



DIALOGUES

CONCERTATIONS

खाद्य प्रणाली  
शिखर सम्मेलन 2021  
संवाद

САММИТ ПО  
ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННЫМ  
СИСТЕМАМ 2021

Диалог

THE FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

# GLOBAL DIALOGUES

قمة النظم الغذائية 2021

DIÁLOGO

2021 粮食系统峰会

FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUMMIT 2021

SOMMET 2021 SUR LES  
SYSTEMES ALIMENTAIRES

CÚPULA 2021 SOBRE  
SISTEMAS ALIMENTARIOS

MKUTANO WA 2021  
KUHUSU VYAKULA

MAJADILI

खाद्य प्रणाली  
शिखर सम्मेलन 2021  
संवाद

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CUMBRE 2021 SOBRE LOS  
SISTEMAS ALIMENTARIOS

FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUMMIT 2021



UNITED NATIONS  
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CUMBRE 2021 SOBRE LOS  
SISTEMAS ALIMENTARIOS

# Introduction

As the third branch of [the Food Systems Summit Dialogues Programme](#), the Global Dialogues were a curated series intended to bring political attention to food systems in High-level thematic and sectoral meetings and processes. The Global Dialogues were co-convened by the Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit, Dr Agnes Kalibata, and engaged key stakeholders and related issues within the 2030 Agenda.

Between December 2020 and September 2021, 11 Global Dialogues were convened, with a total of 2,630 participants and many partnering organizations. Like the hundreds of other [Summit Dialogues](#), each Global Dialogue followed [the Summit Dialogues Method](#), the [UN Food Systems Summit Principles of Engagement](#), and posted feedback from the discussion on the [Dialogue Gateway](#).

To broaden engagement, the opening session of each Global Dialogue was [livestreamed](#). Breakout rooms remained under Chatham House rules to encourage open and honest conversation.

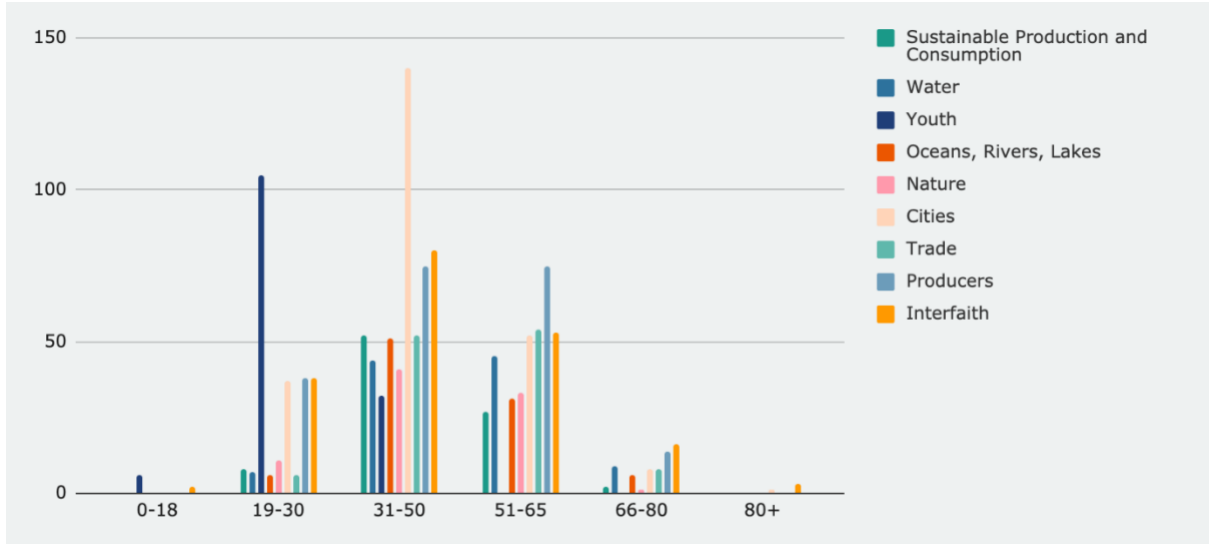
This summary provides key highlights from each Global Dialogue, listed in chronological order.

