] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2021. In Brief to The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Rome, FAO, page 18.
[13] GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good, 31 March 2021, page 6.

However, getting those who make decisions to listen to women is not enough; women need to be in positions of power and decision making in all aspects of the food system. Data suggest that all too often,what are perceived as women's issues are discussed as an add-on, and women are seen as helpers or victims, rather than as informed and experienced leaders and/or activists. One Dialogue provides some insight to this thinking:

> *[We need to] move beyond the interpretation of women as victims of an unsustainable,unjust and fragile food system, and recognize them as "agents of change" and leaders in the reformulation of systems.*[14]

The Dialogues and focus group also provided insight into sector specific areas, such as finance and agriculture, where women need to be given more agency. For example,

> *For gender-transformative implementation, the facility should also model full participation of women in leadership and in decision-making at different levels- both in the facility itself and in the recipient financial intermediaries - given evidence that women are more likely to finance women, and also support efforts in collateral-free product design and delivery.*[15]

> *Agency for poor rural women involves challenging multiple power hierarchies in the household, community, state policies and labour and product markets. Changing power relations and social norms requires collective action. Alongside traditional forms of sharing labour and resources, new models for exercising collective agency are emerging –such as self-help groups, cooperatives, and producer organisations. However, given the diversity of women's contexts, this process needs to be intentional and requires investment. Legal and policy frameworks that enable collective agency need to be operationalised through social mobilisation, dialogue and training.*[16]

The findings around finance are well-supported in the literature, which also identify lack of financial access as a challenge to women farmers.[17]

Convenors and Dialogue participants see this Summit as an opportunity to empower women through the food system and recognise and elevate them into decision making and positions of power. We offer two quotes that capture this sentiment below.

> *We need to reframe how we view women and food systems from mainly focusing on the role of women as producers and consumers to thinking about how food and agricultural systems contribute or can contribute to the process of empowering women and how these systems can create an environment conducive to the equal exercise of women's rights.*[18]

[14] Food for Life: The Role of Women In Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 6.
[15] Catalyzing finance for women food entrepreneurs, 8 April 2021, 7508, Page 8.

> *Formally recognize [women's] contributions across all stages of food systems and enhance their participation in political processes destined to shape them…. increasingthe involvement of women in early prevention and response strategies to food crises and increasing their representation in leadership positions.*[19]

Knowledge-sharing. Women bring different perspectives and experiences than men, which are often deeply connected to their communities and cultures.

Dialogues and convenors emphasized women's critical connections to their community through the multiple roles many women undertake, such as knowledge-sharers and caretakers of the next generation.These roles, which are often rooted in interconnected and regenerative relationships, provide women a distinct perspective which differs from that of their male counterparts. As such, women are in a unique position to inform and shape their community's food systems. The following quotes provide depth to these statements.

> *Women end up being the holders of our culture, of our knowledge, how we shape ourcommunities. So, it is adamant for us to have their knowledge and their opinions in there. It is something we shouldn't even be discussing.* (Convenor)

> *Women also have a role in educating future generations on how to use resources, but also nurturing the development of communities in integral ways or transferring of knowledge. So, I think that it is key that if we do not see women as active protagonists in this Summit, we are losing their voices, but also their knowledge and their knowledge-sharing. This should be recognized in public spheres, not only in private spheres.* (Convenor)

> *The well-being and resilience of women is essential to the strength and resilience oftheir families, communities and the broader social and economic development of nations. Investing in women has multiplying effect on communities. 'If you educate awoman you educate a whole nation.*[20]

> *It is about the power of SHE, and when women come together – they create the power of WE. If women come together, they start to talk about their experience and about their dreams. And many women dream about a better world for themselves, but most especially for the next generation.*[21]

> *Prof. Vera Zamagni and Linda Ghisoni focused on the role of women as educators for anew 'culture of care.' They explored the work of women in educating future generations on a better use of agricultural resources, nurturing the integral development of communities, and transferring knowledge in support of resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems.*[22]

Women are responsible for sharing knowledge across their communities, and that role needs to be supported and engaged with at the Summit.

[16] Women's Agency and Gender Equity in Food Systems, 10 June 2021, 2062, page 5.
[17] FAO, 2019; Njobe, 2015.
[18] Diálogo Regional sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres, 31 March 21, 6646, page 5.
[19] Food for Life: The Role of Women In Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 6.

Section 2:
Women's Perspectives on Food Systems

The Dialogues reviewed covered a range of issues. Some focused on food systems generally, and withinthat mention the role of women. Others specifically focused on women's perspectives and experiences across food systems. Several had a specific issue focus, such as migration, business, malnutrition or finance, to name a few. This section explores these different foci to identify common themes amongst them.

The summary provided below identifies the main themes that emerged across the Dialogues, (1) improved data (2) increased access, (3) inclusive policy, (4) local context (5) shifting mindsets, (6)transformative vision and (7) leveraging opportunities.

Improved Data. Women called for improved data gathering on gender across food systems, as well asmore effective use of empirical data to reduce barriers faced by women.

Several Dialogues called for the need for better data on the barriers facing women in food systems, suchas access to farm inputs, credit and financing, market know-how, land ownership, and digital literacy.
One dialogue called for the creation of a "one-stop-shop for gender indicators and sex-disaggregated data across the food systems,"[23] while others emphasized that available data on disparities and solutions are not being utilized to effectively address barriers. Below are three specific quotes that highlight how improved data would support addressing women's inequality in the food system.

> *We need to improve the presence of vulnerable and underrepresented groups by first measuring who is currently there. We need to look at the data regarding who is already there, analyze that data and come up with strategies and targets geared at increasing the presence of these groups.*[24]

> *The absence of specific data to measure the contributions of women in food systems, as well as their specific challenges and needs (e.g., their exclusion from necessary productive resources like financial instruments, technology, training, etc.), places themat greater risk of being left behind by development processes…. [there is a] need for desegregated data to measure and give visibility to the work done by women (both formal and informal), so as to target national policies and budgets to their special needs and support their leadership in ensuring food security*[25].

[20] Women Nutrition: Resilience and Recovery on the Road to 2030, 8 June 2021, 23761, page 6.
[21] GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good, 31 March 2021, page 6.
[22] Food for Life: The Role of Women In Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 6.
[23] Gender-Responsive Investments in Africa's Agriculture for Inclusive Food Systems, 4 May 2021, 10415, page 7.

> *Understanding how many women are working at all levels within the meat sector and what the enablers and barriers are, using the MBW annual gender representation report, is essential if there is to be genuine change.*[26]

One Dialogue highlighted the need for new measures of success that included gender equality:

> *For the facility to ultimately help achieve positive impact on women entrepreneurs, the metrics it is expected to use and to encourage recipient financial intermediaries to adopt should include gender-focused metrics. Examples to be considered include a "gender equity/quality scorecard" mentioned during the panel discussion by Agnes Dasewicz of SEAF, focusing both on performance by financial intermediaries and on performance by their investees or clients.*[27]

Increased Access. Funding, financing mechanisms, education, capacity building and technology need to be more accessible to women and focus on gender transformation and women's empowerment.

Various barriers need to be addressed to truly empower women and give them full and equal participation across the food system. Two quotes taken from the Dialogue reports provide insight as to the kinds of the barriers that exist around the globe.

> *Most of the training and capacity building programs on technology and farm activities[are] attended by male members of the family and women [are] deprived of the same opportunity.*[28]

> *Barriers for women in agriculture include access to farm inputs, credit, market know-how, and land ownership – must be entirely eliminated, and create better and incentivizing farming conditions.*[29]

Dialogue reports offered several strategies and solutions to barriers, particularly in the areas of funding,capacity building and technology. The following quotes highlight the various kinds of strategies and solutions suggested:

> *Increase gender lens lending appetite through incentives to funds and institutions that prioritize impact financing, green finance and finance to enterprises that contribute tothe SDGs. This will also influence entrepreneur prioritization of sustainable food production systems and nutrition.*[30]

> *Introduce clear measures so that women have better access to financing, technology,information, and training…Ensure equitable access for women to credit and insurance.*[31]

[24] Notes on Group Discussions in UN Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue: Pathways to Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems 2, 20March 2021, 2970, page 2.
[25] Food for Life: The Role of Women in Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 6.
[26] Gender Equality in the Meat Sector as a Sustainability Solution, 14 April 2021, 8888, page 11.
[27] Catalyzing Finance for Women Food Entrepreneurs, 8 April 2021, 7508, Page 8.
[28] National Dialogue on Women, Work and Food Systems, 19 June 2021, 23772, page 7.
[29] GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good, 31 March 2021, page 6.

> *Access to proven technologies will help improve food production and food security, and job and wealth creation for women and youth across the value chains.*[32]

> *To exercise agency, women need to have unmediated access as individual citizens to resources such as land, water, commons, housing, finance, knowledge, extension andtechnology. Policies need to ensure that women's rights to these entitlements are substantive and not merely nominal.*[33]

Likewise, convenors emphasized the importance of ensuring that women have equal opportunities to gain value from their role in the food system. Below are two quotes from convenors that bring a broader perspective:

> *Much of women's labor in the food system, particularly in Africa, is unpaid. They are often working on their own farms, tending to the crops or animals. By the time they are ready for sale, it becomes the man's business. So, when I bring in the women's perspective, I would say that it is important for them to gain some value, whether in the form of payment or land, whatever way they feel would feel that their output is valued at the end of the day.*

> *For example, in Colombia, in the communities, the women take care of the groceries and the nutrition of their children. When we think about numbers in Latin America about youth malnutrition, it's astonishing how much influence women can have in that. We often hear how women cook the meals, support their husbands so they can go to work. But it is important to strengthen them with better knowledge about consumption. That's why it is important to integrate them, integrate their voice and their perspectives. What is difficult to make changes at home, etc. That is why I am very happy to foster that. Often, they are very alone. Help them bring what they learnto their kids and to their husbands.*

Inclusive Policies. Design and implementation of policies need to be gender-transformative and inclusive.

While policy is identified as a key lever for change, data indicated that effecting changes in government policy can be non-existent, slow or ineffectual. Identifying and addressing the barriers that prevent enhanced policies in this area is critical, as several Dialogues emphasized that true transformation of food systems must include gender transformative, inclusive policies. Below are several examples of how transformative policies are required for transformative change.

[30] Catalyzing Finance for Women Food Entrepreneurs, 8 April 2021, 7508, page 10.
[31] Diálogo Regional sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres, 31 March 21, 6646, pages 9-10.
[32] Gender-Responsive Investments in Africa's Agriculture for Inclusive Food Systems, 4 May 2021, 10415, page 6.
[33] Women's Agency and Gender Equity in Food Systems, 10 June 2021, 2062, page 5.

> *Effective implementation will also require identifying enabling or hindering policy factors in the countries where the facility will operate and seeking to engage with governments in participating countries on a gender-transformative agenda in agri-SME finance, not only at the level of policy design but also at the level of policy implementation and enforcement.* (Convenor)

> *On the issue of fiscal policies which is key in determining economic equalities and inequalities, it was highlighted that there are ways of ensuring equality and having gender specific policies on taxes. The highlighted points include: Revenue redistributionwhich investigates the different levels of incomes in the economy and ensures that those that earn less pay less and vice versa. Repricing of products, which affects peoplebehaviour. Representations- this was noted as a key problem in tax policies and there was a need for representation of women to evade economic inequalities.*[34]

> *Promote traditional food through pro-poor and pro-women farmer policies as well as linking consumer directly to producers through producer-led-value chains... Policies that 1) treat family as a unit for entitlements and capacity building; 2) bring visibility and recognition to family farming and promote it as an economic activity; 3) create awareness and redistribution of labor across family members.*[35]

> *Introducing progressive policies empowering women in food systems to reduce gender-based violence.* [36]

One Dialogue specifically called out that gender-responsive research is the beginning of the food value chain and is critical to support policy development. This Dialogue went on to show how research can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of all groups:

> *Ensure inclusivity and diversity in frameworks by considering the needs of women and vulnerable groups and establish approaches that meet the needs of all groups of people. This can be done by understanding the environment to develop policies that cover the different cultures of the people they will serve towards ensuring collective uptake of policies and participation of all actors.*[37]

Two Dialogues also emphasized that developing gender-responsive policies is only the first step. Operationalizing the policies and implementing systems of accountability are key to ensuring policy implementation:

> *Beyond having policies and guidelines in place, governments, organizations and financial institutions must have accountability mechanisms in place to ensure these policies are implemented and adhered to.*[38]

[34] Strengthening and Amplifying the Voices and Leadership of Women in Food Systems, 18 June 2021, 24972, page 5.
[35] Women, Work and Food Systems - South Asia and South-East Asia Dialogue on Gender and Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4789, pages 6, 11.
[36] National Dialogue on Women, Work and Food Systems, 19 June 2021, 23772, page 7.
[37] Gender-Responsive Investments in Africa's Agriculture for Inclusive Food Systems, 4 May 2021, 10415, page 6.
[38] High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 - Gender, 13 May 2021, 2893, page 6.

> *It was clear that in many African countries gender favourable policies have been put in place however they have not been operationalised, therefore there is need for operationalization of gender policies. The dialogue findings affirmed the need for addressing legal dualism by formulating policies that address cultural interference in policy implementation.*[39]

Local Context. Solutions must be localized and consider local political, social and cultural beliefs.

Dialogues and convenors emphasized the importance of balancing a global approach with localized solutions – what Blue Marble Evaluation and others have come to call "glocal." Below are some examples of this theme.

> *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.*[40]

> *Access and control are local problems but require global tools to help women's voices to be heard. Overcoming deeply entrenched systems will require creating channels for dialogue, not for women to just speak but men to be trained to listen, to be fair partners and 'champions of enlightenment'. Localised dialogues with women in their communities are needed so as to create coherence and to ensure that the discussionsare transformed into action and policy. It is also important to understand what empowerment means in different communities. Local engagement is required to understand local perceptions.*[41]

> *Establish local information hubs that provide up to date and emerging information, inthe relevant vernacular language for communities, practitioners, and traditional authorities on all various aspects of food systems and for various players (farmers, agri-SMEs, consumers, field practitioners).*[42]

> *Since women are so involved in their own communities and they are so in touch with their natural surroundings and ecosystems...they are the ones that have the richest knowledge in order to create that locally based solutions. Women's perspectives on food are very context centered and can have a very big contribution.* (Convenor)

As an extension of the local context theme, several Dialogues also stressed the importance of localizing food production, processing and distribution to promote an equitable food system. For example,

[39] Catalysing Women's Agri-preneurship and Food Trade in Africa, 23 June 2021, 21923, page 6.
[40] Catalyzing Finance for Women Food Entrepreneurs, 8 April 2021, 7508, page 6.
[41] High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 - Gender, 13 May 2021, 2893, page 7.
[42] Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi, 26 February 2021, 5560, page 6.

Promote local production and distribution to address the issue of food wastage as well as localization of agricultural value chain to generate better, just and equitable livelihood opportunities.[43]

Shifting Mindsets. Perspectives and practices in various sectors need to shift and to value the role of women, as well as to see critical connections across food systems.

Many Dialogues highlighted the need to shift mindsets, specifically in two ways. First, people need to value women's contributions across the food system. Second, and more broadly, people need to shift from thinking in silos to engaging with systems thinking where interconnections are recognized and valued. Below are several quotes that captured the shifting mindset theme.

The perception of the meat sector needs to evolve to reflect the role women play.Diversity and inclusion, needs to be moved up the agenda.[44]

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 system.[45]

If we are looking at women as the responsible for the education of kids and society and the future, that's not actually fair as well. A perspective that I see coming from women and representing myself as well is understanding how we are all interconnected. How everything is dependent on each other. How we depend on agriculture, educators and education to make things work. Having a more integral education. Making sure this will be passed to everyone, not just women. Balance the education. (Convenor)

A lot of women, men, everyone often lives in those silos. We don't see ourselves as part of the system. Especially in the cities, we are completely disconnected. In the rural areas we are also disconnected because we don't know what is going to happen with the food, or I don't consume the food I'm growing because they are full of toxins...weneed to explain much more what a food system is. (Convenor)

[43] Women, Work and Food Systems - South Asia and South-East Asia Dialogue on Gender and Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4789, page 6.
[44] Gender Equality in the Meat Sector as a Sustainability Solution, 14 April 2021, 8888, page 6.
[45] Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi, 26 February 2021, 5560, page 7.
[46] High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 - Gender, 13 May 2021, 2893, page 5.

Transformative Vision. Food systems that are regenerative and equitable.

Many Dialogues set forth a transformative vision for food systems in which women are fully integrated across systems with equal voice, power and leadership. Below are some specific examples of how this vision was articulated.

> *The need to address gender issues in a holistic manner that ensures all areas and issues affecting women in food systems are necessary to achieve transformation.*[46]

> *A fair, transformative and gender equitable food system can be defined as one that allows countries, communities, households, and men and women, to have what is necessary to produce enough food and have the access to it, for their families and populations through sustainable, environmentally sound and climate resilient practices that favour gender equity and equality.*[47]

> *Empowering women as food producers and providers through a systems approach via financial incentives, gender-sensitive policies, nutrition-sensitive interventions and targeted education and training.*[48]

> *The complexity of food systems requires holistic and coordinated approach throughout the value chain. It also requires the integration of various actors from education, finance and gender equality.*[49]

> *To achieve truly transformative changes in the Food System, it is critical that all the issues, challenges and solutions identified should not be considered in silos, but viewed holistically, with the implementation of solutions and policies being done in complete synergy between the Private Sector, Public Sector, NGOs and the grassroot members.*[50]

Convenors emphasized this idea of an integral approach, which balances different needs and puts women at the center of the system:

> *When I think about women's perspectives in shaping a resilient food system, I think about the culture of care. I think about having an integral approach. So connecting issues. It is very much fundamental in the context of today if you think of address food insecurity and the climate emergency at the same time. I think this is really the women's perspective.* (Convenor)

> *The idea of life, care and balancing the ecosystem at the center of the food system. Having both the social side, but also the ecological side. These two aspects of the food system. It is not just feeding, but also ecological preservation.* (Convenor)

[47] Diálogo Regional sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres, 31 March 21, 6646, page 5.
[48] Women Nutrition: Resilience and Recovery on the Road to 2030, 8 June 2021, 23761, page 3.
[49] Strengthening and Amplifying the Voices and Leadership of Women in Food Systems, 18 June 2021, 24972, page 5.
[50] National Dialogue on Women, Work and Food Systems, 19 June 2021, 23772, page 6.

Divergent perspectives exist with regards to transformation, as lived experiences for women vary, as do their social, cultural, and economic contexts. For example, some view women in more traditional roles, while others want to promote a transformational role. As one Dialogue report stated,

> *Some people posed a traditional role for women, for example: educating women so that they feed other people well. That is, planning a nutritional education so that women make good decisions, taking 100% responsibility for their reality and the reality of their family, when the conditions in which they daily live do not allow them. On the other hand, some people brought a more transformative view of the role of women in food systems.*[51]

Leveraging Opportunities. COVID-19 and the climate emergency provide a chance to rethink the culture and practices.

COVID-19 and climate change have revealed the disparities and vulnerabilities of women across food systems. At the same time, women see these crises as opportunities to shift the dominant culture towards more regenerative practices, or what the Food for Life Dialogue referred to "more positive "Cs":Care for life, Culture of life, Community of life."[52] The following quotes highlight the sense of opportunities that exist.

> *The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how disconnected consumers in many parts ofthe world have become from the food they eat. However, the lifestyle changes that have resulted from the pandemic also present an opportunity to address this disconnect as people are spending longer at home and may have more time to devote to cooking and eating.*[53]

> *The "culture of care" (Laudato Si', 231) [is] the necessary paradigm for holistic and collective action. Engaging political processes relating to food systems through the lens of care, would allow for the appreciation of the complementarity between men and women in political processes and forge necessary alliances in decision-making.*[54]

> *Women's voices have largely been neglected in COVID-19 decision-making processes due to an enduring underrepresentation in senior positions in key fields of medicine and politics. This implies that the unique contribution of women to the regeneration of food systems in the post-COVID world remains largely unexplored.*[55]

[51] Diálogo Regional sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres, 31 March 21, 6646, page 12.

Section 3:
How Women Want to Engage in the Summit &Beyond

In this final section, we highlight five key strategies for engaging women in the Summit and in food systems transformation more broadly: (1) support integration, (2) encourage women-to-women connections, (3) develop partnerships, (4) recognize various roles & identities, and (5) provide support.These strategies, while are by no means exhaustive, were the most commonly cited across dialogue reports and the focus group conversation with conveners. We provide more detail on each of these strategies below.

Support Integration. Ensure women (and other marginalized groups) are not seen as an "add-on," but are integral to all Summit convenings and decisions.

At the most basic level, women want to be listened to and to have a seat at the table. But beyond simply being invited to the table, women want to be integrated into the Summit and across the food system, in positions that can influence decisions. Below are several quotes from convenors that highlight this theme.

> *It's not easy to walk the talk when it comes to gender equality. The image that we want to give with the Summit is key. There is a principle that we should keep in mind,to not fall in the trap to do it the same way as the world so far led by men. I think we should add the principle of integrating gender, racial and geographical justice. It should be an integration of those justice elements if we want to see.*

> *Emphasis of farmers, youth women and indigenous women. That would be leading by example of what we want to bring forward in the role of women in the food system.*

> *At the Summit, it would be very important to have voices represented physically. Sometimes when it is an online conversation, not everyone has the chance to air their views.*

[52] Food for Life: The Role of Women in Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 6.
[53] Gender Equality in the Meat Sector as a Sustainability Solution, 14 April 2021, 8888, page 9.
[54] Food for Life: The Role of Women in Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 6.
[55] Food for Life: The Role of Women in Promoting Integral Human Development, 17 May 2021, 14959, page 5.

To engage women fully in the Food Systems Summit and across the food value chain, many Dialogues emphasized the importance of recognizing and protecting women's rights. Here are some examples ofthose discussions as summarized in the reports:

> *Explicit recognition of the rights of women who are structurally disadvantaged: mobilizing them, enabling their access and rights to land and finance, and otherassets.*[56]

> *Enabling women farmers to have the rights to the title of their land.*[57]

> *We need to reframe how we view women and food systems from mainly focusing on the role of women as producers and consumers to thinking about how food and agricultural systems contribute or can contribute to the process of empowering women and how these systems can create an environment conducive to the equal exercise of women's rights.*[58]

Encourage Connections among Women. Women benefit from spaces where they can connect with peers and mentors across the food system.

Data emphasized the value in opportunities for women to connect with one another, such as women-only trainings and networks to provide spaces to nurture their leadership. Data also suggested that identifying role models, promoting success stories about women to women, and identifying mentors are critical interventions that can bring more women into leadership positions across food systems. Below we provide a few quotes that offer concrete suggestions for how to encourage woman-to-woman supportive interaction.

> *Access to external networking groups such as MBW can provide the support, contacts and encouragement that women in more gender-balanced sectors might normally find within their workplace... Mentoring, and particularly formal mentoring schemes, can play an important role in helping women making key decisions and supporting them intheir careers.*[59]

> *Give women entrepreneurial role models and connect women*[60]*.*

> *Provide women-only training in some cases so they have access to customized training...Building a community of women in the agriculture and food system and empower them through role models. Have a support system of female entrepreneurs and food systems workers who support each other. Establish associations for female farmers at the local level. Coming together as a decision-making body empowers women, and at the same time they can contribute significantly to the well-being of thecommunity.*[61]

[56] Women, Work and Food Systems - South Asia and South-East Asia Dialogue on Gender and Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4789, page 11.
[57] National Dialogue on Women, Work and Food Systems, 19 June 2021, 23772, page 7.
[58] 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, 31 March 21, 6646, page 5.

> *Women's movements must be all encompassing ensuring women from all walks of life actively participate, from the smallscale farmer to the CEO.*[62]

Several convenors echoed the importance of bringing women together, and creating spaces for them to connect and share ideas both during and after the summit. Convenors further shared the importance ofnetworks and collaborations across genders, which then segues into the next theme – working in partnership. In the words of one convenor:

> *There could be a focus on strengthening networks and collaboration with individual women or groups. I think this would be key also to try and push women to promote new types of power relationships – the relationship between men and women, women with society, or with the community in general.*

Develop Partnerships. Women stressed the importance of working with men as allies, as well as building cross-sector partnerships.

Dialogues and convenors emphasized the importance of working in partnership with men as allies and supporters. Data also indicated that partnerships across sectors and silos was seen as a key strategy for transforming food systems in general, and the idea of partnerships was also raised in relation to engaging women at various levels in the food system. A few quotes are provided to paint a picture of partnerships in respectto engaging women.

> *Tackling gender issues should ensure inclusion of both men and women and assurance that women and men participate and benefit equally from agriculture.*[63]

> *Implement initiatives that fosters partnerships, brings together stakeholders from all sectors, and puts women at the center.*[64]

> *The politics of inclusion, bipartisanship, access, ongoing engagement, participation and well-designed partnerships is what is required to power increased access of women, youth and vulnerable populations whilst enhancing resilience and sustainability of foodsystem.*[65]

> *Governments, private sector, communities and other stakeholders including men need to work together to address the issues affecting women.*[66]

[59] Gender Equality in the Meat Sector as a Sustainability Solution, 14 April 2021, 8888, page 7.
[60] Women Nutrition: Resilience and Recovery on the Road to 2030, 8 June 2021, 23761, page 6.
[61] GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good, 31 March 2021, page 7.
[62] High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 - Gender, 13 May 2021, 2893, page 7.
[63] Strengthening and Amplifying the Voices and Leadership of Women in Food Systems, 18 June 2021, 24972, page 5.
[64] GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good, 31 March 2021, page 6.

> *There is an urgent need to engage men in women's empowerment at all levels, from the household to the community to the institutional level. This can be done through gender sensitisation and training. Involving men in gender transformative partnerships and social enterprises can even improve gender relations and reduce the domestic burden on women, as seen in the work of the Altertrade Philippines Foundation. Additionally, there is a need to facilitate male allies in research and policy who can champion and mainstream gender issues.*[67]

> *To have integration, it is important to have men involved as well. There are men who are passionate about women's issues. And those can be the bridge between the men who are against, and the women. So having men champions also would be a very good thing.* (Convenor)

> *If we want to create change, we need to bring those different perspective together. I love women rounds. But it is also important to have those diverse tables. If not, I am going to go back and be in the same environment. So that integration is really important….and create safe spaces where conflict is welcome and constructive across different genders and different origins.* (Convenor)

Recognize Various Roles & Identities. Acknowledge, value and make space for the multiple roles and identities that women hold.

Across the Dialogues, there was a recognition that women play multiple roles and hold multiple identities. For example, several Dialogues emphasized the importance of recognizing and engaging women as caregivers and mothers. Two quotes illustrate this theme.

> *Make sure the pay is reasonable, work hours are reasonable because you have to recognize that they are mothers, and condition of the workplace should be good...Have a series of conversations with female farmers. They are parents, they nurture their children and guide them in choosing their career and consult with them. In exploring challenges with the parents, then together we will find practical solutions to these problems.*[68]

[65] Notes on Group Discussions in UN Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue: Pathways to Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems 2, 20 March 2021, 2970, page 2.
[66] High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 - Gender, 13 May 2021, 2893, page 6.
[67] Women's Agency and Gender Equity in Food Systems, 10 June 2021, 2062, page 6.
[68] GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good, 31 March 2021, page 7.

> *Enable flexible working: Flexible workplaces are an essential enabler for creating an inclusive working environment. Women are still more likely than men to care for children or elderly parents and therefore more likely to look for workplace flexibilitywhen considering employment opportunities…Create working models that support those with family responsibilities: This is one of the most important actions that businesses can take to enable women to progress into leadership roles.*[69]

Lack of effective maternal health and its connections to the various roles women play was also raised as a critical factor to address in food systems transformation:

> *Over half a million women die annually due to maternity complications. Therefore, there is need to understand the linkages between women's empowerment, decision making power and maternal health care. Better information and messaging for vulnerable groups is required. Better investment, better education, more health workers and nutritional services are needed to cover these vulnerable populations. A system approach that involves schools and educational departments can help integrate maternal health education into curriculums.*[70]

Provide Support. Address barriers to participation in the Summit and across food systems

Dialogues emphasized the various barriers to women engaging both in the Summit across food systems more broadly. For the Summit, language and access were of primary concern. Convenors shared the following suggestions for how to ensure women from various backgrounds are able to fully engage in the Food Systems Summit:

> *When it comes to dissemination of the information, it should be packaged in a way that every woman, on all levels can understand. Especially when it comes to technical information, it should be understood by every woman from ever land. There should bepackages for all levels, communicating the same information.*

> *We always try to think about people who are really affected by the problem…So how do we ensure that those people are there?...What kinds of tools are we creating to make sure that all levels/ spheres of women are being represented and they can actually take part in it?*

> *During our forum, we realized there were a lot of farmers who couldn't even understand what we were trying to say. They were asking us to bring it down, to come to villages and rural areas. They are the major stakeholders, so we should never forget about them.*

Beyond the Summit, the Dialogues had a number of suggestions for how to supports women across food systems. In particular, several Dialogues focused on the importance of building a pipeline of opportunities for women across the food value chain. We provide three quotes below as examples of this forward thinking.

[69] Gender Equality in the Meat Sector as a Sustainability Solution, 14 April 2021, 8888, page 11.
[70] High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 - Gender, 13 May 2021, 2893, page 7.

Awareness on the important roles that women in the entire agriculture value chain -amplify the role they play, give them a voice, and make them more visible in discussions about the sustainability of our food systems.[71]

Nurture, aggregate, and/or render visible to investors potential "pipeline" of women-led enterprises…Keep in mind that women entrepreneurs need a full suite of financial products not just credit.[72]

Organizing is the key to empower rural women workers and small holder women farmers and make the food systems equitable and just. Promoting their own member-owned and managed supply chain will help building their collective strength, bargaining power and decision-making agencies.[73]

Linking back to the second theme, women-to-women networking and trainings can make space for women to support one another and build their capacity to be more fully engage across levels as leaders.

[71] GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Force for Good, 31 March 2021, page 7.
[72] Catalyzing finance for women food entrepreneurs, 8 April 2021, 7508, Page 10.
[73] Women, Work and Food Systems - South Asia and South-East Asia Dialogue on Gender and Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4789, page 6.

Conclusion & Recommendations

It would be impossible to sum up women's perspectives on food systems in a single report, as these perspectives are diverse and multifaceted. Yet across the Dialogues and in conversation with convenors,the themes that emerge point to a transformative vision for food systems that relies upon robust data, increased access to funding and education, gender transformative policies, localized solutions and a culture shift towards equity, inclusion and connection to the earth. Within the context of a global pandemic and environmental emergency, women see now as the time to act to truly transform the systems, with women, in partnership with men, at the center of this transformation.

A woman's perspective is important to ensure an equitable and transformed food system, and their insights and knowledge are critical to reality-check game-changing proposals against lived experiences. Balancing the different perspectives, needs and roles of women, as with all stakeholders, will be key to the success of the Food Systems Summit. Our primary recommendations are to look closely at the strategies identified in Section 3 and to create space for the voices of women from across demographicsand roles to be heard and engaged with in all aspects of the Summit.

Additional Resource from the Food Systems Pre-Summit

The Evidence Pathway to Gender Equality and Food Systems Transformation

The *Evidence Pathway to Gender Equality and Food Systems Transformation* report, with its substance presented at the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit in July 2021, supports and provides further depth to our synthesis so we are spotlighting it here. The report notes that "women play a vital role in the global food system, representing almost half of the total agricultural, workforce in low-income countries." [1] It goes on to state that "if systemic gender inequalities are to be addressed, then food systems. programming needs to move from trying to 'address the symptoms' of gender inequality, to tackling its root causes." The report provides the following nine key points to "help enrich gender-responsive and transformative approaches to food systems programming in future":

1. Raise the vision from 'individual inclusion' to 'changing structures.'
2. Use theories of change to connect programmatic action with institutional intent.
3. Understand local gender needs and target context.
4. Move from 'equal participation' to 'engaged decision making.'
5. Challenge stereotypes and assume women as actors.
6. Focus on social relations to avoid backlash.
7. Build capacities for the future.
8. Match transformation actions with transformative measurement.
9. Create alliances for change.

[1] [i]Betts, Julia. (2021), The Evidence Pathway to Gender Equality and Food Systems Transformation. Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development(IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), page 1.

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Donna is a researcher, facilitator, and monitoring and evaluation specialist with more than 23 years' experience. She holds a doctorate in interdisciplinary studies focused on Program Evaluation and Organizational Development, and a Masters degree in Public Administration. She is the author of *Being An Evaluator, Your Guide to Evaluation.* She has worked with governments, civil society, nongovernmental groups, international donors, and foundations. She has experience designing, implementing and reviewing evaluation methodologies for a range of international programs, as well as conducting implementation, outcome and impact evaluations in projects in agriculture, early childhood development, education, environment, gender, health systems, HIV/AIDS, human rights, trade and investment, and women's empowerment. She has worked for USAID, DFID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MasterCard Foundation, multiple UN organizations, African Development Bank, World Bank, and local nonprofits, among others. She places a special focus on her feminist work. She teaches and publishes on feminist evaluation and research, and implements feminist research and evaluation forthe World Bank, UN, the Government of Canada, African Development Bank, and various NGOS around the world.

