



FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT ACTION TRACK 1 - PUBLIC FORUM 1

17 NOVEMBER 2020

Summary Report & Responses to all questions

The first open forum of Action Track 1 of the Food Systems Summit (FSS) took place on 17 November 2020, 14:00-16:00 CET. The objectives of the forum were to:

- Raise awareness among key stakeholders and a broader group of the interested public on the work of Action Track 1

- Begin the process of engagement with stakeholders and the public on AT1 work, including the process for how ideas for game changers can be submitted to the AT1 leadership team.

- Solicit feedback and ideas to inform future work, particularly around ways of engaging

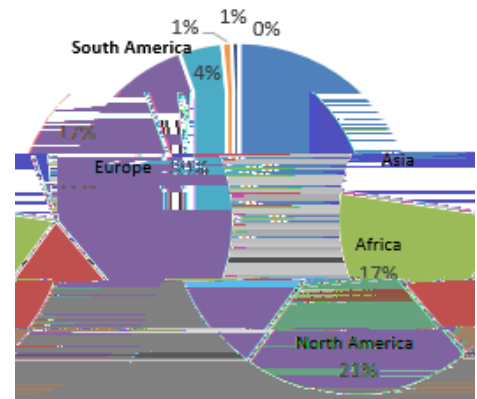
The format was an open meeting using Zoom teleconferencing software. Registration in advance was required, but it was free and open to all. The event was promoted widely beforehand through email listservs, Twitter, and on the website of the FSS.

Participant Information

The event had approximately 280 attendees. A total of 476 participants from 67 countries had registered for the event. Based on the registration data (which may differ somewhat from the actual attendee data), the geographic breakdown of attendees was as follows: 39% from Europe, 21% from North America, 17% from Asia and Africa, respectively, 4% from South America and 2% from rest of the world. The best-represented countries were the US and the UK.



% Participation By Continent





In terms of sector, most of the participants belonged to international organisations and non-profit organizations. Detailed breakdown of participant affiliation is shown below.

Session Overview

The event was facilitated by Tom Arnold, UN Food Systems Summit Champion and former Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) coordinator, who opened the event and explained the motivation and how it would work. Jamie Morrison, Director Food Systems and Food Safety Division, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the UN Anchor for Action Track 1 (AT1), then delivered a short overview of the FSS process. He noted the two main motivations behind the food systems summit. First, the transformation of the food system can play a key role in accelerating our progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Second, it will provide an opportunity to sync and connect innovative solutions for improving food systems that are currently operating in silos without recognition of the complex trade-offs and synergies that exist. He further listed the four main outcomes that the summit aims to achieve: (1) elevate public discourse on the importance of food systems in helping to achieve the SDGs, (2) through five action tracks, identify game changing solutions that can enable the achievement of the SDGs, (3) establish a set of principles that can serve to further increase food systems capacities, and (4) a develop system of follow-up and review. Mr. Morrison also emphasized that the findings will be shared with the public, meaning that the solution-



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Closing remarks were delivered by Sheryl Hendriks, Head of Department and Professor of Food Security, Department of Agricultural and Economics, University of Pretoria and member of leadership team of Action Track 1 (and its link to the FSS Scientific Group). She thanked all the participants for posing thoughtful questions. She noted the key words that came up during the discussion, including equity, inclusiveness, incentives, and place. She urged participants to alert their networks about the FSS and the public dialogues. , where he encouraged everyone to stay involved in the Food Systems Summit and the work of Action Track 1, the event was closed by Tom Arnold.

Resources for Further Information:

The video from the event can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/krNQvC-TMcw>

To learn about how the FSS relates to the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit, [see this blog](#).

To learn about holding food system summit dialogues in your country, see this website: summitdialogues.org

To submit any ideas that you may have [this Google Form](#)



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Annex. Questions Posed by the Open Forum Participants

Note: Questions that could not be answered during the event due to time constraints but were answered afterwards are noted in italic text. Grammar and language imperfections in the original questions and answers are to be expected, given the rapid nature of the Q&A, and have not been corrected. The initials before each response indicate the respondent (LH=Lawrence Haddad, CH=Corinna Hawkes, JF=Jessica Fanzo, SH=Sheryl Hendriks, GB=Godfrey Bahigwa, JM=Jamie Morrison, MM=Maureen Muketha).

