

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 17 June 2021
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	University- Policy Dialogue for Strengthening of Africa's Food Systems [Selected Advocates for Africa's development ]
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu- Executive Secretary Regeional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18043/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18043/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

230

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18      36 19-30      107 31-50      68 51-65      18 66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

141 Male      85 Female      4 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

48	Agriculture/crops	33	Education	8	Health care
8	Fish and aquaculture	13	Communication	0	Nutrition
15	Livestock	14	Food processing	10	National or local government
3	Agro-forestry	1	Food retail, markets		Utilities
23	Environment and ecology	4	Food industry	1	Industrial
6	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	56	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

24	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
4	Large national business	1	Member of Parliament
10	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
28	Small-scale farmer	21	Government and national institution
24	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer	3	United Nations
6	Local Non-Governmental Organization	2	International financial institution
15	International Non-Governmental Organization	5	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People		Consumer group
68	Science and academia	28	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue drew participation from a diverse group of stakeholders from different countries across the African Continent. It was an open discussion moderated by a seasoned journalist that took into consideration all the ideas.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

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

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue examined existing systems, policies progress towards shaping food systems trajectories in Africa and their alignment with the 2030 global Agenda. The dialogue brought together distinguished experts to galvanise voices for Africa's development establish their perspectives on current status and issues underlining Food Systems in Africa; recommendations towards needed actions to strengthen Africa's development especially Food Systems and Suggestions on key messages to be communicated to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

- i. A high dose of agricultural sciences is needed in the production systems because without science, Africa remains the science-deficient continent in the world.
- ii. The science agenda for agriculture in Africa needs to be promoted and domesticated within the NARS as it provides the framework for deploying science to achieve desired goals.
- iii. The research-extension-farmer-nexus needs to be strengthened for high technology adoption; build and strengthen solidarity and collective actions through partnerships that mobilize research and innovation expertise; co-create technologies and innovations with farmers, to address farmer's challenges while providing local solutions; and, enhancing the capacity of farmers and consumers to contribute to research and innovation, and to policy formulation and implementation
- iv. Experts need to be trained in a wide range of areas that facilitate knowledge transfer and learning to the famers to facilitate the development of sustainable food systems
- v. Need to conduct research to generate and adapt technologies that can optimize production
- vi. There is need to increase investment in agriculture from 3.3 % of annual GDP by African Countries whose commitment is 10%; promote policies that ensure economic incentives to invest in agricultural production and modern inputs; and, increase investment in agricultural research (human resource and infrastructure) from the current average of 1 % of agricultural GDP.
- vii. .
- viii. There is need to seize emerging opportunities including digital innovation, Africa continental free trade agreement, nature positive solutions in the context of the UNFSS, and, engaging in effective multi stakeholder dialogues in the preparatory phases towards the UNFSS across the whole spectrum engaging regional and sub-regional bodies
- ix. The need to address the infrastructural deficit that affects the food systems and address the issue of incentives as well as structural vulnerability.
- x. Coordinated efforts and solutions are needed to find solutions that are tailored to address African problems
- xi. Climate change and urbanization: Urbanization negatively impacts food systems. Need to improve access to quality water through exploiting climate-Smart technologies
- xii. Since Africa's agriculture is predominantly subsistence farming, there is need to develop a better policy environment and promote agribusiness to drive economic growth and development, building capacity in the population and promoting value chain approaches and ensure development of agro industry as a lever for development of the African economy
- xiii. The need to debunk the idea that agriculture is not economically rewarding and unattractive to the youth but that it can be modernized, made more productive, and more economically rewarding
- xiv. Rural women need to be empowered and as well enforce policy programs that need to be expanded to empower women participation in the decision making.
- xv. Agriculture needs to be made attractive to the Youth to enable them accustomed to the sector at a very tender age. The stereotyping of agriculture being portrayed as a burden to the African woman needs to be changed. The governments need to start investing in the Youth whilst considering donor funding as a catalyst to the entire process. African governments need to start funding their own institutions as this will enable Africans to set their own priorities including revisiting/valuing own indigenous knowledge and practices (sustainable practices). Despite the fact that the majority of smallholders engaging in agriculture are advanced in age, there is a new age agri-preneurs applying modern production practices
- xvi. Small scale famers need to be fully supported in every process that they undertake to avoid hidden hunger.
- xvii. There is need for collaboration, partnerships and reducing post-harvest losses. Digital technologies and renewable energy need to be harnessed with focus on the smallholder famers.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

### i) How can Africa strengthen its food systems

- There is need to reorient policy dialogue to underpin and inform and guide well planned transformation
- There is need to mainstream strategies and frameworks aimed at transforming food systems from development actors and national systems
- Serious private sector engagement is needed as well as advancing Public private sector relationships
- Orientation and focusing more on the drivers and game changers including: value chain development, entrepreneurship development; and, digital transformation especially for Youth and Women both regional and in the African Context

### ii) Students that undertake agricultural degrees are those that performed fairly at high school and what can be done to reverse this trend to ensure that more young people participate in agriculture?

The curricular needs to be reformed to make agriculture attractive to the Youth/students but also the governments never used to prioritize agriculture and it is of recent that agriculture is gaining prominence. Students are also not incentivized to engage in agricultural interventions due to limitation in capital, land for farming and other incentives

### iii) The possibility for food security initiatives to cut across the African Continent

This is possible because the demand for food is across Africa. Food insecurity is attributed to the deficit of science to drive our own agriculture.

### iv) Seasonality of agriculture in Africa is a problem and irrigation needs to be increased. How can this be undertaken?

There is need to build resilience to adapt to vulnerabilities including lack of water. Apart from irrigation, there is need for a comprehensive approach encompassing resistant varieties/breeds and resilience building

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

None

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