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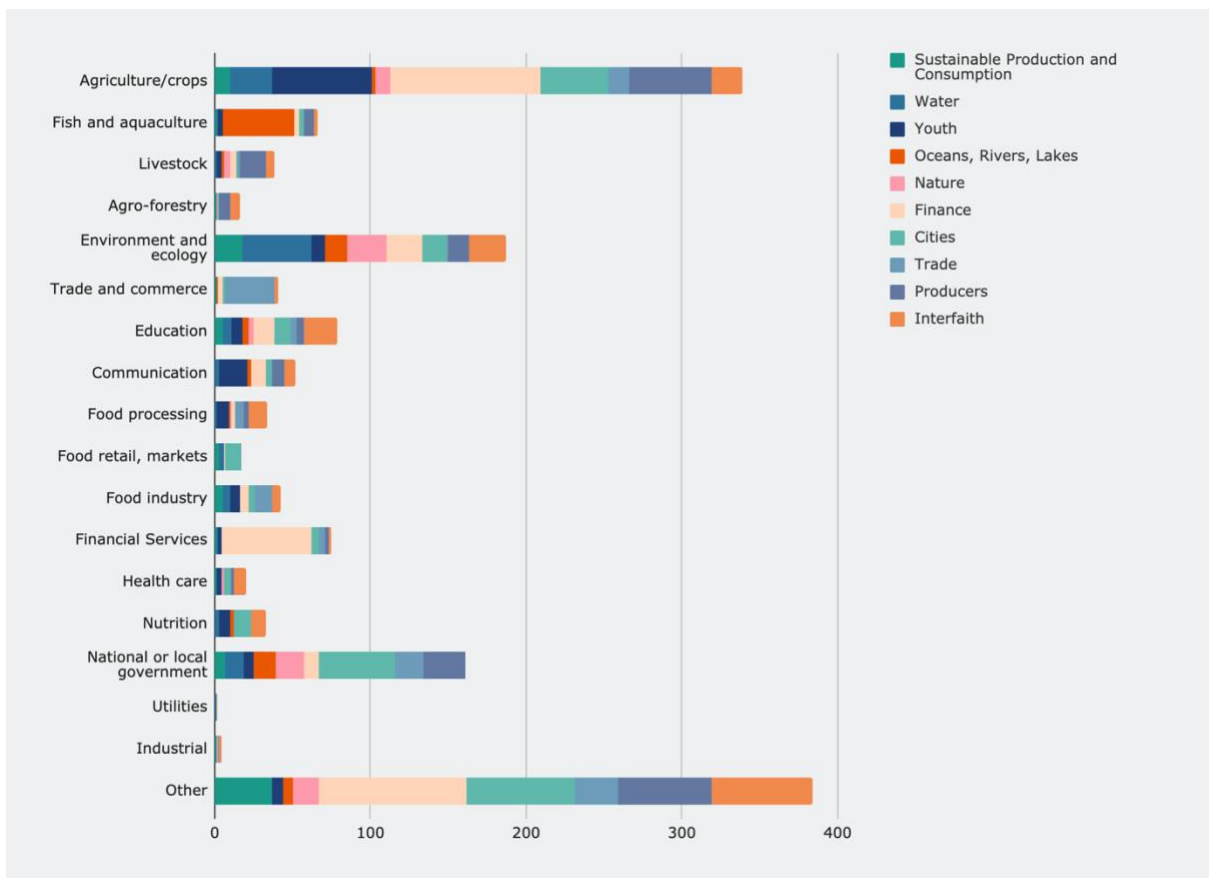
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# Dialogue Participants

