

FAO E-Consultation Outcome Report

As part of the activities in support of the preparatory process towards the Third International Conference on SIDS 2014, FAO launched a global e-consultation “[Addressing Emerging Challenges, Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods in Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#)” from **29 May to 24 June 2013**. The objective of the e-consultation was to encourage dialogue and seek inputs aimed at addressing the main challenges and opportunities on SIDS. The e-consultation invited participation from a wide group of stakeholders from various sectors. The E-consultation registered 48 users and 13 contributions.

1) What do you see as the main emerging challenges in SIDS in improving food security and resilient livelihoods? From your experience/opinion, what are the challenges in relation to agriculture/fisheries/forestry, land and water? Some examples include soaring food prices, climate change, freshwater management, etc.

Aminath A. says that in the Maldives, the main emerging challenge is weather related climate events. Strong winds, rough seas, salt intrusion, and heavy downpours are now harsher and more frequent. This leads to crop damage and loss, soil erosion, reef damage , rough seas and reduced fish catch which negatively effects food security.

In **Lakshit S.**’s opinion, the emerging challenge is the hardness of water, which causes a variety of problems related to: industrial uses, daily needs requirements and human health. Lakshit S. would like to see a solution so that well water is protected and served to all.

Michael believes that a systematic approach must be adopted to combat climate related weather events. He outlines various solutions He discusses the pros and cons of using **Protected Agriculture (PA)** and **Open Field Agriculture (OFA)** systems. He also discusses the introduction of **aquaculture farming** as a solution; whether the approach is an aquaculture farming/ aquaponic system or fish farming in the open sea. He then goes on to outline various **methods of gardening** and lists:

1. Vertical gardening- only necessary if land space is limited.
2. Hydro- or Aquaponics
3. Usage of Heirloom seeds
4. Ultra high density farming

Michael believes the main issues of the Caribbean are:

1. The threats of the hurricanes and storms
2. Lack of risk management plans

3. Slow development; slow adoption of new technologies
4. Change in dietary patterns; adoption of foreign taste
5. Not eating seasonal fruits and vegetables
6. Eating portion sizes of the people

Jerome believes that widespread adoption of best practices is currently limited by the lack of local and regional infrastructures necessary to collect and disseminate data.

Kingsley from Ghana says that the issue of poor drainage and incorrect disposal of refuse is a challenge that should be addressed in the relation to agriculture/fisheries/forestry, land and water.

Zaheed says that the Ecosystem, culture, stages of development of every single coastal communities are different. Increased frequency and intensity of extreme climatic events due to climate change are adversely impacting coastal population's lives and properties. Generally People living in the coasts have some sort of mechanism to deal with the extreme climatic events. For the development of acceptable adaptation plan it is crucial to gather information on perception of a particular coastal population about climate change, practiced and expected adaptation responses. **A combination of top-down and bottom up approach will help to develop acceptable and effective adaptation policies.**

Sue K. wants to know how do to alleviate the effects of natural disasters on these geographically disadvantaged countries. She notes that investors are reluctant to invest in places where the safety of their investments is in question. And yet investment in these countries would be one of the fastest way to ensure food security and growth of their GDP. * (Posted on FAO Facebook)

Sabeteshi M. agrees on this point, stating that a conducive policy space would work, where by investment in mechanisms and approaches to prevent natural disasters could be an option. Governments and other stakeholder in these particular areas should look into a way to encourage private sector investment in disaster prevention investments and innovations. * (Posted on FAO Facebook)

2) What has worked best in addressing the challenges referred in Theme 1 affecting food security and the resilience of livelihoods? Some examples include: Institutional/governance strengthening, resource mobilization, new approaches and technologies, diversification/ resilience of livelihoods/opportunities for wealth creation, natural resources management and environmental threats.

Ram says that “the Opportunities have not been identified properly. Constraints have been over-emphasized. Experienced people have not been taken around those SIDS sites.” And he believes that “there is out of box solution. try or ask me for a specific island / situation”.

3) What are the roles that existing/potential partnerships can play in addressing the challenges for sustainable development in SIDS? Do you know any examples/cases of this, such as public-private,

SIDS-SIDS, south-south, tripartite, etc? **NO POSTS**

4) What do you consider to be the major lessons learned from past strategies and action plans?

Among the main ones, we find the Barbados Plan of Action, and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, among others.

James says that trade issues which impact negatively on small island developing states like Barbados must be addressed. Many of the gains will be rapidly eroded, and by forcing these small island states to participate in forums such as WTO without the commensurate safeguards contributes to the problem.

Heshimu notes that unless we address the trade issues which impact negatively on small island developing states like Barbados many of the gains will be rapidly eroded. It is clear that forcing these small island states to participate in forums such as WTO without the commensurate safeguards only serves to facilitate their exploitation and put them at risk.** (posted on FAO LinkedIn)

5) In light of the above themes what priorities do you think need to be considered in the post-2015 agenda that would be highly relevant for SIDS?

Margaret G. considers that there is a need to address social problems, such as poverty, access to natural resources (which is key for their livelihoods), as well as employment and education. Any solutions that address social issues however, will also need to address the gaps between international commitments and the local reality.

Lakshit S. thinks that the problem in these fields can be solved by hosting them as the guidelines by giving them the basic knowledge about the resources available there, how to use them as well as their use through public centre. Also encouraging them, maintaining the regularity and also providing some sources for their beginning.

Aminath says that that there is a need for diversification of fisheries and agriculture: value addition, strengthening the value chains and market linkages, efficient technologies, ICT. And we should consider improving food storage and transportation systems to ensure access to food.

6) How can the integration of the 3 pillars of sustainability contribute to reduce the challenges related to food security in SIDS? **NO POSTS**