

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Tuesday, 1 June 2021 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Towards a resilient, just, inclusive, nutritious and sustainable food system in Kairouan |
| CONVENED BY | Fatimata Sow Sidibé, Head of Office WFP Tunisia and Morocco and Philippe Remy, Country Director for the Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia Division at IFAD |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/19751/ |
| DIALOGUE TYPE | Independent |
| GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS | Tunisia |

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

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

| | | | | | | | |
|------|-------|----|-------|----|-------|-------|-----|
| 0-18 | 19-30 | 50 | 31-50 | 12 | 51-65 | 66-80 | 80+ |
|------|-------|----|-------|----|-------|-------|-----|

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

| | | | | |
|----|------|----|--------|----------------------------|
| 33 | Male | 29 | Female | Prefer not to say or Other |
|----|------|----|--------|----------------------------|

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|----|--|--|------------------------------|
| 3 | Agriculture/crops | | Education | | | | Health care |
| | Fish and aquaculture | 7 | Communication | 3 | | | Nutrition |
| | Livestock | 1 | Food processing | 45 | | | National or local government |
| | Agro-forestry | | Food retail, markets | | | | Utilities |
| 2 | Environment and ecology | | Food industry | 1 | | | Industrial |
| | Trade and commerce | | Financial Services | | | | Other |

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The independent consultation in Kairouan was organized on June 1 and 2, 2021 in the form of workshops, commonly called focus groups, in which participants debated and exchanged views on three previously identified themes. These themes were defined in close harmony with the principles of engagement of the consultation. Starting from the characteristics of the Food System in Kairouan in terms of its components (the functions leading to the food of the Kairouanese, the factors influencing the production systems, the relations between the actors of the food system, the policies and practices of consumption, the support structures and local and national governance, etc.), and aiming at protecting and improving the quality of life of the population.), and aiming to protect and improve human health and well-being, enhance the resilience of livelihoods and communities, and promote the sound management of natural resources, while respecting local cultures and contexts, and ensuring the inclusion of all parties involved in the food function. Thus, the three themes were designed as follows: - Table 1 addressed the issue of access to a healthy and balanced diet for all; - Table 2 focused on the sustainability of production systems and the strengthening of their resilience; - Table 3 dealt with the inclusiveness and equitability of agricultural and agri-food sectors. In each focus group, open debates took place which allowed each participant to better understand the subject, to clarify their opinions but also to share their ideas in plenary and to allow everyone to become more involved in the consultations. Taking into account the critical health situation of Kairouan and all of Tunisia, an interaction with a virtual room was ensured by the facilitators within the framework of each focus group in order to involve a large audience in the reflections of each theme.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The consultation in Kairouan was built in three phases at each discussion table - Table 1: A first session was devoted to determining the participants' perceptions of the notion of healthy and balanced food. A second session was dedicated to identifying the constraints/obstacles that prevent healthy and balanced food in Kairouan. A last session allowed to propose concrete actions allowing access to a healthy and balanced diet for all in Kairouan, by adopting the approach "Who does what and how? - Table 2: The first session was dedicated to identifying the different production systems existing in Kairouan by mentioning the strengths and weaknesses of each system mentioned. A collective discussion was organized to share the different perceptions of the participants. The second session aimed at identifying the problems that prevent the production system in Kairouan from being sustainable and resilient in order to develop an action plan based on concrete proposals clearly indicating the action to be carried out, identifying the tools for implementing the proposed action (how to achieve it?) and finally specifying the responsibilities (who will implement this action?). - For Table 3: Inclusive, Sustainable and Fair Trade Commodity Chains, the first session of this focus group began with an oral discussion where participants were asked to answer a question about their level of understanding of the notion of fair trade and inclusive agricultural/food commodity chains. Session 2 of this workshop was a brainstorming on the main sectors (plant, animal, agro-industrial) that exist in Kairouan, their characteristics and their actors? Session 3 focused on the identification of the conditions necessary to have inclusive and equitable sectors in 2030: how to ensure that in 2030 all actors in the agricultural sectors benefit equitably from the added value of these identified sectors.

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

3. METHOD

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

In order to achieve an inclusive, nutritious, resilient and sustainable food system in the governorate of Kairouan, the consultation has associated two components: A first component "descriptive" and contextualization at the end of which the problems and issues of the food system have been highlighted. It is a study of the current state of the food system in Kairouan in terms of components: characteristics of functions / actors involved in the food system, from upstream to downstream starting from agricultural production systems and their specificities to food consumption patterns and nutritional profile of the population in Kairouan and its attributes. This through the various functions associated with the food system such as agro-industrial processing and distribution / marketing of agricultural and food products. We have also focused on the issues facing the food system in Kairouan, including those associated with climate change, natural resource management, access to agri-procurement, ...

A second component of an operational nature took place at the level of the independent consultation in Kairouan and allowed to bring out orientations and operational action plans that would allow the food system in Kairouan to achieve the objectives of sustainability by 2030. These orientations were the result of debates and exchanges between participants with diversified profiles who debated during two days (June 1st and 2nd) around 3 specific axes

- Access to a healthy and balanced diet for all
- Sustainability and resilience of production systems
- Inclusiveness and equitability of the sectors.

