

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 21 June 2021 14:30 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Pathways for the future of sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean - Part 2
CONVENED BY	CIHEAM; FAO; UfMS; UN One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme; PRIMA Foundation
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15756/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

277

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 14 19-30 138 31-50 112 51-65 13 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

154 Male 123 Female 0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

23	Agriculture/crops	93	Education	2	Health care
10	Fish and aquaculture	6	Communication	3	Nutrition
9	Livestock	4	Food processing	27	National or local government
6	Agro-forestry	0	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
34	Environment and ecology	3	Food industry	0	Industrial
3	Trade and commerce	4	Financial Services	45	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

10	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	1	Workers and trade union
1	Large national business		Member of Parliament
6	Multi-national corporation	5	Local authority
3	Small-scale farmer	38	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	7	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	65	United Nations
9	Local Non-Governmental Organization	3	International financial institution
10	International Non-Governmental Organization	5	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
99	Science and academia	15	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The five convenors paid careful attention to ensuring that the Summit principles of engagement were fully incorporated in the organization of this dialogue. The urgency to act for accelerating progress on the achievement of the SDGs in the Mediterranean by 2030 was strongly highlighted, as well as the need to recognise the complexity of food systems. Multi-stakeholder inclusivity was also embraced, with a gender-balanced participation of representatives from very diverse stakeholder groups from over 30 countries on all shores of the Mediterranean and beyond. The dialogue focused on the crosscutting levers emerged from the discussions held during the first dialogue (multi-stakeholder partnerships, finance and investments, awareness and capacity building), which pivoted on entry points that captured the multiple aspects and perspectives of the complexity of food systems. The facilitators the discussion panels were carefully briefed to ensure respect and trust among all participants, including members of the audience, who could provide their contributions through the chat function. This Dialogue acted as a catalyst of people, organizations, governments and existing networks that have the potential to join forces and bring concrete impact on the ground, leading food systems in the Mediterranean towards sustainability, ultimately advancing regional progress on the 2030 Agenda. All participants embraced the principle of “acting with urgency”, recognizing the importance of accelerating the pace of change in their recommendations, and committing to act. They were all committed to contribute to the Food Systems Summit’s preparation and follow-up, recognizing it as an important milestone to catalyse further action on the transformation of food systems in the Mediterranean.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The design of the Dialogue reflected the principles of complexity, respect, trust and inclusivity. The roundtable and panel discussions provided very rich inputs, with experiences being shared on concrete solutions for more sustainable food systems. The speakers and panellists were all given the opportunity to voice their opinions equally and inclusively. Participants came from 35 different countries across the Mediterranean and beyond, and belonged to more than 15 different stakeholder groups. The dialogue served its purpose of highlighting new and linking up already existing game-changing ideas and science- and knowledge-based solutions for the coming years, highly relevant in the context of the Summit’s vision and areas of action. Reflections highlighted the complexity of food systems and the urgent necessity of a common understanding that could lead to the development of a SFS conceptual framework specific to the Mediterranean context, also taking into consideration local specificities and cultural aspects. The Dialogue was also an opportunity for some stakeholders to link up and continue the discussions further in other contexts, such as the “SFS-MED Platform”, a multi-stakeholder initiative currently under co-development by CIHEAM, FAO and UfMS, as an affiliated project of the One Planet network’s Sustainable Food Systems Programme (OPN-SFSP).

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Bringing together stakeholder groups that are very different can be challenging, but is a crucial opportunity to capitalize on ideas emerging from possible areas of divergence, and to create synergies and partnerships with potentially high impact on areas of consensus.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