No.	Themes	Question(s)	Response(s)
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		<i>way that is legally-enforceable within national policies. Will commitments to legally enforceable right to food policies be a priority for the summit?</i>	
12	Food system Issues to address – local production systems	Food diversity available to each community is based on local food production system. How should programs find adequate response to nutrition needs?	LH: Food diversity in production is going to become more important to mitigating risk and promoting resilience in an increasingly uncertain world and also to promote biodiversity. All solutions are context specific, but our job is to find ways of making it easier for governments, farmers, communities that want to make their production more diverse to do just that.
13	Engagement - Youth Engagement	It was wonderful to hear from 4-H youth at the start of this meeting. Are we missing the voice of youth and students from low & vulnerable groups at difficult to reach locations around the world? Can education play a key role in creating awareness & innovative solutions to this global challenge - zero hunger? How to connect the global youth network to collaborate and co-create solutions to address zero hunger, access to nutritious and safe foods?	LH: Hi Kiruba, we have 3 youth leaders and champions in our leadership team (Maureen who you will hear from later is one of them). The other 2 are high schoolers (USA and Bangladesh). Youth leaders are vital. They are agents of change; our decisions often exclude them but hit them hardest. They ask hard questions, and they are demanding in terms of their response. MM: I like what the question says regarding using education to address zero hunger. If you have any ideas about how we should go about that, please share with us.
14	Engagement - Business	How can business get involved in Action Tracks? Why isn't there more business involvement?	LH: AT1 has 6 business network reps in it (4 from SME groups and 2 from larger biz groups: CG, FIA). There is also a Private Sector Engagement Group which I think is just getting going. The Private Sector Engagement Group also has a set of principles of engagement.
15	Food system Issues to address - COVID-19	I'm surprised syndemic / concomitant crises (e.g. climate change, social unrest, COVID19, among others) has not come up. I see syndemic as the new normal, even if COVID19 dissipates one day.	JF: Great point Rebecca. These events themselves are game changers! The question is, how to use these issues to respond to shocks in resilient ways.
16	Food system Issues to address - NCDs	Hi Jai7(s)-6(o)7(n)5 9 Ttc(e)-3(n)-d[o)7(n)5 9 Ttc(e)-3(n)-d[211.73 Tc	



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18	Solutions - Financing Food Security	How can we really finance food security beyond investing in companies like Beyond Meat and Danone and that includes smallholder farmers in poorer nations?	LH: A good question Jennifer. GAIN estimates that 0.1% of impact investing industry goes to SMEs producing and marketing nutritious foods in Africa. That is much too low. We need new mechanism to make it easier for impact investors to find SME investment opportunity and we need to help SMEs get more investor ready.
19	Food system Issues to address - Employment	How can decent employment, income, and social protection be better addressed by the Summit as key pillars to make nutritious food more affordable?	CH: It is very vital and certainly when we are talking about access to nutritious foods, we are thinking about three different elements, price, income, and perception of affordability and value of food. Regarding the





		malnutrition. However, it might be important to further disaggregate this category, giving attention to traditional food systems, that include a wide variety of more traditional crops and dishes.	
25	Solutions – rural farmers	How can Rural Farmers be empowered independently?	LH: My view: they need to organise and form/join farmer groups, to speak with a politically stronger voice.
26	Engagement – CFS process	<p>The ongoing CFS process to develop recommendations on food systems for nutrition shows that government might be reluctant to implement some solutions because of lack of evidence base. Would the game changing solutions be based on evidence? And what should be considered as “scientific evidence”?</p> <p>How is the CFS civil society mechanism engaged on action track leadership and on the su15 reWB G/F5 9.9/F5 9 Tfnngms</p>	



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39	Solutions – Youth engagement	<p>Farming is perceived by many young people as old-fashioned and offering little opportunity for a productive future, so they seek well paid jobs in towns and cities. With less workforce, how can we ensure zero hunger?</p> <p>Will increasing youth engagement in designing, co-producing knowledge, providing solutions (also by involving youth in the summit) be a good way to tackle this?</p>	<p>important is to look at political and capacity issues. Reality is dynamic and fluid and we have to constantly adapt and adjust but by working with those who actually are responsible for implementing these plans, we hope to develop some that will survive the encounter with political, technical, and capacity realities.</p> <p>GB: Where I come from in Uganda, quite a lot of youth is involved in agriculture, so it is not exactly true. Youth are not only involved in the primary production but also in the secondary sections of the value</p>
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46	Solutions – what is a game changer?	While I am all for Community rural and urban gardens. Would that be a game changing solution to that issue of promoting community garden feature in the vision of the African Union Commission?	<p>GB: Regarding African Union's thinking about nutrition, there are two aspects: (1) education- we need to educate our households on diversification of their diet. (2) encourage households to have what you can grow, such as a vegetable garden, that can produce food crops other than the staples, but again this is in the same context of diversifying the diet through education.</p> <p>SH: The design of the programs, whether it is social protection or community gardens must consider the contexts and the local environment. The program can have positive or negative outcomes, so their design is critical.</p>
47	Food system Issues to address - Behaviour Change; Covid-19	How can we build positively on the changes which came about as a result of COVID-19? Norms and behaviour can be changed if the risks are clear. Can we tap into behaviour change research which may be underway looking at social policy and political change that happened throughout 2020?	<p>CH: If we look at the impact of COVID-19 on people's eating practices, there is enormous variation around the world. There are some consistent patterns emerging in terms of the way that food is being consumed and what is being consumed and it varies between low- and high-income groups. There is also change in the food systems and the availability of food. So, careful planning about food by government, business, and families can make a big difference. There has been over 600 new types of social protection programs and schemes brought in by</p>





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Food system Issues to address need for transformation

Should we also discuss for what we need a system transformation and for what not? What can we do within the existing systems, and for what do we really need a transformation? For example, for fortification or for biofortification do we really need a food system transformation?

LH: To scale up proven interventions we need transformation of incentives. For fortification we need legislation, standards and digitized tracking. For biofortification we need different R&D incentives and shifts in consumer demand. These are transformations that allow scaling T001



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