

FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUES (FSDs)

BOGATÁ, 08 MAY 2019, AM SESSION

CO-ORGANIZED BY THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM AND THE FOOD AND
LAND USE COALITION (FOLU)

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

Executive Summary

On 08 May 2019 a Food Systems Dialogues (FSDs) event took place in Bogotá, Colombia co-organized by the Food and Land Use Coalition and the World Economic Forum. This FSDs event was held in the context of Tropical Forest Alliance Annual Meeting. This event focused on proposals for action at the global level; later in the same day, a second FSDs event was held (in Spanish) with a focus on proposals for action in Colombia.

Approximately 30 participants attended, reflecting a range of actors working in Food Systems, mostly working in public and private-sector organizations with international operations. Participants ranged from research managers from the Ghana Cocoa Board, to representatives of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to international food and beverage manufacturers

One round of facilitated Dialogues were held at the event, at 5 tables.

Tables were asked to present one or more proposals to address a specific area of food systems, with a global focus. Ideally, the proposals were to be achievable within 3 years. The prompt themes for dialogue at this event addressed the following areas: investment, trade economics, nutrition, resilience and climate.

The following is a summary of the tables' proposals for food systems transformation as well as the discussions that led them to their conclusions.

As is the norm at FSDs events, all Proposals outlined in this Summary Report are not attributed to any particular individual or organization. Each proposal 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: Build coalitions between stakeholders, including smallholder farmers

There needs to be a greater focus on building coalitions between different stakeholders in key landscapes.

The potential for impact through working in coalitions is untapped in hotspots and key areas of the world where there are lots of opportunities to address the challenges.

Smallholders need to be a part of this process in a meaningful way to ensure solutions are suitable for their situation. Connecting farmholders to coalitions could also unblock new value in smallholder farming.

If successful, this approach could lead to new norms around valuing nature and working in coalitions to manage land sustainability.

Proposal 2: Introduce a trade agreement which values trade in sustainably produced food for a number of commodities

A trade agreement encompassing a number of commodities (not just a single commodity) would be a valuable tool. This trade agreement should be designed in a way which avoids protectionism, ensures a fair deal for everybody, includes a majority of supplier groups or participants in the supply chain, and protects smallholder farmers.

The approach to creating this trade agreement should be consultative, with suppliers and civil society organizations. These groups could provide important feedback, and help ensure the commercial elements for producers and businesses are well designed.

Proposal 3: Change consumer preferences to make sure that social norms are driving change

The power of new social norms in driving change was highlighted: this led to proposals for a campaign to respond to new norms for consumer food preference that relate to sustainably sourced and nutritious foods. The campaign should be targeted at consumers through the nutrition angle.

It is worth considering the idea that nutrition and sustainably produced food are two separate questions and should be addressed separately. The drivers for nutrition and sustainability are different. However, there are areas where these issues intersect.

At present most consumers appear to be more concerned about choices that reflect their nutritional prospects than they are about sustainability factors.

Proposal 4: Take a territorial approach to planning for sustainable land use

Planning for sustainable land use needs to happen in a more territorial way. This applies when addressing the issue of the rule of law, illegal occupation of territories, and other issues leading to forest loss.

As part of designing the right approach for this, it should be noted that landscapes are not located just within one jurisdiction, but multiple jurisdictions.

Proposal 5: Create a lab to build support across Colombia for smallholder farmers

A lab could be created to discuss how to bring about systemic change that redirects resources to the smallholder farmers.

Smallholders need support to rise above subsistence level; they should receive an income that allows them to support their families and re-invest in farms - ideally in order to make their farms more sustainable.

Ensuring the profitability of smallholder farms and in turn their ability to reinvest in their land, is key.

This lab could be a platform to convene and create alignment between all stakeholders, platforms and initiatives that are currently operating in Colombia.