ACTION TRACKS

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

MAIN FINDINGS

As for the aspect of access to a healthy and balanced diet for the population of Kairouan, the links between nutrition and health are increasingly well known, and the risk of developing many diseases, cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity or diabetes, have been listed. In view of the importance of the issues at stake, public policies have a fundamental role to play in implementing the necessary impulses and frameworks in the long term (authorization of the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, governance and management of natural resources, penalties for infringements, etc.). It must be given the means to do so in a context of decreasing human and financial resources.

Consumers, essential actors, must be able to make and impose informed choices. To do this, efforts must be made in terms of nutritional information and education, especially among the youngest and most sensitive groups. At the same time, specific information and awareness-raising campaigns must be carried out on new "out-of-home" food sources, which are growing rapidly due to changes in lifestyles, and among which mass catering plays an important role (awareness-raising in school canteens, university catering,).

The interest in promoting quality products, enhancing traditional know-how, must not be forgotten; this approach also has an environmental interest in terms of respect for local natural resources, and an economic interest at the territorial level through the development of adapted approaches (organic certifications, controlled designations of origin, etc.). It is crucial not to forget the implementation of an information and data collection system based on the different types of food consumption of the population in Kairouan (men, women and by age group). These indicators will allow us to act more quickly and effectively and to take timely decisions to strengthen access to a healthy and balanced diet.

With regard to the sustainability of production systems, the principles of sustainable agriculture were presented as having three levels of requirement: economic viability, environmental safety and socio-economic equity. To achieve this, it is necessary on the one hand to raise awareness of good agricultural practices among local actors (broad awareness through modern communication means, adoption of shocking communication if necessary) and on the other hand to put in place the necessary means to promote these sustainable and resilient modes of production while preserving the food security of households. To this end, the group emphasized the need, and urgency, of adopting economic incentives and promoting appropriate new technologies to ensure a stable supply of food of adequate nutritional value to which vulnerable groups will have access.

The creation of jobs and income to reduce poverty through the diversification of agricultural and non-agricultural employment and the development of infrastructure are essential: At this level, it is necessary to support and strengthen the entrepreneurial vision of young people as well as support the poorest families in rural areas as well as in urban and suburban areas through the creation of micro-gardens, micro-greenhouses, micro-breeding in order to improve the nutritional security of households,

Finally, the group considered that family farming was the best entry point for the optimal management of natural resources and environmental protection by promoting the adoption of good agricultural practices, crops that are less demanding (in terms of water and inputs) and adapted to climate change; among the models to be promoted were organic farming, which requires fewer chemicals and is therefore less dangerous for the ecosystem, sustainable agriculture, permaculture....

The component relating to the inclusiveness and equitability of the value chains has, for its part, shed light on the structure of the value chains and their characteristics. These are all the activities, organizations, actors, technologies, information, resources and services involved in the production of agri-food products for consumers. They cover the upstream sectors of agricultural production, from the supply of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, animal feed, medicines or equipment), production and its downstream (post-harvest treatment, processing, marketing, distribution and sales). They also include support services such as extension services, research and development, and access to market data. Thus, they are composed of a wide range of actors. Some of these actors may dominate the rest of the value chain and thus lead to a non-equitable and non-inclusive value chain (mainly in terms of profit and margin sharing).

Depending on the characteristics of the relationship between the actors, the value chain may be unbalanced and therefore inequitable, which may create a conflict of interest. On the other hand, it can be qualified as equitable insofar as the relationship between the links is based on complementarity of functions and on an equitable sharing of the overall value added of the value chain.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Based on the actions proposed by the participants, the following recommendations emerged

Balanced development of the territory at the national level (between governorates) but also at the governorate level (between delegations) to reduce the fractures between regions and sub-regions, and to facilitate access to basic services to all households, in particular drinking water; but also to health and education structures which are often lacking in the most remote and poorest areas;

Promotion of food systems based on local products: even in rural areas, there is a strong tendency to consume imported processed products, the nutritional quality of which is often questionable; in this context, it is key to identify local products and know-how and to promote good traditions (not all of them are good!), through local festivals and through a system of organic certifications, controlled designations of origin, etc;

Information and nutritional education: in particular at the level of schoolchildren (promotion of school canteens) and women who have a key role in the nutrition of young children, but not only (all members of the household must be made aware of this issue); particular focus on consumers and their associations, essential actors, who by their food choices influence the whole system;

Promotion of agricultural and livestock production systems that use few or fewer chemical products which then present a food risk: different models have been mentioned at this level such as organic farming, sustainable agriculture, even permaculture...

