

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Sunday, 30 May 2021 10:00 GMT +06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	National Independent Dialogue in Bangladesh on Food Systems Summit 2021
CONVENED BY	COAST Foundation
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22770/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bangladesh

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

39

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

4 19-30

22 31-50

13 51-65

0 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

34 Male

5 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

28 Agriculture/crops

0 Fish and aquaculture

0 Livestock

0 Agro-forestry

0 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

0 Education

0 Communication

0 Food processing

0 Food retail, markets

0 Food industry

0 Financial Services

0 Health care

0 Nutrition

2 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

9 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

0 Large national business

0 Multi-national corporation

28 Small-scale farmer

0 Medium-scale farmer

0 Large-scale farmer

6 Local Non-Governmental Organization

1 International Non-Governmental Organization

0 Indigenous People

0 Science and academia

0 Workers and trade union

0 Member of Parliament

0 Local authority

2 Government and national institution

0 Regional economic community

2 United Nations

0 International financial institution

0 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

0 Consumer group

0 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

COAST organized this national independent dialogue virtually on 30 May 2021. Before conducting the event, COAST went through a series of preparatory activities for bringing the utmost outputs from all roles and sections that aligned with the Summit's objectives and principles. These were: Because of the risk of COVID-19 and other challenges, COAST organized this event online by using its own paid zoom channel. At prior, COAST sent an invitation to all through email with a Zoom link and informed them accordingly. COAST had been in contact with the responsible government officials and other representatives (UN agencies and international non-profit organization) to ensure their participation in the event. COAST translated all the PPTs into Bangla to engage all the participants meaningfully. Besides the event was run using the Bangla language. The moderator translated the summary of the discussion issues to our international guests from time to time. To make the event most meaningful, COAST conducted a preparatory meeting with all the farmers' organizations' representatives. The discussion points of the event were: intro and objective of FSS, focusing issues during the breakout sessions, and dividation into groups. A preparatory meeting with the FGD facilitators was also organized to bring out the major game-changing solutions from diverse stakeholders.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

First of all, the dialogue was organized on 30 May 2021 as a contribution to the Food Systems Summit 2021 and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation both for contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and also to create a driveway as the farmer's voice of our country to be heard at the national to the global level. COAST as a convener of the Dialogue has a strong belief that this platform helped to empower the stakeholders who participated in the national independent dialogue. As all the participants shared their identified problems regarding their local context and the best possible solutions to get out of these. It will also help them for forward-looking, fostering new connections, enabling the disclosure of ways to move forward collectively and innovatively, and supporting the scope of opinions. Now to make the event most purposeful allied with the objectives of the summit, COAST invited 20 small-scale farmers organizations representatives from different regions of our country, and as stated above they shared their most important issues/obstacles, best possible solutions, policy formulation and policy reformation to reach at the target of safe and sustainable food system for our country. Apart COAST organized a preparatory meeting with the participants at the previous day of the final event as they could understand and follow the ground rules of during the dialogue. It was decided that they will listen to each other and be open to the divergent points of view. Point to be noted here that COAST divided the whole event into three parts: opening session, three breakout rooms for FGD and plenary session. All the major findings from FGD including policy interventions were presented at the plenary session. All stakeholders heard these and placed their comments there respectfully. COAST believes that the results that brought out from the event are in line with the Summit's principles and objectives, and will be helpful to ensure a safe, sustainable food system and to upright the rights of the farmers for their development.

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

No. Just one suggestion that I think the reference manual for food systems summit is a very good and precise guideline to get better understanding about all the contents of this summit as well as the principles of engagement.

3. METHOD

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

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The National Independent Dialogue on Food Systems Summit has given a powerful opportunity for the participants to bring together a variety of stakeholders, including voices that are hardly ever heard, and provide a significant opportunity to engage directly in proposing pathways towards sustainable food systems, exploring new ways of working together and encouraging collaborative action.

In addition from it has also created a chance for the participants to share their issues/ideas and thoughts which are both critical for reducing the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of food systems from local to the national level in a country and the Summit's success.