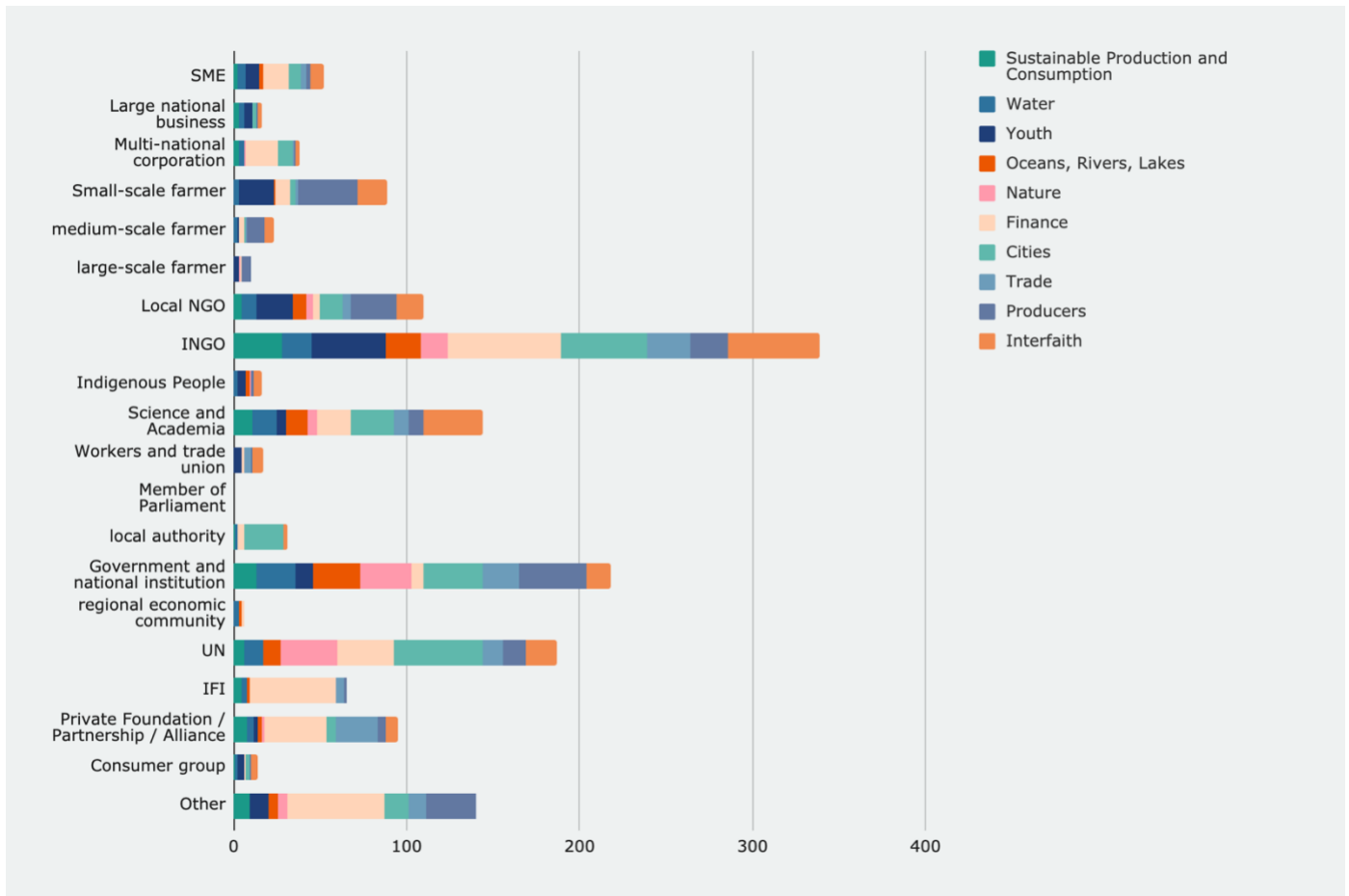
## PARTICIPANTS BY AGE GROUP, PER DIALOGUE



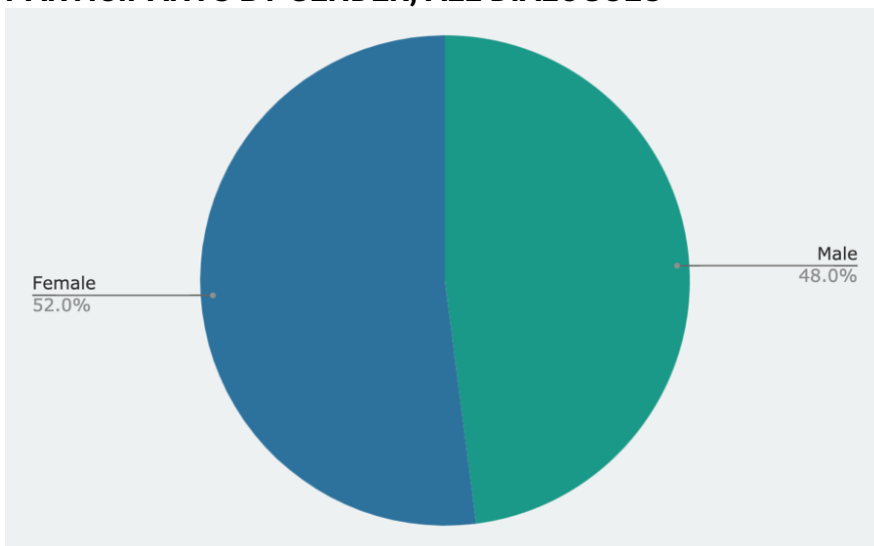
## PARTICIPANTS BY SECTOR, PER DIALOGUE



## PARTICIPANTS BY STAKEHOLDER GROUP, PER DIALOGUE



## PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER, ALL DIALOGUES



### KEY NOTES ON THE NUMBERS:

All Dialogues except for the Energy Global Dialogue reported participation statistics. The Finance Dialogue reported all statistics other than age group.

The average number of participants per dialogue was 162.

Collectively, the Global Dialogues had nearly equal participation by both men and women.

# 1. Sustainable Production and Consumption

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 1 DECEMBER 2020

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit and the Co-Leads of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

**Total Participants:** 95

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1234/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

## CONTEXT

This inaugural Global Dialogue was organized alongside the Sustainable Food Systems Programme Conference. Participants discussed 9 topics which explored the roles key stakeholders can play in making food systems sustainable: from those involved in producing, supplying foods, and consuming foods – namely food producers, small and medium enterprises, and consumers – to the public and private institutions which can create an environment conducive to sustainable production and consumption.



## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strengthening the agency of small and medium food producers and suppliers**  
Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening the agency of those who are at the forefront of providing food by ensuring access to: training and higher-level education; finance and insurance; markets, retailers and marketing strategies; technology and digital tools; capacities for reducing food loss and waste and sustainable intensification; and capacity to use evidence-based approaches.
- **Empowering consumers to be drivers of change**  
Consumers need to be empowered with better information such as through food labels and eco-labels.
- **Addressing economic and social inequities**  
There is an urgent need to address economic and social inequalities that producers and consumers living in poverty face.
- **Investing in “just transition”**  
Several groups emphasized the importance of aligning public and private investments. Tools to measure externalities (positive and negative) should inform

investments, and new financial tools for smallholders, “agro-preneurs,” and SMEs should be developed to enable smaller amounts of capital to be locally accessible.

- **Public procurement to incentivize sustainable production and consumption**

Participant called for harmonizing definitions of sustainable public procurement and providing more guidance, including on reducing food loss and waste.

### Local action supported by national leadership

- Several groups recognized the struggle to reconcile global challenges and goals with the local reality. Linkages between producers, retailers, consumers, researchers, and cross-sectoral collaboration can be most effectively fostered at local level. Strong national leadership and coherent national policies also play a crucial role.
- **Action guided by science and evidence**  
Science, data, and evidence are key to guide and monitor action. Participants called for science to be done and communicated in ways that are more usable for policy makers; address trade-offs and lock-ins; democratize knowledge; and value lived experience and traditional knowledge.
- **SDGs as the compass for measuring success, with a focus on the local level**  
Many groups emphasized the importance of focusing on the local level, both in terms of data collection and assessments of success.
- **The debated place of animal source foods in diets**  
The topic of eating meat noted as a “turf war” in food system conversations. Some noted the livestock industry could be improved, another highlighted the need to have a shared understanding of what a planetary-bounded healthy diet is and how we can achieve it.
- **Working across sectors to manage trade-offs**  
Which investments and “perverse” subsidies should be discontinued? Are prioritizing biodiversity and climate at odds with prioritizing food security or healthy nutrition? How best to manage the tension between consumers’ access (buying price) and producers’ income (selling price)? The dialogue surfaced many questions and indicated that cross-sectoral work is necessary to be able to manage trade-offs.