This second dialogue was conceived as a prosecution of the first one. While the discussions held on 27 April mostly focused on concrete actions and solutions for more sustainable food systems (i.e. “what” is needed), the second pivoted on four main crosscutting themes or “enablers” identified (i.e. “how” to implement the actions). These themes are: multi-stakeholder partnerships and inclusive governance; finance and investments; awareness and capacity building; innovation (which was addressed during the first dialogue). Given the high-level nature of these discussion topics and their strategic importance within a regional cooperation context, the five convenors decided to involve Member State Dialogues convenors from Mediterranean countries who had identified one by the end of May 2021. For this reason, this dialogue was structured differently than the first one. The opening remarks by FAO, CIHEAM and UfM were followed by a high-level address of the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan in his role as National Convenor. Then, OPN-SFSP and PRIMA representatives recapped on the outcomes of the first dialogue to better frame the following sessions. This served as a preamble to the high-level roundtable moderated by the Dialogue’s Curator, during which National Convenors from nine countries (Albania, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Malta, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey) had the opportunity to share their perspectives on the Summit process at country level, highlighting priorities and constraints, as well as potential opportunities for collaborative action at regional level. The roundtable was followed by three panel discussions respectively focusing on multi-stakeholder partnerships, finance, and capacity and awareness building. Each panel had a moderator and five speakers, pre-identified by the convenors as very relevant to the discussion topic, ensuring an adequate balance in gender, geographical and stakeholder type representation. Despite not being involved directly in the discussions, participants were granted the opportunity to interact and provide their perspectives through the Zoom chat box. Moreover, the event had live interpretation in English, French and Arabic to ensure all participants could follow. The conception of the two SFS-MED Dialogues is fully in line with the vision and objectives of the Food Systems Summit, providing stakeholders with the opportunity to take stock and capitalise on the main findings of the dialogues at national level and to identify priority actions for concrete collaborative solutions to common challenges hindering food systems in the Mediterranean.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The 2nd SFS-MED Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogue had the aim to continue advancing a common understanding of the complex environment of Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) for coping with the growing and interdependent challenges facing the Mediterranean, through a context-specific SFS approach for the region.

In the Mediterranean region, population growth, demographic changes, urbanization and globalization are changing consumption and production patterns, in a context of climate change and decline of ecosystems. Today, more than ever, the region is facing unprecedented and interconnected environmental, economic and social challenges that affect food security, health, nutrition, sustainability, and, thus, the livelihoods of all people across the Mediterranean.

Building on the findings of the 1st SFS-MED Dialogue held on 27 April, the focus of this Dialogue was to identify what is needed to enable the actions and the entry points identified in the first one, to foster common pathways supporting the transformation towards sustainability of food systems in the Mediterranean, and ultimately advancing progress on the 2030 Agenda in the region.

The objectives of the 2nd SFS-MED Dialogue were:

- Catalysing joint action to improve the sustainability, understanding and resilience of Mediterranean food systems by bridging Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), using the Mediterranean diet as a lever of change, among others.
- Engaging a wide network of SFS stakeholders within the broader framework of green, blue and circular economy, with the SFS-MED Platform playing a key role in strengthening regional cooperation at the service of Mediterranean youth and women, to accelerate the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Food system transformation in the Mediterranean region is a very complex and dynamic process, that requires to consider sustainable food systems as a whole, rather than in separate pieces, going beyond disciplinary approaches and silos. Moreover, policy-makers are constrained to take into consideration a web of interconnected and interdependent components, within a decision-making environment concerning food systems is very fragmented, with a wide range of voices from different interest groups and agendas, with diverse institutional and agro-ecological constraints in countries and territories on all shores of the Mediterranean.

One of the key objectives of this dialogue was to explore how the Food Systems Summit Dialogues process has been initiated in Mediterranean countries. To this effect, the Member State Dialogues Convenors of Albania, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey engaged in a roundtable entitled "Moving towards more sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean region" to identify the constraints faced in their countries in pushing this process forward, and to highlight new opportunities for greater regional cooperation across the Mediterranean, emerging from the discussions at national level. Before the roundtable, the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan, National Convenor for his country, delivered a keynote speech highlighting the main challenges Jordan is facing in relation to food systems transformation.

The dialogue was then articulated in three discussions panels, each addressing a potential lever of change:

- Partnerships for sustainable food systems: the role of multi-stakeholder collaboration and inclusive governance.
- Financing for sustainable food systems: leveraging public and private investments.
- Building awareness and capacities for food systems transformation.

The Dialogue's focus on strengthening trans-disciplinary regional cooperation also helped setting the stage for the inception of the "SFS-MED Platform", a multi-stakeholder initiative currently under co-development by CIHEAM, FAO and UfMS, as an affiliated project of the OPN-SFSP, conceived as a game-changing solution for tackling the interdependent environmental, economic, socio-cultural, educational and health/nutrition-related challenges Mediterranean countries are facing, ultimately accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda in the region.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The need of a change of route in Mediterranean food systems was recognized by all participating stakeholders, including representatives of national governments. Such crucial change requires a consolidated multi-stakeholder cooperation at 360° at regional level to be implemented efficiently and effectively.

