

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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|----------------------------|---|
| <b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>       | Thursday, 1 July 2021   |
| <b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>      | University-Policy Dialogue for Strengthening agri-food systems in Africa [ Selected Heads of State]   |
| <b>CONVENED BY</b>         | H.E Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera- President of the Republic of Malawi, Professor Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture |
| <b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b> | <a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17878/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17878/</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

611

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18      140 19-30      298 31-50      155 51-65      17 66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

387 Male      215 Female      9 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

|     |                         |    |                      |     |                              |
|-----|-------------------------|----|----------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 127 | Agriculture/crops       | 55 | Education            | 9   | Health care                  |
| 30  | Fish and aquaculture    | 14 | Communication        |     | Nutrition                    |
| 42  | Livestock               | 31 | Food processing      | 20  | National or local government |
| 8   | Agro-forestry           | 1  | Food retail, markets |     | Utilities                    |
| 79  | Environment and ecology | 17 | Food industry        | 3   | Industrial                   |
| 37  | Trade and commerce      | 10 | Financial Services   | 128 | Other                        |

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

|     |   |    |   |
|-----|---|----|---|
| 67  | Small/medium enterprise/artisan             |    | Workers and trade union                     |
| 17  | Large national business                     | 1  | Member of Parliament                        |
| 22  | Multi-national corporation                  |    | Local authority                             |
| 79  | Small-scale farmer                          | 85 | Government and national institution         |
| 21  | Medium-scale farmer                         |    | Regional economic community                 |
| 8   | Large-scale farmer                          | 19 | United Nations                              |
| 31  | Local Non-Governmental Organization         | 4  | International financial institution         |
| 45  | International Non-Governmental Organization | 8  | Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance |
| 3   | Indigenous People                           | 4  | Consumer group                              |
| 141 | Science and academia                        | 56 | 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 was inclusive and drew participation from different countries across the African continent. It included participation from multi-national agencies and key decision makers at the national, regional and inter-continental level. This would be a demonstration of commitment at the different decision-making strata. The dialogue was chaired by the President of the Republic of Malawi. Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, who convened fellow Presidents and high level policy actors. As a Presidents meeting it received statements from the Ministers of Agriculture, education, science and technology as deliberation input.

### 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 sought to identify pathways for building a sustainable, inclusive and resilient agri-food system as envisioned by the UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

RUFORUM reached out to stakeholders and agri-food sector players particularly; universities, research institutions and, policy makers to dialogue on the solutions and actions for the appropriate agri-food systems in Africa.

These identified key gaps, questions and concerns affecting the agri-food systems and the presidents dialogue was an opportunity for an honest engagement to find actionable solutions that will be adopted to drive the sector and for reaching the SGD targets. The dialogue underscored the interconnectedness between science and policy and the influence of the university on the agri-food sector in Africa that is dominated by a youthful population.

The Presidents dialogue was an opportunity to advance high-priority food systems commitments at the highest political regional, national and global levels.

### 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

Universities in Africa can trigger food systems transformation to ensure safe and nutritious food for all, shift to sustainable consumption, boost nature-positive production, promote full and productive employment, as well as build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

Africa is home to diverse agricultural value chains and countries have competitive advantage in the production of agricultural products.

Vibrant Agri-food-systems and institutions engaged in the agricultural value chain, from food production to food consumption, are key to delivery of the continent's development Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want, and to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

urbanisation, together with modernisation of the continent's food systems, generate risks and opportunities and that they create the need to institute appropriate measures to collectively realise sustainable and resilient food systems that meet Africa's food and nutrition needs.

Africa has to build human, financial and infrastructure capacity to mitigate natural and man-made disasters, including pandemics, locusts, floods, drought, and other climate change and related risks that contribute to the fragility of agri-food systems.

For Africa to realize its full agricultural potential to bolster its food systems, there is need for significant investments in key productivity enhancing innovations to harness science-based solutions for growth.

There is need for an interdisciplinary focus on the factors that contribute to the fragility of the agri-food systems in Africa, including but not limited to epidemics, emerging and re-emerging diseases.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The COVID-19 pandemic was a wakeup call to the glaring fragility and inequalities of the global, regional and national agri-food systems making the resolve for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems extremely urgent.

A call for partnerships, and a deliberate effort for investment in home grown institutions to provide local solutions with more appropriate application to local contexts.

Science solutions for growth: For Africa, especially Sub-Saharan Africa, to realize its full agricultural potential to bolder its food systems there is need for significant investments in key productivity enhancing innovations. Science solutions must make sense to indigenous people and have the capacity to increase the 'bottom line' for small holder farmers. Harnessing competitive advantage, improving markets and eliminating trade and non-trade barriers have potential to support agri-food systems on the continent.

Improving the labour productivity is critical for African agriculture to play a greater role in meeting local to global food demand, in a competitive and a cost-effective and competitive manner, as Sub-Saharan Africa harnesses science solutions for growth. A proportionately balanced workforce will enhance labour productivity, especially when coupled with agri-innovations creating opportunity to increase rural incomes and participation in cash economy.

Making agriculture attractive to the youth: is key to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector and strengthening the capacities of the smallholder producers and SMEs is a key element to generate effective demand for science, technology, and innovation.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |



# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Declaration**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/FINAL-Lilongwe-Declaration-01-July-2021.pdf>