## 2. Energy

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 20 JANUARY 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit, UN High-Level Energy Dialogue, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the United Arab Emirates

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2015/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

### CONTEXT

The Dialogue was explicitly organized to be complementarity across two key summits of the 2021 UN General Assembly: the Food Systems Summit and the High-Level Dialogue on Energy.

The event differed from other Global Dialogues in that the objective was to hear proposals from ministers, non-government executives, and youth delegates on potential Summit actions with simultaneous food, energy, and climate benefits. A number of participants also submitted proposals in writing. The feedback from the Dialogue therefore served as an inventory for all proposals – namely policies, targets, and initiatives – for consideration by stakeholders.

### DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Proposals:

- Increasing R&D and investment in innovation, particularly on climate-smart agriculture.
- Increase food yield with limited increase in carbon emissions or conversion of new land to agriculture.
- Scaled-up solar-powered irrigation to decrease emissions and costs, while improving food yield and resilience to changing rainfall patterns.
- Expansion of incentives for small-holder farmers who adopt climate-smart ag practices, including use of renewable energy.
- Carbon neutrality goals for the fertilizer industry.
- Mandatory reporting and consumer labeling on resource efficiency of food.
- Public procurement based on health and sustainability requirements.
- Developing national guidelines to jointly maximize both nutrition and energy, water, and carbon sustainability.
- Increase investment in direct application of geothermal power for production in high-potential areas.
- Renewable energy for desalination to reduce competition for and stress on groundwater resources.
- Post-harvest food loss reduction targets.
- Net-zero cold chain through use of renewable energy and low-HFC/HFC-free refrigerators to reduce food loss.
- Renewables for agro-processing.
- Increasing the volume of affordable finance for renewable energy technologies for drying, storage, and processing.
- Training and education on solutions to reduce post-harvest food loss.
- Increased sustainable biofuels target.
- Expanded use of agricultural residue for energy production.
- Joint household electrification and clean cooking penetration using distributed solar solutions, particularly as part of COVID-19 recovery plans.
- Improved financing for manufacturers, distributors and consumers.
- Earmarking funding for food and energy systems 50% for women-led projects and 30% for youth-led projects.
- Identify high-impact regions for climate-smart agriculture and decentralized renewables for improved decision-making.
- Develop a set of criteria and indicators to monitor and evaluate the implementation and impacts of joint action on renewable energy and food production.
- Strengthen public-private partnership, with a particular focus on local agri-food entrepreneurs to devise new technology solutions and service delivery models.



# 3. Water: the game changer for food systems

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 27 APRIL 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit and Gilbert F. Houngbo, UN-Water Chair and President of the International Fund for Agriculture Development

**Total Participants:** 105

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7541/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

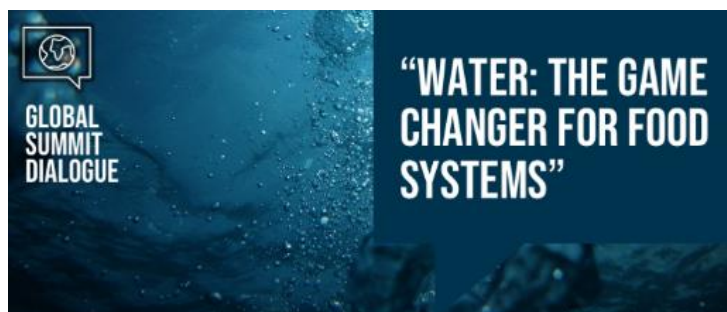
## CONTEXT

The dialogue focused on the nexus between food systems and water systems, doing so in a way that acknowledges linkages to other systems that are fundamental to the SDGs (e.g. energy, climate, oceans). The discussion topics addressed this nexus from complementary perspectives: the Food Systems Summit Action Tracks and key themes and challenges related to the water-food-energy nexus that are also emerging from dialogues held at regional and country levels, such as governance, cross-sectoral collaboration, investments and innovation and knowledge.

## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **No water = no food**  
Resolving issues around water scarcity, pollution and wastage is crucial for transforming food production and consumption.
- **Food loss and waste = water loss and waste**  
Reducing food loss and waste is a clear entry point to mitigate water scarcity and optimize water use.
- **Food producers = water managers**  
The way in which water is used in agriculture is no longer sustainable. Farmers are among the world's most important water managers.
- **Technical solutions and innovation**  
Innovation should incorporate the fact that water in agriculture is strongly linked to land tenure and distribution, climate change policies, energy and urbanization policies. Regenerative agriculture, including the storage of water in the soil, seed selection, rebuilding soil biodiversity will improve the water cycling in agricultural systems. Safe wastewater reuse in agriculture is a promising solution particularly in peri-urban settings.
- **Governance**  
Sustainable water use is enhanced by integration of all sectors in conservation including farmers, governments, the private sector and the general population.