Strengthening control systems: public services obviously have a fundamental role to play in implementing the necessary impulses and frameworks over time (authorization/ban on the use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers, drugs, antibiotics, etc.; governance and management of natural resources, etc.). However, the current economic situation in Tunisia is leading to a weakening of public services, which are finding it increasingly difficult to perform their regulatory functions. In the context where these control systems are considered a priority to achieve a healthy diet, adequate political and budgetary choices must be made at the national and decentralized levels;

Empowerment of producer and consumer associations: as a complement to policy framing and implementation, it is important that the main types of stakeholders are organized to ensure that standards are met and to be able to exert pressure in case they are not. Producer groups and consumer associations exist but are not yet fully capable of exercising this counter-power and defending their interests;

Data collection and information system based on the type of food consumption of the population in Kairouan (men, women and by age group) and data processing. These indicators will allow to act in a more rapid and efficient way and to take adequate decisions in time to reinforce the access to a healthy and balanced diet. The human resources needed for this data collection and processing will have to be identified, as they are not currently available and are costly.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Based on the actions proposed by the participants, the following recommendations emerged

Take drastic measures to save natural resources and in particular water resources: the time is no longer for diagnosis, and participants stressed the urgency of promoting this type of measures and environmentally friendly technologies, and adaptive to climate change, which are in fact already known and used in some regions of Tunisia, but are not sufficiently promoted;

Promotion of family farming in this context, family farming (rather than other forms of industrial agriculture) is considered more amenable to the practice of less demanding crops (in water and inputs), and to the breeding of animals adapted to local climatic conditions; as well as to the application of organic farming less demanding in chemical inputs and therefore less dangerous for the ecosystem, and less costly for the farmer, or of the circular economy which allows a more economical management of resources;

Elaboration of a new agricultural policy of rupture and in a participative way: a policy defining the outlines of the change of approach is urgently needed and must result from an approach involving the various actors of the sectors; farmers but also actors of the private sector must be part of this reflection and of the strategic choices to be made because they will be the ones to implement them; a change of paradigm is necessary at the level of the ministry in charge of agriculture: it must become a ministry of the sustainable agricultural production

Adoption of economic incentives: this paradigm shift will require technical and financial support that is not currently present. It is a change that can only be made over time and with close support. The financial means must be programmed accordingly, which requires a revision of the subsidies currently granted to recalibrate them to the new approaches to be promoted;

Awareness and training of local actors on good agricultural practices that respect the environment: in this context, agricultural training and awareness on the importance of practicing sustainable agriculture will be crucial. The question of agricultural advice will also have to be rethought in depth, with for example the use of digital approaches.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

Contractualization between actors: linking actors and facilitating contracts between them is an approach that can facilitate the marketing of farmers' and breeders' products, especially the poorest: contract farming is a possible example of contractualization between producers and a buyer. However, it is important in this context to support small producers in understanding and implementing the contract so that they can make the most of it;

Promotion of local value chains (products and by-products) and encouragement of investments through specific financing (micro-credits, subsidies, etc.) for the development of these local chains, often developed by small producers;

Promote the territorial identity through the encouragement of the labeling of local products processed by craftsmen and organic certification, which will allow producers and processors to gain notoriety and quality of products to be put on the market; in this context, promote the local private sector by encouraging it to invest in their territory of origin; this requires the revision of the investment scheme in order to make it more favorable to small investors;

Improving the governance of the sectors through the establishment of structures bringing together all the actors and allowing to jointly define the development of their sector: different examples of platforms, inter professions, clusters by sectors exist in Tunisia, a support strategy to this type of structure is necessary; at this level, the members of the group have expressed differences on the mode of coordination of the platforms, some considering that it should be the responsibility of the Administration, others of the private actors, the State having only a role of observer and accompanier;

Promotion of short distribution channels (from the producer to the consumer) and the corresponding logistics in order to guarantee small producers an increased share of the added value in consultation with the other actors involved in the sector (points of sale, fairs, product information, etc.).

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The valorization of local products was approached from two different angles. For some participants, local products can be used to satisfy household needs (food and nutritional security); for others, local products can be valorized through their processing and marketing outside the locality of production (search for markets for these products) in order to generate additional income (mainly for women who process these local products in an artisanal way and who can be supported to market them collectively: example in the Governorate of Siliana of a group of women who produce chili peppers, which are processed and marketed as far as Europe).

The issue of coordination was discussed: some participants proposed a ministerial overhaul with the creation of a department coordinating all services dedicated to small-scale local agriculture and a reorientation of subsidies to the agricultural sector to give priority to it. While better coordination of food system actors is considered essential by the group, some participants expressed doubts about the creation of new coordination structures; indeed, many such structures have already been set up in Tunisia in different areas and have always had difficulties in functioning effectively.

The improvement of the governance of the sectors through the establishment of structures bringing together all the actors and allowing to jointly define the development of their sector: different examples of platforms, inter-professional, clusters by sectors exist in Tunisia, a support strategy for this type of structure is necessary; at this level, the members of the group have expressed differences on the mode of coordination of platforms, some believe that it must fall within the Administration which ensures its regulatory role of organization and control of the sector, other participants favor the reempowerment of private actors, primarily producers and their representative bodies, the State having a role of observer and supporter.

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