

# **FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUES (FSDs)**

JAKARTA, 28 JANUARY 2019  
CO-ORGANIZED BY BAPPENAS

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\*The format of FSDs Summary Reports is under development. This report may be subject to change

## Executive Summary

On 28 January 2019, a Food Systems Dialogues (FSDs) event took place in Jakarta, co-organized by The Ministry of National Development Planning, BAPPENAS. The focus was on discussing food systems transformation in the context of the release of a Declaration on Sustainable Food Systems by the Indonesian Government.

Approximately 70 participants attended, reflecting a range of actors working in Food Systems, from Head of Corporate Communications for a major business in the food industry, to a member of the Directorate General of Food Crops, to Foreign Embassy and NGO representatives.

2 rounds of facilitated Dialogues were held at the event. The first was an opportunity to discuss proposals for food systems transformation (as is customary at an FSDs event), and the second was an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the Declaration.

As is the norm at FSDs events, all ideas outlined in this Summary Report are not attributed to any particular individual or organization. Each idea did not necessarily receive universal support from all participants at the event; rather, the aim of this report is to capture recommendations made at the event, in order to allow continuity and consensus - a 'red thread' - to emerge across all FSDs events.

# Proposals

## Proposal 1: Link guidelines to Indonesian government policies

Existing Indonesian government policies which support the guidelines should be identified in order to make use of any obvious connection points. The guidelines could also be used to assess if there are any policies that overlap or contradict each other, and what policy gaps exist that need to be filled in order to meet the guidelines.

It is also important to link the guidelines to the provincial and local level, and to think about who is best placed to facilitate this. A platform could be created to generate a supportive environment across all sectors, and lead to change, for example through the national food agency; however, they would need the authority and mandate to carry out this change.

## Proposal 2: Gain a better understanding of sugar consumption in order to decrease it

A better understanding of the drivers behind sugar consumption is needed. In particular, it is important to understand who is in charge of buying the sugar and furnishing it in people's diets, and whether sugar being consumed is hidden sugar or added sugar.

Introducing a sugar tax could be considered. The approach to implementation will be important.

## Proposal 3: Embrace a systems approach to address undernutrition

It is important to avoid looking at undernutrition on its own without looking at the other side of the equation. All forms of nutrition should be embraced in a single food systems based approach, instead of, as has been implemented in Indonesia before, separating issues into individual sectors such as health.

Local government and local private sector leaders should be made more aware of their role in improving nutrition. This could be achieved by stronger collaboration between government and the private sector about food and nutrition. The food private sector should be held accountable for the environment they are creating rather than just focusing on the role of the consumer.

#### Proposal 4: Agriculture and nutrition guidelines should be localized

National guidelines should reflect the variety of food and resources in each area in Indonesia. Technology could be used to help local governments take a more local approach to agriculture and nutrition, understanding which food is most appropriate to be grown in their region.

National guidelines should include recommendations on what kind of commodity should be promoted in Indonesia. For example, based on the EAT Lancet paper, protein plant sources should be encouraged.

#### Proposal 5: Build legislative support

Greater support for legislative change in food systems is required. The approach should be directed at the top level.

The goals should be to improve the dietary diversity of the population; to reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases; and to increase financial security for small and medium farmers as well as the private sector.

The guidelines should cover all ages, and food mapping should be undertaken in each region, to facilitate a customized approach in promoting food.

#### Proposal 6: Scale up sustainable supply, while minimizing food waste

More research needs to be done into who is wasting food and at what point in the chain. Experience shows that by supplying more nutritious foods (vegetables, fish, etc) locally and therefore cutting the supply chain, is one way to reduce waste.

Working with villages and DESA to source a supply of local production is an opportunity to achieve this at a rural level.

To reduce waste, improving food storage is important, as well as documenting the location of food. More thought is needed as to appropriate storage and technology, and as to the investment required to implement appropriate solutions.

Better education and documenting of best practices could help reduce food waste. Also, improving understanding of how food-sharing is part of Indonesian culture and why is it phasing out. More could be done to support existing food sharing initiatives and scale them up by building connections with each other.

## Feedback on Declaration

Create a consensus statement as a basis for continuing to work together

There is currently debate around the extent to which the Declaration would be useful. Despite some concerns about the pitfalls of a centralized approach, there are benefits given that Indonesia does not currently have sustainable food system regulations in place.

In order to move forward, it would be valuable for actors to reach a consensus, and document this consensus in a statement, on how to approach the Declaration and incorporate it into their fields of work individually and together.

Develop a training programme for actors working on food systems

It is important to develop the capacity of actors to achieve the goals of the Declaration. A training programme for food systems thinking could be created and provided to NGOs, Government and the private sector so they can understand and manage the complexity of these issues. Training the upcoming professionals who work in this area to understand food systems thinking is fundamental to being able to achieve the goals of the Declaration.

Map the Indonesian food system and biodiversity

Mapping food diversity in Indonesia is a crucial task. Indonesian food policy mentions local foods but there is not enough research into what is actually available in each province. There could be a study into the biodiversity across the archipelago which includes the benefits of the foods available at the local level.