- **Inclusion**  
There is a need for an inclusive participatory process that gives a voice to marginalized and vulnerable communities, indigenous peoples and future generations. Such empowerment and the democratizing of decision and policymaking can foster the trust between relevant stakeholders that is required to leverage synergies and manage trade-offs between different interests, while ensuring that no-one is left behind.
- **Investments**  
Investments can play a significant role in improving water security by recognizing the economic value of water, which should be an essential component for investment mechanisms. Public-Private Partnerships are an essential instrument within water and irrigation systems, but there has been a lack of innovative developments in that field. The value/role of aquatic foods should also be considered. Connections between biodiversity and ecosystems and the benefits you can get from having a water management scheme need more attention.
- **Water scarcity vs. inefficient use of water**  
To a certain extent, participants diverged in terms of what issue was the priority: water scarcity vs. inefficient use of water. Technology and innovation could improve water-use efficiency and water productivity; increased demand for water and food required excess capacity. On the other hand, an increased focus on sustainable consumption and production could help with water scarcity concerns.





## 4. Youth – Good Food for All

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 4 MAY 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit and Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF

**Total Participants:** 143

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13264/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

### CONTEXT

The Global Dialogue brought together youth advocates from across the globe who champion a range of issues in their local contexts – from agriculture to climate to education.

Participants were asked “What does ‘good food’ mean to you?” and engaged in a dynamic discussion on the varied meanings of ‘good food’ sharing their ideas to help shape the future of our food systems in diverse contexts. To close the Dialogue, participants were issued a challenge to run 100 Independent Dialogues in their own contexts and communities. The Dialogue closed with the launch of the #Act4food #Act4change campaign.



### DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Make farming attractive to youth**  
Participants noted a low interest in farming among youth and proposed the following: changing the narrative and image of farming; providing access to sustainable finance, information, technology, and proper training; and empowering and encouraging agri-preneurs.
  - **‘Junk Food’**  
Participants noted that many perceive junk food to be cheap and accessible while nutritious food is expensive. To address this, participants proposed policies be put in place to limit the sale and advertisements of empty-calorie foods, to support consumer advocacy, and encourage the growing and eating of more nutritious food.
  - **Provide support to smaller farmers**  
Participants were concerned about the exploitation of smaller producers by middlemen and the dominance of monopolies and corporations. Reducing the ‘digital divide,’
- increasing farmers’ access to technologies, farming cooperatives, shortening value chains, and greater transparency were all identified as possible solutions.
  - **Reduce food loss and waste**  
Food loss and waste—from large-scale industries to the individual and household level—was highlighted as a key concern.
  - **Rights and reform**  
Participants highlighted the importance of human rights and ensuring the rights of Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers, women, and children are fully recognized. Governments were called on to deliver land reforms where necessary in line with indigenous rights and to stop land grabs, as well as policies on GMOs and intellectual property rights that better supported smaller farmers.
  - **Addressing climate change**  
Various forms of concerns around climate change were highlighted: industrial pollution, unsustainable consumption of meat and dairy, transportation, and the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable, small scale producers, and subsistence farmers.
  - **Education**  
Participants proposed national or regional health campaigns to promote nutrition, school syllabuses to encourage students to think critically about where food comes from and how it is produced, and improved education for farmers and consumers on food systems.
  - **Sustainable production**  
Participants noted that food production causes deforestation, land degradation, and biodiversity loss. To encourage more sustainable production, subsidies and other policies could be used to facilitate and encourage more sustainable land management and the growth of food that is nutritionally diverse, locally available, and culturally relevant.
  - **Youth inclusion and empowerment**  
Participants noted the need for youth to be more widely engaged in political and industrial decision making via youth parliaments, youth boards, or wider campaigning and advocacy. Youth also called on their peers to learn how to plant their own foods and understand the importance of what they grow and what they eat as a form of self and communal empowerment.

# 5. Food from the oceans, rivers, and lakes—essential for our food systems

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 28 MAY 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit, Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson, Friends of Ocean Action, UN Foundation, and Norway

**Total Participants:** 94

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14796/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

## CONTEXT

Foods from the ocean, rivers, and lakes play a vital role in food systems but are often missing from global discussions on food security and nutrition. A healthy ocean means healthy people – the ocean and other aquatic ecosystems are critical to the global food system and often indispensable in local food chains, but they are at risk if not transformed to be more sustainable, nature-positive, and accessible

The Dialogue aimed to raise awareness of the importance of aquatic foods to the global food system, and of the importance of protecting the fragile ecosystems they are a part of, in particular the ocean. A framing statement centered the discussion around the future of aquatic food production: *By 2030, aquatic food is fundamental to global food security, with policies and investments in place to ensure sustainable management of the resources and with minimal impacts from climate change and land-based activities.*

## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Aquatic food is key for the future**  
It's highly nutritious, vital to diets and livelihoods in some parts of the world, can be produced/harvested sustainably (with the right practices), and can help take pressure off land-based food production.
- **Integrated, circular and sustainable aquatic food systems**  
An integrated approach to aquatic foods must link together land and water and connect multiple actors.
- **Inclusion is vital**  
Include everyone, from all parts of the value chain and whether a small-scale actor or large industry. Special priority should be given to including and recognising small-scale fishers and women in aquatic food production.
- **The jurisdictional approach is key**  
Space must be created for the less powerful to have the option to engage in decision-making when it comes to what happens in and around aquatic ecosystems, ensuring that structures/frameworks allow that room for participation. Entitlements for participation should be

based on people's roles and responsibilities. Good regulations are needed, with particular attention needed on local contexts given the regional differences when it comes to aquatic food. A good quality jurisdictional approach is where trade-offs are worked through on a local level. It must also be designed to handle and work through tensions.

