

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	ACCELERATING ACTIONS FOR GOOD NUTRITION THROUGH THE REVIVAL OF FORGOTTEN FOODS
DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 22 November 2024 13:00 GMT +01:00
CONVENED BY	Convened by Asikaralu Okafor, Executive Director Village Farmers Initiative (VFI), Nigeria.
EVENT LANGUAGE	Igbo (translated in English)
HOST LOCATION	Anam City, Nigeria
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Mmiata-Anam, Anambra-west LGA, Anambra state, South-east Nigeria
AFFILIATIONS	VFI is affiliated to the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) in Africa Community of Practice.
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55445/



The outcomes from Nutrition Dialogues will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a focus on women and children and young people. Each Dialogue contributes in four distinct ways:

- Published as publicly available PDFs on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal
- Available as public data on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal "Explore Feedback" page
- Available publicly within a .xls file alongside all Feedback Form data for advanced analysis
- Synthesised into reports that cover which nutrition challenges are faced, what actions are urgently needed and how should these be taken forward - particular, in advance of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris, March 2025.

SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

33

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	5	19-29
15	30-49	10	50-74	3	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

21	Female	12	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	1	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	0	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	30	Food Producers (including farmers)
0	Healthcare Professionals	0	Indigenous Peoples
2	Information and Technology Providers	0	Large Business and Food Retailers
0	Marketing and Advertising Experts	0	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
0	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	0	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	0	Small/Medium Enterprises
0	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

The stakeholder dialogue was aimed at accelerating actions for good nutrition through the revival of forgotten foods and promoting early recovery from food insecurity and malnutrition. Village Farmers Initiative works with over 250 smallholder farmers and fishers on community biodiversity management, that supported economic development while preserving local food heritages and nature. 33 men, women and youth smallholder farmers and fishers participating in the dialogue identified loss of crop varieties and species, malnutrition, socio-economic status and loss of income due to repeat natural hazards as significant influencing factors. According to the smallholder farmers from the Anambra River basin communities, frequent disasters in the area resulted in hunger and shortage of food and freshwater. These disasters also affect the wider agricultural system resulting in the loss of livelihoods, unavailability and extinction of local food varieties and fish species and a limitation to nutritious food. Most foods grown and are staples for households are undervalued and under unprecedented risk of disappearance. The stakeholder dialogue highlights the intersection between climate change, loss of biodiversity and nutrition, equity gaps in wellbeing and nutritional status and lack of access to food. The outcome of this important dialogue will be for all relevant stakeholders to take into consideration these contributions in designing, developing and implementing food and nutrition strategies, policies, programmes and legislation.

DISCUSSION

Village farmers Initiative featured a community engagement and discussion that unpacked the importance of accelerating actions for good nutrition through the revival of forgotten foods; from increasing farmer's productivity and adaptation performance to disaster and investment to respond to people's needs - hearing from diverse stakeholders - smallholder farmer's households made up of men, women and youth and experts in the field of agriculture. The topic of discussion facilitated an interactive dialogue among smallholder farmers and fishers to document experiences and good practices related to accelerating actions for good nutrition through the revival of forgotten foods to improve food security and nutrition for populations affected by natural disasters. Key objectives include: • Promoting the adoption and scaling up of effective practices; • Drawing lessons to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the stakeholder dialogue, • Raising awareness about the Nutrition Dialogues and its products.

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

One of the main challenges is that most foods that are dominantly prevalent as staples are either forgotten or unknown, which often result in incomplete or inadequate policy tools.

2. Food production during disaster in these areas lacks adequate surge capacity, skilled man-power, infrastructure and resources to provide adequate nutrition at the right time.

3. Lack of disaster preparedness and a focus on post-disaster activities were also identified as a challenge.

URGENT ACTIONS

1. To mobilize support and resources for foods that represent diverse nutritional values and promote agricultural practices that create sustainable livelihoods and food security in rural areas while combining biodiversity, resilient ecosystems, traditions and farmer innovations in a unique way.

2. To collaborate and work together with all relevant stakeholders in a coordinated manner, in support of community-led processes towards accelerating actions for good nutrition through the revival of forgotten foods, for reduction of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The stakeholder engagement centered on widespread severe food and nutrition insecurity prevalent in the 70% of households.

Almost all the participants are engaged in subsistence farming and fishing intricately connected to their rainforest ecosystem.

Our stakeholder dialogue also revealed distinct patterns that underscores the importance of ecosystem services in sustaining delta communities, with different ecosystem services prioritized by different livelihood groups.

Households with lower incomes exhibit a higher reliance on ecosystems services, highlighting the crucial role these services play in food and nutrition security and supporting livelihoods.

OVERALL SUMMARY

Smallholder farmers from the communities along the Anambra River Basin of Nigeria produce and provide an array of nutritious food and other ecosystem services to the people in the southern region.

Food varieties and fish species found within these localities which are commonly staples have higher nutritional and health values than most exotic foods.

However, these delta regions face rapidly rising climate change exacerbated issues resulting in the loss, unavailability and extinction of local food varieties and fish species and a limitation to nutritious food.

Half of the participants depend primarily on land, mangrove forests and watercourses for food and survival. Most households badly affected by natural hazards exposes the intersection between nutrition, income, ecological dependency and vulnerability.

As hunger, inflation and disaster rises, other ecosystems such as agriculture fields, aquaculture and wetlands contribute to people's nutrition and livelihoods.

Village farmers Initiative (VFI)'s Nutrition Dialogue brought together diverse stakeholders of men, women and youth smallholder farmers to facilitate meaningful discussion, and exploration of the most urgent and powerful ways to accelerate actions for good nutrition through the revival of lost and forgotten foods.

To improve food security and nutrition for the vulnerable population of smallholder farmers affected by natural disasters by addressing critical issues, increasing their productivity and enhancing resilience.

To support the production and consumption of a diversity of forgotten foods (e.g. roots, tubers, legumes, nuts, vegetables and nutri-cereals) through agrobiodiverse systems including agroecology and regenerative agriculture.

VFI's stakeholders' engagement addressed gaps in our understanding of the capacity of local food production systems in providing good nutrition, as well as co-benefits (synergies) and/or trade-offs amongst different ecosystem services.

Addressing these gaps by accelerating actions for good nutrition through revival of forgotten foods is crucial in the context of contemporary land management, biodiversity loss and climate-induced challenges.

Thus, taking urgent actions to increase primary production of these forgotten local food varieties and species might hold the key to sustainable food system and resilience in the face of rising food and nutrition insecurity.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The stakeholder dialogue focused and benefitted the most vulnerable group of smallholder farmers and fishers from the socially and economically disadvantaged communities. The dialogue contributed to building resilient livelihoods of farmers and fishers households and communities to shocks and crises, including those related to climate change. The stakeholders dialogue promoted equal rights and participation of women and men and addressed gender inequalities. Participants were also encouraged to share, identify and document their good practices; smallholder farmers and fishers affected by the decisions were also involved and participated in the decision-making process. The dialogue achieved its objectives, without compromising the ability of addressing its future environmental, economic and social sustainability needs.

METHOD AND SETTING

The methodology used to Convene the Dialogue was charade consultation, taking into consideration the specific needs of all affected and at-risk food varieties and species.

ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS