



Overarching Outcomes from Food Dialogues in 16 African Cities

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Dialogue Process Overview

Raising the voice of cities at UNFSS

The partnership between FAO and ICLEI supported **16 cities in Africa** to engage in local multi-stakeholder **Food Dialogues**, from **April to August 2021**

Purpose

- To **highlight the role that local governments** are playing in improving their urban food systems as well as **identify key food systems challenges, opportunities and priorities**
- To **generate discussions, action and commitments** from local governments for food systems transformation

Overview

- Structure
 - In-depth Multi-Stakeholder Engagements
 - Exploratory Multi-stakeholder Engagements
- Duration: 2 - 4 hours (with 60-90 minutes for breakout sessions for in-depth multi-stakeholder engagements)

The African Cities that hosted the FAO-ICLEI Dialogues

- Accra and Tamale, Ghana
- Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Arusha and Dodoma, Tanzania
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Entebbe, Uganda
- Kigali and Rulindo, Rwanda
- Kisumu and Nairobi, Kenya
- Quelimane, Mozambique
- Tunis, Tunisia

Key outcomes from the dialogues

- While there is considerable variation in the food system outlook and opportunities among the cities, the dialogues revealed **a pressing need to ensure that food systems are both resilient and sustainable.**
- Importance of **transitioning to just and inclusive food systems** which ensure equitable livelihoods and food security in cities
- Participants' perspectives or contributions are anchored around **critical proposals for food system transformation in cities.**

Proposals for urban food system transformation

Invest in critical infrastructure:
Including transport infrastructure, market infrastructure (smaller markets), storage infrastructure, and the incorporation of local technology and innovation to improve efficiencies

Foster territorial linkages: To achieve resilient city food systems, strengthen regional linkages (city to city, urban to peri-urban, and urban to rural linkages). Promote symbiotic relations

Develop efficient data management systems: Food systems data is a starting point for governance and formulation of effective policies. E.g data on food flows, early warning systems etc

Innovative financing models: Needed to overcome challenges relating to resource constraints. E.g. PPPs, subsidy schemes for input provision, revolving loans, cooperatives

Proposals for urban food system transformation



Capacity building: Develop the capacity of food system actors through trainings to bridge the knowledge gap, awareness campaigns etc

Develop local level policy and ensure coherence, implementation and evaluation: An integrated food policy framework can address accountability, fragmentation and coordination issues in food system governance

Improve multilevel governance
Strengthen the linkages between national, regional and local policies and strategies
Better intersectoral coordination among government departments
Improved collaboration between governments and non-government actors as well as among the latter

Create spaces for continuous dialogue
Inadequacy of platforms for engagement on urban food systems
Inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms
Partnerships between and among food system stakeholder for sharing, co-learning, co-creation and cooperation

Climate Actions for Resilient Urban Food Systems



Nature-based solutions

- Buffer zoning to protect wetlands, forest, river and lake banks ([Lake Victoria, Entebbe Dialogue, Uganda](#))
- Address land management and ownership complexities to forestall encroachment
- Sustainable urban agriculture: leverage on UA's potential for urban greening, increased food production and livelihoods sustenance; regenerative agriculture and agroecology
- Reduce deforestation practices and the promote afforestation

Food loss and waste management strategies

- Integrated waste management across the food value chain
- Zero waste initiatives
- Transition to circular food systems: rethink, reduce, reuse, recover; recycling of organic waste, waste-to-energy initiatives
- Kigali and Rulindo Dialogue (Rwanda): waste valorisation, regulations for retail outlets to better manage their food waste, and investment in transport and storage infrastructure

Climate Actions for Resilient Urban Food Systems



Climate adaptation and mitigation strategies

- Adaptation measures: promote stress tolerant crops and livestock; use of climate information services and insurance services; alternative water sources; water harvesting; flood control mechanisms;
- Mitigation measures: food loss and waste reduction; reduction of food miles; sustainable urban agricultural practices
- Improve transport systems to ensure that cities' access to food is resilient to erratic weather patterns

Food sensitive urban planning and design

Integrate food into urban planning and design to:

- Transform the urban food environment
- Facilitate equitable access to safe and nutritious food
- Ensure adequate allocation and/or provision of urban spaces, places and infrastructure for biodiversity and agri-food activities. Ease access to land for food related activities

Thank you

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