- **Indicators of success matter for accountability**  
We cannot measure success without indicators—for example, the health of fish stocks and broader aquatic ecosystems, the level of socioeconomic benefits retained locally, etc.
- **Management for conservation, preservation, equity, and sustainability.**  
There are a number of basic principles that all stakeholders must have access to: data, science, modelling and capacity building to help implement accessible, inclusive and sustainable food systems. Stakeholders need to be connected to each other and able to access levers and encourage value-based innovation. Accountable partnering will be important in achieving this across geographies.
- **Multiple approaches for reducing food loss and waste**  
Some felt changing consumer behaviour would prove powerful, others felt that regulations and incentives would prove more successful. The conclusion reached was that many approaches would be needed to reduce food loss and waste.



# 6. Nature-positive food systems

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 9 JUNE 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit and Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Total Participants:** 106

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8034/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

## CONTEXT

The purpose of this Dialogue was to encourage discussions and foster a greater understanding and ownership of food systems issues amongst key decision-makers and stakeholders in the environment sector, and of environmental concerns amongst food and agriculture systems stakeholders. Five key themes were discussed: Behaviour change and sustainable food consumption; Climate- and nature-positive food production; Ecosystem restoration for nature and people; Sustainable and resilient recovery; Environmental governance and human rights. Additionally, the Dialogue was an opportunity to explore strategic linkages and encourage synergies between issues and processes surrounding climate, biodiversity, and desertification.



## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- The triple planetary crisis**

A transformation of global food systems is needed to positively impact nature and tackle current planetary and human health crisis. Food is central to our lives and it is also central to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution that the world is currently facing.

- Ensuring nature-positive food systems – before and after the farm gate.**

Concrete action to transform our global diets, informed by national and cultural contexts and a reduction in food waste are critical to breaking the system lock-ins that have driven the intensification of agriculture and the continued conversion of native ecosystems to crop production and pasture.

- System thinking**

Shifting the needle towards an approach where people and planet are placed at the heart will allow to break silos and address inequities, a fundamental step towards transformative change.

- Rights and governance**

The process of placing people and planet at the centre of sustainable food systems can be facilitated by taking a human rights approach which leaves no one behind while empowering local communities, women and young people. Applying a food systems lens can strengthen environmental governance at global, national, and local level.

- Valuing nature**

The adoption and implementation of standards, metrics, and accounts which take into consideration the real value of nature through the entire supply chain will be fundamental to advance the transformation towards sustainable food systems as well as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Divergences and Trade-offs**

Participants also highlighted some tensions and trade-offs. For example, buying “eco-friendly” products vs. buying more accessible products, or products that support local livelihoods. Additionally, different views were expressed regarding the issue of subsidies, particularly in the fisheries sector.

# 7. Better finance, better food

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 14 JUNE 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit and Juergen Voegelé, Vice President for Sustainable Development, The World Bank

**Total Participants:** 326

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23166/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

## CONTEXT

During this exploration of what is needed to build sustainable food finance systems, participants expressed a shared recognition that financing a more sustainable food system is critical if we want to curb climate change, protect biodiversity, tackle poverty, create jobs, support COVID-19 recovery, ensure food security, build resilience and improve human health. Participants discussed how to tackle barriers to investment and how to build an ambitious shared vision of a Food Finance Architecture that mobilises largescale capital for more sustainable food systems.



## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

### Main Findings

- **An ecosystem & locally sensitive approach**  
Interventions to transform food systems need to account for the complex nature of international value-chains and financial systems, as well as varied local contexts. Financing challenges vary significantly across countries – An ecosystem approach can bring together diverse stakeholders, account for the complex web of ecosystem risks, and be tailored to local contexts.
- **The true cost of food**  
Many participants discussed the need to internalise both the negative and positive impacts of food systems. Food systems have environmental, social, and health impacts that are not factored into market prices, yet the world is paying for these in terms of degenerated environments,

high health costs and social inequities (such as unfair wages).

- **Risk mitigation**  
Opportunities to mitigate financial risks in food systems and unlock sustainable investment include mandatory risk disclosure, blended finance, and other tools to de-risk private investment, as well as interventions to reduce the burden of risk placed on farmers.
- **Redirect incentives**  
Many incentives do not yield desirable outcomes for the economy, livelihoods, environment or human health. While the capacity to redirect public subsidies is constrained, there are opportunities to rethink the structure of agricultural subsidies and redirect funds, including to R&D, and to direct incentives to encourage the consumption of sustainable and nutritious food.
- **Innovations in policy, business, technology, and finance**  
Priorities include R&D investment and finance for technology and solutions; business models that create value from sustainable practices; financial instruments that help to crowd-in/ mobilise private investment; policy interventions to shift system settings; and empowering farmers & rural communities.
- **Improved access to information and education**  
Many participants discussed the importance of addressing data gaps, lack of transparency, and limited awareness of the impacts of food systems.
- **Clear and standardized reporting measures**  
The finance system is demanding the harmonization of sustainability standards and the development of meaningful biodiversity metrics that are both context specific and scientifically grounded.
- **Scale and roll-out interventions for inclusivity**  
Priorities to build more inclusive food finance systems include social payments/ social assistance subsidies, improved contractual relationships, inclusive blended finance solutions, project-level support to build capacity and incubate regenerative models, and bolstering the enabling environment for investment.
- **Collaboration across public and private actors**  
To enable transformation, actors need to raise ambition, place food systems on the top of the political, business, financial, humanitarian, and research agenda, and replicate and scale interventions and solutions that work.