COAST organized this event to bring out and implement actions that can change the ways in which food systems operate in Bangladesh. The major focus was to identify the priority issues from the solution clusters of the action tracks which are suited for our country and to share any additional recommendation for the betterment of overall food system.

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

Major findings:

- Establishment of a strong sustainable farmers' platform in Bangladesh.
- Allocation of subsidized inputs such as chemical fertilizers, irrigated water, tractor, high-producing & climate-adaptive varieties of seeds, pesticides, etc.
- Strengthening Agricultural cooperatives.
- It is seen that there is a gap between the agricultural officer and farmers' community so in maximum time farmers are unable to get government facility from them.
- Information gaps about healthy diets and sustainably produced food.
- Mainstreaming the climate impact- invest needed for new agricultural seeds that would be stress tolerance.
- The price of crops is fixed by the middle right holder and farmers have no power to fix it and farmers are hostage by this middle exploiting class who also make the artificial crisis in the market.
- Seed bank establishment and controlled by the government and other responsible directly.
- Raising crop production by vegetable garden at the homestead areas and the rooftop through conducting awareness campaigns using social media and small financial support.
- Establishment of cold storage and production factory in those areas where production rate is high. It will be helpful to save perishable food items and to give more profit to the farmers.
- Support to the farmers for ensuring direct market linkage to get the fair price of his/her produced food items.
- Promote climate adaptive technologies and techniques for sustainable food production
- Focus efforts on making value chains inclusive through the generation of decent employment and improving resilience through social protection.
- Emphasis on Agricultural diversification and rural employment generation and enhanced agro-based economic activities.
- More research or scientific evidence is needed to better illustrate challenges and probable solutions.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

As said before, we divided all the stakeholders into three groups for FGD and fixed action tracks as a discussion topic for them. The group one discussed one action track- 01; group two discussed on action track- 02 & 03 and group three discussed on action track- 04 & 05. Now the outcomes of the breakout discussions are given below:

Group One:

- Establishment of a strong sustainable farmers' platform in Bangladesh.
- Allocation of subsidized inputs such as chemical fertilizers, irrigated water, tractor, high-producing & climate-adaptive varieties of seeds, pesticides, etc.
- Strengthening Agricultural cooperatives.
- Seed bank establishment and controlled by the government and other responsible directly.
- Raising crop production by vegetable garden at the homestead areas and the rooftop through conducting awareness campaigns using social media and small financial support.
- Establishment of cold storage and production factory in those areas where production rate is high. It will be helpful to save perishable food items and to give more profit to the farmers.
- Support to the farmers for ensuring direct market linkage to get the fair price of his/her produced food items.
- Policy reformation focusing to encourage and involve women and youth in agriculture.

Group Two:

- From the government effective policy is required for market management and ensuring fair price of food crops of the farmer. Government will take responsibility to buy, sell and preserve food crops.
- Ownership of seed is not in the hand of farmers. The seed bank is the solution of this problem.
- The price of crops is fixed by the middle right holder and farmers have no power to fix it and farmers are hostage by this middle exploiting class who also make the artificial crisis in the market.
- In the farmers' community, there must have buying and selling center to ensure the legal price of food crops.
- In the farmers' community, there is not sufficient opportunity to preserve surplus crops. To solve this problem in the community level cold storage required. The cooperative farmers' group can take initiative to solve this problem.

Group Three:

- Focus on the groups whose livelihoods (women, youth, indigenous peoples, the disabled, seasonal laborer's, etc.) are most limited by current food systems practices, and the discriminatory practices and norms that limit equitable livelihoods.
- Inclusion of pro-poor nature-based solutions and climate change and environment policies to improve the capacity of the poor to manage risks.
- Research is needed in local level connecting the local people and farmers and those who are involved in the food system.
- Mainstreaming Climate change, adaptation, resilience in national, sectoral and spatial development & humanitarian development program.
- Develop Effective Country Investment Plan (CIP) for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The areas of divergence that emerged during the dialogue could be easily identified from the section outcomes from each discussion topic.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **COAST Foundation_Results of the National Independent Dialogue focusing on the Global Food Systems Summit 2021**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/COAST-Foundation_Results-of-the-National-Independent-Dialogue-focusing-on-the-Global-Food-Systems-Summit-2021.pdf