Donna is a current Board Member International Organization for the Cooperation of Evaluation, and International Evaluation Academy. She is a former National Board Member for the American EvaluationAssociation (AEA), and the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA). She is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University, a Senior Research Associate at University of Johannesburg, and a Fellow at Stellenbosch University. She has published multiple papers, books chapters, books and journal articles. She is on the editorial board of the American Journal of Evaluation.

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Annex A: Independent Dialogues with a Focus on Women

Title	Convener(s)	# Participants	# Women	Date	ID#
Understanding Gender and Food Systems: The Role of Women in FoodSystems*	Soffeu Mirabelle, Giving Hope to theHopeless Association			21 January 21	3026
Making Food systems Equitable: An African Dialogue on Gender and FoodSystems*	Dr Jemimah Njuki, Custodian, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment,UNFSS 2021 Dr Wanjiru Kamau Rutenberg, AWARDMs Beatrice Gakuba-AWAN Ms Sabdiyo Dido, AGRA Ms Elizabeth Nsimadala, PAFOre			9 February 2021	1666
Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi	Youth Enterprise Services (YSE) Malawi	20	17	26 February 21	5560
Women, Work and Food Systems -South Asia and South-East Asia Dialogue on Gender and Food Systems	Reema Nanavaty, CEO Self EmployedWomen's Association (SEWA) Kalpana Giri, Senior Program Officer,Gender Equity and Social Inclusion, RECOFTC Jemimah Njuki, Custodian for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment UN Food Systems Summit	110	79	4 March 21	4789
Pathways to Sustainable and ResilientFood Systems – 2	Christopher Chinapo Dr Wayne Soverall UWI Donovan McLaren KCDI Jamaica Anna Kay Mc Intosh National YouthCouncil Jamaica Tamisha Lee JNRWP	57	31	20 March 21	2970

	Clyde Phillip IBBC Lincoln Beal Growgreen AquaponicsLtd Riyadh Mohammed TACS				
Diálogo Regional sobre la igualdad degénero y el empoderamiento de las mujeres para la transformación de lossistemas alimentarios de América Latina y el Caribe	FAO - Regional Office for Latin Americaand the Caribbean & IFPR	172	134	31 March 21	6646
GrowHer.org launch in the Philippines: Women in Food, Forcefor Good	Cherrie D. Atilano, Founding Farmer and CEO of AGREA, UN Food SystemsSummit Champion	12	11	31 March 21	9775
Migración y Nutrición Liderazgo femenino para la innovación en seguridad alimentaria nutricional: Colombia y Venezuela	Joy Vieira	67	41	8 April 21	7349
Catalyzing finance for women foodentrepreneurs	AGRA, the Agripreneurship AllianceGlobal Agribusiness Alliance International Agri-Food Network International Fund for Agricultural Development Nourishing Africa One Young World FSS Gender LeverSAFIN	126	95	8 April 21	7508
Gender Equality in the Meat Sector asa Sustainability Solution	Meat Business Women	55	54	14 April 21	8888
The Role of Rural Women in the Transforming Food Systems towardsAchieving the Economic Creativity for SustainableDevelopment	Ms. Bertha Yenwo, President, TabwanSupport Network (TSN)	50	50	18 April 21	12180

Gender-Responsive Investments in Africa's Agriculture for Inclusive FoodSystems	Dr Yemi Akinbamijo/Dr Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa/ AfricanWomen in Agricultural Research and Development	303	171	4 May 2021	10415
High Level Dialogue at CFS 47 –Gender	Agri-Food Network (IAFN) The Private Sector Mechanism of theCommittee on World Food Security	112	79	13 May 2021	2893
Food for Life: The Role of Women InPromoting Integral Human Development	Permanent Mission of the Holy See toFAO, IFAD & WFP Rome Forum of Catholic-InspiredNGOs	14	14	17 May 21	14959
Women Nutrition: Resilience andRecovery on the Road to 2030	Marti van Liere, Healthy MothersHealthy Babies Consortium	206	No data	8 Jun 21	23761
Women's Agency and Gender Equityin Food Systems*	Norwich Institute for SustainableDevelopment (NISD) Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)Bharat Krishak Samaj (BKS) TIGR2ESS	65	55	10 June 21	2062
Strengthening and Amplifying the Voices and Leadership of Women inFood Systems	Ms. Judy Matu - Association of Womenin Agriculture Kenya – AWAK Mr. Charles Opiyo - GAIN Alliance	80	62	18 June 21	24972
National Dialogue on Women, Workand Food Systems	SEWA	164	110	19 June 21	23772
Catalysing Women's Agri-preneurshipand Food Trade in Africa	Sabdiyo Dido - Head of Gender andInclusiveness (AGRA) Betty Otieno, Gender Coordinator(AGRA)	210	151	23 June 21	21923
The Women in Agribusiness Forum : Women Transforming Food Systems*	Guzakuza			30 June 21	22149
DAWN of women in agriculture:technology as an enabler*	Chhavi Jatwani, Design & InnovationLead, Future Food Institute; Martina			2 July 2021	17073

	Marseglia, Institutional Relations and Global Strategic Partnerships, FutureFood Institute				
Gender Equality for Food SystemsTransformation in Malawi*	Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence, ActionAid, Concern WorldWide, Goal, Irish Rule of Law International, Irish Forum on International Agricultural Development, Oxfam, Self Help Africa,Trocaire			2 July 2021	28241
Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, and Food Systems*	International Food Policy ResearchInstitute (IFPRI) Self Employed Women's Association(SEWA)			6 July 2021	30258
ICAN and SUN CSN UN Food SystemSummit Independent Dialogue - Gender equality, a key driver to enhancing food systems and good nutrition*	International Coalition for Advocacy onNutrition (ICAN) and Scaling Up Nutrition Civil SocietyNetwork (SUN CSN)			20 July 2021	30133

** Indicates no Dialogue report was available. No participant data is available for dialogues with no reports.*

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AN INDEPENDENT DIALOGUES SPECIAL SYNTHESIS REPORT

Smallholder Farmers and Other Smaller-Scale Producers Perspectives on Food Systems

Written by

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Blue Marble Evaluation Team

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Blue Marble Evaluation Preface

This report was prepared by members of 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 (BME) teams have been working to synthesize themes across hundreds of Independent Dialogues, which resulted in two interim reports.[1] In doing so, the BME synthesis team and the Food Systems Summit Secretariat identified a need for a deeper dive into the perspectives of several key stakeholder groups: smallholder farmers and other smaller-scale producers, Indigenous People, youth, and women. This deep dive report focuses on smallholder farmers.

The data presented in this synthesis are from Independent Dialogues that focused on small-scale farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and other small-scale producers. Conveners of those Dialogues were invited to participate in a special focus group to discuss cross-cutting themes, common issues, and divergent perspectives.

The authors of this report were selected for this deep dive synthesis because of their knowledge of the issues faced by smallholder farmers and their support for including the voices of smallholder farmers in research and evaluation. The interpretations expressed in this report, based on their analysis of Dialogues and the subsequent focus groups, are solely those of the report authors and offered to support Summit deliberations. Author bios can be found at the conclusion of this report.

[1] Interim Report 1: https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-Interim-Synthesis-Report_FSS-Independent-Dialogues_.pdf
Interim Report 2: Interimhttps://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/unfss_independent_dialogue_synthesis_report_2_0.pdf

Executive Summary

This report provides a deep dive into the perspectives of smallholder farmers, fishers, pastoralists and other small-scale producers on food systems and their importance to the Food Systems Summit. It is organized into three sections: (1) why small-scale producers' perspectives are important, (2) overview of some of the key perspectives smallholder farmers and small-scale producers have on food systems, and (3) strategies for engaging them in the Food Systems Summit and beyond. Each section of the report offers key themes that emerged from a qualitative analysis of thirty-one Independent Dialogues and a focus group with five Dialogue convenors. The key themes in each section are summarized below. In the report that follows, quotes from Dialogue reports and convenors provide depth and context to these themes.

Key Themes by Section:

1: Why a Focus on Smallholder Farmers' Perspectives is Important

- **Key Role and Knowledge**. Small-scale Producers make an important contribution to feeding the world and play other essential, diverse roles in improving food systems.
- **Skin in the Game**. Smallholder farmers and small-scale producers are often most negatively affected by current global food systems and immediate impacts of climate change.
- **Under-represented.** Despite their important role, smallholder farmers and small-scale producers are often under-represented in food systems change conversations and actions.

2: Smallholder Farmers' Perspectives on the Food System

- **Shared Vision.** Holistic, regenerative, equitable food systems that produce adequate, safe, and nutritious food and ensure decent livelihoods for producers.
- **Acknowledge and Respect Rights.** Smallholder farmers' have a plethora of rights that are either not acknowledged or engaged with to the degree necessary
- **Change the Narrative.** Demonstrate how agriculture is a viable career and part of the global and local solution to sustainable food systems.
- **Build Partnerships.** Inclusive collaboration among small-scale producers enhance their power and influence; partnerships with other actors enable systems change.
- **Think Local.** Recognize how the local social, ecological, cultural, political, and economic contexts affect smallholder farmers.

- **Encourage Supportive Infrastructure.** Producers need supportive policies and resources.
- **Value Learning.** In a complex and shifting world, action should always be accompanied by learning.

3: How Smallholder Farmers and Producers Want to Engage in the Summit & Beyond

- **Seat at the Table.** Include diverse small-scale producers in decision-making spaces.
- **Empowered Participation.** Encourage and support farmer engagement in multi-actor, multi-sectoral knowledge co-generation.
- **Return Learning to the System.** Information should be shared with smallholder farmer participants and ensure its usability.
- **Continuous Engagement.** Institutionalize smallholder farmer participation in on-going food systems future dialogues and decision-making processes.

Smallholder farmers and small-scale producers are able to bring valuable traditional and localized knowledge on sustainable farming practices. At the same time, they continuously need to advocate for their rights to seed, land, water, food, education, and health, and face particularly adverse effects of climate change. Smallholder farmers and small-scale producers require supports that are often readily extended to more powerful actors (e.g. large-scale farms), such as access to financial and other resources, knowledge sharing on innovations and other practical information, and financial incentives for nature positive agriculture.

Introduction

Smallholder farmers bring one of many critical perspectives needed to support sustainable and equitable food systems. To better understand the perspectives of small-scale food producers, the evaluation team identified thirty-one Independent Dialogues that focused specifically on the experience of smallholder farmers, twenty-six of which had reports. Together, these Dialogues reflect approximately 2,169 voices, including 764 smallholder farmers. Only six of the Dialogues were made up of more than 70% smallholder farmers. The topics covered in these Dialogues emphasized the devastating effects of climate change, the marginalization of smallholder farming, and the importance of local seed and food systems. A qualitative analysis of the twenty-six Dialogue reports available, as well as observations the team made of four Dialogues in real-time, resulted in identifying the key themes. We further explored those themes by engaging with the Dialogue convenors in an online focus group discussion. Five convenors attended the focus group, in which we asked three primary questions:

- Why do we need to focus on smallholder farmers' perspectives on food systems?
- What are smallholder farmers' perspectives on food systems?
- How should smallholder farmers (and other producers) be engaged in the Food Systems Summit?

The focus group participants were based in Bangladesh, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Europe. Three worked for local/ national NGOs, one for a communication firm, and one for an international organization. The methodological note at the end of this report provides additional details.

The voices that we present in this synthesis could never represent the diverse and sometimes divergent voices of smallholder farmers and other small-scale producers across food systems but offer a particular insight into meaningful and necessary dialogue.

Following the original deep dive synthesis based on dialogue reports focused on smallholder farmers and the focus group with those conveners, additional dialogues reports were incorporated into the synthesis from a broader range of small-scale producers. Those additional perspectives are included in Section 4. Because the original focus was on smallholder farmers, the first three parts of this report focus primarily on that group though other small-scale producers are acknowledged throughout. Section 4 broadens the synthesis to more comprehensively incorporate smaller-scale producers generally.

Section 1:
Why the Perspectives of Smallholder Farmers and other Smaller-Scale Producers Are Critically Important

The perspectives of smallholder farmers and other smaller scale producers are important for several reasons. Farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and other producers make an important contribution to feeding the world, play an essential role in improving food systems, but are generally under-represented in relevant decision-making processes.

Key Role and Knowledge. Smallholder farmers make an important contribution to feeding the world and play essential diverse roles in improving food systems.

The level of a smallholder farmers' contribution to food production can vary by country. In some cases, like parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, smallholder farmers can provide up to 80% of the domestic food supply,[2] while in other countries the amount can be much less. Smallholder farmers do more than provide food, they are often the custodians of diverse plant and animal genetic resources, and caretakers of the land on which they farm. Importantly, their knowledge, which tends to draw on hundreds of years of wisdom combined with localized adaption, innovation, and learning, is essential to creating a more sustainable food system. Here are some direct quotations from Dialogues that provide additional insights this finding.

> *Farmers are the oxygen in our existence.*[3]
>
> *Traditional farming practices are more ecologically sensitive, nature friendly and sustainable.*[4]
>
> *Seed security is crucial to food security and livelihoods and is part of a community disaster risk management, especially in the context of climate change.*[5]
>
> *Fish farming is dominated by Asia, which has produced 89% of the global total of volume in the last 20 years. An estimated 59.51 million people were engaged (on a full-time, part-time or occasional basis) in the primary sector of capture fisheries (39.0 million people) and aquaculture (20.5 million people) in 2018…Of all those engaged in primary production, most are in developing countries, and most are small-scale, artisanal fishers and aquaculture workers.*[6]

[2] Farmers' Perspectives, From Seeds to Food II, 12 May 2021, 11594, page 2.
[3] 28341 Dialogue, chat box
[4] The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 7.
[5] Farmers' Perspectives from Seeds to Food - Global Dialogue, 29 June 2021, 20829, page 6.
[6] Farmers and Fishers Solutions: Sustainable Fishing, 9 June 2021, 23434, page 5.

Skin in the Game. Smallholder farmers are often most negatively affected by current global food systems and immediate impacts of climate change.

Smallholder farmers face adversity that is unique to them. For example, they tend to grow food on the most marginal land, and often have little in the way of financial savings and poor access to resources (e.g., irrigation). These and other factors then impede their ability to mitigate challenges that are common in smallholder farming (e.g. droughts) and those that are brought about by global shocks such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. The smallholder farmer's opinion matters because in facing these on-the-ground challenges, they bring an often-unheard voice that is informed by hands-on experience and in that experience, offer informed, practical insight in how to address those challenges.

> *[The smallholder farmer is] both a producer and a consumer and depends on the environment for their livelihood."*[7]

> *In 2021 in one village there was heavy flooding during the dry season that washed away their crops when this kind of thing happens, they don't get any form of help or interventions from anywhere, majority of the farmers cannot afford to buy seed and other farm inputs to replant or cultivate back their farms…*[8]

> *Farmers are resilient but also under severe and multiple stresses.*[9]

Under-represented: Despite their important role, smallholder farmers are often under-represented in food systems change conversations and actions.

Smallholder farmers, unlike other food system stakeholders, do not often represent themselves at meetings or in other formal discussions, knowledge generating forums, or decision-making processes. Rather, they are represented at these events by other actors (e.g., NGOs, governments), which brings mixed experiences of how fairly they represent the smallholder farmer. Below we provide an example from Nigeria of how smallholder farmers' voices, in this case indigenous farmers, can be ignored through NGO representation.

> *Don't be discouraged or overwhelmed by the complexity and tediousness of such an informal gathering or bother about the indigenous people who are not always too open nor receptive to adoption of any innovation or ideas contrary to their culture, tradition or social norm. They may neither appreciate nor value what you are doing for them by giving them a voice in the global community, still keep at what you are doing with resilience and tenacity knowing that you are doing a service to humanity.*[10]

This is not always the case, and numerous NGOs are fair in their representation of smallholder farmers. We observed two Dialogues that took place in Peru.[11] These were noteworthy for their engagement with farmer representatives, who were given prominent speaking roles. These farmer representatives

[7] UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from India, 29 January 2021, 1956, page 5.
[8] The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 4.
[9] Farmers' Perspectives from Seeds to Food - Global Dialogue, 29 June 2021, 20829, page 6.
[10] The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 3. The convener requested identification as the source of this quote.
[11] El aporte de las comunidades campesinas para los sistemas alimentarios sostenibles resilientes e incluyente, 28 June 2021, 24420; and Hacia un enfoque sistématico para la agricultura familiar, biodiversidad, y seguridad alimentaria, 25 June 2021, 28005

brought strong viewpoints, which were often critical of local, national, and international governments and other actors such as mining corporations.

Moreover, the diversity of smallholder farmer perspectives is usually not recognized and incorporated into knowledge generating or decision-making processes, or into policies or other legislative frameworks. A few quotes offer some insights into this finding.

> *We [farmers] want our words to be impactful. We work hard and we hope our words will be taken at value and seriously.*[12]

> *Both the large-scale, industrial food producers and smallholders need to be part of the paradigm shift needed to achieve sustainable food systems. However, smallholder producers and especially small-scale farmers require particular support as they are often underrepresented in decision making in terms of policies and investments. Further, their livelihoods are disproportionately vulnerable to the impact of climate change and biodiversity-loss.*[13]

Further, there are examples of how smallholder farmers' voices can be co-opted by commercial concerns, which is explored more fully in Section 2. As Paolo Freire writes, "Only when the people of the dependent society break out of the culture of silence and win their right to speak … can such a society as a whole cease to be silent toward the director society."[14]

From their traditional knowledge to their practical experience, smallholder farmers can and should play an essential role toward creating an equitable and sustainable food system

[12] Voices of Small Farmers on Agroecology, Organic Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty In North America... Inclusion and Capacity Building, 13 June 2021, 25890, page 9.
[13] Farming with (and for) biodiversity – scaling smallholder, nature-based solutions for sustainable food systems, 16 June 2021, 15420 page 6.
[14] Freire, P. (1985). *The politics of education: Culture, power, and liberation*. Greenwood Publishing Group. Loc. 1021.

Section 2: Smallholder Farmers' Perspectives on Food Systems

This section provides insight into the smallholder farmers' perspectives on food systems. Their perspective tends to bring a systemic, holistic and broad approach to thinking about and working on food issues. A smallholder farmers' perspective is informed through multiple influences; a need to meet their own economic requirements, being mindful of their roles as caretakers of land and traditional and local knowledge, and the necessity of meeting the food and nutrition needs for themselves and others.

Shared Vision. Holistic, regenerative, equitable food systems that produce adequate, safe, and nutritious food and ensure decent livelihoods for producers.

Smallholder farmers have a holistic view of food systems, which includes integrating socio-cultural, economic and ecological dimensions. The focus group discussion confirmed this finding, including the critical importance of promoting a vision for the food system that appreciates the multiple roles played by smallholder farmers and recognizes the contributions they make to the environment and to society as a whole.

> *A sustainable, equitable food system which regenerates the environment, ensures decent incomes and livelihoods for producers, and facilitates access to and consumption of nutritious, safe food.*[15]

> *Empower BIPOC small farmers and their communities and support resilient agroecology-organic livelihoods and wellbeing.*[16]

Dialogues that had more smallholder farmer participants tended to discuss and encourage locally based agroecological approaches.

Acknowledge and Respect Rights. Smallholder farmers' rights and those of other smaller-scale producers are not sufficiently acknowledged.

Fishers, farmers, pastoralists, and other smaller scale producers' rights need to be acknowledged, from their rights to land, water, and fair prices to their right to be engaged as active participants in decision-making processes. One urgent issue is around fair access to seeds. Dialogues and focus group participants express concerns that crop breeding companies have created new seed varieties and made them proprietary. In some countries, governments have made exchanging seed illegal to protect the rights of private industry. Protecting larger seed companies in this way infringes on the rights of farmers who have saved and exchanged seeds for millennia.

[15] UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from India, 29 January 2021, 1956, page 12.
[16] Voices of Small Farmers on Agroecology, Organic Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty In North America... Inclusion and Capacity Building, 13 June 2021, 25890, page 6.

> *Legislate and operationalize Farmers' Rights in the context of a rights-based approach; Formulate a stand-alone farmers rights policy and legislation.*[17]

> *Both farmers' rights to participate in decision making as well as farmers' rights to save, use, sell and exchange seeds are highly relevant for the realisation of Farmers' Rights as recognised in Article 9 of the International Treaty.*[18]

Another discussion around rights includes smallholder farmer representation in decision-making processes and others, such as Dialogues held for the Food Summit. Five of the thirty-one Dialogues reviewed that focused on smallholder farmers were co-sponsored and or attended by food industry lobbyists or multinational plant breeders. These groups often have a specific commercial interest in promoting their agenda (e.g., U.S. Dairy Council, U.S. Almond Board, Croplife, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers, Spanish Pork lobby) however that agenda sometimes supports that of the smallholder farmer. From the comments of Dialogue participants, and our analysis and observations, these kinds of lobby groups appear to heavily influence the current food system.

One Dialogue attendee commented,

> *Everyone's realized the limitations of the current agrochemical production system. They all want change. That is slow to arrive because of powerful lobbies.*[19]

Although not always the case, deregulation can bring in a discussion about rights that can benefit smallholder farmers. For example, the right to accessing technology was an issue raised in the dialogues.

> *Access to technology does not need to be regulated globally: different technology will be beneficial in different locations.*[20]

Another viewpoint prominent in these five Dialogues was around precision agriculture. This concept is less known and less controversial than similar terms such as "conventional", "industrial", and "external input intensive.", or even "green revolution." Precision agriculture, like those other terms, represents a world view that emphasizes technological solutions that can be applied widely instead of a more localized, holistic, systems approach that looks at the multi-dimensional tradeoffs of different practices.

> *Programs such as the Four Rs (Right fertilizer source, at the Right rate, at the Right time, and in the Right place) help ensure safe food and increases efficiency to produce more with less that aids in keeping food affordable. Properly managed fertilizers support cropping systems that provide economic, social and environmental benefits.*[21]

Change the Narrative. Demonstrate how agriculture is a viable career and part of the global and local solution to sustainable food systems.

There is a need to change the narrative so that young people find agriculture an exciting and innovative business opportunity.

[17] Farmers' Perspectives, From Seeds to Food II, 12 May 2021, 11594, page 8.
[18] Farmers' Perspectives from Seeds to Food - Global Dialogue, 29 June 2021, 20829, Chat Box
[19] Visioning the future of food and agricultural systems, 13 April 2021, 11127, author copy.
[20] What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4362, page 9.
[21] U.S. Farmers and Ranchers as a Solution to Building the Sustainable Food Systems of the Future, 23 June 2021, 17571, page 3.

> *Finally, it was noted by our participants that young people are increasingly unwilling to take over what once termed the family business but are instead opting to migrate to larger cities in search of more prosperous job opportunities. That has largely been brought about by their parents being trapped in revolving cycles of debt by predatory loan management companies and the closure of local agricultural businesses. That in turn only makes it harder for young farmers to earn a reasonable standard of living…*[22]

Presenting farming as nature-positive, diverse, and essential for addressing "glocal" challenges could be motivating for young people. Food production should be a source of productivity, hope, pride, and joy.

> *This transition needs to go hand in hand with a change in the narrative around farming in the Global South. Agriculture is often associated with poverty, and adopting nature-based approaches could help change this to one of pride and joy.*[23]

> *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.*[24]

> *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.*[25]

While lobby groups are mentioned in the above section as often overshadowing the rights of the smallholder farmer, these lobbyists also support all farmers. For example, they lobby for shifting the narrative to farmers being blamed for climate change or hurting animals, to one that shows how farmers are part of the solution.

> *Proposed approaches within the FSS currently do not adequately reflect producers' realities, acknowledge their achievements, or recognize that conventional agriculture must shoulder the majority of work needed to achieve more sustainable food systems. Therefore, greater work is needed to appropriately frame the challenges, understand the landscape and horizon, and develop solutions for meaningful and lasting change.*[26]

Build Partnerships. Inclusive collaboration among smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers enhances their power and influence; partnerships with other actors enable systems change.

Partnerships that include smallholder farmers are essential for food systems change. This refers to farmer-to farmer partnerships that can influence their power and influence.

[22] Rights of Small Farmers in Light of Corporate Take Over: The Deregulation of TNCs are Negatively Affecting the Rights of Small Farmers; How can both amicably coexist?, 19 July 2021, 32822, page 10.
[23] UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from Asia & Africa, 18 February 2021, 2060, page 6.
[24] UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from Asia & Africa, 18 February 2021, 2060, page 8.
[25] The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 7.
[26] U.S. Animal Agriculture as a Solution to Global Food Systems Challenges, 8 April 2021, 7117, page 13.

> *Black Indigenous small holder farmers and farmers of color (BIPOC) and their farmer organizations recognize that it is important to listen, learn, and share information with each other and other communities.*[27]

Partnerships are needed for systems changes, and these partnerships need to take place across actor groups such as farmers, consumers, researchers, private sector, and decision-makers, as well as partnerships among farmers, like cooperatives, farmer associations, and farmer to farmer networks. Partnerships allow for creating and sharing knowledge that is essential to adaptive capacity and change in the system. Below are some examples drawn from the Dialogues that exemplify the need for various partnerships.

> *[There is need for] evidence-based and people-centred approaches that reflect the concerns of producers and multiple stakeholder groups to implement solutions and partnerships at landscape scale.*[28]

> *Farmers and consumers need to be better connected, not only in terms of market access but also in terms of mutual understanding, which in turn informs consumer behaviour and expectations.*[29]

> *Farmers must collaborate more effectively (e.g., via cooperatives) to have a larger voice in policy discussions and to be able to access bigger markets or partnerships.*[30]

> *[They value the fostering of] 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.*[31]

> *All of this aim to make typical farmers become "transfarmers" (combination of 'transformer' and 'farmers') - by exploring innovative ways to work together with the academe, the industry, and the government in transforming food systems.*[32]

Think Local. Recognize how the local social, ecological, cultural, political, and economic contexts affect smallholder farmers.

Growing food is a complex endeavor with local influences from weather, soil, and labor availability to social and cultural systems all affecting farming. These varying factors suggest that smallholder farmers need to be able to innovate and implement localized solutions.

Traditional foods are often nutritious and therefore it is logical that local foods should be valued instead of importing less-nutritional foods. For example, markets need to offer local farmers fair prices and at the same time encourage people to consume local foods; that combination leads to improved farmer

[27] Voices of Small Farmers on Agroecology, Organic Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty In North America... Inclusion and Capacity Building, 13 June 2021, 25890, page 7.
[28] Boosting Nature Positive Agricultural Solutions: U.S. Farmer, Rancher, Grower Perspectives, 6 April 2021, 9149, page 6.
[29] What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4362, page 8.
[30] What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4362, page 9.
[31] The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 3.
[32] Transforming Pathways: Working with Farmers in Agri-Food Systems, 14 June 2021, 14699, page 5.

income while at the same time reducing carbon. Local knowledge and research systems should be established or strengthened with an emphasis on engaging local farmers in the research, a group that brings rich contextual information. There is a worry, at least among farmers in the U.S. and Europe, of being over-regulated from distant governing bodies. There is a broader call for decentralization of public funds and policies, so they are useful and relevant for local conditions.

> *A set of principles are needed that can be applicable to a range of contexts where there are efforts to create a demonstration of integrated and inclusive agroecological land management.*[33]

> *To promote local food systems, Government should take proactive steps for decentralization of the procurement rules for public service program. Local food systems could be a viable option to address hunger and malnutrition.*[34]

> *Any transition has to be community-driven to be sustainable over time. Thus, communities should be empowered to take ownership of this transition. This could be facilitated through capacity building and collectivizing schemes for specific stakeholders such as farmers, women, youth and consumers (such as women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and consumer co-operatives).*[35]

Encourage Supportive Infrastructure and Systems. Smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers need supportive policies and resources**.**

Smallholder farmers are increasingly being asked to change the food system yet are not offered anything in return. Producers need access to infrastructure (roads, irrigation, storage facilities, water, communication), finance, markets, land tenure, insurance, services, and appropriate technology, including plant genetic material. The finance industry needs to support smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers.

> *Farmers cannot access low interested loan (2-6% interest, special loan) which are offered by the different Bank due to Bank needs different mortgage if any farmer want to take loan. Farmers cannot manage the mortgage so that they cannot get the loan for quality produce production for marketing. The government can advise to Bank to be flexible on the issue.*[36]

Smallholder farmers need a strong process that encourages two-way knowledge sharing. For instance, rather than a one-way technology or knowledge transfer, a process is needed that supports farmer-to-farmer engagement as well as with other actors such as government and private sector, on seed, production, markets, nutrition, advocacy, training, innovation, and technology.

> *In the process of transformation, smallholder farmers need access to appropriate, affordable, profit-enhancing technologies and crop systems. However, it is essential that these technological*

[33] Farmer Research Network Collective Voice and Aligned Organizations, 28 April 2021, 11117, author's copy.
[34] UN Independent Food System Summit Dialogue Grassroot Perspective for Jharkhand, 2021, 12 April 2021, 8532, page 8.
[35] UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from Asia & Africa, 18 February 2021, 2060, page 6.
[36] Independent Dialogue on Farmers' Groups in Agriculture & Food System of Bangladesh, 31 May 2021, 33968, page 10.

> *interventions be sustainable and do not perpetuate the ecological degradation or social conditions so often seen in agricultural development.*[37]

Further, smallholder farmers need policies that support local food systems and smallholder farmers. Policies that actively work against smallholder farmers include those that support large-scale agro-export farms and subsidize imported food. Below are some examples of how the Dialogues discussed policy and regulations in relation to smallholder farmers.

> *Why did the vice minister not promote the approval of the Regulation of Organizations and Functions in a participatory manner? The supposed restructuring of the Ministry does not represent the demand of the small producers.*[38]

> *[The] priorities of the governments are misplaced, which are pushing small scale and marginalized farmers further in the periphery. The proposed solution are all in the agroecology framework of FAO, but as part of the output of the dialogue, there is a strong recommendation to include the political dimension, especially farmers right recognition, to bring the back the resources (land, biodiversity, knowledge, technology, market) into the hands of the farmers, as this is basic requirement to have [a] better food systems.*[39]

> *Small farming should become a protected category within international instruments and international policy.*[40]

Finally, smallholder farming is synonymous with poverty, yet it should not be. Markets and prices should reflect the true cost of agricultural products (e.g., consider labor and health).

Value Learning. In a complex and shifting world, action should always be accompanied by learning.

Successful, adaptive action should be embedded in all learning and planning cycles. Dialogues pointed to the need for more learning and research around specific areas. One call for learning was around understanding how food systems can change. For instance, there is ample evidence on how agroecology can work at a small scale, yet how larger scale transformation will happen, is not yet clear.

Dialogues discussed how to assess change beyond monitoring activities, to focus more on learning how different interventions, activities and policies impacted change. The Dialogues also discussed how to engage in learning by exploring more than one-dimensional impacts and indicators like productivity, income, nutrition, or carbon but rather assessing systems impacts, including wellbeing and vulnerability, in different contexts.

> *[Focus on] practical, broad-based, action-oriented solutions backed by science, innovation, and proven impact - solutions that include producers of all sizes and types*

[37] Transforming Pathways: Working with Farmers in Agri-Food Systems, 14 June 2021, 14699, page 5.
[38] El aporte de las comunidades campesinas para los sistemas alimentarios sostenibles resilientes e incluyente, 28 June 2021, 24420, chat box, translated from Spanish
[39] From Seeds to Table: Re-instating the farmers to the core of the food systems in Asia, 15 June 2021, 23679. page 9.
[40] Rights of Small Farmers in Light of Corporate Take Over: The Deregulation of TNCs are Negatively Affecting the Rights of Small Farmers; How can both amicably coexist?, 19 July 2021, 32822, page 7.

and at many points in their journey for continuous improvement and more sustainable systems.[41]

There is also a need to closely monitor and evaluate (M&E) the impact of programs/projects for farmers in line with their respective objectives, particularly the new technologies being introduced to the farmers … By doing so, it will be easy to understand how well the farmers on the ground are actually benefiting from such interventions.[42]

It also proposed for the creation of monitoring team involving fisherfolks and farmers that will supervise and observe good agricultural practices per municipal/provincial level… the active participation of multi-stakeholders in budgeting and monitoring disasters programs and environmental project.[43]

[41] U.S. Animal Agriculture as a Solution to Global Food Systems Challenges, 8 April 2021, 7117, page 13.
[42] Transforming Pathways: Working with Farmers in Agri-Food Systems, 14 June 2021, 14699, page 11.
[43] Philippines Farmers and Fishers National Independent Dialogue, 8 June 2021, 22131, page 6.

Section 3: How Smallholder Farmers Want to Engage in the Summit & Beyond

Smallholder farmer engagement in the Summit and beyond should ensure the meaningful participation and representation of diversity of smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers and their communities in multi-actor spaces. Proposals, policies, and actions for change should be co-generated and include their perspectives, insights, and knowledge.

Seat at the Table. Include diverse smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers in decision-making spaces.