# 8. Empowering Cities and Local Governments to Improve Food Systems Globally

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 28 JUNE 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

**Total Participants:** 238

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24573/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

## CONTEXT

The Dialogue brought together local and national government politicians, urban government practitioners, local food leaders and civil society organizations and local producers. The intent was to reflect on and recognize the role of local government and the importance of integrating food policy with national government and all food system stakeholders. In addition, the Dialogue provided an opportunity to share the results of the city consultations and Independent Dialogues supported by the Urban Food Systems Working Group and to advocate for the integration of the urban food agenda into the UN Food Systems Summit process. Break Out room discussions focused on Food System Governance; Public Procurement and School Food; Food Waste and Circular Economy; Finance for Urban Food Systems; Social Protection and Inclusion and Resilience to Shocks and Stressors.

## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **An integrated urban food agenda**  
The discussions converged on the need for strategic thought to advocate for an integrated urban food systems agenda which: (i) strengthen the connections between the different components of a sustainable urban food systems and (ii) connect food system transformation with other policy priorities (such as public health and social protection) sustainable development. This integrated urban food systems agenda will require a systems leadership on urban food systems with improved capacities and competencies of urban and local government.
- **Political will and leadership**  
Both were mentioned as key levers of change for local and national food systems transformation. Raising awareness on the importance of promoting urban food systems transformation through initiatives across departments/policy domains and the development of a common urban food systems vision were introduced as crucial for accelerating food systems transformation.
- **COVID-19 and inequities in the food system**  
Cities have responded to emergency needs in innovative

ways, but they lack the resources and adequate capacity for promoting systemic responses. All levels of government and other food system stakeholders must work together to promote equitable food systems transformation and ensure food is integrated into emergency planning, response, and recovery.

- **Urban food systems data**  
The urban food systems analysis at the urban level was promoted as key tool for providing baseline information, promoting systems thinking and for developing integrated food plans and strategies. There is a broad consensus on the lack of both urban food systems data and capacities in addressing systemic and cross-sectoral issues.
- **Urban food governance**  
This was recognized at the heart of the transformative food systems change. The promotion of innovative and inclusive mechanisms to engage with communities particularly with the vulnerable ones was identified as key priority. To enable this engagement with the communities, local governments need to bring together actors involved in multiple processes, including civil society organizations, to co-create and co-design with them holistic food strategies and plans while advocating for integration with national policies and strategies to leverage existing resources and maximize impact.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

gain

GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021 DIALOGUES

GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON  
**EMPOWERING CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMPROVE FOOD SYSTEMS GLOBALLY**

28 June 2021  
14.30 – 17.30 (CEST)

Interpretation Available in EN/ES/FR by clicking on the globe icon

# 9. Trade, an Essential Piece of the Food systems Puzzle

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 6 JULY 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala WTO Director-General

**Total Participants:** 120

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17206/>

**Watch** [the Opening](#) & [the Closing](#)

## CONTEXT

This Global Dialogue asked, *how can the multilateral trading system best contribute to the food systems of the future?* The multilateral trading system must continue to level the playing field in food trade, while enabling countries to raise their social, environmental, and other standards. The aim of this Dialogue was to discuss how the trading system can best be reformed to address the food needs of tomorrow, and support sustainable development as called for by the Preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO. Participants discussed ten discussion topics, which cut across all Summit Action Tracks and Sustainable Development Goals: International Trade in Food in Times of Crisis; Can the Reform of Agricultural Subsidies Contribute to Food System Transformation?; The WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA); The Way Forward; Trade Facilitation and the Cutting of Red Tape for Food System Transformation; Global Agricultural Value Chains; Realizing the Human Right to Food; Ensuring Sustainable Food Trade; Nutrition Security and International Trade; Food Security and International Trade; Food Safety and International Trade.

## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inclusivity of farmers**  
Participants highlighted that farmers must be at the table, whether in conversations on agri-food systems at the UNFSS or at the WTO.
- **Trade and food security**  
Participants agreed that international trade in food is critical for global food security, and that it acts as the transmission belt that moves food from the parts of the world with a surplus to the parts with a deficit. As such, international trade in food must be made more resilient in times of crisis, and that there is a need to continue to rely on and strengthen the G20's Agricultural Monitoring and Information System (AMIS) which was created in the wake of the 2008 food price crisis.
- **Repurposing subsidies**  
Participants noted that current agricultural subsidies are not delivering the required

food system transformation, and that there is a need for deeper reflection on how to repurpose these subsidies.