A few Dialogue reports mentioned that the perceived exclusion of smallholder farmers' voices at the beginning of the FSS process made it difficult to include their voices at later stages. Smallholder farmers should not be perceived (by themselves or others) as beneficiaries but as co-contributors. Diverse representation entails the ongoing and active participation of smallholder farmers who represent different roles and perspectives within the larger smallholder farmers grouping. These groups include but are not limited to women and men; youth; and crop farmers, forest people, livestock keepers and fishers. Including smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers is more than extending an invitation. For example, the language that is used in meetings, or bringing the meeting to the farmers through in-person or virtual meetings, would support their engagement. Here are two quotes taken from the Dialogues that support that sentiment.

> *Don't wait for them [smallholder farmers] to have internet connections or be tech savvy before involving them to take a seat at the table for a conversation in matters that affects their everyday life, take the discussions to where they are to achieve a maximum and best result.*[44]

> *A paradigm shift is essential - we consider how to invite farmers to the table at dialogues and during interventions like this - instead we should be doing the work to be invited to the tables of farmers, so to speak. Relationships are key to this.*[45]

> *Make sure to encourage diverse viewpoints. Build trust so that every participant feels comfortable expressing views in his or her own voice, reinforcing the principle that the dialogue is inclusive and not designed to achieve a prescribed consensus.*[46]

[44] The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 3.
[45] Who's missing at dinner? Bringing farmers into the conversation on food systems through inclusive communication platforms, 2 June 2021, 15672, page 6.
[46] Black American Farmers' Path Towards Equitable Livelihoods, 2 June 2021, 19523, page 3.

Empowered Participation. Encourage and support farmer engagement in multi-actor, multi-sectoral knowledge co-generation.

Having a seat at the table is not enough; smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers need to be involved in knowledge co-generation and processes that lead up to decisions being made. They need to form strong partnerships with training and research organizations. Governments and NGOs need to create enabling spaces for them to engage with actors where knowledge generation and informed discussions take place.

> *Institutionalise farmers' active participation and capacity building in decision making and implementation, taking into account the diversity of farmers seed perspectives, cultures, gender and social inclusion, and knowledge management systems.*[47]

> *Returning farmers to the centre of policy decisions is fundamental to the sustainable food systems of the future.*[48]

> *Organized/Strengthened farmers organization is needed. We need stronger participation of farmers/consumers in decision-making about food and agriculture. Lobby for public policies in support of farmers/ IP; decentralized, collective participatory governance of farming and food systems and farmers control of seeds, land, market price set by producers.*[49]

> *Inclusive approach for organizing the local institutions (farmer groups, cooperatives etc.) at grass roots level and campaigning must be initiated for increasing the level of awareness and sensitization of those institutions especially using digitization for accessing the all services across the board by ensuring "Leave No One Behind."*[50]

Return Learning to the System. Information should be shared with smallholder farmer participants and ensure its usability.

Historically, there is a pattern of researchers exploiting smallholder farmer's and other producers' knowledge. New approaches to research are needed to ensure that the smallholder farmers' participate, and that their participation in knowledge and solution co-generation processes benefit the farmers. Benefits can be through sharing the research or engaging in conversations around the data that has led, or will lead, to suggested changes or improvements. We have provided a quote from the Dialogues that speaks to this issue.

> *Our Dialogues, efforts and actions should not end there. In case of a series of dialogues: Make sure you share reports and new insights with earlier participants.*[51]

[47] Farmers' Perspectives from Seeds to Food - Global Dialogue, 29 June 2021, 20829, chat box.
[48] What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems, 4 March 2021, 4362, page 3.
[49] From Seeds to Table: Re-instating the farmers to the core of the food systems in Asia, 15 June 2021, 23679, page 6.
[50] The Role of Cooperatives and Farmer Organisations in Future Food Systems, 2 June 2021, 21790, page 7.
[51] Farmers' Perspectives, From Seeds to Food II, 12 May 2021, 11594, page 3.

Continuous Engagement. Institutionalize participation in on-going food systems future dialogues and decision-making processes.

Participation of smaller-scale producers in policy and decision-making dialogues should be fostered at different levels, ranging from the local, national, regional, and international. The Dialogues also underlined the importance of establishing partnerships and coalitions to work on the implementation of farmers' recommendations beyond the UNFSS.

> *It was also agreed that the engagement of relevant stakeholders on food systems issues should not be limited to the Dialogues or end with the Food Systems Summit, but continue as an essential part of food systems transformation.*[52]

Section 4: An Inclusive and Expansive Perspective on Smaller-scale Food Producers

Following the original deep dive synthesis based on dialogue reports focused on smallholder farmers and the focus group with those conveners, additional dialogues reports were incorporated into this deep dive synthesis from a broader range of smaller-scale producers. The additional perspectives included in this section offer an inclusive and expansive perspective on smaller-scale food producers. Because the original focus was on smallholder farmers, the first three parts of this report have focused primarily on that group though other small-scale producers are acknowledged throughout. Section 4 broadens the synthesis to more comprehensively incorporate smaller-scale producers overall.

United Nations Food Systems Summit Global Summit Dialogue with Farmers, Fishers, Pastoralists and Other Producers[53]

Building upon the outcomes of a series of producer-led independent dialogues, the Global Summit Dialogue with Farmers, Fishers, Pastoralists and Other Producers examined the challenges, contributions, responsibilities and expectations of farmers, fishers, pastoralists and others in transforming our food systems with regards to nutrition, climate, biodiversity, livelihoods, resilience and other areas. The outcomes of this Global Dialogue contribute to the UN Food Systems Summit to advance the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

> *Key themes and challenges in food systems transformation raised in over 50 producer-focused independent dialogues at national, regional and global levels, such as agroecology, cooperatives that foster inclusive value chains, producers' access to finance*

[52] UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from India, 29 January 2021, 1956, page 6.
[53] https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28341/

and technology, evidence-based and rights-based approaches, as well as empowerment of the agency of producers.[54]

1. What producers are ready to commit to?

Overall producers are committed to playing an active role in transforming food systems. A strong and clear commitment towards agroecology and fishing methods that benefit people, planet and prosperity was identified.

Producers also commit to promoting inclusive value chains that give farmers, fishers, pastoralists and other producers more market power through their organizations and cooperatives. They also commit to organizing and federating movements and organizations of producers and to building the capacities of producers to be key actors for sustainable food systems. Young and female farmers, fishers, pastroalists and other producers were recognized as critical agent for change in transforming our food systems. Producers also commit to actively engaging in evidence-based and technology-empowered solutions for food system transformation as equal partners.

Fully recognizing the need to work with all types of stakeholders across the food system value chain, producers also commit to respond to the changing realities as well as needs of our society (e.g., growing population, increasing fragmentation of land holdings, harmful fishing subsidies increasing divide and conflict between industrial and small-scale fisheries, consumers' demand for more nutritious food, etc). Food producers are the first to experience the impacts of climate change and have consequently implemented a series of risk coping strategies which make their food systems more resilient. Their role gives them the capacity to be enablers of solutions, which is why their efforts are aimed at: taking actions to mitigate climate change as well as adapt to it, restoring land and soil, protecting biodiversity, promoting innovation in order to reduce food waste and loss, feeding people with safe and nutritious food.

2. What producers would like to see others commit to?

Producers have identified consumers, governments, private sector, science and technology community, as well as financial institutions as five main stakeholders that they would like to seek support from. In order for producers to play an active role in transforming food systems, it is requested that consumers need to better understand the challenge producer face especially regarding the overall cost of food production (e.g. ecosystem damage and bycatch when excessively damaging fishing gears are used), and mutually beneficial solutions are needed to ensure fair price and food affordability.

[54] https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28341/ p. 7.

Governments *should commit to developing more targetd policies that are rights-based, evidence-based, and actually meet prodcuers' needs, specifc areas mentioned include securing rights of producers over their natural resources (e.g., lands, waters, forests, and seeds), infrastructure, price stability, trade barriers, support to stronger producer organizations as well as transition to agroeology with the use of production gears and methods that cause minimal impacts on ecosystems. Also, to design and implement national action plans for the UN Decade of Family Farming, with family farmers as key stakeholder. Moreover, local differences should be taken into account and a flexible approach should be adopted, tailored to food producers' needs. For this reason policy needs to be more customized: it is vital to promote an enabling policy environment in order to meet current and emerging challenges as well as to maintain policy coherence and enhance integration in key sectors such as agriculture, health, education and the environment.*

Private sector actors *are urged to commit to ensuring that producers get fair financial return, and make efforts to ensure their trade doesn't marginalise small scale fishers or farmers. This can be achieved by promoting innovative contractual forms, which are not detrimental to the weaker contracting party and by recognising all actors along the value chain as economic actors and equal partners. Feeding people with safe and nutritious food.*

Support from science and technology *community is needed in investing more in research and technology , in partnership with producers, that helps improve productivity and efficiency of farming and fishing activities while respecting traditional and indigenous agricultural knowledge, as well as making data more accessible for farmers, fishers, pastoralists and other producers transitioning towards agroecology. Research must be based on the real needs of food producers and producers at grassroots level in order to implement win-win solutions, both for the actors involved and for the planet.*

Financial support, including subsidy transitions, direct financing to producer organizations and cooperatives, and innovative credit systems that can be taliored to the needs of different types of producers were requested from financial institutions.[55]

3. What producers need to see the world stop doing?

Producers request the world to stop criticizing them as part of the problem, but to recognize them as a key part of the solution, especially when they are using responsible gears and techniques. A strong emphasis on re-balancing value distribution across the

[55] https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28341/ p. 8-10.

food systems value chain, and have producers treated as equal partners rather than as beneficiaries or targets was raised. Producers also demand the world to stop disrespecting producers' knowledge and experience, but to treat them as experts in their own fields and invite them to sit at the decision table. A strong urge to stop using general, one-size-fits-all, and top-down policy approach to producers was raised, and the need to pay for the true cost of raw materials and food was emphasized (e.g., the true cost of seafood production must consider the ecosystem damage, bycatch and pollution caused by the fishing gears and methods used). Producers also request to stop having the food system value chain controlled by a few powerful actors without factoring in the voice, rights and needs of grass-root level farmers, fishers, pastoralist and other producers.

SUPPORT FOR SMALLER-SCALE PRODUCERS THROUGHOUT THEINDEPENDENT DIALOGUES

Throughout the 443 reports included in the Final Independent Dialogue Synthesis Report, Dialogue participants commented on the significance of smaller-scale producers to the future of food and the importance of engaging them meaningfully in food systems transformation initiatives. What follows is a sample of those quotations.

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f4:47 p 8 in 104_Apr_8_21_Animal Agriculture Alliance

❑ Support for small-scale stakeholders across the globe is also critical. Investments, partnerships, and support to implement lessons learned can help increase global sustainable practices across the board and help smaller businesses and farmers thrive sustainably while alleviating burdens on the environment and the food system.

7:31 p 6 in 167_Apr_13_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

• 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. Hence, it is very important to build their capacities on climate resilient farming systems and practices through practical demonstrations and accompaniments. Participatory Action Research (PAR) on crop performance/cost bene¦t analysis in control plots systems help in building con¦dence of small holder farmers. Along with this, vulnerability of the landless people also needs to be addressed adequately.

12:34 p 5 in 192_Apr_19_21_Okafor_A

While exploring indigenous people and small-scale fishermen knowledge and ideas in ensuring the long-term viability of our fish stocks and aquatics for sustainable food systems and indigenous

people's knowledge on sustainable management of our forests to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of our territorial ecosystems. Participants acknowledged that provision of irrigation facilities and small dams using our water-bodies littered all over the place to increase production capacity of smallholder farmers for food security will create a sustainable food system.

20:56 p 7 in 116_Apr_21_21_Hein JR

There will be more farmers on smaller farms, and eating the food they produce.

23:91 p 10 in 205_Apr_27_21_CIHEAM_Multi

o Highly consider small farmers concerns regarding the SFS: i) Need to access to ¦nancial solutions: innovative, equitable and sustainable ii) Better control the value chains to enhance the marketing potential of local products, iii) adopt encouraging pricing policies to produce sustainably while having reasonable bene¦ts, iv) provide and apply relevant political support at on economic , private investment boosting or climate resilience solutions.

27:4 p 6 in 044_Feb_18_21_Bharat K S

Banks and NBFCs should also be incentivized to provide credit to small farmers, for use in nature-positive production. • Need for continuous engagement - The engagement of relevant stakeholders on food systems issues should not be limited to the Dialogues or end with the Food Systems Summit, but continue as an essential part of food systems transformation.

54:63 p 8 in 002_Nov_19_20_CGIAR

Actions: Assist smallholder farmers—provide access to technology and seeds to improve productivity and diversify income streams. Address gender gap. Who: Farmers, government, businesses. Assess: Measure greenhouse gas emissions and diversity of farmers' revenues. Challenge: De-risking farmer livelihoods.

74:64 p 4 in 189a_April_16_21_Ateneo de Manila

We in the Ateneo de Manila University have been doing our small part in responding to the challenge of health and nutrition for our country, especially among young children, through the feeding programs of the Ateneo Center for Educational Development, and the Gawad Kalinga-Ateneo. Furthermore, together with the Tanging Yaman Foundation and the generous support of our alumni and friends, we have provided food packs to our social outreach partner communities throughout the prolonged and varying levels of community quarantine. Happy as we are of these efforts, we also know that it is but a drop in the bucket of the Philippines' tremendous hunger and malnutrition problem. A continuing search for long-term sustainable solutions, therefore, is imperative, and since food security and sustainable food production, especially in the light of the climate crisis, are complex, and the engagement of a broad spectrum of experts, practitioners,

researchers and leaders, is necessary. The academic community with its expertise in a wide variety of fields clearly has a role in the search for solutions.

74:71 p 21 in 189a_April_16_21_Ateneo de Manila

Restructuring places a huge challenge to small-scale producers as they struggle to adapt to these changes due to limited assets and access to resources. Their staying power will depend on their ability to adapt and adjust in this dynamic environment.

74:72 pp 21 – 22 in 189a_April_16_21_Ateneo de Manila

Dr. Digal added that these small-scale producers do not only mean small-scale farmers; but include fishers, micro, small, and medium enterprises, women, indigenous peoples, youth, and landless laborers as well. 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.

74:87 p 30 in 189a_April_16_21_Ateneo de Manila

Until there is a willingness to invest in small-scale businesses, farmers in the uplands will have no access to money other than from loan sharks that impose 10% monthly interest for four months of harvest. The rates are criminal.

75:63 ¶ 84 in 092a_Mar_24_21_El Ayuntamiento de Meride_eng

- Distribute seeds, and monitor small producers and the most vulnerable.

75:65 ¶ 108 in 092a_Mar_24_21_El Ayuntamiento de Meride_eng

Small food producers in the municipality face various situations that limit their development and deter production:

79:80 p 11 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

The group also considered e¨ciency and small-scale production as a means for more resilient production but there's not enough land for everyone. Small-scale production is easier to control and divides the risk and reward among a larger pool of producers. Diversi¦cation was seen important for resilience, but it was noted that market demand is more specialized and focuses on single products.

79:81 p 11 in 118_Apr_21_21_Huvio T

Currently only 1.7% of climate ¦nancing reaches smallholders and thus the group suggested that more climate ¦nancing should trickle to the producer level. If ¦nancing was increased on the producer level, smallholders' and food systems' resilience would increase. Farmers could come up with better solutions against the effects of climate change and increase food security.

84:55 p 3 in 153_Apr_28_21_GCNF_Multi

Each small group discussion was structured in a similar way and guided by a trained facilitator. Participants started broad by re§ecting on a vision statement related to their discussion topic and food systems transformation. Then, they worked to identify stakeholders to involve, opportunities and barriers to address, and speci¦c actions they'd recommend taking to make that vision statement a reality. Throughout all nine discussions, the Principles were applied.

86:50 p 6 in 162_Apr_16_21_Fountain G

• Concentration within agricultural and small farm operations access to ¦nance.

86:52 p 8 in 162_Apr_16_21_Fountain G

• Farmers markets participation (especially for small-scale farmers) incentives to improve access to nutritious food for all consumers.

89:19 ¶ 80 in 186a_Apr_15_21_Caballeros_eng

The importance of small producers going from having only one subsistence farming and selling the surplus to having much broader production processes was mentioned. Later, the need for providing support to these small producers was mentioned, so they can transform their production structure and get into local markets.

99:80 p 6 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

2. 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 (99%) and are often not accessing the innovation being produced by researchers and innovation providers. It is key also to understand the sectoral and regional/cultural aspects of food systems, thus a multistakeholder approach is needed at different levels (global, European, national, regional), and shall be facilitated by policy makers. It was noted that multinationals (e.g. seed companies) are relevant in the discussion, but must not be allowed to 'abuse' their power.

99:87 p 13 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

-Give a greater voice to small players (such as small farmer communities and SMEs).

99:89 p 14 in 285_May_20_21_TFFF_Multi

-Small farmers, SMEs and consumers are often missing from the discussion (we all talk on their behalf, but they are not 'in the system' to join these sorts of discussions. They also do not have time!) -We strive for circularity in the economy and yet we do not recognize circularity in existing systems. An example is the pork industry, which - according to one of our participants - is fully circular. Abandoning pork production may cause input shortages in other sectors of the economy.

101:51 p 8 in 325_May_19_21_ICLEI Africa_Multi

• Smallholder farmer - capacity building of urban farmers for food production in a sustainable manner. Dissemination of relevant technologies through our extension workers.

103:89 p 4 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

We in the Ateneo de Manila University have been doing our small part in responding to the challenge of health and nutrition for our country, especially among young children, through the feeding programs of the Ateneo Center for Educational Development, and the Gawad Kalinga-Ateneo. Furthermore, together with the Tanging Yaman Foundation and the generous support of our alumni and friends, we have provided food packs to our social outreach partner communities throughout the prolonged and varying levels of community quarantine. Happy as we are of these efforts, we also know that it is but a drop in the bucket of the Philippines' tremendous hunger and malnutrition problem. A continuing search for long-term sustainable solutions, therefore, is imperative, and since food security and sustainable food production, especially in the light of the climate crisis, are complex, and the engagement of a broad spectrum of experts, practitioners, researchers and leaders, is necessary. The academic community with its expertise in a wide variety of fields clearly has a role in the search for solutions.

103:96 p 21 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

Restructuring places a huge challenge to small-scale producers as they struggle to adapt to these changes due to limited assets and access to resources. Their staying power will depend on their ability to adapt and adjust in this dynamic environment.

103:97 pp 21 – 22 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

Dr. Digal added that these small-scale producers do not only mean small-scale farmers; but include fishers, micro, small, and medium enterprises, women, indigenous peoples, youth, and landless laborers as well. 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.

103:112 p 30 in 007a_Dec_18_20_NAAGD

Until there is a willingness to invest in small-scale businesses, farmers in the uplands will have no access to money other than from loan sharks that impose 10% monthly interest for four months of harvest. The rates are criminal.

117:102 p 8 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

- When approaching small-scale farmers with new technology we also should give them access to services to maintain them.

117:105 p 10 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

Food systems, smallholder farmers should be resilient Policy mechanisms- are important more especially in addressing con§icting interests.

117:109 p 16 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

Use of gravity in irrigation spaces among smallholder farmers (e.g in Zambia) Interconnected water projects with ¦sh ponds in Kenya Exchange visits- learning exchanges More youth voices taking up spaces to address environmental challenges A number of smallholder irrigation examples across the SADC and South Africa.

117:110 p 17 in 109_Apr_13_21_Jacobs-Mata I

Marginalized voices of smallholder farmers Climate change related disasters such as drought have heavily impacted agro-based systems, perpetuating poverty. COVID- 19 has also impacted the systems heavily.

118:93 p 11 in 117_Apr_22_21_Dinesh D_Multi

Smaller deals, reduce approach and long-term capital is key. In the group there was willingness to work collaboratively, especially working to bring together different pools of capital with different objectives (social, environmental, economic) for greater impact.

118:96 p 13 in 117_Apr_22_21_Dinesh D_Multi

D. As Loan products need to be tailor made to gather for smallholder farmers, market, credit access are key. As such, maybe technology will de¦nitely help to reduce (monitoring, execution) costs (geo data, etc). Technology will also be a key driver for sustainable e¨cient food production. Connecting ¦nal consumer to farmer using tech could double the pro¦t of farmer.

119:85 p 8 in 121_Apr_28_21_Doumeizel V

The lack of investment in smallholder farms is a primary challenge to social inclusion. A few participants noted that institutions in the Global North are uncomfortable working at the local level. Joint marketing and direct investments can go a long way in supporting small scale farmers. This would bring them closer to consumers in the value chain, promote technical innovation, and create a market that can sustain these farmers and their families. Participants agreed that institutions need to understand how seaweed bene¦ts the families and small operations who produce it. Political will is an important component to ensure advocacy along the entirety of the value chain. This requires the buy-in of policy makers.

121:64 p 9 in 130_May_22_21_Foronda R_Gloria C

Support should be provided to small and indigenous farmers and ¦sherfolk by providing opportunities to expand production through ¦nancial and technical assistance. National, state and local policy and decision-makers have to move local food production higher in the political agenda and link it to health outcomes, preventable death and social costs.

127:107 p 9 in 159_Apr_21_21_Hafeez M

d) Incentives for small farmers: Policies must be modi¦ed so that they can provide incentives to the small farmers who are 70-80% of the farming community for using renewable energy for pumping.

127:113 p 16 in 159_Apr_21_21_Hafeez M

Some small-scale programs can be expanded to achieve the desired results. For instance, a project in Punjab that aimed to develop the capacity of women involved in rice production by including them in every step of the crop's value chain can be implemented at the national level to increase the representation of women in the market value chains. Enterprises can be established to develop the capacity of women in pre-and post-harvest activities. Moreover, market infrastructures can be developed to support the increased participation of women in the value chains. Female extension agents can be employed to increase access of female producers to technology and market information.

127:117 p 18 in 159_Apr_21_21_Hafeez M

• Poverty and limited access to resources often coupled with small landholdings is another big challenge identi¦ed in the discussion. For this purpose, improved access to resources along with a well-established support system to support climate-smart agriculture for enhanced food and nutrition security in Pakistan.

132:98 p 10 in 193_Apr_19_21_Ringler_Kassim

• Implementing small scale projects on-the-ground to represent success stories which can be mainstreamed on a larger scale.

132:107 p 12 in 193_Apr_19_21_Ringler_Kassim

• Enhancing climate resilience for small farmers through distribution of drought tolerant seeds and crop varieties.

132:111 p 13 in 193_Apr_19_21_Ringler_Kassim

• Distributing the bene¦ts of new technologies across to smallholder farmers in Egypt. Much like in India, there is land fragmentation and small land holding sizes in Egypt. This affects farmers who may not have enough capital to invest in their farms and use new technologies.

132:114 p 13 in 193_Apr_19_21_Ringler_Kassim

• Land fragmentation and small land-holding size make it di¨cult to use optical satellite images with coarse grid resolution for crop mapping, using machine learning algorithms. Instead, crop type mapping using SAR radar technology will be a game changer in identifying cropping areas and non-cropping areas.

140:39 p 7 in 223_May_12_21_Mushita A

● Smallholder farmers have a role in conserving and improving seeds through engaging in Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS), Enhancement (PVE) and Breeding (PPB). These are best conducted in Farmer Field Schools with the support of national and internal research and extension services.

140:53 p 6 in 223_May_12_21_Mushita A

E. A vibrant seed sector is an inclusive sector. Smallholder farmers are critical to food and nutrition security and they play a key role in the farmer managed seeds system. In this regard, the participation and leadership of women needs to be ensured along with men and the youth.

140:74 p 9 in 223_May_12_21_Mushita A

● Increase research and investment on small grain processing equipment for smallholder farmers to ease the drudgery involved in processing small grains.

143:66 p 6 in 231_May_19_21_MCD

5. Building Networks of small-holder farmers Smallholder farmers who form the bulk of the global food systems face numerous barriers from access to technology to high production costs, lack of storage facilities and unequal access to markets. Examples from India (Group Federation of Small Farmers Initiative in Tamil Nadu by the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation)and other parts of the world show the importance of creating federations of small farmers who can not only serve as a pressure group to highlight their interests but also leverage funds from banks and governments and undertake collective action for ensuring better access to technology and local infrastructure.

143:78 p 15 in 231_May_19_21_MCD

One area to consider is that could organization of small holder farmers into federations coupled with a strong policy environment that recognizes, documents and seeks to support indigenous crops and knowledge provide small farmers with the information, incentive and infrastructure to invest in local superfoods?

146:55 p 7 in 235_May_25_21_Gonzalez B_Multi

- Smallholder farmers need accompaniment in the production of their produce.

146:56 p 8 in 235_May_25_21_Gonzalez B_Multi

- Guatemala’s economy does not support smallholder farmers and local economy, in Guatemala we have everything healthy but we don’t consume it, hence high overweight/obesity indexes, malnutrition.

146:57 p 9 in 235_May_25_21_Gonzalez B_Multi

- Bargaining to smallholder farmers is diminishing and devaluing. Education plays a big role, since value education in their works worth has not being taught, and also the lack of voicing the importance of their work. And also lack of education of how to maximize (use all parts) of the food.

146:59 p 14 in 235_May_25_21_Gonzalez B_Multi

- Smallholders farmers into tech tools, information for them to be even more relevant.

148:36 p 5 in 240_May_27_21_Schwartz A

A Third focus area was on smallholders and localization. Our food systems have become overly commodi¦ed and industrialized placing major emphasis, reliance, and money in large argo-corporate producers. This model is driven by pro¦t and metrics on a spreadsheet that give little accord to the health of the land that produces the food nor to the workers who harvest it nor to community based farmers and food workers. The system is unbalanced and this imbalance systematically disadvantages smallholders.

152:73 pp 10 – 11 in 262_May_04_21_ILC_Multi

Solutions - Address land issues of landless and smallholder farmers through local institutional and regulatory frameworks. Land policies should particularly pay attention to the issues of landless and smallholder farmers - Take measure to protect access to commons (e.g. assuring access to non-wood forest products) as they are often key to livelihoods of landless people and contribute to ensure sustainable management of local biodiversity and land restoration - Build partnerships with women and youth constituencies within this group - Share knowledge capturing practices from other countries to resolve issues Stakeholders and partnerships - Women and youth including regional and international women and youth groups - Civil society and international organisations - National and local government authorities - Financial institutions ACTION TRACKS ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress KEYWORDS ✓ Finance ✓ Policy ✓ Innovation ✓ Data & Evidence ✓ Human rights ✓ Governance ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment Trade-offs ✓ Environment and Climate Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title Securing Land Tenure Rights for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems – Asia Date published 21/06/2021

AREASOF DIVERGENCE Given the paramount signi¦cance of secure land tenure for sustainable food systems, we need the attention of all stakeholders including governments, civil society organisations, private sector, international organisations, multi-lateral organisations and donors to come together to strengthen land tenure security of women, men, youth, family farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and landless farmers and other communities as relevant. The stakeholders can be facilitated to come together through multi-stakeholder platforms to identify challenges, ¦nd solutions, implement and monitor solutions, channel resources as needed and celebrate successes.

153:43 p 7 in 263_May_06_21_CCGA

Various barriers were noted including Canada’s smaller population base, its geographic size and diversity, scalability, and its regulatory environment.

155:60 p 6 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~Emphasize the value of small-scale fishery resources for consumption and F&N needs, rather than for export -- find a way to value fishery resources in terms of micronutrients or mouths fed rather than pounds or dollars. Design policies to ensure aquatic foods are available at a fair price to the people who catch them.

155:62 p 6 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~Highlight especially the potential value of small-scale fisheries in meeting these goals, as well as the specific challenges faced by small-scale fishing communities.

155:65 p 8 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~Governments should support small-scale fishers through granting of secure and exclusive tenure rights for fishing to avoid competition with industrial sectors, and through investment in capacity building to enable co-management.

155:68 p 8 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~Redesigning international trade systems so that small-scale fishery resources may be profitably directed toward local consumption rather than export. I.e., Not treating fish as a commodity, but instead as a way to provision food and nutrients; Avoiding pressure to channel small-scale fishery resources to fishmeal factories; etc.

155:69 p 8 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~Finding balance between using small-scale fishery resources to generate income and keeping necessary aquatic nutrient sources accessible to the people who need them locally/ within the country.

155:70 p 8 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~Climate change impacts are coming too quickly for small-scale fisheries to respond to on their own - we must start preparing, not just reacting.

155:71 p 8 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~In many countries small-scale fisheries are not managed at all and the sector is not formalized. This could be seen as an opportunity to "leapfrog" ineffective policies and implement sustainable, equitable, climate-resilient policies right from the start, but it would be naive to ignore the gaps in capacity, data, infrastructure, and enforcement.

155:72 p 8 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~The Pandemic has highlighted the struggles facing women in small-scale fisheries, which are not (generally) being addressed with any targeted or systematic efforts.

155:74 p 8 in 272_May_12_21_Battista W

~Supply chain tracing is lacking in most small-scale fisheries. Not being captured in global databases.

156:80 p 13 in 275_May_13_21_Dornom H

4) Larger vs smaller operations Some noted there should be a focus on supporting small-scale operations as this helps build up farm diversity and provides more support for regional communities and economies. Others highlighted that larger operations will be more e¨cient and productive, helping to reduce waste, emissions, resource use and overall environmental impact.

157:111 p 11 in 278_May_18_21_Gregorio B

Actions to be taken: • We need to start small, and from small successes, we can build models for upscaling solutions in the food systems.

158:55 p 6 in 279_May_18_21_Yoovatana M_Multi

• Smallholder famers, who still make up the vast majority of farmers in the region, are already actively practicing nature positive agriculture and growing interest in agroecological principles • There is growing interest by private sector in fostering sustainable production models • Each partner comes to agriculture with different expectations, so catalysing action will require different actors to work together in partnership • There is need to understand the gaps between available technologies and the capacity or willingness of farmers to adopt • Focus on partnership also re§ects well the investment environment for climate-smart and nature positive agriculture • There are more public and private actors working to ¦nd innovative ways to deliver ¦nance resources to farmers and provide incentives for other value chain actors • There is need to improve understanding of stakeholders needs and potential adopt and/or scale up climate-smart and nature-positive innovations for agriculture.

158:65 p 10 in 279_May_18_21_Yoovatana M_Multi

• Farm to table concepts to support smallholders - some supermarkets and small shops are already moving towards sustainable products, but this is not yet enough to support the smallholder farmers at this time.

161:61 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

~ Small-scale producers are the most vulnerable to food insecurity, system shocks, and affects of climate change, but they are also at the forefront of efforts to transition food production systems to nature positive techniques – they need more support!

161:62 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

Challenges: ~ Governments are not listening to the needs of small-scale producer communities.

161:63 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

~ Small-scale producers have little agency and are not empowered to engage in decision-making.

161:64 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

~ It is extremely challenging for small-scale producers to change fishing gear/ farming techniques (especially at scale) without government support and funding.

161:65 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

~ Climate change impacts are advancing much faster than small-scale producers can adapt on their own.

161:66 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

* Center needs and ideas of small-scale producers in decisions.

161:68 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

~ Policies must address climate change and support small-scale communities in staying ahead of the climate change curve.

161:69 p 6 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

* Support small-scale producers in helping to meet *local* food and nutrition needs.

161:71 p 8 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

* Support small-scale producers with economic and technical transitions to nature positive production.

161:74 p 8 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

~ Recognize the contribution small-scale producers make to nutrition, food security, and climate adaptation and abatement, not just production.

161:75 p 8 in 296_May_25_21_Battista W

Biggest challenges/ obstacles facing small-scale producers seeking to transition to nature positive production: ~ Small-scale producers are generally not included in decision-making - only large-scale producers. When they are included, it's not in a meaningful way. E.G., "open comment periods" on laws vs. actually having a seat at the table to design the law.

164:43 p 5 in 304_June_02_21_FAO_Multi

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are vital to our food economies. Each country is different, but SMEs are often over 90% of businesses in the agri-food sector, creating half the economic value, providing more than half the sector's jobs, and handling more than half the food consumed. Their tenacity and agility sustain food supplies and access through the COVID pandemic.

174:45 p 3 in 332_May_24_21_FAO_UNDP

Small group sizes make it easier to adhere to the principles.

176:9 p 6 in 334_May_25_21_Buzingo_J

v. Smallholder farmers needs seed banks to be established in their villages and communities.

180:41 p 7 in 338_May_27_21_UNHCR

Educate and incentivize the community to create gardens -(e.g. small gardens/home gardens to plant tomatoes, cabbages - increase food access) Ensure access to resources to buy the necessary food AND access to professional information on nutrition to accompany people in using their resources for a diet that really nourishes them.

182:113 p 9 in 340_May_27_21_Mamba_L

- Mechanization and equipment: the majority of smallholder farmers do not own adequate equipment and tractors, therefore rely on tractor services that are offered by the government. However, this service is very ine¨cient. Government must improve the delivery of this service, and should consider handing it over to the private sector, preferably to competent farmers' organizations.

185:3 p 8 in 343_May_28_21_Abdullah_S

• Recognition of land rights for small-scale producers; By providing access to productive land that has not been managed so far, this form can be used as an example of customary rights for indigenous peoples, but in this case for small-scale food producers.

187:22 p 7 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

iii. Smallholder farmers need regenerative agriculture trainings and education to know modern ways of agriculture.

187:29 p 5 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

Objectives • To highlight the current setbacks that hinder smallholder farmers in agriculture.

187:30 p 5 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

• Policy makers should create a space for smallholder farmers to engage effectively in the agriculture issues.

187:35 p 6 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

 Smallholder farmers should be drivers of change in Agriculture sector. School clubs should be established to students in order to transmit ideas ¦rst hand during early years of school.

187:37 p 7 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

iv. Smallholder farmers needs to be empowered in terms of ¦nance and loans to have access to their money.

187:38 p 7 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

vi. Smallholder farmers needs seed banks savers to be established in their villages and communities.

187:39 p 7 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

vii. The government should assist smallholder farmers in setting up policies that are friendly for them.

187:41 p 8 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

a. It was emphasized that smallholder farmers does not need chemical fertilizers, pesticides and GMO seeds while others said it needs time to undergo transition.

187:43 p 8 in 345_May_31_21_Buzingo J

c. Agro ecology has been recommended as the best way to assist smallholder farmers especially regenerative agriculture and permaculture while others said farmers should be trained in modernized agriculture d. Governments, Financial institutions and Companies should work together to assist farmers in creating friendly infrastructure to make them §ourish. While others stressed that government and policy makers has upper hand in making these dreams come true.

190:28 pp 7 – 9 in 348_June_02_21_ASF Pakistan

State bank should create low cost re¦nancing for small farmers Pakistan Credit Guarantee Company should incentivize such schemes for the commercial banks 2. Contract farming need to be introduced especially in newly merged districts of KP and Baluchistan that will lead to following 3

areas Access to market Access to affordable ¦nance Access to advisory services Further we need to draft and regulate the legal framework for newly merged districts of KP and Baluchistan 3.Inclusive approach for organizing the local institutions (farmer groups, cooperatives etc.) at grass roots level and campaigning must be initiated for increasing the level of awareness and sensitization of those institutions especially using digitization for accessing the all services across the board by ensuring “Leave No One Behind” Digitization of the local institutions and utilization of the digital tools for increasing the awareness and access to the services ACTION TRACKS Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress KEYWORDS Finance ✓ Policy ✓ Innovation Data & Evidence Human rights ✓ Governance Women & Youth Empowerment Trade-offs Environment and Climate Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title The Role of Cooperatives and Farmer Organisations in Future Food Systems Date published 08/06/2021

AREASOF DIVERGENCE ACTION TRACKS Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress KEYWORDS Finance Policy Innovation Data & Evidence Human rights Governance Women & Youth Empowerment Trade-offs Environment and Climate Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title The Role of Cooperatives and Farmer Organisations in Future Food Systems Date published 08/06/2021

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANTLINKS ATTACHMENTS Group 2: Action Track 1 and 2 https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Slide1.jpg Group 3: Action Track 4 https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Slide2.jpg Kashtkar Farmers Cooperative https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/kashtkarr-zoom-meeting-presentation.pdf Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title The Role of Cooperatives and Farmer Organisations in Future Food Systems Date published 08/06/2021

199:72 p 6 in 358_May_11_21_ILC_Multi

Local and small-scale farmers are both producers and consumers. Their families and local communities depend on their farm products. There is no food sustainability when farmers cannot access and control production factors, primary of which is land. Over the years, climate change has brought severe challenges to local food productions. If efforts on mitigation and adaptation measures are to be successful, local communities should be able to participate in mitigation and adaptation measures and restore their local eco-systems. Having security of land is the first steps in this process. Policies on resource allocation should focus on supporting and strengthening communities and their ecosystem values through improving local governance structures, extending technical assistance such as skills relating to agroecological management.

199:77 p 11 in 358_May_11_21_ILC_Multi

Smallholder farmers are also affected by state led development projects especially large scale land based investments.

199:79 pp 11 – 12 in 358_May_11_21_ILC_Multi

Solutions - Recognise smallholders and landless farmers as productive contributors to sustainable food systems. If adequately supported their contribution can further be increased for robust and resilient food systems making them economically empowered - Make legal and policy arrangements to grant land rights to these farmers (including long term tenure security where applicable). This will increase their contribution to food systems - In the absence of long term tenure security, bring protection measures to prevent them from other forms of exploitation including eviction and land grabbing - Build support networks to advocate for the rights of these farmers. These support systems could focus on building their capacity and resource mobilisation to sustain advocacy efforts Stakeholders and partnerships - Multi-stakeholder land networks (national, regional and international) consisted of smallholders farmers, landless people, CSOs, governments and other relevant stakeholders - Agro ecological networks to mobilise support ACTION TRACKS ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress KEYWORDS Finance ✓ Policy Innovation ✓ Data & Evidence ✓ Human rights ✓ Governance ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment Trade-offs ✓ Environment and Climate Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form Dialogue title Securing Land Tenure Rights for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems – Africa / Europe / Middle East Date published 30/06/2021

OUTCOMESFOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC-5/6 Land Investment Land tenure recognised through customary systems offer less security for landowners. International or national investments can easily undermine locally existing tenure arrangements. Unless clearly pronounced and protected linking to a legitimate tenure security framework, land investments can take over land from their owners and dwellers. Absence of tenure rights give less or no bargaining power excluding local communities from negotiations and/or making them vulnerable to corrupt practices.

202:29 p 6 in 361_May_19_21_Cadogan_Hincks

• Sustainability can be inexpensive, small changes can make a huge difference and make a big impact.

204:42 p 6 in 363_May_26_21_Mehta_Bautista

Indigenous people and small scale farmers have been practicing other ways of farming and are currently producing up to 70% of the food we eat. Indigenous groups around the world have been practicing agroecology for eons and are safeguarding 80% of the world's biodiversity, while they make up only 5% of the human population.

206:28 p 6 in 365_May_27_21_Ekwamu A

Smallholder Farmer Focus 1. Africa produces its food from two main types of systems: smallholder-based, highly diversi¦ed production systems and “progressive” semi-to-extensive production systems that are increasingly owned and managed by urban elite.

206:29 p 6 in 365_May_27_21_Ekwamu A

2. The smallholder farmers that feed and employ the vast majority of people, with women accounting for up to 70% of the labour force.

206:30 p 6 in 365_May_27_21_Ekwamu A

4. The weak linkages between African smallholder farmers and research/extension, as well as agricultural markets must be strengthened.

208:42 p 9 in 367_May_27_21_Kachulu_Thilsted

While there is policy provision that small-scale ¦shers should have access to government owned water bodies, the situation is often different, with large ¦shers having most access and small ¦shers having very limited access. There is need to ensure that there is equality in access to public water bodies. Co-management approach would be the best option to including the poor ¦shers and other resource users in accessing government owned public water bodies.

208:43 p 10 in 367_May_27_21_Kachulu_Thilsted

There is urgent need to promote research on small scale or artisanal ¦sheries to promote low-trophic, diversi¦ed, environmental-friendly, economically viable, and socially acceptable aquatic foods. This would involve technology/innovation generation, capacity building from production and throughout the value chain (small storage facilities, insulated transport vans to minimise post harvest loses, small landing sites in inland water areas, and quality control along the entire value chain). Reforms as suggested in other thematic groups are required to increase access to ¦nance. A revolving fund mechanism may be created to support ¦shers' input quality procurement to improve productivity. Additionally, efforts to improve and adopt co-friendly management approaches to promote a more sustainable farming system are required.

208:45 p 10 in 367_May_27_21_Kachulu_Thilsted

Discussion topic 4: Promotion of guidelines for sustainable small-scale ¦sheries (SSF).

209:31 p 7 in 368_May_31_21_Lao Farmer

AT4 Equitable livelihoods: Equality between small and large producers and Organic producers and chemicals producers, foreign investment that affects the environment. Companies investing in the country must have farmers involved with the company, creating jobs to young and Promote youth in Agriculture and access to funding AT5: Resilience: Food Systems Resilience, stra¦ng product after harvest, preserving food and processing. risk management during a disaster or epidemic, Dissemination of information of climate change, capacity building on resilience of Climate change or Covid-19, §uctuations in the market, should be research how to resilience and provide information

to con¦dence in production, Farmers' innovation (researching climate-resilient crops, upscaling a successful model on new crop variety, etc.), meteorology information, Seasonal pest information And discussion on 3 Action: Action 1: Establish Farmers' Resiliency Trust Fund for Transformative Food System, Action 2: Establish Farmer Impact Investment Fund, Action 3: UN partnership with Global Farmers Forum.

218:26 p 3 in 379_June_08_21_KAMMPIL

Yes. In the FSS processes, small producers of food, particularly farmers and ¦shers, are many times relegated to footnotes or anecdotal. We should encourage small farmers and ¦shers to contribute in the formulation of game changing solutions.

223:28 p 6 in 384_June_09_21_Ekwamu A

• Smallholder farmers have limited entrepreneurial ability, productive assets and skills potential for value addition. This warrants skilling such populations and improving the labor productivity. This will enable African Agriculture meet local and global food demand.

224:38 p 7 in 385_June_09_21_Lazzaris S

However, the small and medium scale farmers who took part in the dialogue said that farmers are often unwilling or ¦nancially unable to take up these innovations, it seems important to create incentives for farmers to actually adopt these technologies. One way could be through ¦nancial support and incentives from governments, another would be through the purchasing power of more aware consumers. According to participants, there are four possible solutions that farmers and industry could adopt directly.

226:11 p 8 in 387_June_09_21_Mone S

Talanoa 1: Culture and Tradition Paci¦c farmers are smallholders and indigenous by nature, resilient, sustainable, independent, rich in tradition and culture. In the Paci¦c region, organic production is both traditional and new. It is traditional in the sense that most producers to this day use tried and tested practices handed down through the generations that are generally in harmony with the environment and with modern organic principles. And it is new in that Paci¦c countries and territories are realizing the bene¦ts of organics for obtaining access to markets, and the need for research and training to develop the sector.

228:4 p 20 in 222a_May_11_21_FTI_ZHI_English

Promote the access of communities and small producers to land, water, technical assistance, and technologies for the production and sale of safe food, with the support of public agencies, research institutes, and universities.

231:8 p 3 in 269a_May_11_21_MinAgri_English

-Creation of a tax incentive that protects family farming and small entrepreneurs.

233:9 p 6 in 271a_May_11_21_JAD_English

Small economies bear an even greater load due to their intrinsic characteristics.

234:57 p 8 in 273_May_12_21_ILC_FILAC_Multi_Eng

3) Alternative models, such as agro-ecology and small local farming, do not entail a loss of profitability for the local farming families. Moreover, they involve advancement of innovation processes, so that the community members who so wish can have access to market production levels, and those who do not can achieve effective sustainability for their communities.

234:66 p 10 in 273_May_12_21_ILC_FILAC_Multi_Eng

4) The small producers are transforming their modes of production and allocating their plots to the production of monocultures for export, to comply with organic certification and in response to consumer demand abroad. This generates competition between high Andean countries, where improved income is lacking and agro-diversity is lost due to the preference given to a single crop.

240:49 p 6 in 319_June_30_21_Fredriksson O

On a smaller scale, participants acknowledged the need to build capacity for the implementation of technology locally, in a way that is considerate and adapted to the resources available. Technology has to be affordable, attend to local needs and the focus of development and implementation of innovation must remain on creating value for producers if we're going to see innovation adopted in practice. On a broader scale, international bodies (such as the UN) can help by establishing global sustainability standards for production, providing support for developing regions, and by defining clear attainable goals for sustainable aquaculture in those regions.

240:51 p 8 in 319_June_30_21_Fredriksson O

6. Increase support for cluster organisations for small-scale and artisanal farmers. Clusters of small-scale farmers allows artisanal producers to group and gain better deals on feed, resources (boats, nets, warehouses etc.) or technology, and would ensure individual producers are accountable to the same sustainability standards as other members of the cluster.

242:22 p 5 in 478_June_19_21_SEWA

The dialogue was organized by SEWA to engage small and marginal women farmers and informal sector women workers in the food systems across India and provide a platform to bring forth their

issues, challenges and solutions to enhance their visibility, identity and livelihood in the food system in the presence of appropriate policymakers, private sector organizations, scientists and individual consumers.

242:28 p 7 in 478_June_19_21_SEWA

- Resilience building of the smallholder farmers to absorb climate and market shocks through an agriculture resilience and recovery fund.

242:30 p 7 in 478_June_19_21_SEWA

- Linking the produce of smallholder women farmers to the Public Distribution System which would help in food grains produced by the farmers being available for their consumption, consumption for their family members and the local villagers.

245:45 p 12 in 481_June_23_21_Global Counsel

- How to encourage the benefits of local, small scale farming, while others raised the risks from localised food systems.

250:37 p 7 in 486_June_23_21_AFA_Multi

E.Strategy for Small Farmer’s Autonomy and Sustainability During Pandemic through (PGS) In many country, the government only allow certification of organic by 3rd party which is expensive for small scale farmers.

256:56 p 6 in 492_June_23_21_Liu JA

-Small farmers should support and learn from one another in their transition to sustainable practices. So, there needs to be greater systematic support for cooperatives.

256:63 p 10 in 492_June_23_21_Liu JA

4. Small-scale farmers should be incentivised or given affordable access to sustainable certification to dismantle barriers between small-scale farmers and consumers.

259:34 p 9 in 495_June_23_21_Forum for the Future

- More collective voice and coordination across existing smaller-scale innovators, such as community-based initiatives and entrepreneurs (often overstretched and underfunded) to share skills and resources, and demonstrate collective impact and value. Perhaps starting with a national union of community initiatives?

261:114 p 6 in 497_June_24_21_Fontes_Multi

• These incentives should also improve the livelihood of the smaller farmers and promote sustainable economic growth.

262:53 p 6 in 498_June_24_21_Danquah E

- Reduce interest rates for the benefit of smallholder farmers and also encourage savings among smallholder producers.

263:36 p 8 in 499_June_25_21_GANSF

- Ensure that finance programmes include women, youth and small-scale producers.

263:53 p 6 in 499_June_25_21_GANSF

- Emphasise the role of small fish in human nutrition and livelihoods, particularly for women.

263:56 p 7 in 499_June_25_21_GANSF

- Integrate powdered small fish in supplementary nutrition programmes.

263:57 p 8 in 499_June_25_21_GANSF

- Adopt pro-poor financial innovations for small producer in the aquatic sector.

263:59 p 9 in 499_June_25_21_GANSF

- Protect, support and develop the role of small-scale fisheries and producers to optimise the potential of aquatic foods to help end malnutrition.

264:108 p 12 in 500_June_26_21_Edible Issues

-Support the small scale farmers: We need to devolve decision-making, include people in different subsystems and invite a diversity of people to a seat at the table. Seaweed farmers and fishers need to have stronger involvement in decision making.

281:13 p 9 in 517_July_03_21_Perera A

Some expressed the opinion that much of the small holder farmers in Sri Lanka were part time farmers, where they were also engaged in other livelihoods to supplement their income. They

argued that techniques like zero budget natural farming that require more labour intensive practices, will carry externalities that need to be factored in.

283:5 p 6 in 519_July_05_21_FABLE_Multi

2. Need to ensure an equal transformation: The livelihoods of smallholder farmers should be at the center of these transformations. Policies promoting trade liberalization should ensure these benefit national trade balances and smallholder welfare. To ensure this, regulations to set standards are needed (e.g. preventing dumping). The African Free Trade Area is an opportunity to promote economic growth and regional resilience. According to the Report on Green recovery for Africa, investing in energy, food security, and nature-based solutions brings the best return in terms of jobs created and value addition. Climate-smart agricultural practices can help reduce climate impacts and increase resilience at the community level. Science-based evidence needs to be embedded in the trading system, prioritizing food security. Assessment of environmental impacts along the value and trade chain is essential if we want to achieve an equal sustainable transformation.

290:23 p 11 in 526_July_06_21_WWF-Brazil

The debate about the essentiality of small producers already exists in the academic environment: they are capable of bringing positive environmental and social consequences to food systems. However, measuring these consequences is still very complex, and the public sector could offer subsidies to advance this issue.

295:33 p 8 in 531_July_07_21_Shaunak A

Many felt smaller farms were easier to run sustainably and could build connections and trust with local communities more effectively than larger, more commercial farms. Relying on smaller farms for meat production could be more feasible if meat consumption/demand were to fall, thus providing another route towards more sustainable meat production (at lower volume).

295:45 p 11 in 531_July_07_21_Shaunak A

Economic viability for smallholder palm oil farmers was identified as a major issue. Solutions, approaches and technologies for producing palm oil more sustainably must be made accessible and available to smallholder farmers through education and training, but more importantly through clear business cases that show smallholders ways to implement changes that simultaneously reduce their environmental footprints and bring economic returns in the short and long term - otherwise it is unlikely they will agree to invest in more sustainable approaches. This could be supported by microfinance opportunities, grants or other financial tools provided by governments, industry coalitions and civil society that directly incentivise and support smallholder farmers to move towards more sustainable production. A key area of focus for researchers and innovators should be increasing yield per hectare, as this would boost farmer incomes and production outputs without increasing land use.

295:46 p 11 in 531_July_07_21_Shaunak A

Change among smallholder farmers could be supported by ensuring that profits from the palm oil industry are more equitably divided along the supply chain and farmers (and especially smallholders) receive their fair share, as higher incomes would facilitate investment by farmers in more sustainable production approaches. A fairer distribution of profits specifically in certified sustainable palm oil chains, and therefore higher farmer incomes, could also become an incentive for farmers to switch to more sustainable production methods. Wealthier palm oil-consuming countries can invest in sustainable production by the food industry (and consumers) valuing and being willing to pay slightly more for certified sustainable palm oil - but the focus of the responsibility for this should shift from consumers to companies.

299:99 p 11 in 535_July_08_UNESCO Chair on Food

• Support for agroecological transitions through small-family agriculture projects and linking these to broader landscape﷿scale initiatives and international support organizations.

300:52 p 9 in 536_July_08_21_Musabyimana JC

2. Inconsistencies in energy supply render most small-scale enterprises not able to deliver goods and services on time. The FSIH can help by clustering entrepreneurs.

302:43 pp 11 – 12 in 538_July_09_21_IDS_Multi

Date published 23/07/2021

AREASOF DIVERGENCE The prevalence of small producers in the informal economy is a big challenge. It is important to recognize the role and potential of the informal sector as a key player in local food systems. There are different perspectives on the formalization of the sector in a context such as COVID where informality is a vulnerability factor but, in some cases, can be aresilience factor for some of the producers. Participants raised questions about whether informal systems were more nimble than formal markets in times of crisis, and whether they might offer more environmentally sustainable approaches.

310:47 p 7 in 546_July_13_21_INDEP

4. Invest in skills to increase financial literacy in small/family farms (particularly among women) 5. Improve farmers' resilience by investing in adaptive and mitigation needs to climate change 6. Promote local product development – agricultural extension and other rural entrepreneurship/advisory e.g. branding, name recognition and identification with geographic region 7. The importance of ecological and biological agriculture related to the use of pesticides, and accompanying regulation to ensure safe and adequate use of these. Linkages with organic agriculture, tourism and consumer health.

310:48 p 7 in 546_July_13_21_INDEP

9. Reduce barriers for small farmers and other particular groups in agriculture through the provision of microcredit and more accessible and affordable financing mechanisms .

311:33 p 6 in 547_July_14_21_Heilinger K

5. Smaller structures and shorter supply chains help to avoid food waste. Smaller stores have better possibilities to manage their food supply and create less food waste overall. Moreover, shorter supply chains lead to less waste creation. In that sense, it is not only important to watch out for regional but also for seasonal food. Food grown in the season is also tastier and provides people with additional health benefits. Zero Waste stores, farmers' markets and small organic stores, but also other alternative forms of purchasing food e.g. SOLAWI and growing own food in gardens are found to have beneficial effects for food waste reduction. Every consumer can do his/her part here: Informing themselves about local fruits and vegetables and establishing alternative purchasing habits.

311:36 p 7 in 547_July_14_21_Heilinger K

• Smaller businesses are not willing to donate their food, especially in Singapore. They rather need to find a core solution on how to reduce over-production.

311:37 p 7 in 547_July_14_21_Heilinger K

• Problem: How can we support smaller businesses that create food waste?

311:40 p 10 in 547_July_14_21_Heilinger K

Hence, smaller business structures are needed to help fighting food waste; it also easier for a better management overall. A small organic supermarket was observed to offer less fresh fruits and vegetables, but also to have less food waste overall.

315:11 p 6 in 551_July_15_21_FAO_ESCAP_Multi

E-commerce could build a bridge between small farmers and consumers to reduce food loss in the process, transferring the demand from the consumer side to the production side to short the supply chain of agricultural products.

315:33 p 6 in 551_July_15_21_FAO_ESCAP_Multi

Within food systems, interaction is needed among smallholders and agribusinesses. Through collaboration with farmer cooperatives in the operations, local “grain banks” could prevent food

losses and increase farmers' income by providing storage, credit and exchange solutions of agricultural products.

316:34 p 8 in 553_July_15_21_Food Tank_Oatly

Participants also identified an opportunity for small and medium size enterprises to leverage shorter, more agile supply chains. A key component of sustainable food business is paying farmers a better-than-fair wage while also providing accessibility to consumers. Small and medium-sized businesses are at a disadvantage in terms of economies of scale, but they can reduce intermediaries in the supply chain to maximize return to farmers, allowing farmers to invest in sustainable initiatives such as reforestation efforts or pollinators habitats. In this way, small businesses can chart the path forward for larger, more established companies and supply chains.

317:30 p 7 in 554_July_15_21_Lopez DE

• Further marginalization as data is taken away from smallholder farmers.

317:36 p 10 in 554_July_15_21_Lopez DE

• Business remains small.

317:38 p 11 in 554_July_15_21_Lopez DE

• Provision of small-scale food processing equipment and less strict certification, encouraging farmers to start processing such as the production of Tofu for the local food markets.

317:41 p 12 in 554_July_15_21_Lopez DE

Lack of government support for smallholder farmers, and who produce the majority of the food consumed globally was also a matter of concern and a point of divergence. Especially because some highlighted that current food policies affecting both the global and local markets overwhelmingly tend to support large agri-food companies in detriment of smallholder farmers.

323:7 p 7 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

Small farmers should begin by looking at what is feasible under the current system. By asking themselves 'what can I do within the current system to grow more sustainably?'. For instance, if the farmer is reliant upon growing rice and has no other option within the current system but to grow rice, regardless of the negative consequences, then they should undertake the necessary enquiries to unearth the modern techniques or methods that would allow them to grow rice but with less water consumption and less pesticides.

323:53 p 7 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

Small farmers often lack the necessary resources to attend court and/or to advocate for themselves. Therefore, this lack of access to judicial recourse only favours large agribusinesses interests who have large funds at their disposal.

323:55 p 7 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

With the help of unions, small farmers can achieve a crucial amendment to food chain law which bans the procurement of food below the cost of production.

323:56 p 7 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

Agroecology is weakened if small farmers do not own the land they work. Therefore, Governments must do more to ensure that the land rights are in the hands of those who work and live on the land rather than the corporate sector. However, this contention is complicated by the fact that in countries that do not have property records, the Governments (mainly postcolonial Governments) are persuaded by TNCs to digitise land records. In the process they are denying indigenous practices where there isn't one individual that owns a certain plot of land but rather a communal style of ownership.

323:57 p 7 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

What practical steps do you think small farmers around the globe could take or should take to compete with agribusinesses who are currently operating within their domestic markets?

323:58 p 7 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

Small farmers should shift towards more sustainable agriculture by looking into the alternative crops that can be grown.

323:60 p 7 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

Small farming should become a protected category within international instruments and international policy.

323:68 p 10 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

The participants also noted that State Governments, large and small agricultural organisations, businesses and civil society organisations need to do more to mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change which have been brought about, in part, by the increase in large scale farming. Particularly, when it comes to the automation of what once used to be human inputs and an ever increasing reliance upon the mass use of fertilisers and pesticides. However, it was also

noted that this shift can only be affected by policy makers recognising the urgent need for swift and irreversible action towards more environmentally friendly policies and legislation that are targeted to incentive small farmers towards more sustainable methods and practices.

323:75 p 12 in 560_July 19_21_Arbuthnott_Multi

However, small farmers can take practical step themselves to advance their livelihoods. For instance, by collaborating with one another, via cooperatives, to have a larger more enhanced voice in policy discussions and to be able to access bigger markets and partnerships.

327:12 p 6 in 564_July_20_21_Bakarr_MI

• Investing in smallholder producers to empower them and create opportunities for them to access to benefits and incentives. Frequently, the results of economic policies or subsidies in the food sector do not reach small holder farmers, who are often in need of dependable streams of finance/investment as well as technical support. Women and youth should be a major priority for such investments given their critical role in food systems globally.

331:7 p 1 in 139a_May_27_21_WBCSD

After opening remarks, attendees moved into facilitated small group discussions focused on one of the six themes/prompts listed below. After fifty-five minutes of discussion, each group provided a report�out to all FSDI attendees focused on each discussion’s high-level takeaways, including areas of alignment and disconnect, plus proposals for action.

335:10 p 1 in 484a_June_24_21_WBCSD_USFRA

After opening remarks, attendees moved into facilitated small group discussions focused on one of the six themes/prompts listed below. After fifty-five minutes of discussion, each group provided a report�out to all FSDI attendees focused on each discussion’s high-level takeaways, including areas of alignment and disconnect, plus proposals for action.

336:31 p 5 in 494a_June_23_21_US Farmers

• Focusing on individual targets are a small, but necessary path to realizing the overall benefits to boosting nature-positive production systems.

337:18 p 7 in 132a_May_27_21_Forética_Eng

– Fragility of rural communities and small producers: although these groups provide more than half of the world's food (and up to 80% in some areas), they also represent the weakest link in the agri-food value chain. In many countries lacking protection systems, these small producers are highly

exposed to food price fluctuations they cannot cope with, often generated by external shocks (climate change, regional conflicts, health crisis, etc).

337:23 p 9 in 132a_May_27_21_Forética_Eng

– Focus on small producers. Throughout the Dialogue, much emphasis was placed on the centrality of small producers, who are key agents in the agri-food system but the most vulnerable link in the chain. Consequently, they emphasized both the public and private perspectives, including the third sector, on the importance of regenerating and articulating the rural milieu, reinforcing precisely the actors that structure this milieu, i.e., small- and medium-scale family farming. The sustainability of agri-food systems is intrinsically linked to the empowerment and improvement of the conditions of small producers, and this objective must be a priority for both governments and companies.

342:10 p 1 in 416a_June_16_21_Mone S_Spanish_Eng

Wednesday, 16 June 2021 Healthy food systems that are closer to small agroecological producers in Latin America.

342:15 pp 3 – 4 in 416a_June_16_21_Mone S_Spanish_Eng

Healthy food systems that are closer to small agroecological producers in Latin America. 30/MAY/2021 Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title Date published

Yes ✓ No Meetings and events were held at INOFO in other continents that served as an example for the Latin American region that held the last meeting. Regionally, the dialogue takes place firstly between INOFO central coordination with the region, then IFOAM Latin America with the small group of Latin American participants. Thus, the program was defined and the participation of two speakers at the event, the welcoming and closing actions coordinated by IFOAM Latin America, and the discussion with guiding questions proposed in three tables. However, there were issues with the virtual connection and only one table with its three coordinators was asking guiding questions and collecting the main contributions of the participants.

342:16 pp 4 – 5 in 416a_June_16_21_Mone S_Spanish_Eng

Healthy food systems that are closer to small agroecological producers in Latin America. 30/MAY/2021 Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title Date published

I believe that the invitation to participate freely, without restrictions to Latin American producers and participants sharing their points of view, is an important element in the process.

342:20 p 6 in 416a_June_16_21_Mone S_Spanish_Eng

Public policies must be promoted; the international market harms small farmers, the political struggle is difficult; recognition of the rights of farmers must be achieved, such as influencing local

governments in the events to support and not oppose policies such as cutting the subsidy to agrochemicals, and support small farmers.

342:24 p 6 in 416a_June_16_21_Mone S_Spanish_Eng

Jerónimo, SPP Small Farmers Network: Promote methods of cultivation and consumption, unite the efforts of the organic and agroecological movement; there are common points. On a small scale, there is collective strength, horizontality, and dialogue.

342:25 pp 6 – 9 in 416a_June_16_21_Mone S_Spanish_Eng

MAIN FINDINGS Healthy food systems that are closer to small agroecological producers in Latin America. 30/MAY/2021 Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title Date published

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ Action Tracks keywords Action track #1 ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Action track #2 shift to sustainable consumption patterns Action track #3 boost nature-positive production Action track #4 advance equitable livelihoods Action track #5 build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress Finance Innovation Human rights Women & Youth Empowerment Policy Data & Evidence Governance Trade-offs Environment and Climate ✓ Healthy food systems that are closer to small agroecological producers in Latin America. 30/MAY/2021 Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title Date published ✓

Outcomes for each Discussion Topic Action Tracks keywords Action track #1 ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Action track #2 shift to sustainable consumption patterns Action track #3 boost nature-positive production Action track #4 advance equitable livelihoods Action track #5 build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress Finance Innovation Human rights Women & Youth Empowerment Policy Data & Evidence Governance Trade-offs Environment and Climate Healthy food systems that are closer to small agroecological producers in Latin America. 30/MAY/2021 Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title Date published

Areas of divergence Action Tracks keywords Action track #1 ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all Action track #2 shift to sustainable consumption patterns Action track #3 boost nature-positive production Action track #4 advance equitable livelihoods Action track #5 build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress Finance Innovation Human rights Women & Youth Empowerment Policy Data & Evidence Governance Trade-offs Environment and Climate Healthy food systems that are closer to small agroecological producers in Latin America. 30/MAY/2021 Food Systems Summit Dialogues O¨cial Feedback Form Dialogue title Date published

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356:10 p 5 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

Agroecology-regenerative, and small organic Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color were successful in continuing to provide their local grown fresh produce and value added products to communities and urban areas, effectively serving in their role as essential service providers to the nation.

356:12 p 6 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

BIPOC small farmers/underserved small farmers and their communities and their farmer organizations realize that it is important to build local farmer markets, provide alternative food access to our communities, and develop and maintain diverse alternative distribution strategies to avoid system breakdown and outbreaks.

356:13 p 6 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

BIPOC small farmers/underserved small farmers and their communities realize that it is important to increase production, small farm sustainability, access to fresh local nutritious foods, and a build resilient nutritious food systems.

356:15 p 6 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

BIPOC small farmers/underserved small farmers and their communities and farmer organizations recognize that seed saving and the work of seed keepers provides a critical food systems pathway that promotes a value added product (the seed) while promoting relationships with farmers and future generations of farming and supporting food security and sustainable resilient food systems.

356:21 p 7 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

BIPOC small farmers have the ability to increase and be successful in our environments, communities, on our small farms enterprises, and to work together to grow diverse nutritious food systems.

356:22 p 7 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color (BIPOC) and their farmer organizations recognize that it is important to listen, learn, and share information with each other and other communities.

356:23 p 7 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color - small farms and their food systems would benefit from additional: • Resources and infrastructure; equipment access and availability; capital; entrepreneurship opportunities that add value to their products; • Mentors and sustainable models that demonstrate small farm-good stewardship; land ownership models and seed saving models; • Business credit and knowledge about Business credit; Understanding alternative cooperative models, development and management for small farms; • Innovative agroecology farming practices, regenerative-organic agriculture small farm models; • Continual learning and mentorships/and youth mentorships and trainings in agroecology, organic regenerative farming, and organic farming; • Access to skill and knowledge on relationships and wellbeing to land, water,

and the earth; and • Knowledge on regenerative mind, land and food ways that grow sustainable conscientious life, agroecology and organic agriculture, and that support viable healthy nutritious food systems and quality of life.

356:25 p 8 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

As small farmers we have the same challenges, we have a need for the same successful models - we want to work together.

356:26 p 8 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color and their farmer organizations hope that the United Nations would help with the following innovations: • Removing barriers to access appropriately scaled small farm equipment for small acreage, for example small farm combines. The United Nations could help in trading these small farm equipment, tools and items instead of guns; • Promoting active virtual learning opportunities between small farmers around the world.

356:28 p 8 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

• Developing incentives for markets and grocery stores to help small farmers through developing alternative strategies that support BIPOC small farmers by purchasing directly from BIPOC small farmers or BIPOC small farm organizations; • Increasing investments in BIPOC small farmer's production, Increase incentive programs that promote building relationships with local Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color, and local Black Indigenous people and people of color that ensures inclusive access to safe and nutritious food for all.

356:30 p 9 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

• Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color are endangered. We need your support. Our young farmers need even greater support.

356:31 p 9 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

• Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color need to know how to develop strategies to be recognized and to speak across borders and issues - to empower the ability of BIPOC small farmers/socially disadvantage farmers to exist beyond this generation.

356:35 p 10 in 409_June_13_21_Mone S

The INOFO North America Dialogue added the voices of small farmers, agroecology and organic Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color and farmer organizations from North America to the 2021 UN Food System Summit Dialogues and Summit Process, and enabled a platform of as we shared our history, our great resiliencies, deliberate actions, and hopes.

360:4 p 3 in 404_June_10_21_Mone S

To enrich the dialogue, the organic farmers worked in 8 small groups in Kenya and also in Mauritius a group of farmers were also in a hall. This helped them to share their experiences, ideas and concerns amongst themselves and amplify their voices.