- **WTO Agreements**  
The WTO Agreement on Agriculture requires reform, although participants disagreed on exactly what reform entailed. Additionally, discussions noted the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement must be deployed to prevent food loss and food waste as food perishables travel across borders
- **The right to food**  
There was agreement that the “human right to food” has to reflect the *adequacy, availability and accessibility* of food, in particular to the poorest of the poor.
- **Sustainability**  
Participants agreed that there is a need to internalize negative social and environmental externalities to make international trade more sustainable.
- **Complementary policies**  
Agreement that the trade and food security interlinkage is complex: that trade is necessary but not sufficient. Trade can allow greater access to food and to a more diverse diet, but that it needs proper accompanying policies, including trade policy.
- **Food safety**  
Participants noted a need to continue to build international standards for greater food safety, but to ensure that the developing world is able to contribute to and to use these standards.



# 10. Farmers, Fishers, Pastoralists and Other Producers

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 12 JULY 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit, WFO, PAFO, SACAU, AFA, and Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers' Forum, India)

**Total Participants:** 202

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28341/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

## CONTEXT

Building upon the outcomes of a series of producer-led Independent Dialogues, the Dialogue examined the challenges, contributions, responsibilities, and expectations of farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and others in transforming our food systems. The dialogue discussions were framed based on the following complementary perspectives: the Food Systems Summit Objectives and Action Tracks; 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 and technology, and evidence-based and rights-based approaches); and key discussion outcomes of other relevant Global Dialogues.

Participants discussed three primary topics:

- What are producers ready to commit to?
- What would producers like to see others commit to?
- What do producers need to see the world stop doing?



## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **What are producers ready to commit to?**  
A strong and clear commitment towards agroecology and production 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. Young and female 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. 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.

- **What would producers like to see others commit to?**  
In order for producers to play an active role in transforming food systems, it is requested that consumers better understand the challenge producer face, especially regarding the overall cost of food production, and mutually beneficial solutions are needed to ensure fair price and food affordability. Governments should commit to developing more targeted policies that are rights-based, evidence-based, and meet producers' needs, specific areas mentioned include securing rights of producers over their natural resources, infrastructure, price stability, trade barriers, support to stronger producer organizations and transition to agroecology. 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. Support from science and technology communities 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.
- **What do producers need to see the world stop doing?**  
Producers request the world to stop seeing them as part of the problem, but to recognize them as a key part of the solution. Producers also demand the world to stop underestimating producers' knowledge and experience, but to treat them as experts 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. 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 producers.

# 11. Global Interfaith Dialogue

GLOBAL DIALOGUE | 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

**Convened by:** Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit and Andrew Schwartz, Director of Sustainability and Global Affairs at the Center for Earth Ethics

**Total Participants:** 192

**Dialogue Event Page:** <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/41494/>

[Watch the Opening](#)

## CONTEXT

The Dialogue sought to bring together faith-based organisations, Indigenous communities, and others whose work is grounded in values and spirituality and who play an essential role in the sustainable transformation of the food systems. The dialogue highlighted the sacred relationship between humans and the environment, the importance of striving for justice, human dignity, and respect; sharing, caring, and mutual solidarity; taking responsibility and being accountable to each other.



## DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rights, responsibility, and relationships**  
Participant noted the importance of ensuring food systems are inclusive of the voices of people, bringing the ethics to the fore, including respect for each person's right to have access to adequate and nutritious food as an individual and in community; A value chain approach that ensures food security, nutrition and healthy diet, and decent livelihoods across food systems. Faith communities to speak the truth in love, lobbying and advocacy in support of marginalised farmers (small holders) and local producers in facing and challenging the monopoly of a handful of big corporations who have disproportionate control of the food systems in the world.
- **Creation of integral ecology**  
Being grateful for this earth, and not taking it for granted, ensuring that our approaches keep people, and the planet at the centre- as opposed often having a profit focus. Taking a no harm approach to the environment when producing, processing, and consuming food, ensuring sustainability, and stewarding resources well, practicing frugality, caring of neighbour and for those in need of food, growers/producers, and the planet, which calls for a broader system change requiring everyday personal choices.

- **Sustainable finances and fair markets**  
Fair Allocation of funding as a community-based process involves transformation of policy to ensure availability of resources so that farmers can lead sustainable lives and not be trapped in debt; Ensuring that fairer and just trade is established rather than indiscriminate free trade; and Transforming policies and addressing the value imbalances across the food value chain and to enable local producers to add value to their products and to gain more income from their produce.
- **Partnerships and sharing of knowledge and technology**  
Better partnering and sharing of knowledge includes: Address technological disparities, acknowledge and respect local and traditional knowledge, ensure that producers' have free access to quality seed to improve yield, and promote the studying and publicising of indigenous value chains, and local food systems that are successful.
- **Peace and Sustainability**  
Work for peace and towards the safety and security of all food producers, especially for those in conflict areas experiencing crisis and conflicts, where agricultural activities and farmers' lives are heavily influenced, which further threaten food security of the country/region. Promote the democratization of decision making in all matters, encourage grass roots activism and advocacy at all levels, and strive to protect the lives and welfare of activists and community leaders, whose lives are under threat, as they stand up for the right to food, water and livelihoods of people.
- **Individual Actions for systems change**  
Food Systems transformation is not just about systems but also individual actions. We must personally change to bring about this transformation, as we cannot only focus on the systems without addressing our own habits. Faith communities and people of faith should model our convictions to others and: 1. Share with those in need, and to be active in ones' own community; 2. Faith leaders – encouraging congregations to act justly.