364:3 p 5 in 415_June_16_21_van Schoonhoven M

What is the role for (smallholder) farmers, businesses, and retailers further up in the food chains, governments/authorities, and consumers to achieve a more inclusive and just food production system?

366:7 p 5 in 410_June_14_21_Gregorio_Tan

In the process of transformation, smallholder farmers need access to appropriate, affordable, profit-enhancing technologies and crop systems. However, it is essential that these technological interventions be sustainable and do not perpetuate the ecological degradation or social conditions so often seen in agricultural development.

366:28 p 8 in 410_June_14_21_Gregorio_Tan

5. Research outputs will be packaged in a way that will allow smallholder farmers to easily use and apply the technology.

367:9 p 6 in 411_June_15_21_Mone S

c) Theres should be trainer of the trainer for small organic – agroecology farmers and training on market access. Small organic farmers can also have collaboration with university, local NGO, CSR program as well as farmers exchange education.

367:16 p 6 in 411_June_15_21_Mone S

f) Develop a new food system that is for small scale farmers, for sustainability, for the earth and for the coming generation.

367:25 p 8 in 411_June_15_21_Mone S

7. Highlighting small farmers in all aspects of production, processing and marketing: Food system by corporate won't be beneficial for the small farmers, because all the capital and source will be controled by the big corporate. Farmers have their indigenous knowledges about farming and live in the unique cultures that different each village. So points are : a) Farmers must have an organization or cooperative b) Farmers must have a fair price in the market that tolerate to their production cost c) An alternatif market for farmers, so would be easy for farmers to deliver their harvest d) Farmers

must feel free to do their technical when doing farming that comes from their own knowledges not from corporate guidelines that only consider about the market.

371:1 ¶ 111 in 426A_July_06_21_Mendoza IA_English

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

371:2 ¶ 123 in 426A_July_06_21_Mendoza IA_English

Small-scale farmer

371:7 ¶ 238 in 426A_July_06_21_Mendoza IA_English

The fact that small producers, productive patios and "conuqueros" are taken into account, makes the productive awareness even more motivated, with a high maintenance yield and leads to continue expanding their own, acquired, ancestral, agricultural, livestock, fish and agro-ecological knowledge in the area selected for the execution of the project.

385:3 p 5 in 428_July_14_21_Sadira C

6. Empowerment of small-scale farmers by providing access to quality inputs.

385:5 p 8 in 428_July_14_21_Sadira C

Relationship between capital owner and smallholder farmers in the food production system and how it affects resilience.

389:4 p 7 in 431_June_22_21_CEBOS_EMBRAPA

2 - Capacity building for small producers is strongly associated with increased access to markets for products from the Brazilian biomes and territories, an expanded associative capacity, and the involvement of more smallholders in national initiatives such as the efforts to increase the use of integrated systems in agriculture. Continuous scientific, technological advancements and the expansion of technical assistance are essential for the adoption of good production and processing, democratizing the access to healthy and sustainable food. Smallholders should be prioritized as a key stakeholder in the process of increasing the sustainability of food systems. The need to improve the diversification of agricultural production was also mentioned, with special attention to production systems based on native species.

389:6 p 9 in 431_June_22_21_CEBOS_EMBRAPA

The expansion of the associative capacity of small and medium producers; 4. Putting into practice the payment market for environmental services, related to sustainable practices, biodiversity conservation, in situ conservation of genetic resources, carbon stock; 5. The increase in the diversity of integrated systems, and the design of inclusive integrated systems for other regions that do not have grains, with more attention to social metrics; 6. The exploration of the nexus between water-energy-food-climate or between food-nutrition-health to understand the complexity of food systems and the need to communicate what the crop-livestock-forest nexus is; 7. Developing metrics for the sustainability of systems and agricultural properties, which is essential for the certification scheme of integrated systems, when Life Cycle analysis and ESG criteria are growing in importance and can strengthen sustainable practices; 8. Measuring the impacts of the transition to regenerative practices, and practicing with new forms of financing, such as blended finance; 9. The need for mechanization adapted for diversification and regeneration; 10. Making it clear to consumers, investors and other stakeholders, the transparency and traceability of products throughout the chain.

391:3 p 5 in 433_May_25_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

Participants in this dialogue were drawn from smallscale producers, civil society, CBO, national and local government, research, academia, media, local and international NGOs, consumer groups, private companies, and human rights advocates. The plenary and group discussions were informative and lively. In this report, the discussion outcomes are based on five key discussion themes: 1) We need a way that ensures accountability for the Right to Adequate Food in Kenya. This is a role for multiple actors but are there existing policies addressing issues in food systems? Are they inclusive in their representation? 2) Smallholder and urban farmers are critical stakeholders in addressing food and nutrition security but their role might be overlooked. 3) There is a lot of power-play in food and farming systems - can these be identified and managed to drive more inclusivity? 4) We desire to have sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and equitable food systems; and 5) Food safety and adequacy are increasingly becoming important.

391:10 p 6 in 433_May_25_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

• Increased budget allocations to agriculture, with a focus on smallholder farming and projects that support food sovereignty and food access (not cash crops for export) • A fiscal policy in Kenya that does not punish the poor (through taxation on essential foods); and that will incentivize agroecological transition in agriculture • Food system policies and implementation frameworks that are responsive to the needs of farmers, and marginalized groups The success of the above actions will be visible in several ways. First, we will be able to see more affordable, safe, and adequate food for everyone. The production of safe, diverse foods will significantly rely on farmers embracing agroecology principles, taking up more bio instead of synthetic pest and disease management approaches, and improved food safety standards for Kenyans. With proper implementation of the policies related to agriculture, food, and nutrition security, there will be a positive shift in the country's food and nutrition security situation. County governments will also be taking up policies that ensure food is produced safely, diversified, and redistributed where practical. As a result, improved citizens' health and well-being, including reduced child malnutrition and improved food and nutrition security levels, and reduced food-borne illnesses will be seen. In summary, areas where participants will need to undertake these actions: a) Create consumer awareness on the

impacts of excessive use and growing misuse of chemical inputs in production and work closely with regulators, alternatives and sustainable practices, the value of having a food rescue system to ensure that food does not go to waste when it can be redistributed or stored safely b) Pilot interventions promoting urban farming in informal settlements in Nairobi c) Promote a culture of small-scale urban farming across socio-economic divides.

391:19 p 9 in 433_May_25_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

• Corporates need to source from the local and small-scale farmers. They can also provide the needed resources in supporting the scaling of farmer activities.

391:28 p 11 in 433_May_25_21_Welthungerhilfe_Multi

Now, more than ever, the smallholder farmer needs to embrace value addition, access their pool of seed adapted to their agroecology, and be in cooperatives or associations that advocate for their needs. A great deterrent to equity in farming systems is capitalism. The subsidy regime fronted by the Government and other stakeholders are heavily inclined toward commercial farmers. Middlemen and other players like chemical sellers are the ones who benefit from the farming system.

393:5 p 5 in 435_June_08_21_FAO_ICC_UNFSS

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are vital to our food economies, from bakeries to farm suppliers, coffee co-ops to digital start-ups. Each country is different, but SMEs often make up over 90% of businesses in the agri-food sector, creating half the economic value, providing more than half the sector's jobs, and handling more than half the food consumed.

393:8 p 6 in 435_June_08_21_FAO_ICC_UNFSS

5.Low education and lack of decent business practice from the small-scale farmers.

394:2 p 13 in 436_June_16_21_GIYC_Multi

Originally nomadic pastoralists with only a small bit of farming, but due to global warming and reduced lands, have limited space to practice nomadic pastoralism, so transitioned to more farming.

396:5 p 6 in 438_June_16_21_Caballero_Multi

Both the large-scale, industrial food producers and smallholders need to be part of the paradigm shift needed to achieve sustainable food systems. However, smallholder producers and especially small-scale farmers require particular support as they are often underrepresented in decision making in terms of policies and investments. Further, their livelihoods are disproportionately vulnerable to the impact of climate change and biodiversity-loss. Given that they play a key role for

local and regional food security and sovereignty, urgent action to build capacity and an enabling policy environment are needed. To do so, the apparent gap between high-level development policy and the reality of farmers and communities needs to be closed. On the one hand, this requires translating development policy into local action. On the other hand, smallholders need to be involved in the design of what local action looks like to develop feasible, yet effective measures that merge biodiversity conservation with agricultural production.

396:13 p 11 in 438_June_16_21_Caballero_Multi

To tackle this issue, participants agreed that smallholders would need to come together, share their experiences with each other and effectively demonstrate their collective impact on food systems and the environment. This would improve local smallholders' access to markets and ensure that the policy makers understand the needs of local producers in terms of capacity, infrastructure and agency, which are currently lacking. Participants listed examples from China, where the government encourages smallholders to collectively found co-operatives. In contrast to this, in other areas it was raised that there is an apparent shift of some smallholder farmers selling land to large landowners, who, in return, would employ these former smallholders as direct employees. This has significant implications on tenure rights and perceived agency of smallholders.

396:15 p 12 in 438_June_16_21_Caballero_Multi

At the same time, participants argued that policy makers and smallholder farmers alike would need to work with industries to bring about transformative change. Regardless of potential biases, participants underlined the importance of creating synergies between smallholder and large-scale producers to find a common vision that enables the creation of sustainable food systems. Solutions and knowledge originating in either sector could be replicated in the other, effectively building an environment in which both smallholders and large-scale producers thrive. Others argued that, for this to happen, policy makers would have to start to pay equal attention and divide support equally among smallholders and large-scale producers.

399:5 p 7 in 440a_June_17_21_PAFO_Eng

- Better adapt agricultural policies to the specificities of small family farms - Support governments in developing implementation measures for agricultural policies.

399:17 p 13 in 440a_June_17_21_PAFO_Eng

- Encourage setting up small groups at the local level for marketing.

403:4 p 7 in 444_May_25_21_FAO_UNICEF_Multi

Small-holders and other actors responsible for producing and supplying our food can also be VULNERABLE. Young farmers continue to face many challenges including access to land, finance and income; affordable knowledge and innovation.

404:2 p 6 in 445_May_26_21_ICLEI USA

Protect small land owners, small food businesses, and communities from the influence of big business interests and consolidation.

406:7 p 7 in 447_Jan_29_21_IFAD_Multi

6. Good governance is critical. Smallholder farmers should be at the center of all conversations. They need tools to give their voices agency and to hold governments accountable (like CARE's "Score Card" tool).

409:5 p 7 in 450_Mar_11_21_IFAD_Multi

70% of food is produced by small farmers, so the question really is what kind of policies can support the production systems of smallholder farmers? The current exclusion of these farmers is not a failure of the system because the system is deliberately designed to exclude them.

416:3 p 7 in 457_May_20_21_Ekwamu_A

2. The smallholder farmers that feed and employ the vast majority of people, with women accounting for up to 70% of the labour force.

416:4 p 7 in 457_May_20_21_Ekwamu_A

4. The weak linkages between African smallholder farmers and research/extension, as well as agricultural markets must be strengthened.

418:5 p 9 in 459_June_01_21_Rashid Md J

• Micro and small traders should be empowered through their inclusion in the private sector based procurement channels.

422:11 p 7 in 463_June_10_21_FRI_IFAD_Multi

Second, while climate change is increasingly affecting small-scale farmers, few rural people think that migration is necessary to help them deal with climate-related threats. Over 90% of participants felt there was something they could do in their community to cope with climate change. To increase the resilience of their farming activities and livelihoods, these farmers need support in protecting the natural environment, and receiving improved inputs and better information.

422:12 p 7 in 463_June_10_21_FRI_IFAD_Multi

The On Air Dialogues show that small-scale farmers and other rural people are concerned about the food they eat and the future of farming. They see the impacts of climate change on their lives, and in their communities. They want more—and better—resources and information to improve their livelihoods. The initiative also demonstrated that small-scale farmers are ready and able to offer solutions.

422:13 p 7 in 463_June_10_21_FRI_IFAD_Multi

The On Air Dialogues are one of many simple ways to engage small-scale farmers and other rural people in discussions about the systems that directly affect them. When given the chance, farmers are keen to contribute. As nations, organizations, and individuals, we must commit to creating inclusive, accessible channels for farmers to join the conversation—and be heard—no matter what work they do, where they live, or what language they speak.

424:2 pp 6 – 7 in 465_June_16_21_Congressional Hunger

- Ensure smallholder farmers have access to quality inputs and resources to grow for their own consumption and sell at prices that allow them to live adequately - Empower women and youth to be directly engaged with agriculture value chains and improve market access for both income generation and nutrition outcomes - Ensure that foreign assistance truly supports communities in becoming resilient and self-sufficient rather than perpetually dependent on aid ACTION TRACKS ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress KEYWORDS ✓ Finance ✓ Policy Innovation Data & Evidence ✓ Human rights ✓ Governance ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment Trade-offs ✓ Environment and Climate Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form Dialogue title Elevating Community Voices in Development and Humanitarian Aid Date published 23/07/2021

OUTCOMESFOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC-1/4 - There are politics involved in ending hunger and inequities- leads to trade-offs, such as focusing on scaling up production, using non-organic fertilizers that harm soil health, and large scale producers instead of smallholder farmers - Water scarcity a major issue of hunger - Need to scale up innovative practices, such as the use of wastewater and fecal sludge in the growing system, which could assist in the affordability of fertilizer; could also learn from other regions with water scarcity - We must include the community, as they are the ones impacted by hunger and directly impacted by climate change community should be educated on climate change so they can advocate and provide accountability.

429:4 p 5 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

3. Provide support and resources for smallholder farmers Providing smallholder farmers with technical assistance, access to technology and connectivity, the best seeds, and crop insurance, will promote sustainable farming while also improving farmers' livelihoods. Regenerative food systems and foodscapes must be attuned to local cultures, and economic and biophysical circumstances to

produce food, on land and in water, in ways that actively restore habitats, protect biodiversity, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

429:8 p 7 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Recognize that smallholder farmers are often on the frontlines of catastrophic impacts of climate variability and change, nature loss, deepening poverty, and the wide inequality gap.

429:10 p 7 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Provide smallholder farmers with technical assistance, resources, incentives, payment systems, and access to technology and connectivity, the best seeds, and crop insurance, so they can produce crops sustainably, while making a livelihood for themselves and their families.

429:24 p 9 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

5. Understand the unique challenges facing smallholder farmers and provide resources to help them.

429:25 p 9 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Understand and acknowledge the unique challenges facing smallholder farmers, who first need to meet their daily needs before addressing food loss.

429:26 p 9 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Provide technical support and guidance to smallholder farmers to reduce food loss from the beginning of production.

429:27 p 9 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Scale programs that assist smallholder farmers in distributing products via larger producers.

429:28 p 9 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Work with the private sector to get insurance to small and medium farms. The group discussed a current example in Latin America.

429:29 p 9 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Find ways to help smallholder farmers stay in the market when international trade is not possible.

429:31 p 10 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Create collaboration between smaller/newer producers and more experienced producers to create a farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange.

429:33 p 10 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

• Integrated smallholder farming systems that have benefits for food security and income, and provide ample ecosystem services, such as those in Cambodia that also use small biodigesters to provide energy to cook food.

429:38 p 10 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

2. Between smaller, newer producers and those with more experience, as well as multi-generational farmers.

429:48 p 12 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

2. Recognize that smallholder farmers are often on the frontlines of catastrophic impacts of climate change, nature loss, deepening poverty, and the wide inequality gap.

429:59 p 13 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

Discussion Topic, Group 7 By 2030, 300+ million small scale agricultural producers have become resilient to climate change.

429:60 p 13 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

ACTIONS 1. Foster the adoption of new technologies by smallholder farmers by showing that they address/solve the risk of losing crops that are so precious.

429:62 p 13 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

PARTNERSHIPS 1. Develop partnership platforms to benefit small farmers; also involve governments.

429:86 p 16 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

15. Recognize that small-scale farmers have different needs. Policies are too broad – they need to consider scale and location. All policies don’t work for all farmers.

429:104 p 20 in 470_June_17_21_Burian_Multi

5. Integrating small and large farms is important to limit risk.

431:15 p 11 in 472_June_18_21_van Oosterhoud_Kusumadireja

3. small scale farmers are the stakeholders most in need of empowerment.

431:16 p 11 in 472_June_18_21_van Oosterhoud_Kusumadireja

4. Organic Agriculture as an innovative solution for small scale farmers to reach the organic market
5. Governments should encourage more public and private partnerships and enabling partnerships….and mass communication for internet accessibility for small scale farmers.

431:17 p 11 in 472_June_18_21_van Oosterhoud_Kusumadireja

6. I would say that small scale farmers need to be heard, they are mostly the ones producing food in third countries. And we need to include them in the decision-making process because most of the solutions and decisions need to be applied by them 7. indeed, solutions don't need always to be technology-oriented. I also think that simplification of knowledge provided by researchers to small scale farmers will bridge the gap between the research providers and people in need of that knowledge.

431:18 p 11 in 472_June_18_21_van Oosterhoud_Kusumadireja

8. small scale farmers are the stakeholders most in need of empowerment.

431:20 p 12 in 472_June_18_21_van Oosterhoud_Kusumadireja

Internet entrance was mentioned as a crucial point to empower small-holder farmers. However, the main question is how to make internet accessible to them. More research is needed on this.

433:5 p 5 in 474_June_18_21_Matu_Opiyo

Women led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are less likely to access formal finance loans and support.

439:2 p 6 in 519_July_05_21_FABLE_Multi

2. Need to ensure an equal transformation: The livelihoods of smallholder farmers should be at the center of these transformations. Policies promoting trade liberalization should ensure these benefit national trade balances and smallholder welfare. To ensure this, regulations to set standards are

needed (e.g. preventing dumping). The African Free Trade Area is an opportunity to promote economic growth and regional resilience. According to the Report on Green recovery for Africa, investing in energy, food security, and nature-based solutions brings the best return in terms of jobs created and value addition. Climate-smart agricultural practices can help reduce climate impacts and increase resilience at the community level. Science-based evidence needs to be embedded in the trading system, prioritizing food security. Assessment of environmental impacts along the value and trade chain is essential if we want to achieve an equal sustainable transformation.

441:4 p 7 in 529A_July_07_21_Ziadat_Bhaduri_Feedback2

This happens to the majority of landholders, especially smallholder farmers who has agriculture as the main source of income and main source of living. It is true that few landholders may decide to lease their land and go in cities to look for other source of income.

455:4 p 6 in 063_Mar_04_21_Nanavaty_Multi

1. Organizing is the key to empower rural women workers and small holder women farmers and make the food systems equitable and just. Promoting their own member-owned and managed supply chain will help building their collective strength, bargaining power and decision-making agencies.

455:7 p 7 in 063_Mar_04_21_Nanavaty_Multi

1. Organizing poor smallholder farmers and women workers, promoting their own member-owned and managed supply chain and thus building their collective strength, bargaining power and decision-making agencies.

455:11 p 10 in 063_Mar_04_21_Nanavaty_Multi

1. Organizing is the key to empower rural women workers and small holder women farmers and make the food systems equitable and just.

457:22 p 14 in 120_Apr_27_21_Mauderli_U

How: in ten years all smallholder farmers need to have access to digital technology, access needs to be free for especially vulnerable groups. It is crucial that companies develop a viable business model for digital service provision to farmers. So far digitalization in smallholder farming has been donor driven and failed to scale.

458:23 p 14 in 123_May_04_21_Mauderli U

How: in ten years all smallholder farmers need to have access to digital technology, access needs to be free for especially vulnerable groups. It is crucial that companies develop a viable business model

for digital service provision to farmers. So far digitalization in smallholder farming has been donor driven and failed to scale.

459:23 p 14 in 125_May_11_21_Mauderli_COSUDE

How: in ten years all smallholder farmers need to have access to digital technology, access needs to be free for especially vulnerable groups. It is crucial that companies develop a viable business model for digital service provision to farmers. So far digitalization in smallholder farming has been donor driven and failed to scale.

460:8 p 5 in 131_May_25_21_IISLA Ventures

To what extent do small-scale food producers have control over their livelihoods in Philippine food systems? Whilst there has been a recent increase in investment for agriculture and food processing in the country, producers and consumers have been structurally disconnected by a lengthened value chain. Moreover, there is also the need to expand regenerative and resilient agriculture practices to avert environmental degradation and climate change, and to increase the capacity of smallholder farmers and MSMEs in accessing affordable funding. Unless systemic changes are implemented to ensure that producers can afford their capital requirements and earn a decent living from their livelihoods, it would be impossible to achieve stable and sustainable food systems towards securing healthy, nutritious, and affordable food for all.

460:24 p 10 in 131_May_25_21_IISLA Ventures

Participants of the 'main' Dialogue shared the concern of smallholder farmers and MSMEs on the high prices of organic produce vis-a-vis conventional ones. The need to reduce the cost of organic inputs resurfaced, exploring the feasibility of farmers producing rather than buying their inputs to reduce overall production cost.

460:33 p 12 in 131_May_25_21_IISLA Ventures

With the current small and insecure market for organic produce, it was pointed out that farmers tend to go their own ways ("kanya-kanya"), nurturing competition rather than complementation and collaboration to ensure prosperity for all. It was suggested that farmers would organise themselves to facilitate coordinated production and avoid indiscriminate crop duplication. Moreover, aggregators should also create a network of food processing MSMEs that could accept crops not sold in the fresh vegetable markets. It was also suggested that these aggregators could be invested in to develop their own processing facilities and transportation services to lower the cost of bringing food from farm to table. Other investment suggested by Dialogue participants included: 1) multifunction processing facilities with fair schemes, such as pay-per-use model; 2) entire logistics chain from transport to storage; 3) credit to farmers, where they are given a reprieve of two to three planting seasons, in cash; 4) marketing and investment in education to boost consumer interest; 5) market and processing transformation mechanisms; and 6) building an ecosystem that can be a conduit of trust for farmers.

462:5 p 12 in 133_May_27_21_CIRAD_Multi

In this context, for smallholders, it was suggested to improve credit systems (better access, favorable conditions) to contribute to reaching a more balanced power between companies and small producers/ cooperatives regarding investments and avoid tensions between the governance of the value chain and territorial governance.

473:4 p 5 in 244_June_09_21_Macqueen_Multi

Fortunately, the world's 1.5 billion smallholder farmers (<2hectares) embody 3 billion helping hands. They are an efficient and professional bunch. Most smallholder farms (83%) are in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. While operating only 12% of the world's agricultural land, they produce more than 70% of the food calories to people living in those regions. But they, too, are vulnerable to climate threats. What can be done to help them?

485:5 p 6 in 288_May_20_21_GAN_Multi

 Approaches to scale-up from small-scale production to large-scale production (e.g. black soldier flies for aquafeeds).

485:7 p 10 in 288_May_20_21_GAN_Multi

 Advance our understanding of the value of small-scale fisheries (e.g. Illuminating Hidden Harvests) and increase efforts to capture their contributions in national accounts.

486:9 p 9 in 291_May_21_21_Polman_Prabha

b) We need to find ways of supporting and engaging small farmers. It's a difficult career which young people aren't attracted to, partly because the conditions are tough and there is limited legal protection. This is creating uncertainty in the long-term and farmers could disappear. By engaging universities and academics more, we could connect young people more to farming/the land, and create a different vision.

491:6 p 6 in 301_May_27_21_CropLife Latin America

2. Small farmers must have greater access to new technologies, particularly information technologies (Apps, GPS, etc.), and maintain over time the adoption of technologies with indicators that allow evaluating their benefits.

491:8 p 7 in 301_May_27_21_CropLife Latin America

a. Validator or independent agent For the small and medium farmer to be able to access the main markets and for their effort to be recognized on the basis of sustainability, a dialogue and an

alliance with the large marketers, the value chain, and agricultural producers is necessary. This requires that neutral institutions such as IICA have the capacity to bring large buyers to the same table, with small and medium farmers in a dialogue where neutral institutions balance their forces in the disproportion between small farmers / large traders. This mechanism makes it possible to provide sustainable solutions and strengthen the system linked to the triple helix (academy-industry-government) with a view to developing standards and practices that avoid over-regulation, allow economic access to technologies, and recognize the associated value to sustainability by the production chain.

495:7 p 5 in 309_June_10_21_ICC_EIT_Multi

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are vital to our food economies. Each country is different, but SMEs are often over 90% of businesses in the agri-food sector, creating half the economic value, providing more than half the sector's jobs, and handling more than half the food consumed. Their tenacity and agility sustain food supplies and access through the COVID pandemic.

496:4 p 5 in 312_June_15_21_FAO_ICC_ Multi

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are vital to our food economies. Each country is different, but SMEs are often over 90% of businesses in the agri-food sector, creating half the economic value, providing more than half the sector's jobs, and handling more than half the food consumed. Their tenacity and agility sustain food supplies and access through the COVID pandemic.

496:9 p 7 in 312_June_15_21_FAO_ICC_ Multi

Support for small and medium non-formalized producers, focus on the informal economy. Many times you cannot do business with them due to billing and administrative issues, segregating acroecological and local products, making it impossible to open businesses for this group.

496:10 p 7 in 312_June_15_21_FAO_ICC_ Multi

3. Rewarding positive results Government incentives to help the small ones formalize, impulse and local and national impact.

497:7 p 5 in 314_June_16_21_ICC_US Farmers_Multi

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are vital to our food economies. Each country is different, but SMEs are often over 90% of businesses in the agri-food sector, creating half the economic value, providing more than half the sector's jobs, and handling more than half the food consumed. Their tenacity and agility sustain food supplies and access through the COVID pandemic.

497:13 p 7 in 314_June_16_21_ICC_US Farmers_Multi

c. The smaller your business, the more difficult it is to access that capital.

503:7 p 5 in 399_June_9_21_AFA_Multi

Small fishers are facing plethora of challenges in Asia and elsewhere. Owing to their poor economic status and often marginalized social status, their voices are not heard by the policy makers adequately. Small fishers are facing worst crises today. Apart from poverty and discrimination, the added perils are climate change induced extreme weather conditions and depletion of species. Access and control over natural resources has always been a contentious issue for poor fishers, who face hurdles to access sea beaches, to park their boats and dry their nets due to indiscriminate grabbing of coastal land for tourism and other industrial purposes. Also dumping effluent near the coast and in deep sea adversely affect their catches.

Conclusion

Smallholder farmers and smaller-scale producers are an essential component of food systems, and therefore a critical part of the food systems transition to becoming equitable and sustainable. They bring a wealth of traditional and local knowledge on sustainable farming practices which they use to help to feed the world. Ironically, these critical role players also suffer disproportionately from current food system injustices, and the negative effects of global climate change. They face

numerous barriers that influence their livelihoods, from land and seed challenges to policy and regulations that actively work against them. Further, barriers exist that prevent them from engaging in meaningful knowledge generation and sharing and active participation in decision-making spaces. Removing these barriers and supporting smaller-scale producers should be central to food systems transformation.

Authors

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Annex A: Independent Dialogues Included in this Thematic Synthesis

Title	Convener(s)	Date	# Smallholder farmers	# Participants	ID#
The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production	Asikaralu Okafor, Maklumy Technology Services Limited/Village Farmers Initiative(VFI)	19 April 2021	17	17	12151
UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from India	Bharat Krishak Rythy Sadhikara Samstha	29 January 2021	4	67	1956
UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives from Asia & Africa	Bharat Krishak Rythy Sadhikara Samstha	18 February 2021	3	40	2060
What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems	Farming First	4 March 2021	6	62	4362
U.S. Animal Agriculture as a Solution to Global Food Systems Challenges	Animal Agriculture Alliance	8 April 2021	8	122	7117
UN Independent Food System Summit Dialogue Grassroot Perspective for Jharkhand, 2021	Welthungerhilfe, India CARITAS India Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network Bhoomi Ka	12 April 2021	50	93	8532
Boosting Nature Positive Agricultural Solutions: U.S. Farmer, Rancher, Grower Perspectives	Ernie Shea	6 April 2021	No data provided	No data provided	9149
Farmers' Perspectives, From Seeds to Food II	Andrew Mushita, Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT), Zimbabwe	12 May 2021	5	45[56]	11594
Farmers' Perspectives from Seeds to Food - Global Dialogue	Andrew Mushita, Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT), Zimbabwe	29 June 2021	No data provided	No data provided	20829
Voices of Small Farmers on Agroecology, Organic Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty In North America... Inclusion and Capacity Building	Ms Shamika Mone	13 June 2021	8	8	25890
Hacia un enfoque sistématico para la agricultura familiar, biodiversidad, y seguridad alimentaria*#	Juan Sánchez, vicepresidente del Consorcio Agroecológico Peruano	25 June 2021			28005

[56] There were 45 participants listed in the report, but other dialogues leading up had 100 farmer participants. There were a number of local face to face farmer-community consultations that fed into this series of dialogues. 9 in total, inclusive 6 preparatory meetings. The local consultations directly involved over 100 farmers representing 400 Farmer Field Schools (FFS), these field schools involved around 10,000 farmers who are servicing their community members.

El aporte de las comunidades campesinas para los sistemas alimentarios sostenibles resilientes e incluyente*#	Giovanna Vásquez - Gerenta de la Convención Nacional del Agro Peruano	28 June 2021			24420
Farming with (and for) biodiversity – scaling smallholder, nature-based solutions for sustainable food systems	Paula Caballero (Rare) Deon Nel (WWF Netherlands) Gábor Figeczky (IFOAM-Organics International)	16 June 2021	3	55	15420
Bangladesh-Nepal Farmers Dialogue: Putting Smallholder Farmers at the Centre of Food System*	Mr. Aamanur Rahman, Director-Extreme Poverty Program, CARE Bangladesh Mr. Jib Sharma, Emergency Coordinator, CARE Nepal	17 June 2021			26265
Visioning the future of food and agricultural systems*	Collaborative Crop Research Program – McKnight Foundation	13 April 2021	41	122	11127
Farmer Research Network Collective Voice and Aligned Organizations*#	Collaborative Crop Research Program – McKnight Foundation	28 April 2021	4	19	11117
The livestock-meat chain and its compliance with the SDG: future challenges	INTERPORC (Spanish Interprofessional Agri-food Organization of White Pork)	19 May 2021	1	55	13544
U.S. Farmers and Ranchers as a Solution to Building the Sustainable Food Systems of the Future	U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action	23 June 2021	No data provided	60	17571
Transforming Pathways: Working with Farmers in Agri-Food Systems	Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio (SEARCA); Dr. Tan Shiang Hee (CLA)	14 June 2021	9	31	14699
Philippines Farmers and Fishers National Independent Dialogue	Kalipunan ng Maliliit na Magniniyog ng Pilipinas (KAMMPIL)	8 June 2021	53	75	22131
East and Southern Africa Dialogue for Strengthening Food Systems Research and Innovation	Professor Adipala Ekwamu-Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)	17 May 2021	55	375	16044
From Seeds to Table: Re-instating the farmers to the core of the food systems in Asia	Ms Shamika Mone, President, Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations	15 June 2021	5	100	23679
Pathways of creating sustainable food systems and building resilience to shocks and hazards among small scale farmers	Mr Kudakwashe Zombe, Zimbabwe Civil Society Organizations Scaling Up Nutrition Alliance	15 July 2021	2	38	33131
Rights of Small Farmers in Light of Corporate Take Over: The Deregulation of TNCs are Negatively Affecting the Rights of Small Farmers; How can both amicably coexist?	The Sikh Human Rights Group: Mr Carlos Arbuthnott - Ms Jenna Lanoil - Ms Monica Gill	19 July 2021	1	18	32822
The Role of Cooperatives and Farmer Organisations in Future Food Systems	Agribusiness Support Fund (ASF) Pakistan	2 June 2021	18	44	21790

Black American Farmers' Path Towards Equitable Livelihoods	Bread for the World; National Black Farmers Association; The Federation of Southern Cooperatives	2 June 2021	20	35	19523
Who's missing at dinner? Bringing farmers into the conversation on food systems through inclusive communication platforms	Farm Radio International	2 June 2021	3	97[57]	15672
Independent Dialogue on Farmers' Groups in Agriculture & Food System of Bangladesh	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Project SACP, MMI and HIHI	31 May 2021	60	110	33968
Farmers and Fishers Solutions: Sustainable Fishing	AFA, INOFO, PIFON, WFO	9 June 2021	136	138	23434
Presentation on the perspective of African Organic Family Farmers on sustainable food systems	Ms Shamika Mone, President, Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmer Organisations	10 June 2021	52	98	21034
DIALOGUES FOR NEGOTIATED TRADE-OFFS AND SYNERGIES IN SMALLHOLDER FARMER FOOD SYSTEMS IN MALAWI	Dr Daimon Kambewa (Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources)	3 May 2021	100	140	33956

**No report available at time of writing. No participant data available.*

 # Dialogue observed by BME team.

[57] In addition to this number, there were additional farmers engaged through radio, video, polls, and conversations.

Title	Convener(s)	Date	# Smallholder farmers	# Participants	ID#
United Nations Food Systems Summit Global Summit Dialogue with Farmers, Fishers, Pastoralists and Other Producers	Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Food Systems Summit 2021 Mr. Ajay Vir Jakhar Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers' Forum India) Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala President, Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) Ms. Estrella "Esther" Penunia Secretary General, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) Mr. Ishmael Sunga Chief Executive Officer, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) Dr. Theo de Jager President, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)	12 July 2021	35	202	28341

Annex B: Smallholder farmers' perspectives spotlighted in the pre-Summit in Rome

26 July, 2021 FAO Rome

The Voice of Farmers, Fishers, Pastoralists, and other Producers toward the Food Systems of the Future

This Pre-Summit session focused on the priorities of farmers, fishers, pastoralists and other producers, the main challenges they face, their game-changing solutions and their joint commitment towards achieving sustainable food systems globally. This includes small- and large-scale producers (farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, livestock keepers, etc.). The session builds upon the outcomes of a series of farmer-focused consultation processes at national, regional and global level, which took place in the form of both Independent and Global Summit Dialogues. Led by farmers, fishers, pastoralists and other producers in all their diversity, the session engaged a wide range of stakeholders around a vision to jointly build more equitable, empowering, sustainable, and resilient food systems.

Opening Remarks by the moderator

- **Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala,** President, Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO)

Insight from the producer dialogues

- **H.E. Charlie McConalogue** TD. Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
- Ireland
- **Dr. Ishmael Sunga,** CEO, Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)
- **Ms. Reema Nanavaty,** Executive Committee Member, Asian Farmers Association, AFA and Agricultural Director of Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

Challenges producers face in Finance, Value Distribution, Resilience & what solutions they are bringing

- **Ms. Erin Fitzgerald,** CEO, US Farmers and Ranchers in Action (USFRA)
- **Mr. Hijaba Ykhanbai,** Director, JASIL
- **Mr. Roy Bealey,** Fishery Director, International Pole & Line Foundation

Perspectives and Solutions from other stakeholders

- **Mr. Martien Van Nieuwkoop,** Global Director for the Agriculture and Food Global

- Practice, World Bank Group and Custodian, UNFSS Finance Lever
- **Ms Berenice Sanchez,** Coordinator for Mexico
- **Mr. Martien Van Nieuwkoop,** Global Director for the Agriculture and Food Global
- Practice, World Bank Group and Custodian, UNFSS Finance Lever
- **Ms. Berenice Sanchez,** Coordinator for Mexico and Central America, Alianza Milpa
- **Mr. Olivier de Schutter,** Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, and member, AT3, OHCHR
- **Mr. Gordon Bacon,** CEO, Pulse Canada and the Global Pulse Confederation **Mr. Daniel Zhang,** CEO, Alibaba Group

Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Vijay Kumar,** Vice-Chair on Producers, UNFSS Champions Network
- **Ms. Arianna Giuliodori,** Secretary General, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

Video recordings of this session and these presentations are available online:

https://www.unfoodsystems.org/highlights.php

Additional focus on farmers in framing the Food Systems Summit: "What we owe farmers."

https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/news/what-we-owe-farmers

AN INDEPENDENT DIALOGUES SPECIAL SYNTHESIS REPORT

Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives on Food Systems

Written by
Andrealisa Belzer CE, MA &
Serge Eric Yakeu Djiam CE, MSc

July 2021

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Executive Summary

Indigenous Peoples' rights, knowledge systems, and belief systems are essential to the achievement of sustainable and equitable food systems. This report provides a deep dive into the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples on food systems and engagement in the Food Systems Summit. It is organized into three sections: (1) Why a Focus on Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on food systems is important, (2) Some key perspectives Indigenous Peoples have on food systems, and (3) How Indigenous Peoples want to be engaged in the Food Systems Summit and beyond. Each section of the report offers key themes that emerged from a review of 25 Independent Dialogues[1] and a focus group with six Dialogue convenors. The key themes in each section are summarized in the report that follows. Quotes from Dialogue reports and convenors' comments are provided to illustrate the themes while demonstrating both diversity and convergence of perspectives.

Key Themes by Section:

1: Why a Focus on Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives Is Important

- **UNDRIP:** Self-Determination is fundamental to food systems and all SDGs.
- **No One Left Behind:** Marginalization erodes resilience and creates vulnerability.
- **Stewardship:** Indigenous Peoples' food systems are a game changing solution.

2: Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives on Food Systems

- **Food Sovereignty:** Indigenous Peoples must be able to access and protect their own food systems.
- **Technology & Infrastructure Support:** Marginalized food systems require equitable investments.
- **Relational Worldview:** Indigenous Peoples' food systems generate more than nutrition.

3: How Indigenous Peoples Want to Be Engaged in the Summit and Beyond

- **Representation:** Respect Indigenous Peoples' perspectives among those of Member States.
- **Implementation:** Protect Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and rights within and across Action Tracks and Coalitions.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Engage Indigenous Peoples to define, monitor and evaluate progress.

[1] See Annex A for a complete list of Dialogues reviewed.

Introduction

Both the initial Interim Synthesis Report of Food Systems Summit (FSS) Independent Dialogues and the Whitepaper/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems emphasized the importance of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, particularly in light of historical and ongoing marginalization, disproportionate vulnerability to climate change and biodiversity loss, and the recognition that Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems are vital to the achievement of healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems for all.

Therefore, this synthesis report draws on several Independent Dialogues focused on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, a virtual meeting on 8 July 2021 with Indigenous group leaders, and a virtual focus group held on 13 July 2021 with Dialogue convenors in order to summarize key themes in response to the following three questions:

- Why do we need to focus on Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on food systems?
- What are Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on food systems?
- How should Indigenous Peoples be engaged in the Food Systems Summit and beyond?

The Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems and the Technical Editing Committee coordinated the writing of the Whitepaper/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems to inform the UN Food Systems Summit with participation of at least 56 contributors from Indigenous Peoples' organizations, universities, and individuals from the seven-socio cultural regions. Contributors called for the Food Systems Summit to help restore and protect Indigenous Food Systems: "*The speed at which Indigenous Peoples' food systems and traditional knowledge systems are eroding and disappearing demands urgent actions to guarantee the survival of Indigenous Peoples. A human- rights based approach is fundamental for the protection and strengthening of Indigenous Peoples' food systems and futures."*[2] The Global Hub coordinated exchange of learning across Dialogues, discussions with the Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit, and technical discussions with Action Track Technical Committees to support the co-creation of knowledge by Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts about the importance of Indigenous Peoples' food systems and global food systems transformation.

On 8 July, Indigenous group leaders presented a synthesis of Dialogues held with Indigenous communities to the FSS Secretariat and Special Envoy Dr. Kalibata. Dr. Myrna Cunningham presided and reported that between May 25 and June 14, in the seven socio-cultural regions, 20 regional Dialogues were held, of which 17 were regional and 2 were global in scope. In these Dialogues, more than 1200 people from 218 Indigenous Peoples' organizations participated, with between two and eight languages used in each Dialogue.

For this synthesis report, materials were examined from 25 Dialogues, of which 20 provided summary reports that were reviewed for this report[3]. Demographic details contained in 17 of these reports documented that those Dialogues had engaged more than 1,000 participants, half of whom are Indigenous People. A table of available details on the Dialogues and their participants is in Annex A.

Fourteen convenors were invited to participate in a focus group. Eleven responded with interest, and seven convenors joined a virtual focus group on 13 July (one convenor was ultimately unable to

[2] FAO. 2021. Whitepaper/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, page 42

[3] See introduction to the four reports for details about selection of Dialogues

participate due to poor internet connection). Focus group participants also provided feedback to support the preparation of this synthesis report. [4]

The Pre-Summit for the Food Systems Summit was held in Rome on July 26-28, 2021. As an additional resource for this report, Annex B contains links to Indigenous Peoples' presentations made at the Pre-Summit.

Section 1: Why a Focus on Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives is Important

Among the reasons why Indigenous People's perspectives are critical to food systems transformation, three justifications were supported by Dialogues across the seven socio-cultural regions: (1) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); (2) no one left behind, and (3) stewardship.

These justifications were succinctly emphasized by Chief of the FAO's Indigenous Peoples Unit, Yon Fernández de Larrinoa, during the High-level Expert Seminar on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems in December 2020:

> *"In the context of the UN Food Systems Summit and in the spirit of leaving no one behind, it is critical we engage with, listen to, respect the expertise and collaborate with the Indigenous Peoples globally. Their leadership is fundamental in achieving the objectives of the Summit and Sustainable Development Goals."*[5]

Realizing the UNDRIP: Self-Determination is fundamental to food systems and all SDGs.

Dialogues with a focus on Indigenous Peoples noted their distinct rights, histories, traditional territories, and food systems. Globally, the immediate security and long-term sustainability of Indigenous Peoples' food systems depend on the acknowledgement and actualization of their distinct collective and individual rights. Convenors who participated in the 13 July focus group highlighted that Indigenous Peoples' rights are independent, indivisible, interrelated, interconnected, and indivisible. Through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)[6], the UN General Assembly affirmed that Indigenous Peoples' have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law. The UNDRIP specifically recognizes other rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to self-determination; intellectual

[4] Details about how focus groups were convened are in the introduction to the four reports.

[5] High-level Expert Seminar on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit , 15 December 2020, 22034, relevant link: FAO North America News Indigenous Experts from North America call for a formal place in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, page 1

[6] https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

property rights; right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); and right to land, territory and resources.

> *We call for the international and national authorities to formally recognize the governance systems, knowledge systems, rights, and responsibilities of Indigenous Nations in North America and worldwide for food systems, as a right under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and as an action area in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples.*[7]

> *Guaranteeing the right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, rights to their lands and waters through policies and reforms will ensure that Indigenous Peoples could advance to more equitable livelihoods. Supporting networks of Indigenous Peoples will also ensure they have a more active participation at policy level and to be included in the decision-making process.*[8]

> *Debate on food security and food sustainability led by Indigenous Peoples advocates not only for access to healthy food, but for an end to the structural injustices. Exploitation of indigenous lands and industrial projects' activities are needlessly destructive and have an enormous impact on traditional fishing, hunting and harvesting areas relied on by indigenous communities.*[9]

> *The lack of respect for and recognition of our rights to self-determination, to our management and co-management of our resources to ensure their productive capacity, and impediments to recognition of our Knowledge are resulting in adverse impacts upon our livelihoods, our ability to sustain ourselves, and our food production.* [10]

> *Indigenous food systems in many countries have been severely disrupted through dispossession of Indigenous Peoples from their homelands, introduction of industrial food production, processing and distribution, rapid unification of food environments and changing dietary patterns. In addition, today, Indigenous Peoples' balanced relationship with their land-based food systems is obstructed by the ongoing exploitation of indigenous lands and infringement of their rights through industrial projects and states' mismanagement of land and resources.*[11]

> *The right of self-determination is recognized as the pre-requisite for the exercise and enjoyment of all other human rights, and it is fundamental to the maintenance of our unique food systems. Securing recognition of our rights to lands, territories and resources will ensure the continuation of our proven sustainable food system practices thereby safeguarding the Arctic and supporting biodiversity. Furthermore, we are uniquely positioned to ensure our own food sovereignty and*

[7] High-level Expert Seminar on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, towards the 2021UN Food Systems Summit , 15 December 2020, 22034, attachment: Final-Statement Final Statement Dec 2020 On North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, page 1
[8] Integrating Indigenous Knowledge with Emerging Technologies to Enhance Sustainability and Resilience of Food System, 31 May 2021, 20041, attachment: Report of the Dialogue, page 10
[9] UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues,35212, 10 June 2021, page 6
[10] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council,, page 7
[11] UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues,35212, 10 June 2021, page 5

security based upon centuries of accumulated knowledge, adaptation, resilience, and genuine respect for our natural world.[12]

We reaffirm that the rights of Indigenous Youth are linked to the collective rights of our peoples and nations, including the profound relationship with our territories and the transmission of traditional knowledge and spirituality.[13]

No One Left Behind: Marginalization erodes resilience and creates vulnerability.

Colonization and injustices such as dispossession of lands, territories, and resources is a historic and ongoing barrier to Indigenous Peoples' right to development. Marginalization and isolation of Indigenous Peoples was described in Independent Dialogues as resulting in physical and social barriers to inclusion in food systems: geographic, technological, economic, and political marginalization are compounded by the marginalization of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, belief systems, and practices. Across the seven socio-cultural regions, various forms of marginalization, including interconnected issues of displacement, biodiversity loss, and climate change are threatening Indigenous Peoples' ability to maintain their traditional nature-positive and sustainable approaches to food production.

Dialogue participants called for recognition that the extra burden of climate change and COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples places them in increasingly vulnerable situations. They also called for a change in the discourse on vulnerability in order to recognize that Indigenous Peoples themselves are resilient, not vulnerable per se. Therefore, Indigenous Peoples' food systems are well placed to contribute to global debates on sustainable food systems and must be considered key allies in the effort to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [14]

...there was acknowledgement that disruption of Indigenous Peoples' food systems has caused for a nutritional crisis and epidemic of malnourishment related diseases for high percentages of Indigenous Peoples, and that returning to traditional foods and diets is a multi-factored and critical solution to reestablish/safeguard sustainable consumption patterns for Indigenous Peoples; further noting the world has much to learn from Indigenous Peoples about "no waste" and using only what we need as central values in Indigenous Peoples' food systems.[15]

Decolonizing the food system to shift supply and demand towards traditional, nutritious foods would allow for BIPOC (and all) people to consume healthier diets.[16]

Due to historical class disparities and colonization, the food industry and government have allowed unhealthy, ultra-processed foods to become ubiquitously available at the expense of

[12] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, page 7
[13] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 14-16 June 2021,32240, attachment: Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems, page 1
[14] Contributions from Indigenous peoples' food systems to Action Track 2 and the shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns, April 7 2021, 10770, page 7
[15] High-level Expert Seminar on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, towards the 2021UN Food Systems Summit , 15 December 2020, 22034, page 6
[16] Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice, 5 June 2021,12769, page 8

traditional and indigenous foods that have been staples for hundreds and thousands of years. This has contributed to a global health crisis wherein food producers primarily struggle with having enough food to eat, while the principal consumers of that food struggle with overnutrition, NDCs, and other diet related health conditions that were not present until the introduction of processed foods. The ultra-processed foods have contributed to "nutritional trauma" as the spiritual values underlying indigenous and faith communities, of the holiness of food and the bodies of human beings, are disregarded. The commodification and corporatization of food and food systems has slowly winnowed down the diversity of foods that are eaten globally. Streamlined food and food systems are a burden to growing lands and have deleterious impacts on health overall.[17]

Indigenous women identify as the main obstacle not having a territorial guarantee, although there is a Law on demarcation of lands and habitat (2001), their communities are surrounded by landowners, many communities have been evicted from their ancestral lands, and the expansion of mining, forestry, large estates, guerrillas, paramilitaries, drug trafficking and organized crime are destroying their natural resources. Women recognize that without land there is no life, no future, no food. They request territorial guarantees through the policy of demarcation and self-demarcation by indigenous peoples and communities, as a strategy of existence and cultural continuity, respect for their ways of life as guardians of the land, ecologically balanced environment and sustainable food systems.[18]

As climate change is affecting the weather patterns and increasing the severity of natural disasters, expanding Indigenous Peoples' management practices is critical. More and more people, including Indigenous Peoples' communities, are being displaced from their homes from fires, floods, landslides, and other natural disasters; food systems are being impacted in all regions of the world.[19]

… programs and measures at the national level do not cover climate change adaptation and mitigation spheres; assistance to small-scale producers and farmers is practically absent. Reforms introduced in agriculture negatively affect the volume of goods produced, their cost and sale…Products are sold locally while large cities prefer to import dairy foods. This negatively affects the economic development and stability of local small-scale production; poverty is only increasing in remote settlements. [20]

Realities of extreme food insecurity and altered lives from climate change: Indigenous speakers and participants from North America accounted experiences of facing extreme food shortages and insecurities, with some instances directly correlated with the impacts of climate change. Within Indigenous Nations, the hunters, fishers and trappers are the experts. They have seen

[17] Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice, 5 June 2021,12769, page 5
[18] Diálogos independientes con pueblos indígenas, con la participación de mujeres indígenas agricultoras, productoras, procesadoras y comerciantes de alimentos, camino a la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre Sistemas Alimentarios,18 June 2021, 22529, page 6
[19] 2nd Listening Session: Recommendations from North American Indigenous Peoples, towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, 28 May 2021, 22022, attachment: Expanded Findings_NA Indigenous Peoples 2nd Listening Session_28 May 2021 page 4
[20] UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues,35212, 10 June 2021, page 5

dramatic changes in the landscapes, waters, migration patterns, fish runs, and decline in species as climate change impacts of melting permafrost, warmer waters, less ice pack... more extreme storms, more extreme droughts and other environmental conditions change at increasing rates. These changes and challenges impact every aspect of our [Indigenous Peoples'] lives - our health, well-being, spirituality, emotional health, etc.[21]

Over-dependence on imported goods, and marginalization of local food system potential and historical food sovereignty puts island states in extreme situations of vulnerability: there is a huge overdependence on barge shipments for needed goods on the islands of Hawai'i. Currently 85% of food in Hawai'i is shipped in, and there are very few resources on the island to ensure their food security in the event of disaster. And yet, in light of this alarming fact, there is a belief amongst power holders and decision makers that our [Native Hawaiian] traditional food ways, which were once able to feed well over 1 million people in their islands, without causing harm or imbalance to the surrounding natural environment, and with no dependance on outside shipping, are unrealistic. Despite the frailty of relying on shipments for over 80% of needed food, there is an unwillingness by the so-called "State" to invest in and commit to traditional food systems, leaving us isolated in numerous ways.[22]

Stewardship: Indigenous Peoples' food systems are a game changing solution.

Climate change is threatening all food systems, whether agricultural or based on fishing, hunting, herding, and gathering wild foods. The Whitepaper/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems presents evidence that Indigenous Peoples are stewards of natural systems upon which all food systems depend, citing that they conserve 80% of global biodiversity and occupy more than 25% of the world's land.[23] In this context, focus group participants stressed that it is important for partners and UN agencies to better understand the solemn responsibility of Indigenous Peoples for their traditional homelands, their profound relationship with the natural environment, and their efforts to practice sustainability and prevent environmental destruction. Independent Dialogues called for indigenizing and decolonizing unsustainable food systems and the promotion of Indigenous Peoples' food systems as a "game-changing solution" for sustainable, equitable, and healthier food.

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.[24]

We are not farmers, we are primarily hunters, gatherers, herders, fishers, and mobile peoples, traversing our lands and waters to maintain our way of life and the systems we depend upon. Our food systems depend on a healthy environment and access to

[21] Turtle Island Dialogue: Traditional Harvesting, 8 April 2021, 10195, page 6
[22] Turtle Island Dialogue: Transforming Isolation, 15 April 2021, 10198, page 5
[23] FAO. 2021. Whitepaper/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, page 21
[24] 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, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 6

traditional resources and play an important role in maintaining our cultures, knowledge, and identities as well as our physical and mental health and well-being.[25]

The challenges posed by climate change and its consequent extreme events in the sustainability of food systems of Indigenous peoples require establishing bridges between research in science and technology and traditional/ancestral knowledge and practices.[26]

Indigenous women... demand the healing of Mother Earth and the hydrographic basins that guarantee access to water and the sustainability of food systems, curbing the imbalance generated by large-scale mining activity. For women, crops grown on less land are more resilient than those grown on a large scale. The emphasis is on the variety of crops, since it ensures that the failure of one item has a reduced impact on the food security of the communities. The recognition of ancestral knowledge is advocated to ensure the incorporation of knowledge which over time has been successful in food production. The women also argue that there should be a reduction in waste and the use of chemicals. The dissemination of family crops (Conucos) is recommended for their efficiency in food security.[27]

An integrated system approach, by combining enduring knowledge from indigenous peoples with citizen science solutions, we maximize the prospects of delivering smart, more efficient, and sustainable practices for all. (Convenor)

Native seeds should not be seen from a business and financial perspective but collectively, where family and community take precedence, giving preference to our products' quality due to their high nutritional value. No to consumerism and avoid chemical pesticides. Define a strategy to rescue medicinal plants, ancestral knowledge and know-how that have been decisive in mitigating Covid-19 impacts. Strengthen ancestral knowledge and know-how in ecosystem management to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For the Andes region, this is critical due to thawing glaciers and destruction of cactus forests, wetlands and páramos, the natural source of water.[28]

Indigenous knowledge is not about the past. Indigenous knowledge is about the future. Our knowledge systems must inform the future of food in the world, knowing

[25] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council, page 2
[26] Integrating Indigenous Knowledge with Emerging Technologies to Enhance Sustainability and Resilience of Food System, 31 May 2021, 20041, page 12
[27] Diálogos independientes con pueblos indígenas, con la participación de mujeres indígenas agricultoras, productoras, procesadoras y comerciantes de alimentos, camino a la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre Sistemas Alimentarios,18 June 2021, 22529, page 6
[28] DIALOGOS INDEPENDIENTES DE PUEBLOS INDIGENAS DE AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE, DIALOGO CON AGRICULTORES, PESCADORES, GANADEROS Y PRODUCTORES INDIGENAS,11 June 2021,28726, page 7

it is still operable," Dr. Kamanamaikailani Beamer, Professor at the Center for Hawaiian Studies in the Hui ʻĀina Momona Program at the University of Hawaiʻi.[29]

"The wealth of contributions of Indigenous People to global food security, their land and resource management strategies, their safeguarding of the vast majority of the world's food crops, must be recognized in our approach to policy-making," said Representative Deb Haaland. Further emphasizing that food systems are an integral piece of who they are, a fundamental part of their Indigenous identity and central to their relational existence with regenerative practices. [30]

There are current movements to return space and land to Indigenous Peoples for protection and restoration following methods of Indigenous biocentric restoration and land management (including "nursery" native species planting sites and fire landscape management). Recognizing the collective human and tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples is crucial to Indigenous Peoples' ability to revitalize traditional practices of generating food and restoring ecosystems.[31]

The Independent Dialogues synthesized for this report all affirm the Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination, the importance of addressing vulnerabilities resulting from many forms of marginalization, and the significance of acknowledging that traditional food systems and related knowledge and belief systems have been developed to be sustainable over thousands of years. Evidence supports the ability of Indigenous Peoples' approaches to food production to preserve biodiversity, to provide diverse and nutritious diets, and to be resilient and adaptive to external shocks, including climatic change.

Section 2:
Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives on Food Systems

While Indigenous Peoples' food systems vary greatly across regions, some shared perspectives that emerged from the Independent Dialogues include: (1) food sovereignty, (2) technology and infrastructure support, and (3) relational worldview.

Whether Indigenous Peoples' food production was through farming, herding, hunting, fishing or gathering, Dialogues described the health of local ecosystems and the maintenance of traditional harvesting as integral to all aspects of their mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional wellness. Independent Dialogues supported that food sovereignty is necessary for sustainable food security

[29] High-level Expert Seminar on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, towards the 2021UN Food Systems Summit , 15 December 2020, 22034, relevant link: FAO North America News Indigenous Experts from North America call for a formal place in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, page 1

[30] High-level Expert Seminar on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, towards the 2021UN Food Systems Summit , 15 December 2020, 22034, relevant link: FAO North America News Indigenous Experts from North America call for a formal place in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, page 1

[31] 2nd Listening Session:Recommendations from North American Indigenous Peoples, towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, 28 May 2021, 22022, page 6

among Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples' knowledge of ecosystems can be best leveraged to innovate sustainable food systems when local food producers are able to access leading-edge technology and equitable infrastructure investments to alleviate marginalization.

Food Sovereignty: Indigenous Peoples must be able to access and protect their own food systems.

Indigenous Peoples who currently rely heavily on imported food, as well as traditional food generators such as hunters, gatherers, pastoralists or subsistence farmers, are among the groups for whom food sovereignty is essential to food security. For Indigenous Peoples, food sovereignty means being able to manage their own cultivated or wild harvest in a way that meets their cultural, spiritual, economic, and nutritional needs. Food sovereignty includes the ability to influence decisions that impact conditions for self-sufficiency in traditional food generation, including from non-agricultural means. Violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights to access and protect the integrity of ecosystems is a systemic barrier to food sovereignty.

> *Food sovereignty is important for Indigenous peoples, as it is the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound, and sustainable methods and their right to define their own food, and agriculture systems.*[32]

> *The subject of indigenous food systems isn't solely and exclusively limited to the matters of a native traditional diet, but is a part of a broader issue of the centuries-long historical injustice in the food system and food sovereignty which is in turn closely related to the cultural, social, environmental, political and legal aspects of indigenous discourse. Indigenous right to food examines critical questions of access to healthy, culturally appropriate food, including transgenerational practices central to its production and consumption, as well as issues of ownership and control of land, traditional knowledge, governance, etc.* [33]

> *A bridge must be made between rural and urban, young and old, and indigenous and settler communities to co-create equitable solutions that prioritize human rights-especially the right to nature. - We must shift the historical narratives of our food system by holding institutions and individuals accountable for injustices such as appropriation, colonial and capitalist mindsets, and cultural theft.*[34]

> *The main challenge in sustaining indigenous food production is the absence of formal recognition by countries of IPs' rights to their lands, territories, resources and the practice of their culture, traditional knowledge and to determine their development, including food systems. Other challenges are diminishing labor supply, loss of seeds, erratic climate and disintegrating traditional knowledge, values and practices; and*

[32] Pacific Region Consolidated Report for Independent Dialogues of Indigenous Peoples: Right to Food and Food Systems of Indigenous Peoples, 7 July 2021, page 9
[33] Right to food and food systems of Indigenous Peoples Russian Federation, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, June 10 2021, page 5
[34] Looking Back to Move Forward: Ancestral Roots & Regenerative Agriculture, 26 May 2021, 11913, page 7

discrimination of rotational farming as backward, problematic, illegal and even criminalized in some Asian countries. Fish, wild edibles and other non-timber forest products are disappearing due to the entry of extractive industries and monocrop plantations, among others. Such progressive disruption of Indigenous Peoples' food systems and livelihoods are resulting in insecurity and vulnerability to shocks especially in times of emergency like the impacts of climate change (la nina, el nino) and the COVID-19 pandemic.[35]

Over thousands of years, we have nurtured reciprocal symbiotic and respectful relationships between our peoples and the [Arctic] environment, and we have transferred our knowledge through countless generations. Our cultural identities, our values, our spirituality, and overall mental and physical wellness are tied to our total environment, of which we are an intimate part of. This is what makes up our food security – our access, availability, stability, health and wellness, cultures, languages, and spirituality. Our governance and stewardship, proven sustainable practices, ownership, decision-making power, and management are all connected to our food sovereignty. Our food sovereignty is tied to the health and wellness of the entire ecosystem and necessary to ensure our food security."[36]

Build our food sovereignty initiatives: urban, rural and intertribally, continue to design and promote programming and support for Indigenous Peoples living in urban and rural landscapes to transform our food landscapes. Creating urban food sovereignty Initiatives and collectives: to address the many forms of isolation that urban Native/Indigenous communities face, participates spoke to the initiatives they are leading in Detroit to build food sovereignty initiatives focused on education, alliance and capacity building, community decision making bodies, public park and urban land use for food growing spaces, and looking at how land resources can be stewarded collectively in urban landscapes. Establish local food sovereignty alliances as a decision-making body for community decisions: A community body for decision-making is a model that has been created and applied by urban Native communities to facilitate community decision making processes. This idea was brought forward as a way to build community capacity and collaborations towards food systems/community transformations. [37]

Indigenous Peoples need to be able to carry out hunting, fishing, and harvesting on the ceded territories in treaties and legally designated territories of Indigenous Peoples, where rights to hunt, fish, and gather traditional food is guaranteed by the state actors. This requires the environments to be healthy, land and waters to be pristine (uncontaminated), and federal/state governments to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples' access and educate law enforcement and the public on

[35] Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, 8 June 2021, 24071, page 6
[36] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council, page 1
[37] Turtle Island Dialogue: Transforming Isolation, 15 April 2021, 10198, page 5

> *Indigenous Peoples' harvesting rights to prevent harassment and violence. Agriculture production, agricultural contaminants, and extractive industries have an impact on surrounding lands, waters, and wildlife that adversely impacts the health of the surrounding ecosystems and movement of wildlife, and thus the food systems of Indigenous Peoples.*[38]

Technology & Infrastructure Support: Marginalized food systems require equitable investments.

Indigenous Peoples' participation in food systems is constrained by poor access to technology and infrastructure. In the 13 July focus group, convenors cited the need for a range of technological and infrastructure supports to improve equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples in food systems, such as: financing, databases, internet access, software in Indigenous languages, access to education, equipment, internships, and promotional innovations to increase consumption of nutritious local foods.

> *We need to start supporting agroecological systems the same way we support industrial production systems. Current land grants are able to utilize millions of dollars and extension agents throughout the state. We need to do the same thing with agroecological and traditional Indigenous Peoples' food system approaches. This would include increased localized production through market incentives for local economies of scale, incentives to promote agrobiodiversity by working with local chefs and restaurants, and an increased support of conservation and biocentric production by limiting the over management of land for exports*[39]

> *Develop e-commerce platforms connecting duly registered AFCI members and consumers, with the backing of health and environmental authorities. Incorporate the presentation of Peasant and Indigenous Family Farming Organizations (AFCI) in primary education as a system of production and development beneficial to humanity, due to its contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources and the integration of the rural population into the economy. Connect AFCI with culinary professionals to train them in the knowledge of the attributes of their products, and thus increase the demand for quality, healthy food. Support specific points of sale for consumers to easily access fresh and processed AFCI products in national markets, local markets and specialty stores. Promote fairs, exhibitions and tastings of AFCI products in urban centers to connect them with operators and consumers.*[40]

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[38] 2nd Listening Session: Recommendations from North American Indigenous Peoples, towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, 28 May 2021, 22022, attachment: Expanded Findings_ NA Indigenous Peoples 2nd Listening Session_ 28 May 2021_, page 3

[39] 2nd Listening Session: Recommendations from North American Indigenous Peoples, towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, 28 May 2021, 22022, attachment: Expanded Findings NA Indigenous Peoples 2nd Listening Session_ 28 May 2021, page 3

[40] Diálogo Autónomo de las Organizaciones de la Agricultura Familiar Campesina e Indígena (AFCI) del Cono Sur sobre Sistemas Alimentarios, 21 June 2021, 30593, page 7

There is a need for a financing mechanism to develop a global Knowledge Repository to integrate Indigenous Knowledge complemented by emerging information technology-based solutions into the Food Systems. (Convenor

We stand in solidarity with our Indigenous Peoples and Nations to offer our determination and conviction of the importance of combining innovation with technologies and looking for new ways to stop the disappearance of ancestral knowledge, much of it oral, in our Indigenous Peoples' communities about plants, animals and ecosystems that constitute the foundations of our cultures, customs, beliefs, cosmogony and language. We are aware of the urgency of looking for new formulas that guarantee the transmission of the knowledge of our peoples before it disappears, along with the departure of our elders, old women and old men.[41]

Technology innovation —driven by geotagging, agrotagging, Earth observation, machine learning, and ICT-enabled citizen science, mapping new consumerism — which provides essential entry points for integrating the local knowledge and indigenous intelligence for site-specific advisory, access to services/information that benefits the remote and smallholder farmers and consumers while safeguarding the environmental flows.[42]

Moreover, challenges in food processing and marketing, in general, such as lack of post-harvest infrastructure, processing facilities, processing technologies, product development and problems related to marketing and transportation affect IP initiatives and innovations. There is also a general lack of basic social services in most IP communities to enable their access to information, services and support to their agencies.[43]

We ask Governments and funders to commit to investing in infrastructure and capacity building for and by Indigenous Peoples' communities to build accredited processing centres for foods, community gardens/growing areas for traditional foods, and connecting to composting, recycling systems and networks to reduce waste. We ask funders, private sector and government to commit funds to Indigenous-led programming and training for Indigenous Youth's capacity development and education.[44]

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.[45]

[41] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 14-16 June 2021,32240, attachment: Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems page 2
[42] Integrating Indigenous Knowledge with Emerging Technologies to Enhance Sustainability and Resilience of Food System, 31 May 2021, 20041, page 7
[43] Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, 8 June 2021, 24071, page 6
[44] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 14-16 June 2021,32240, attachment: Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems, page 4
[45] Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice, 5 June 2021,12769, page 6

Improve the thought and design behind land and water use: Many participants shared that where they live, land is not being used effectively to improve their communities' health or safety. Instead, many expressed the opposite. Our dialogue stimulated ideas and thoughts of how collaborations could be developed in urban and rural communities to transform land and water use so that communities are better cared for, safer, and promote health. In some areas, this may require the cooperation of many municipalities and different stakeholder groups. One such example is approaching city governments for community garden spaces in city parks, this is working in some cities.[46]

Respect IPs who want to preserve and develop their food systems or prefer not to engage/link with the broader food systems (i.e. hunters-gatherers/IPs in voluntary isolation) vs. Communities are target markets [47]

There needs to be investment into communities to create opportunities for young people to remain in their communities without setting themselves further behind. We want to preserve the food systems within the communities considering it is being endangered by the current plight of Indigenous youth into urban areas (which is due to factors from global warming, advancement of tech and modernization)...youth have access to modern education compared to the elders - so we wanted to merge the modern and the traditional ways." ...Youth is the largest proportion of the population in most of the communities ~ 75% so they need to play a bigger role in preserving Indigenous food systems, and harness their knowledge from formal education, and access to smartphones and internet compared to elders, and increased financial services ...In order to bridge the info generational gap we need to develop mobile apps that can store info on important Indigenous food information to help preserve information and ways to preserve food systems.[48]

Non-returnable [financial] support for co-innovations by Indigenous Family Farmers (FFs) and research institutes to expand biologically, environmentally and economically sustainable production systems...Subsidized investment loans and working capital for the transition from conventional to agroecological systems... Ensure that FFs have access to quality seeds, based on the collection, selection and genetic improvement of native seeds.[49]

Relational Worldview: Indigenous Peoples' food systems generate more than nutrition.

Indigenous Peoples' belief systems involve spiritual kinship and biocentric responsibility of humans toward all other beings and elements in nature. Relational worldview attends to the intrinsic rights of

[46] Turtle Island Dialogue: Transforming Isolation, 15 April 2021, 10198, page 8
[47] Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, 8 June 2021, 24071, page 11
[48] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 14-16 June 2021,32240, attachment: Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems, page 13
[49] Diálogo Autónomo de las Organizaciones de la Agricultura Familiar Campesina e Indígena (AFCI) de Uruguay sobre Sistemas Alimentario, 10 June 2021, 30583, page 8

other species and the natural environment, as well as to socially equitable access to natural resources. Relationality in food systems goes beyond the dependence of humans on ecosystems from an instrumental, economic, nutritional, or mental health perspective; it is concerned with the rights and wellbeing of other species and the planet.[50] Nature-positive stewardship of traditional food systems is necessary to sustain all aspects of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, belief systems, and wellbeing.

> *And again, we Indigenous Peoples work to bend, and we work to reshape, and package our indigenous ways of knowing and knowledge into the rubric that works best for others comprehension, because we see our people hungry and vulnerable, we see other people hungry and vulnerable, and we see our mother earth on the edge of off catastrophe.....Indigenous Peoples' food systems are intimately tied to the natural world and can provide food and nutritional security, whilst restoring ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity. Such protection and preservation is fundamentally aligned with the human and cultural rights that guarantee the survival of Indigenous Peoples.* (Convenor)

> *There is little time to lose; today we are witness to the pandemic of mistreated biodiversity. We must urgently reconcile humans with surrounding environments and restore our relationship with nature.*[51]

> *Through public awareness, promote respect for Mother Nature's rights to maintain a harmonious and balanced relationship with the biological cycles of the soil, subsoil and territorial space.*[52]

> *IPs maintain a sacred relationship with nature because it supports their lives and wellbeing. IP territories are the primary factors in food production. This includes not only the land but all the resources and the services they provide that supports food production and regeneration*[53]

> *The ultra-processed foods have contributed to "nutritional trauma" as the spiritual values underlying indigenous and faith communities, of the holiness of food and the bodies of human beings, are disregarded… There is a need to produce food that supports regenerative growth and holistic biodiversity support. Equitable food production that includes equity for plant and animal kingdoms is culturally appropriate.*[54]

> *We assert that the Indigenous and biocentric ecological restoration must be urgently prioritized by Member States and relevant stakeholders, as it is the insurance for our*

[50] FAO. 2021. Whitepaper/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, pages 11-12
[51] UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues,35212, 10 June 2021, page 6
[52] Diálogos independientes con pueblos indígenas, con la participación de mujeres indígenas agricultoras, productoras, procesadoras y comerciantes de alimentos, camino a la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre Sistemas Alimentarios, 11 June 2021,28726, page 7
[53] Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, 8 June 2021, 24071, page 11
[54] Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice, 5 June 2021,12769, page 9

collective future on the planet and the surest way to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We call upon the Private Sector and all parties to cease practices causing destruction and contamination of our waters, forests, air and lands.[55]

In contrast to the tracks identified by scientists that have largely defined food systems of the dominant society, for Inuit and Sámi food is not just about calories or nutrients. It is a core part of our culture, identity, and pride. Our food systems provide the foundation of our existence and our holistic world view. Our distinctive and profound relationship with our lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources includes the understanding that we are an integral part of the environment. As such, we must uphold our responsibilities to future generations in this regard.[56]

Conserving indigenous food heritage and natural foods that help sustain indigenous women working on the fields throughout the day to produce what we eat is important for good health and nutrition. Eg carbohydrate and starchy foods which are the most common staple foods found in an average IP homes in Africa. There is also a high market demand for indigenous foods by Africans in the diaspora and this provides a huge opportunity for our indigenous peoples to grow their income exporting these home grown foods to global markets. Agriculture and food systems are also sustained by conservation of our indigenous food sovereignty to promote our traditional heritages and cultural values that are being passed down from generation to generation. For instance, in the south eastern part of Nigeria, Yam is a highly revered and respected food crop by the Igbo ethnic group in such a way that they annually celebrated the new yam festival worldwide. Any great yam farmer is an accomplished and well respected man in the Igbo society. (Convenor)

Indigenous Peoples who have become reliant on highly-processed foods are suffering disproportionately from diet-related chronic illness. Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems are nutritionally dense with high diversity of nutritious flora and fauna from ecosystems around the world. Such biodiverse diets support food security. As made clear through the dialogues, Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems are essential to their mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health. This includes the concept of food sovereignty, which is important for Indigenous Peoples to manage their own food production and be included in decisions that impact the sustainability of the ecosystems they rely on and with which they have a traditional stewardship responsibility. Additionally, equitable investments in Indigenous Peoples' access to technology and infrastructure is necessary to mitigate longstanding marginalization and enable participation in food production. Indigenous Peoples can contribute valuable traditional knowledge to the transformation of food systems.

[55] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 14-16 June 2021,32240, attachment: Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems, page 4

[56] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council, , page 2

Section 3:
How Indigenous Peoples Want to Engage in the Summit and Beyond

The Independent Dialogues contained some guidance on how to engage Indigenous Peoples in the Summit itself. The 13 July focus group with conveners provided additional clarity on how to include Indigenous Peoples' perspectives within (1) the Summit through representation, (2) Action Tracks and Coalitions through implementation, and (3) future progress through monitoring and evaluation.

Co-creation of knowledge, science, and policy is necessary to protect Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods and to innovate more sustainable food systems for all. A lack of sufficient and meaningful engagement has been identified as both a driver of marginalization and a barrier to progress. The Dialogue reports and focus group participants identified the need to build on existing UN infrastructure to include delegations of Indigenous Peoples from the beginning of Summit planning, and to continue effective engagement after the Summit.

Representation: Respect Indigenous Peoples' perspectives among those of Member States

Some Dialogue reports and focus group participants described the engagement of Indigenous Peoples' in Summit preparation as insufficient and on short notice. Convenors who participated in the focus group reiterated the importance of early and meaningful participation in all Summit planning, including participation on the Scientific Group. Engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the Summit is an opportunity to improve the understanding among UN Member States, the UN system, and Scientific Communities about historic and necessary relationships of Indigenous Peoples with their natural environments. Indigenous youth are important to engage in the entire agenda of the Food Systems Summit, including plenary sessions and breakout sessions.

The success of Indigenous Peoples' engagement in the Summit requires addressing practical and logistical barriers, for example, by allowing more time and giving more advance notice for Indigenous Peoples to engage. Because many Indigenous Peoples may have poor internet connection, it was recommended that engagement in Pre-Summit Independent Dialogues include a printed form that Indigenous Peoples could respond to in writing. The Summit was noted to have too many different categories of initiatives seeking attention and input: "Action Tracks, clusters, game changing solutions, proto-coalitions, etc."

> *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.*[57]

[57] Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice, 5 June 2021,12769, page 6

Transmitting our Knowledge to future generations and lack of respect for and recognition of Indigenous Knowledge based upon our long-standing sustainable way of life are also of increasing concern. The lack of equity, meaningful engagement, and real partnership in international and national processes and decision-making bodies is a persistent concern. Many intergovernmental actors and processes do not understand, support, or acknowledge the content of meaningful engagement from an Indigenous human rights framework or perspective.[58]

UNFSS must recognise the importance of Indigenous Peoples' languages for biodiversity preservation and continuation of Indigenous Peoples' food systems, yet also political inclusiveness through producing information also in Indigenous languages… Indigenous Peoples' political participation in the UNFSS cannot be limited to spiritual ceremonies, they must be given policy space and be respected in the game changing solutions. Funding consultations for Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Women are also key steps on the way towards an inclusive Summit.[59]

Speakers and participants through the workgroups reiterated the primacy of the recognition of their collective rights to their territories as a lever for change that the UNFSS should advance. How this is intricately linked to resource and biodiversity conservation and the sustained well-being of people and planet cannot be overemphasized.[60]

Implementation: Protect Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and rights within and across Action Tracks and Coalitions

In the 8 July 2021 webinar for leaders from Indigenous groups to present the findings of their Dialogues, it was raised that Indigenous leaders and experts should be added to Solution Clusters and to Action Track committees. It was also requested that Indigenous scientists be invited to join the UN Food Systems Summit Scientific Group and that delegations of Indigenous Peoples be included from the onset of post-Summit actions and implementation strategies, with resources allocated for proper compensation. On 13 July 2021, focus group participants affirmed that the direct and effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples in post-Summit action needs to uphold their right to participate by and for themselves. Engagement and preparations to implement game-changing solutions should be established with appropriate UN agencies, Member States, and others such as the World Bank, philanthropies, and Agribusiness investors. There was a desire for an agreement on how Indigenous Peoples should be engaged post-Summit, and it was proposed that a timeline for engagement in implementation be announced at the Summit.

Many dialogues highlighted the importance of engaging youth, who are often equipped with both modern technology and traditional knowledge, and who are a large proportion of Indigenous Peoples'

[58] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council, , page 3
[59] Contributions from Indigenous peoples' food systems to Action Track 2 and the shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns, April 7 2021, 10770, page 7
[60] Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, 8 June 2021, 24071, page 5

populations. The engagement of women was also raised as a priority because women contribute heavily to food systems while also experiencing particular forms of marginalization with associated vulnerabilities. Several Dialogues identified the need for the United Nations and Member States to more effectively engage Indigenous Peoples.

> *The true way to food freedom is through empowerment. Solutions without Indigenous voices are no solutions at all," stated Marlene Wakefield, member of the Seneca Nation and Research and Resources Director for the Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).*[61]

> *We urge the FAO, IFAD, WFP, and other relevant Organizations based in Rome to organize an annual meeting with Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions in order to have a systematic dialogue with Rome based agencies to ensure coordination and coherence on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in relation to our food systems The objective of the Indigenous led annual meeting is to discuss and 8 assess the diverse agencies, policies, and programmes of the Rome based UN agencies and to facilitate and ensure the direct, effective, and active involvement of Indigenous Peoples with all related UN agencies, programmes, and organizations. Such an annual meeting also promotes accountability by encouraging Indigenous Peoples' representatives to provide direct feedback on policies, programmes, and activities of Rome based agencies and encourages policy dialogue between the Rome Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Peoples themselves.*[62]

> *Given the lack of infrastructure at the UN to engage Indigenous peoples including youths, there is a need to build on existing and missing infrastructure.* (Convenor)

> *It is necessary to improve, enhance and reinforce the institutional environment and capacities of state officials at the national level, and representatives of bodies within the UN system to collaborate with indigenous traditional knowledge holders. A diverse list of activities and events on traditional knowledge must be prepared in order to achieve a better understanding and increased awareness of indigenous traditions, including food-based knowledge systems; involving people who have dedicated themselves to working on indigenous issues and those who are in any way related to indigenous food-based systems. When and only when policymakers truly embrace and understand the concepts of traditional cultures, and interaction is built on mutual respect and human rights, can policies be collectively developed and implemented that truly recognize, protect, preserve indigenous knowledge, traditional cultures and practices.* [63]

[61] High-level Expert Seminar on North American Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, towards the 2021UN Food Systems Summit , 15 December 2020, 22034, page 9

[62] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council, , page 3

[63] UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues,35212, 10 June 2021, page 6

There was no disagreement that things must change but the why and how of that change differed for all of the participants. This we believe to be the most important part - that there is no single solution and that any solutions that are created must be culturally and geographically appropriate, and meet people as people rather than as commodities or numbers on a page. True change happens in a society due to shifts in values and worldview.[64]

Any policies developed in the sphere of food security, biodiversity, climate change and other related areas should include legal measures and standards protecting the knowledge, cultures and traditions of indigenous peoples. These measures should be based on human rights and international law and elaborated collectively with the full and active participation of indigenous peoples at every stage of the development process; should include productive institutions in the dialogue and ensure indigenous women's participation.[65]

Implement measures to protect Indigenous lands and territories from extractive activities that cause biodiversity loss, pollution, water pollution and soil degradation among others.[66]

Women possess and apply important indigenous knowledge, systems and practices in the food systems including on wild edible plants, seeds, etc. but they have limited access to the other means of production, processing and distribution… Their roles and contributions in the food systems are not recognized and are not included in decision-making processes. Sadly, they continue to be sexually harassed. Elders continue to perform traditional rituals related to food production and IPs' relationship with lands/forests and nature/environment but there are cases of censorship by government affecting its vitality and could lead to disintegration. ...The UNFSS should clearly repudiate the marginalization of indigenous food systems. Consistent to its principles of engagement, it should champion the promotion and advancement of indigenous food systems as an equitable and sustainable solution while creating opportunities to strengthen these not only for food security but also because of its intersecting function in biodiversity and resource conservation, and climate change mitigation and resilience.[67]

We call upon FAO and UN Member States to ensure respect for and recognition of the rights of Arctic Indigenous Peoples in the context of international agreements that impact their unique food systems to ensure that their decisions, actions, and policies do not diminish or undermine such rights. Furthermore, we call upon all environmental and conservation-oriented UN Agencies and all international, regional,

[64] Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice, 5 June 2021,12769, page 9
[65] UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues,35212, 10 June 2021, page 6
[66] Pacific Region Consolidated Report for Independent Dialogues of Indigenous Peoples: Right to Food and Food Systems of Indigenous Peoples, 7 July 2021, page 14
[67] Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, 8 June 2021, 24071, page 6

> *and national nongovernmental organizations to respect and recognize the rights of Arctic Indigenous Peoples to all elements of their food systems, including their lands, territories, and resources.*[68]

> *Indigenous Youth need to be at the table and part of decision-making. They will be the next entrepreneurs of their communities to sustain food security. Legislation needs to be changed to enable youth participation: to secure land rights and tenure. Indigenous Peoples need mechanisms and spaces and access to funds/funding. How else can we develop the programs and projects that allow young people to stay at home to do and value these activities?*[69]

Monitoring and Evaluation: Engage Indigenous Peoples to define, assess, and interpret progress

Across socio-cultural regions, Indigenous Peoples identified that their worldview, spirituality, knowledge systems and belief systems are integral to their relationship with food systems and need to be both protected and reflected in how progress on post-Summit action is planned, monitored, and evaluated.

Focus group convenors stressed that Indigenous Peoples' food systems cannot be characterised according to dominant conceptualisations, which are often presented as linear value chains. Indigenous Peoples' food systems emphasize circularity; They comprise different values, systems of governance, and cultural relations to food, and means of food generation. One focus group participant commented that the creation of a concrete framework for Indigenous Peoples' nature-based solutions is critically important. Participants proposed that initiatives emerging from the Summit process be supported by an evaluation roadmap to examine progress at short, medium, and long-term timeframes. Conveners stated that monitoring and evaluation of progress to transform food systems should involve Indigenous people and apply an agreed-upon methodology and tools. The inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge in research and evaluation to understand progress on food systems transformation, must protect intellectual property rights and all associated rights and protocols.

> *It will be imperative that we advocate for inclusion in, and funding for, the long term monitoring of all outcomes of the FSS in order to ensure global adherence to the tenets of UNDRIP and the tenets of Free Prior and Informed Consent of all Indigenous Peoples. (Convenor in focus group)*

> *Any initiative to create online databases on food systems, cultures, traditions and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, or to use or apply indigenous knowledge to transform food policies, should be based on the principle of free, prior and informed consent and indigenous intellectual property rights.*[70]

[68] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council, page 5
[69] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 14-16 June 2021, 32240, page 8
[70] UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues,35212, 10 June 2021, page 6

BIPOC and traditional agriculture need to be uplifted through research and academia which influences policy.[71]

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...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[72]*.*

It is crucial that everyone, no matter their political or economic clout, can see their role in food systems change because urban communities and consumers hold power in demanding food systems change with their actions. We must enforce a system of accountability to ensure that people are given the right to their land- allowing for ancestral and nature-positive production...Reciprocity between producers and consumers; land and mouth; rural and urban connection is crucial. We must build networks of relationships. We must move forward in a way that food- good food, is a commons, land is protected, and small farmers are empowered.[73]

Actively protect Indigenous peoples' right to control access to, and use of, their knowledge, including intellectual property. This should incorporate effective remedies, sanctions and measures to protect indigenous peoples against unauthorized use and misappropriation of their knowledge by States, businesses and other actors, including: civil and criminal damages; injunctions by courts; and development of mechanisms both domestic and international, based on a human rights framework with the particular aim of implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.[74]

Indigenous knowledge (IK) is scattered, at times exists in small pockets, much of the IK is transferred through practices and not well documented. As younger generations migrate to urban areas, fewer and fewer people know about IK. Therefore, there is an urgent need of developing technology-based Global Knowledge Repository to integrate Indigenous Knowledge into the Food Systems" by utilizing frontier technologies for the development of a portal that captures, processes, analyses and presents Indigenous knowledge through multiple sources

[71] Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice, 5 June 2021,12769,, page 8
[72] 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, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 6
[73] Looking Back to Move Forward: Ancestral Roots & Regenerative Agriculture, 26 May 2021, 11913, page 8
[74] Pacific Region Consolidated Report for Independent Dialogues of Indigenous Peoples: Right to Food and Food Systems of Indigenous Peoples, 7 July 2021, page 13

such as compiling knowledge from existing studies, sponsor new studies, specific need-based projects and routine surveys. (Convenor in focus group)

We have defined Indigenous Knowledge as "a systematic way of thinking and knowing that is elaborated and applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and linguistic systems. Indigenous Knowledge is owned by the holders of that knowledge, often collectively, and is uniquely expressed and transmitted through indigenous languages. It is a body of knowledge generated through cultural practices, lived experiences including extensive and multigenerational observations, lessons and skills. It has been developed and verified over millennia and is still developing in a living process, including knowledge acquired today and in the future, and it is passed on from generation to generation." Indigenous Knowledge is transmitted by practicing our traditional livelihoods and occupations, as well as our languages, all of which are essential to our food systems.[75]

Science led modern agriculture and food systems do not integrate indigenous knowledge to great extent despite the debates on bridging the gap between science and indigenous knowledge and bridging the knowledge Bridging scientific and indigenous peoples' knowledge for sustainable and inclusive food systems requires high level political and knowledge integration...To optimize the potentials of traditional knowledge systems however, a bottom-up approach is essential, based on a dense network of research institutions embedded within their local contexts....Building new paradigmatic frameworks of knowledge, dialogue and ecology, where scientific and traditional knowledge can take advantage of the richness of the biocultural food heritage is important to achieve the nexus of science and indigenous knowledge...Generally, policy reforms need to aim at building local knowledge and support collective resource management.[76]

Food Systems Framework: This framework should be connected to the proposed national hubs, where Indigenous Peoples need to be present, also to ensure enhanced understanding of diversity of contexts. Such frameworks can be important tools to map the importance of Indigenous Peoples' food systems in a country and create more evidence for Indigenous Peoples' food systems. It is important to recognise Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and worldviews in the development of these frameworks.[77]

We urge Member States to develop Intellectual property legislative frameworks recognizing and protecting Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge systems. We

[75] First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems, 3-4 June 2021, 2837, attachment Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council, , page 2
[76] Bridging scientific and indigenous peoples' knowledge for sustainable and inclusive food systems, *July 6 2021, 29115 page 6*
[77] Contributions from Indigenous peoples' food systems to Action Track 2 and the shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns, April 7 2021, 10770, page 7

> *urge Member States and United Nations Agencies to guarantee Indigenous Peoples' control over our Traditional Knowledge for effective intergenerational transfer of our knowledge, without the risk of misappropriation or misuse by third parties. Further, we ask that they put into place enforcement mechanisms upholding and protecting Indigenous Peoples' cultural rights to sustain connection to our food systems…. We urge Member States, FAO and other UN agencies to implement the recommendations of the Rome Declaration on the Contribution of Indigenous Youth towards a World Without Hunger. Especially we highlight the need to generate disaggregated data and specific indicators of Indigenous Youth on issues of access to land and territory, health, food security, education and participation.*[78]

According to the Dialogues and focus group outcomes included in this report, reciprocity, transparency, and accountability in the implementation of the Articles comprising the UNDRIP is important to decolonize food systems and mitigate the negative impacts that dominant food systems have had on Indigenous Peoples and their traditional food systems. Respectful recognition and ethical engagement of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives is a priority in the co-creation of monitoring and evaluation, scientific evidence, and food systems research. It is necessary to respect, recognize, and protect Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and intellectual property while engaging Indigenous Peoples in the definition, measurement, and interpretation of progress toward food systems transformation.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Several of the Dialogues contain sets of recommendations addressed to the United Nations, the Food Systems Summit, and Member States. The use of modern technology, together with traditional knowledge, is seen as a way to increase production and access to local food and positively engage youth in their cultural heritage while encouraging them to participate directly in food systems as a livelihood. Increased respect and protection for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, their traditional knowledge, and relationship with their traditional territories is the subject of many Dialogue recommendations.

Across and within socio-cultural regions, Dialogues describe great diversity among traditional food systems and context-specific challenges to food security. The Dialogues also demonstrate broad agreement that Indigenous Peoples' food systems are resilient and regenerative, and that they are a game-changing proposition for the achievement of food system transformation and the SDGs. The contribution of Indigenous Peoples' food systems to the Food Systems Summit and beyond requires enforcement of UNDRIP and equitable investments to offset many longstanding systemic forms of marginalization that create food insecurity and interconnected conditions of vulnerability such as ecological instability, gender inequity, and cultural erosion. The engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the transformation of food systems is fundamental to nature-positive solutions that address biodiversity loss and climate change.

[78] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 14-16 June 2021,32240, attachment: Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems, page 3- 4

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Annex A: Independent Dialogues Reviewed

Title	Convenor(s)	Date	ID#	# Participants	# Indigenous
Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit & Indigenous United Nations Food Systems Summit Champions	14-16 June 2021	32240	160	80
Faith + Food: Food Security, Access, and Justice	Andrew Schwartz, Centre for Earth Ethics	6 May 2021	12769	Not specified	not specified
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	Asikaralu Okafor, CEO, Maklumy Technology Services Limited	19 April 2021	12151	17	17
Integrating Indigenous Knowledge with Emerging Technologies to Enhance Sustainability and Resilience of Food System	Milind Pimprikar, Chairman, CANEUS; FILAC and UNOOSA	31 May 2021	20041	104	40
Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems	Eleanor Dictaan-Baang, Tebtebba - Convenor; Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and the Steering Committee of the Indigenos Peoples' Forum at IFAD - Co-Convenors	8 June 2021	24071	78	69

Looking Back to Move Forward: Ancestral Roots & Regenerative Agriculture	Maya Mehta & Alejandra Bautista, The Social Gastronomy Movement	26 May 2021	11913	59	1
Turtle Island Dialogue: Transforming Isolation	FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit & UNFSS Indigenous Champion [Denisa Livingston - Appointed Member of the Champions Network of the UN Food Systems Summit]	15 June 2021	10198	17	14
Turtle Island Dialogue: Traditional Harvesting	Ken Paul (Wolastoqwey Neqotkuk First Nation) Lead Researcher & Negotiator of Fisheries of Wolastoqwey First Nation	8 April 2021	10195	32	29
Contributions from Indigenous peoples' food systems to Action Track 2 and the shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns	The Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems and Action Track 2 of the UNFSS	7 April 2021	10770	32	3
2nd Listening Session: Recommendations from North American Indigenous Peoples, towards the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	28 May 2021	22022	37	27
First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems and the Arctic Region Declaration from Inuit Circumpolar Council and Saami Council	Inka Saara Arttijeff & Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa, Indigenous Peoples Unit, FAO the United Nations; UNPFII; Dalee Sambo Dorough, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council; Anne Nuorgam, Head of Human Rights Unit,	3 June 2021	28371	36	30

	Saami Council				
Independent Dialogue on Indigenous Food Systems- Key Messages from Indigenous Peoples in Africa	Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)	8 June 2021	not uploaded	not specified	not specified
Right to food and food systems of Indigenous Peoples Russian Federation Eastern 7 Russia Europe Central Asia Dialogue on FSS Report 24 06 21 ENG.docx Europe and Central Asia	Aborigen Forum in a partnership with the Center for support of Indigenous peoples of the North (CSIPN)	10 June 2021	not uploaded	53	not specified
Pacific Region Consolidated Report for Independent Dialogues of Indigenous Peoples: Right to Food and Food Systems of Indigenous Peoples	Pawanka Fund and the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland Inc.	7 July 2021	not uploaded	27	not specified
The Path to Food Sovereignty in the United States: Experiences from Food Systems Leaders in the American Southwest and Puerto Rico - Food Systems Summit Dialogues*	Tufts University Food Systems Graduate Student Network, Friedman Food Policy Action Coalition, and the Student Alliance	9 June 2021	23658		
Traditional and Indigenous Foods for Food Systems Transformation in Africa*	Prof Linley Chiwona-Karltun, African Nutrition Society and Dr Patrick Maundu, IUNS Task Force on	20 May 2021	12901		

	Traditional and Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition				
Bridging scientific and indigenous peoples' knowledge for sustainable and inclusive food systems	Dr. Katharina Löhr (Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research - ZALF), Dr. Harry Hoffmann (Welthungerhilfe - WHH)	6 July 2021	29115	41	0
Climate Change & Food Systems' Transformation: Focus on Small Island States and Indigenous Peoples*	Dr Cristina Tirado (WFP, IPCC)	7 July 2021	29876		
Advancing Smart, Climate Friendly & Sustainable Food Production: Exploring Alternative & Indigenous Food Systems Transformation in Botswana*	Ms Jessica Mmola, Ms Nomhle Tshisela & Mr Letso Palai	21 July 2021	26819		
Pressures, Resilience, Questioning and Rethinking: Experiences and Perspectives on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems in Africa*	Mr. Kimaren Ole Riamit; Team Leader, Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)	8 June 2021	37613		
Diálogo Autónomo de las Organizaciones de la Agricultura Familiar Campesina e Indígena (AFCI) de Uruguay sobre Sistemas Alimentarios	COPROFAM - CLOC/Via Campesina	10 June 2021	30583	51	not specified
DIALOGOS INDEPENDIENTES DE PUEBLOS INDIGENAS DE AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE, DIALOGO CON	COORDINADORA ANDINA DE ORGANIZACIONES INDIGENAS - CAOI, Benito CALIXTO	11 June 2021	28726	55	50

AGRICULTORES, PESCADORES, GANADEROS Y PRODUCTORES INDIGENAS	GUZMAN - COORDINADOR GENERAL				
Diálogos independientes con pueblos indígenas, con la participación de mujeres indígenas agricultoras, productoras, procesadoras y comerciantes de alimentos, camino a la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre Sistemas Alimentarios	Luz Fernández	18 June 2021	22529	47	42
Diálogo Autónomo de las Organizaciones de la Agricultura Familiar Campesina e Indígena (AFCI) del Cono Sur sobre Sistemas Alimentarios	COPROFAM - CLOC/Via Campesina	21 June 2021	30593	50	not specified
UN Food Systems Summit, 2021: Regional Consultation / Саммит ООН по Продовольственным Системам 2021 Региональная консультация - Food Systems Summit Dialogues	Center for support of indigenous peoples of the North (CSIPN) , Aborigen Forum	10 June 2021	35212	53	49

* Indicates no Dialogue report was available. No participant data is available for dialogues with no reports.

Annex B: Links to Pre-Summit Presentations

The Food Systems Transformation pre-Summit was held at FAO in Rome on July 26-28, 2021. As an additional resource for this report, we are including links to Indigenous Peoples' presentations made at the pre-Summit.

- Closing plenary report from the Indigenous Peoples' Coalition at the pre-Summit: https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/580226992/636b527d3b

- Session devoted to Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives on Food Systems
  16:00 – 16:50 **Indigenous Peoples´ Food Systems: Game Changing Solutions for the World**
  The world's dominant food systems are major contributors to the current social, environmental, and economic crises that are affecting the entire planet: food insecurity, climate change, biodiversity loss, topsoil erosion, deforestation, and conflict. It's time for change. In contrast, Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems informed by ancestral knowledge are ecologically sustainable, resilient, nutritious, equitable, and self-determined. Indigenous Peoples have been, and continue to be, vital to agricultural innovation, biodiversity, global food security and the health and well-being of diverse and resilient societies. In this session, results will be presented from Indigenous Peoples' dialogues in seven socio-cultural regions, where 270 indigenous organizations, and 1,600 individuals participated to discuss the impacts that global food systems are having on Indigenous Peoples, and how Indigenous Peoples are supporting the creation of more sustainable, democratic, and nutritious food systems across the world.
    - **Moderator: Mr. Geoffrey Roth,** Member, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
    - **Opening Remarks: Ms. Anne Nuorgam,** Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
      https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/579906964/5a0ea68cf8
    - **H.E. Ine Eriksen Søreide**, Minister Foreign Affairs Norway
      https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/579906759/6886ad0cd7
    - **Chef Josef Andres**
      https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/579904274/d5024e30a0

AN INDEPENDENT DIALOGUES SPECIAL SYNTHESIS REPORT

Youth Perspectives on Food Systems

Written by

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Blue Marble Evaluation Team

July 2021

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Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge support for the Synthesis of the Independent Dialogues from the McKnight Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, IKEA Foundation, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and the Blue Marble Evaluation Network.

Blue Marble Evaluation Preface

This report was prepared by members of 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 (BME) teams have been working to synthesize themes across hundreds of Independent Dialogues, which resulted in two interim reports.[1] In doing so, the BME synthesis team and the Food Systems Summit Secretariat identified a need for a deeper dive into the perspectives of several key stakeholder groups: smallholder farmers and other small-scale producers, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and women. The data presented in this synthesis are from Independent Dialogues that focused on youth. Conveners of those dialogues were invited to participate in a special focus group to discuss cross-cutting themes, common issues, and divergent perspectives.

The authors of this report were selected for this deep dive synthesis because of their knowledge of the issues faced by youth and their support for including the voices of youth in research and evaluation. The interpretations expressed in this report, based on their analysis of dialogues and the subsequent focus groups, are solely those of the report authors and offered to support Summit deliberations. Author bios can be found at the conclusion of this report.

[1] Interim Report 1: https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-Interim-Synthesis-Report_FSS-Independent-Dialogues_.pdf and Interim Report 2: Interimhttps://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/unfss_independent_dialogue_synthesis_report_2_0.pdf

Executive Summary

Youth perspectives are critical to the future of food systems. This report provides a deep dive into the perspectives of youth on food systems and their importance to the Food Systems Summit. It is organized into three sections: (1) why a focus on youth perspectives is important, (2) youth perspectives on food systems, and (3) how youth want to engage in the Summit and beyond. Each section of the report offers key themes that emerged from a qualitative analysis of 17 Independent Dialogues and a focus group with five Dialogue convenors. The key themes in each section are summarized below. In the report that follows, quotes from Dialogue reports and conveners provide depth and context to these themes.

Key Themes by Section

1. **Why a Focus on Youth Perspectives is Important**
   - **Youth Inclusion.** Youth inclusion is critical for mobilizing other young people, empowering communities and ensuring future sustainability.
   - **Change Agents.** Youth are critical food systems actors and innovators.
   - **Knowledge Exchange.** The two-way sharing of knowledge between older generations and younger generations is key to the sustainability of good practices.
2. **Youth Perspectives on Food Systems**
   - **Increase Youth- specific Financing.** There is a need to create access to financing targeted at youth.
   - **Increase Opportunities for Capacity-building.** There was a call for training to be current, context specific and practice oriented.
   - **Increase Access to Technology**. Technology is one of the key tools to both save time and decrease effort.
3. **How Youth Want to Engage in the Summit & Beyond**
   - **Support Entrepreneurship and Employment.** Income generation opportunities need to be created and shared with youth.
   - **Promote Inclusive Policies.** Policies for youth should be created by youth.
   - **Engage Youth in Networks and Discussions.** Meaningful youth engagement can enable new collaborations.
   - **Facilitate Individual Farming.** Home and school gardens are the first step in developing passion for agriculture.

Our findings clearly illustrate that youth are an untapped asset for food system transformation. The inclusion of youth as equals in key decision-making processes, as opposed to including them as beneficiaries or affected populations, is essential; youth will carry the burden of today's actions. Section 1 identifies why youth perspectives are important; Section 2 illustrates various youth perspectives; and Section 3 provides seven ways to actively include youth in the Summit. We encourage the organizers and those who attend to the World Food Systems Summit to draw on these findings.

Introduction

To better understand the critical perspectives of young people, our team identified 42 Independent Dialogues that specifically focused on youth. Of those Dialogues, our team synthesized 17 reports, which represented 1,698 participants, with approximately 47.5% of whom were aged 0-30.

The topics covered in these Dialogues include climate smart agriculture, financing, technology and malnutrition, to name a few. A qualitative analysis of the Dialogue reports resulted in identifying key themes. Our BME team then explored those themes by engaging with the Dialogue convenors in an online focus group discussion. Five conveners attended the focus group, in which we asked three primary questions:

- Why do we need to focus on youth perspectives on food systems?
- What are the youth perspectives on food systems?
- How should youth be engaged in the Food Systems Summit?

The voices we present in this synthesis could never represent the diverse and sometimes divergent youth voices across food systems. Youth voices need to be heard through inclusive and meaningful dialogues at the Food Systems Summit. This report aims to support and, to the extent possible, inform those dialogues.

Section 1:
Why a Focus on Youth Perspectives is Important

Across the seventeen Independent Dialogues, youth perspectives revealed (1) youth inclusion is critical given the growing population within this demographic; (2) youth are critical agents of change; and (3) youth have important insights to share and learn to secure the future of food systems.

Youth Inclusion. Youth inclusion is critical for mobilizing other young people, empowering communities and ensuring future sustainability.

Youth are the future and the leaders of tomorrow; their perspectives are central in developing trajectories and achieving sustainability within food systems. There is a rapidly growing population of young people, especially in Africa, all of whom can make meaningful contributions across both food value chains, and to food and agri-related services. One Dialogue provides a succinct summary of this point and is provided below.

> *Despite Africa's endowment with abundant arable land and vast water resources, its agricultural sector is unable to supply enough food to the continent. With a rapidly growing youth population expected to double to over 830 million by 2050, youths remain Africa's greatest asset for its Food System Transformation. Nigeria, the most population African country with over 43% of its population as youths ranks 98th of 107 countries on the 2020 Global Hunger Index. With less youths involved in the food and agricultural sector, the need for youth inclusion in transforming the broken food system is imperative.*[2]

Youth are often not invited to participate in formal knowledge generating gatherings or asked to take part in political decision-making processes. Or when youth are included in these events, their voices are often drowned out by older, 'more experienced' people or people in powerful positions. Youth voices need to be heard and ***not*** be included in Dialogues and other processes merely as a tick box exercise. Youth voices bring perspectives different to those of other key stakeholder groups, which are often dismissed due their comparatively limited experience. However, dismissing youth's voices ignores an important source of insight, information and perspectives that would benefit the food system dialogue discussions. Two quotes from Dialogues are provided below that provide some insight to this finding.

> *General findings of the dialogue shows that there is a big need for just inclusion of young people in the conversation on sustainable food. There is a fear of "youth-washing", that young are being invited in general, but not listened to. Tokenism was also mentioned, and that there is a real need to actually act on what youth bring to the table.*[3]

[2] Addressing the Food System Dynamics: Nigerian Youths as Frontline Actors, 17 June 2021, 26055, page 5.
[3] The role of youth in food systems, 1 June 2021, 18613, page 6.

> *Youth are a strong part of society and their empowerment and full participation in productive processes and sectors of the economy are critical.*[4]

Change Agents. Youth are critical food systems actors and innovators.

Youth bring passion and energy to the food system transformation discussion, and provide the necessary workforce to transform food systems. For this reason, youth need to be included at every step of the food value chain. Notably, their familiarity with technology uniquely positions them to bring fresh ideas to resolve problems, especially those created by technology itself.

> *… session recognized youth as critical agents for change. Countries seeking to attain the SGDs with the commitment of leaving no one behind ought to engage youth from diverse backgrounds at various levels of planning, implementation and monitoring of interventions. This is particularly because youth are critical thinkers, change makers, innovators, communicators, and leaders of today and tomorrow.*[5]

There is strong evidence that suggests the positive impact of youth and their unique capabilities can accelerate food systems transition and align to the path of achieving Sustainable Development goal two for Zero Hunger.[6]

> *Young people can become drivers of future changes in food patterns to "call for" food issues.*[7]

Despite recognizing the importance of youth as food systems actors and innovators, the system appears to actively discourage them through structural challenges such as poor wages and at times, unpaid work. If youth who will inherit the future food systems are not actively engaged, the sustainability of food systems will be brought into question.

> *Youth are key players in creating change in food systems, thus it is important to create incentives to encourage youth to get involved and pursue careers in the food system sector.*[8]

Knowledge Exchange. The two-way sharing of knowledge between older generations and younger generations is key to the sustainability of good practices.

In most countries the population working in agriculture is ageing, and succession appears to be a problem for food system sustainability.[9] Older generations have key know-how of good practices, while younger generations bring new methods, a willingness to engage with technology and understanding on issues relating to environmental conservation. If youth are not engaged, a generation of producers could be lost, lowering the productivity of the sector. Furthermore, ignoring their insights on conservation can be counterproductive to the fight against climate change. The youth of today will tomorrow be responsible for knowledge transfer to those after them; and should be seen as critical intermediaries as well.

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[4] Youth as food systems actors and transformers: Global voices for inclusion, 1 June 2021, 16711, page 7.
[5] Youth as food systems actors and transformers: Global voices for inclusion, 1 June 2021, 16711, page 5.
[6] Piselli, D., Loni, S. S., Colyard, K., & Nordquist, S. 2019. The Role of Youth in Achieving the SDGs: Supporting Youth-Led Solutions for Sustainable Food Systems. In Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Through Sustainable Food Systems (pp. 229-245). Springer.
[7] Youth For Future of Indonesia Food System, 28 May 2021, 8091, page 10.
[8] Empowering Youth Food System Leaders, 13 July 2021, 29386, Page 14.
[9] White, B. 2015. Generational dynamics in agriculture: reflections on rural youth and farming futures. Cahiers Agricultures, 24(6), 330-334.

During the focus group discussion, the 'Strengthening the Resilience of the Darim Community in Facing the Impact of Climate Change to Achieve a Prosperous Life' initiative in Indonesia was brought to the attention of the evaluators. This initiative is a good example of inter-generational knowledge sharing that brings an element of establishing information systems and climate change adaptive technology.

> *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*.[10]

This generational gap provides an opportunity for the youth and the established farmers and others who work in the agricultural sector to learn from each other.[11] Several Dialogues spoke about this unique opportunity.

> *Exchange between youth and elders and intergenerational cooperation is key and crucial for the future of our way of life* [12]

> *Main activity of the KCA group is to share information - intergenerational sharing of information - the youth have access to modern education compared to the elders - so we wanted to merge the modern and the traditional ways.*[13]

> *Responding to the climate crisis provides an opportunity for young people to share what they are learning about environmental conservation.*[14]

[10] 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, 19 April 2021, 12151, page 7.
[11] Food & Business Knowledge Platform. 2018. Changing food systems and the power of youth.
[12] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 16 June 2021, 32240, page, page 8.
[13] Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021, 16 June 2021, 32240, page, page 13.
[14] Dialogue between refugee youths and the Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, Agnes Kalibata, 27 May 2021, 19154, page 6.

Section 2:
Youth Perspectives on Food Systems

Across the 17 Independent Dialogues, we found that the common youth perspective on food systems was to increase: (1) youth specific financing; (2) opportunities for capacity building; and (3) access to technology.

Increase Youth-specific Financing. There is a need to create access to financing targeted at youth.

Inadequate access to financial services is a principal challenge youth face in agriculture[15]. Youth can be very passionate about their ideas, however securing finance for those ideas is extremely challenging. One key requirement for access to financing is often land ownership, which is itself another constraint .[16] Other challenges to securing financing that were highlighted included transaction costs, interest rates and the fact that most young people do not usually have the required collateral. Furthermore, they have limited knowledge pertaining to how financing can be made accessible. These kinds of challenges then contribute to youth not pursuing their agricultural ambitions. Several quotes below provide depth to this finding.

> *Furthermore, participants commented that intergenerational wealth is almost a necessity to afford land and start-up costs in Canadian agriculture. In addition, working on farms requires long hours of hard work which is not always compensated with fair wages. It is imperative that youth are compensated fairly for their hard work so that they are able to take part in the food system.*[17]

> *Financial incentives such as grants and scholarships should be made to support youth performing internships or other forms of education needed for careers in the food system. In addition, more opportunities and student placements should be created so that students can get experience and have the opportunity to try out this career field. Many farming jobs require 2-3 seasons of prior experience, which can make it very difficult for someone who does not have family connections or the necessary resources to get into the industry.*[18]

> *.. underlined the importance of bridging the financing gap for these small and medium-scale entrepreneurs and the fact that this requires working both on the "demand side" of finance - particularly through effective platforms and initiatives to support access to information and skills development (including financial skills development) for young (aspiring) entrepreneurs, and on the "supply side", through better use of de-risking capital, shared metrics to assess investibility of new or existing enterprises, and better coordination among lenders and investors.*[19]

[15] FAO, CTA, IFAD. 2014. Youth and agriculture: Key challenges and concrete solutions.
[16] Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). 2012. Engaging Youth in Agricultural Policy Processes.
[17] Empowering Youth Food System Leaders, 13 July 2021, 29386, Page 8.
[18] Empowering Youth Food System Leaders, 13 July 2021, 29386, Page 14.
[19] Catalyzing finance for young food entrepreneurs, 23 February 2021, 3390, page 6.

Increase Opportunities for Capacity-building. Training that is current, context specific and practice oriented.

Our research suggests that another main challenge for youth to participate in the agricultural sector is insufficient access to knowledge, information, and education, which then hinders productivity, skills acquisition, and entrepreneurial spirit.[20] Opportunities for accessible and cheaper capacity building activities are fundamental to address the challenges they face in food systems transformation.

> *Africa must not outsource its food security (export jobs) but build capacity to bolster its global food production and export markets.*[21]

Educational institutions should investigate innovative approaches to sharing modern practices within their regions, with a primary focus on hands on practical training methods.

> *The most effective information systems are those that are close to users – whether closeness means accessibility of information services via digital tools (e.g., phones) or via radio or small-group training organized directly with young (prospective) entrepreneurs in the eld.*[22]

> *Increase focus on practice-oriented training through establishment of hands-on practical units and stations within training institutions; and development of enterprises that partner with universities in vocational training of graduates*.[23]

Additionally, extension services are critical to the transformation agenda; agricultural extension services are essential to ensuring new methods and key business skills are taught to farmers. Furthermore, there is a need to focus on training youth for production and to specifically cater training for those who are coming from human biology background in order to ensure that they are trained to contribute to the agricultural sector.

> *Assist youth in engaging in organic agricultural production. Organize trainings among youth on transferring knowledge and skills to operate production facilities.*[24]

Increase Access to Technology. Technology is one of the key tools to both save time and decrease effort.

Technology is a tool to transform food systems, but it also might be seen as a threat to traditional forms of work. However, youth have the experience, familiarity, and thinking needed to benefit from technological innovation and automation. Further, youth are often more familiar with new technologies and open to explore and take advantage of them in different environments.[25]

> *Need to ensure that technology works for the people and keep people in the sector and so that we do not replace the people within agriculture to create another crisis.*[26]

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[20] FAO, CTA, IFAD. 2014. Youth and agriculture: Key challenges and concrete solutions.
[21] Vice Chancellors Forum: Towards a Common Voice from African Universities to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, 20 May 2021, 16187, page 8.
[22] Catalyzing finance for young food entrepreneurs, 23 February 2021, 3390, page 8.
[23] Vice Chancellors Forum: Towards a Common Voice from African Universities to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, 20 May 2021, 16187, page 7.
[24] Youth and Sustainable Food Systems in Mongolia, 16 June 2021, 28784, page 8.
[25] United Nations. World Youth Report. Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2018.
[26] Global voices for inclusion, 1 June 2021, 16711, page 6.

The slow advancement of technology in the agricultural sector was seen as a deterrent for youth, who expressed their desire for low-cost technologic solutions to be available.

> *Increased access to affordable tech solutions. Current cost for access to the internet and to technological based solutions in the developing world is prohibitive. Youth and women cannot leverage technology to overcome many of the challenges they face because these are expensive.*[27]

Poor internet connectivity in rural areas was mentioned as a disincentive for youth. It was suggested that the government should invest in good housing in rural areas with good internet connectivity. Good internet connectivity is one aspect that if improved, may contribute to youth pursuing or remaining engaged in agriculture.

> *Work collaboratively to develop, market and make available low-cost technologies or the mechanization of agriculture and other processes within the food system. This will make engaging in food systems attractive for youth and less tedious for all including women (involved in the primary production stage).*[28]

Technology has been seen as a double-edged sword. When it's readily available and accessible, it is an excellent tool for sharing information, especially through social media. During the focus group discussion, the example of the creative use of Twitter by the Impact Nutrition Africa Initiative to explain 'what food systems are?' was shared. However, as noted in the paragraph above, the limited access to technology and the internet can be exclusionary to those who cannot access it, such as rural farmers. The focus group discussion pointed out that limited access is a discussion that goes beyond internet access, it applies to innovative and other technologies as well.

> *Participants recognized the utility of technology and social media to market and communicate advocacy projects and connect youth to one another.* [29]

> *'Human centred digitalization' in agri-food systems can help ensuring existing divides are not deepened and new divides are not created. Initiatives by young people are at risk of operating in silos and serving as 'small islands of brilliance'.*[30]

[27] Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi, 26 February 2021, 5560, page 6.
[28] Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi, 26 February 2021, 5560, page 8.
[29] The Double-Burden of Malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa: Engaging Youth in Access to Nutritious Food, 14 June 2021, 10133, page 8.
[30] African youth as drivers for decent job creation in sustainable food systems, 30 June 2021, 8081, page 10.

Section 3:
How Youth Want to Engage in the Summit & Beyond

Across the 17 Independent Dialogues, we found that youth want to be engaged in: (1) entrepreneurship and employment; (2) promoting inclusive policies; (3) networks and discussions; and (4) individual farming. Below, these needs have been phrased as active approaches to support youth in agriculture.

Support Entrepreneurship and Employment. Income generation opportunities need to be created and shared with youth.

A study finds that although African youth are mostly employed in the agricultural sector, and have a large share in the workforce, the employment opportunities are not ideal as they face constraints in access to land, credit, training, and new technology.[31] Additionally, a lot of young farmers have challenges finding jobs in the sector and given their need for money they change careers and resort to seeking jobs that provide a stable income. There must be a conscious effort to create and make youth aware of agricultural opportunities.

> *It is important to ensure to transform Africa's rural economies to provide more and better jobs for rural youth and particularly young women. Investing in young people is key for rejuvenating and improving the performance of the agrifood sector.*[32]

There needs to be a spotlight on the entrepreneurship opportunities such as the potential for creating a tech start-ups which provide agricultural solutions. Youth are more likely respond to potential business opportunities than an emotional appeal to join agricultural sector (e.g., 'join agriculture so you have something to eat.).

> *Supporting start-up investments of young people who run agricultural, food production and business and expanding work on the dissemination of production, technological and innovative knowledge;* [33]

> *Young people need to see the large opportunities in the value chains and see these opportunities as their launch pads for entrepreneurship. However, they ought to appreciate that this must be profitable. Further, because Africa has more mouths to feed and the ability to feed these populations, this enables to unlock the entrepreneurship, opportunities of jobs, activate other sectors.*[34]

Promote Inclusive Policies. Policies for youth should be created by youth.

The youth perspective is often overlooked in developing youth policies and programs resulting in policies and programs that do not adequately reflect the needs of youth in the agricultural sector.[35] An example of how

[31] Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). 2012. Engaging Youth in Agricultural Policy Processes.
[32] African youth as drivers for decent job creation in sustainable food systems, 30 June 2021, 8081, page 6.
[33] Youth and Sustainable Food Systems in Mongolia, 16 June 2021, 28784, page 7.
[34] Global voices for inclusion, 1 June 2021, 16711, page 5.
[35] Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). 2012. Engaging Youth in Agricultural Policy Processes.

policies could be supportive of youth can be seen in an example of land acquisition in Nigeria, which is a basic asset for youth involvement in agriculture.

> *…the youth suggested the need for governments to openly share information with the young farmers, to sensitize young farmers on available policies, the need to gather feedback from youth on effectiveness of provided policies and for the governments to prioritise youth inclusion in policy making and implementation.*[36]

Having youth involved in creating policies and programs that address them will likely result in more suitable, fitting and appropriate policies and programs. Young people know the challenges that they are facing and are more likely to know what proposed solutions are more likely to be successful.

> *The government should assist young people in setting up policies that are friendly for them in agriculture involvement.*[37]

> *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.*[38]

Engage Youth in Networks and Discussions. Meaningful youth engagement can enable new collaborations.

It is important to stop seeing youth as beneficiaries or affected people but instead as equals. Youth are seeking a platform on which they can share their ideas and opinions.

> *Youth organizations and networks are critical but rarely engage in governance making processes, usually due to limited capacity and representation. Young people working in the sector can become lighthouses to inspire others*.[39]

> *Include youth voice in platforms where decisions that affect engagement in food systems initiatives are made. Ensure those voices are translated into action (beyond tokenism).*[40]

Networks facilitate connections that can enable youth-led initiatives to be taken forward. There are numerous digital platforms that enable global and local knowledge sharing; actively engaging youth can lead to learning amongst young people, which can be shared with in local communities and with those not using digital platforms. Examples of which include 'Job-Agri' for knowledge generation on labour issues in agriculture; the 'Agripreneurship Alliance' and 'Youth Business International' are targeted to young entrepreneurs; and 'Decent Jobs for Youth' for building ownership with government.

> *Young Professional for Agricultural Development (YPARD Nigeria) currently has reach in 16 states across Nigeria and are actively engaged working with the local representatives.*[41]

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[36] EAFF Youth Dialogue on United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, 1 July 2021, 29868, page 7.
[37] The state of youth in the future of food in Tanzania and other sub-Saharan Africa, 25 May 2021, 21766, page 8.
[38] Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi, 26 February 2021, 5560, page 8.
[39] African youth as drivers for decent job creation in sustainable food systems, 30 June 2021, 8081, page 10.
[40] Dialogue between refugee youths and the Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, Agnes Kalibata, 27 May 2021, 19154, page 8.
[41] Nigeria UN Food Systems Summit Youth Dialogue 2021, 27 April 2021, 5793, page 10.

Facilitate Individual Farming. Home and school gardens are the first step in developing passion for agriculture.

Numerous Dialogue reports discussed and advocated for community, home or school gardens, mentioning how people become passionate about agriculture in these contexts.

The Start Them Early Program (STEP), which was discussed during the focus group, is an example of a project that focuses on changing mindsets of students towards agriculture. The project demonstrates how participating in growing vegetables at home or at school, led to better nutrition. For example, the intake of green leafy vegetables increased as youth were more likely to eat what they planted. Home gardens were viewed as a way of securing individual food security, offer potential income generation, and can assist the community. Furthermore, young people started to consider agriculture as a potential career, as opposed to traditional jobs such as a medical doctor or lawyer.

> *Promote the engagement of women and youth in seemingly simplistic innovations such as backyard vegetable farming and home Irrigation farming, which for the poorest members of society can be very empowering.*[42]

> *Community gardens are a great solution to food insecurity and education around food. This gave the community a voice in what they wanted on their plates during the week and it gave them more choices for meals as they didn't have to pay for the food. - When food banks had to close due to under funding the community ensured that the gardens stayed open. This also allowed for inter generational learning, the longer the garden stayed open. - Indigenous participants talked about the community not having access to shops as they are just too far away so they have no choice but to eat food that lasts the longest which are the unhealthy foods. - A lot of young people only get their food meals from school so not having access to school has hindered their food security. - Some students still maintain their school garden as it give them an income as locals can buy from them.*[43]

> *Schools can implement seed education programs or teach science and numeracy through food. It is important for students to get the opportunity to spend time out on the land, such as through school gardens, where they can build an appreciation for nature. Furthermore, youth should learn about critical issues in the food system and should be encouraged to take action. One participant shared an example of youths at their university who had organized a climate strike where youth gathered and led a large group of their peers to walk out of class in support of climate justice. Youth need to see examples of successful change so that they are not discouraged about standing up for issues they believe in. Urban farms and urban gardens can be a gateway for youth to learn more about food systems issues and to connect with farmers. These spaces can expose youth to different career prospects and build an appreciation for nature.*[44]

[42] Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi, 26 February 2021, 5560, page 7.
[43] Food Systems, Climate Change & Youth Power, 27 February 2021, 6540, page 6.
[44] Empowering Youth Food System Leaders, 13 July 2021, 29386, Page 11.

Conclusion

Youth are the future and therefore should have a critical voice in how that future is shaped. Youth are uniquely positioned to provide insight, unique perspectives, and advice on issues relating to agriculture, and particularly on conservation, which is essential for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The inclusion of youth as equals in discussions around transforming the food system, and in key decision making forums, is essential; youth will bear the consequences of today's actions.

Authors

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Taruna Gupta is a Kenyan national and an independent evaluator with an interest in people and the planet. She is an advocate for including the youth voice in decision making that influences their lives. She holds an MSc in Global Health and Development from University College London; and is currently studying her Bachelor of Laws.

Taruna worked as a global health consultant in London, where she supported the creation of a health unit; through the successful contracting, management and implementation of large multi donor programmes. She transitioned to conducting evaluations as a result of her passion for doing development differently and maximising results and learning in the aid sector.

While her background lies in mixed method research, more recently her work has relied on qualitative social data collected through literature reviews, focus groups and semi-structured interviews.

Taruna is the former Secretariat for the EvalYouth Global Network and sits on the advisory council for Blue Marble Evaluation.

Gabriela Rentería Flores. Researcher, Key Stakeholder Deep Dive Special Reports, Blue Marble Evaluation Team, UN Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogues

Monitoring and evaluation specialist. Currently working as an independent consultant. She holds a MA in Development Economics from the University of Göttingen in Germany and a BA in Economics from the University of Guanajuato in Mexico.

Gabriela has evaluative experience in development cooperation projects in India, national and subnational social programs in Mexico, and on projects related to monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda.

Active member of EvalYouth LAC, and the National Academy of Evaluators of Mexico (ACEVAL). Gabriela is the current Chair of EvalYouth Global Network, where she advocates for the inclusion of youth in all stages of evaluation processes and for influential evaluation. She is based in Mexico City.'

Annex A: Independent Dialogues Included in Youth-Focused Thematic Synthesis

Title	Convener(s)	Date	ID#	Total participants	Youth participants age range (0-30)
Youth Support Program in the Food Industry and the Promotion of Climate-Smart Agriculture	ONG Femme et Enfant	7 January 2021	2025	16	2
Le Role De La Jeunesse Dans Le Developpement Des Chaines De Valeur Alimentaires - Region De l'est Cameroun.*	Carletto TIAM , OCEANE Group	23 January 2021	2989	n/a	n/a
The Role of Women and Youth as Enables to Transforming Food Systems and Enhancing the Decade of Action Implementation by 2030*	Ntiokam Divine- CSAYN Global	10 February 2021	4417	n/a	n/a
Opportunities for Youth and Women in Transforming Africa's Food Systems*	Mary Nyasimi, Executive Director - Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable Africa (ICCASA)	19 February 2021	3467	n/a	n/a
Catalyzing finance for young food entrepreneurs	SAFIN, the Agripreneurship Alliance, AGRA, the Global Agribusiness Alliance, the International Agri-food Network, IFAD, Nourishing Africa and One Young World.	23 February 2021	3390	130	33
Empowering women and youth to better contribute to transforming food systems in Malawi	Youth Enterprise Services Malawi	26 February 2021	5560	20	7
Food Systems, Climate Change & Youth Power	Peace Jam and Sophie Healy-Thow	27 February 2021	6540	9	7
The World Food Prize Wageningen Youth Institute*	Mirjam Troost, Coordinator Wageningen Youth Institute, Wageningen University Research	3 March 2021	6917	n/a	n/a
The World Food Prize Foundation Med City Youth Institute*	Dr. Josh Marrell, University of Minnesota Rochester and Morgan Day, World Food Prize Foundation	4 March 2021	6922	n/a	n/a

Pathways to Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems - 2	Christopher Chinapoo Co Convenors Dr Wayne Soverall UWI, Donovan Mc Laren KCDI Jamaica, Anna Kay Mc Intosh National Youth Council Jamaica,, Tamisha Lee JNRWP, Clyde Phillip IBBC, Lincoln Beal Growgreen Aquaponics Ltd, Riyadh Mohammed TACS	20 March 2021	2970	57	18
The World Food Prize New York Youth Institute*	Cornell University and World Food Prize Foundation	26 March 2021	9290	n/a	n/a
Contributions from Indigenous peoples' food systems to Action Track 2 and the shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns	The Global Hub on Indigenous People's food systems to action The Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems (GHIPFS) and Action Track 2 of the UNFSS	7 April 2021	10770	32	1
Sessions on Cooperatives & Livelihoods*	Matheus Marques, Giulia Marras, G20+6 MUN	10 April 2021	3368	n/a	n/a
The World Food Prize Wisconsin Youth Institute*	The University of Wisconsin and the World Food Prize Foundation	13 April 2021	11904	n/a	n/a
Youth-Led Solutions to Enhancing The Resilience of Africa's Food Systems*	Generation Africa, Yara International, AGRA, USAID, AGRF, Syngenta Foundation, Corteva AgriScience, Heifer International, Econet	15 April 2021	8219	n/a	n/a
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	Name: Asikaralu Okafor Organization: Maklumy Technology Services Limited Title: CEO	19 April 2021	12151	17	6
The World Food Prize Ohio Youth Institute*	The Ohio State University and the World Food Prize Foundation	19 April 2021	12762	n/a	n/a
The World Food Prize North Carolina Youth Institute*	North Carolina State University and the World Food Prize Foundation	23 April 2021	13577	n/a	n/a

How to Eat Responsibly? A Dialogue between College Students in China and the U.S.	Hua Dong, Senior Academic Specialist, Northeastern University, USA; Huiyu Ouyang, UNFSS-AT2 China Action Hub	27 April 2021	9592	40	0
Nigeria UN Food Systems Summit Youth Dialogue 2021	YASIF and UYSG Nigeria	27 April 2021	5793	233	124
Kestävä ruokavalion murros	WWF- Finland Youth	28 April 2021	12989	22	16
Youth Voices for Global Action in Transforming Food Systems*	MGCY, YOUNGO, GACSA, and Kitchen Connection	28 April 2021	13568	n/a	n/a
Youth Inclusiveness In Agricultural Transformation For Sustainable Food Systems In Nigeria*	UnyimeAbasi Ben (SDGs Clubs Initiative) & Gabriel Aniabi (GoBeyond)	6 May 2021	10249	n/a	n/a
Youth Leaders for Food Systems Transformations*	Arrell Food Institute, McGill University and University of British Columbia	6 May 2021	14933	n/a	n/a
CO-CREATE Regional Dialogue Forum: Youth-Led Policy Dialogue*	Iain Shepherd, Director of Global Engagement, EAT, and Samantha Nesrallah, Officer, EAT	7 May 2021	15394	n/a	n/a
The World Food Prize Minnesota Youth Institute*	The University of Minnesota and World Food Prize Foundation	17 May 2021	18321	n/a	n/a
Global launch of the youth Act4food Act4change campaign in support of Goodfood4all*	Youth Champions of the Act4Food Act4Change campaign	18 May 2021	15505	n/a	n/a
Addressing challenges in Arab food systems from youth perspective	Regional Youth Focal Point for the MENA - Rayan Kassem - UNMGCY	19 May 2021	13718	10	7
Vice Chancellors Forum: Towards a Common Voice from African Universities to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)	20 May 2021	16187	237	72
The state of youth in the future of food in Tanzania and other sub-Saharan Africa.	Jackson Buzingo, Country Representative - One More Salary Tanzania	25 May 2021	21766	28	17
Dialogue between refugee youths and the Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, Agnes Kalibata	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	27 May 2021	19154	17	12
Youth For Future of Indonesia Food System	Mr. Said Abdullah (Koalisi Rakyat untuk Kedaulatan Pangan)	28 May 2021	8091	53	35
The role of youth in food systems	WF Sweden Youth and Reformaten	1 June 2021	18613	30	19

Youth as food systems actors and transformers: Global voices for inclusion	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)	1 June 2021	16711	236	140
The Role of Youth in Participating in and Transforming South Africa's Food System*	Dr Sifiso Ntombela	14 June 2021	25919	n/a	n/a
The Double-Burden of Malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa: Engaging Youth in Access to Nutritious Food	NCD Child	14 June 2021	10133	56	24
Youth and Sustainable Food Systems in Mongolia	European Union Delegation to Mongolia	16 June 2021	27874	55	40
Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2021	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations & Indigenous United Nations Food Systems Summit Champions	16 June 2021	32240	160	75
Addressing the Food System Dynamics: Nigerian Youths as Frontline Actors	Impact Nutrition Africa Initiative (INAI)	17 June 2021	26055	49	40
Youth-led Dialogue on inclusive and accessible technological and innovative support in the transformation to regenerative and sustainable food systems.	Lisanne van Oosterhoud (World Food Forum Youth Champion), Setyaki Kusumadireja (YOUNGO)	18 June 2021	24310	33	12
Youth-led Dialogue on inclusive and accessible technological and innovative support in the transformation to regenerative and sustainable food systems.	Lisanne van Oosterhoud (World Food Forum Youth Champion), Setyaki Kusumadireja (YOUNGO)	18 June 2021	24396	33	13
Roundtable with youth on innovations in agriculture in the Kyrgyz Republic*	FAO, RCO	25 June 2021	26428	n/a	n/a
Covid 19 and Climate Change Resilience; Challenges and Opportunities for Youth towards Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security*	Dr Sarada Prasad Mohapatra & Ntiokam Divine, GCSAYN	25 June 2021	26809	n/a	n/a
African youth as drivers for decent job creation in sustainable food systems	The Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD)	30 June 2021	8081	48	11

EAFF Youth Dialogue on United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021	Eastern Africa Farmers Federation	1 July 2021	29868	55	55
"Strengthening local food systems towards food secure and healthy communities."-Youth's perspective.*	Joseph Gaithuma. Clinical Nutritionist and President emeritus. Food Technology and Nutrition Students society of Kenya.	2 July 2021	19974	n/a	n/a
Lebanese Youth Food Systems Dialogue: Water for Food Systems	Lebanon Youth Parliament for Water (LYPW) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)	6 July 2021	30743	unavailable	unavailable
Florida Youth Institute*	University of Florida	13 July 2021	35294	n/a	n/a
Empowering Youth Food System Leaders	York Region Youth Food Committee	13 July 2021	29386	22	21
Youth's vision on consumer trends and food system of future*	Серова Евгения Викторовна, Директор по аграрной политики НИУ «ВЫСШАЯ ШКОЛА ЭКОНОМИКИ»	15 July 2021	22257	n/a	n/a
The role of youths in building a regenerative food system*	Green Welfare Indonesia	13 August 2021	30625	n/a	n/a

** Indicates no Dialogue report was available at the time of writing. Participant data not available for Dialogues without reports.*

Annex B: References

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Annex C: Youth Perspectives Spotlighted at the Pre-Summit

26 July, 2021 FAO Rome

Transforming Food Systems Together-Youth Actions for our Present and Future

For more than a year now, young people have played a central role in global deliberations and actions towards equitable and just food systems in preparation for the United Nations Food System Summit (UNFSS). In an inspiring and powerful session, global youth will propose commitments and actions towards a better future for our food system.

Moderator – Mr. Victor Mugo, Co-chair Youth Liaisons Group, UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Opening Remarks – Why Youth in Food Systems Matter

- **Ms. Yugratna Srivastava,** Youth Constituency Focal Point, UNEP and UNFSS Champion

Video Montage on Youth-led Dialogues

Section 1 – Youth Priorities and Commitments for a Better Food Future (12 min)

Declaration of youth priorities and commitments towards a better food future for everyone, everywhere

- **Ms Lana Weidgenant,** Action Track Vice Chair, UN Food Systems Summit 2021
- **Mr. Lavetanalagi Seru,** Action Track Vice Chair, UN Food Systems Summit 2021
- **Ms. Kim Anastasiou,** Youth Liaisons Group, UN Food Systems Summit 2021
- **Ms. Marie-Claire Graf,** UN Food Systems Summit 2021 Champion
- **Mr. Mike Khunga,** Action Track Vice Chair, UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Section 2 – Youth Pledge

- **Ms. Sophie Healy-Thow,** Co-Chair Youth Liaisons Group, UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Section 3 – Supporting Youth Priorities – Panel Discussion

- **H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn,** Former Prime Minister, Ethiopia https://vimeo.com/user112716545/download/579484465/06e65e06f1
- **Ms. Henrietta Fore,** Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) https://vimeo.com/user112716545/download/579493331/47d719304e
- **H.E. Peter Gatiruau Munya**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries and Cooperative, Kenya
- **Ms. Julie Gichuru,** Head of Public Affairs and Communications, Mastercard Foundation
- **Mr. Jim Barnhart**, Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security,
- USAID

Closing Remarks by the moderator

28 July, 2021 FAO Rome

Closing plenary comments on youth engagement

Opening remarks

https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/580227137/5680b78a59

Q&A

https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/580248339/74cc98291c

and

https://vimeo.com/user145891411/download/580248406/467b7d1897