The centrality of food systems transformation (FST) to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and all 17 SDGs was reaffirmed. The Mediterranean region and its food systems are not exempted from the several challenges facing global food systems. Effects of climate change are negatively impacting all countries in the region at several levels. Desertification, land degradation, water scarcity trigger rural-urban migration and population growth, leading to an increase in food demand, affecting consumption and production patterns that, in turn, contribute to the over-exploitation of natural resources and biodiversity loss. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the already precarious situation.

The FSS process was seen as a timely opportunity to consolidate such efforts. Most countries are already reflecting on their own food systems and potential pathways for transformation through national FSS Dialogues, while looking at regional cooperation as a source of new ideas and a catalyst of transformative actions. All stakeholders concurred that a regional approach, such as the one taken with these SFS-MED Dialogues, was of essence and highly useful to support pathways for SFS in the region.

The discussions confirmed the outcomes of the first SFS-MED Dialogue, i.e. that actions conducive to FST in the Mediterranean pivot around the following entry points: blue, green and circular economy; sustainable management of land and water resources; the Mediterranean diet as a potential model of sustainability; the centrality of cities and rural-urban food systems; equitable livelihoods. In the second Dialogue, 4 key levers of change emerged as potential enablers for FST in the region: multi-stakeholder partnerships; sustainable finance and investments; science, data and innovation; education, capacity building and awareness raising.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are key to provide an arena for dialogue, based on equal footing among stakeholders, co-ownership, co-management and co-funding, to avoid power imbalances and top-down dynamics. Such processes, backed by the existing mechanisms (UNFSS, EU-F2F, etc) and building on science-based recommendations (CFS, HLPE, etc) and local knowledge, could help identify common priorities, set strategic integrated goals, pushing FST forward at national and regional level. Equitable and inclusive partnerships have the potential of fostering inclusive governance and effective policy-making, which is key to generate transformative change, coupled with sustainable finance and capacity building.

Underfunding emerged as a common key issue during the discussions. An inclusive multi-stakeholder approach to strengthen the linkages between private and public finance is needed, supporting small-holders by making investments in SFS more attractive (de-risking), including through innovation and digitalization, following the patterns of a green, blue and circular economy. Development banks play an important role in this interface. Economic, social and environmental standards and labelling/certification schemes could be functional to putting consumers' demand at the centre. Stakeholders recalled that only political will can foster sustainable finance and investments, key to FST.

FST starts locally, involving all stakeholders, who must be enabled to take part in this process. Effective capacity building is needed, linking researchers and innovators to the beneficiaries (farmers/fishers/foresters, investors, etc), fostering the development of skills and inclusive entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth. This needs a strong policy pull from governments and an enabling environment where all parties cooperate equally under a shared vision embracing everyone's requirements (e.g. policy labs). Capacity building is key to overcome the risk of smallholders seeing sustainability only as a bureaucratic burden.

All stakeholders agreed in recognising the importance and the necessity of a strong regional cooperation, through a shared approach to SFS. To this effect, the SFS-MED Platform was welcomed as an ideal tool to bring together stakeholders from all shores of the Mediterranean, fostering dialogue at several levels to leverage the potential of local knowledge and data sharing, exchanges of best practices, to catalyse knowledge and collective action for more SFS. The Platform shall build on the existing frameworks present in the Mediterranean region, complementing and integrating them through a shared, context-specific SFS approach in which stakeholders can rely on mutual support.

The two Dialogues provided a clear way forward to continue supporting the efforts that countries and stakeholders are engaging across the whole region to move towards more sustainable food systems. The follow-up process on the FSS outcomes beyond Sep 2021 and their concrete application at local, national and regional level will allow continuing on that "change of route", as it emerged from the discussions in the two regional Dialogues. The SFS-MED Platform was called to play its role supporting such FST pathways, by catalysing different initiatives/mechanisms and identifying concrete collaborative solutions to common challenges hindering food systems in the region.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

In the roundtable session, Member State Dialogue Convenors from 9 Mediterranean countries had the unique opportunity to share their perspectives and approaches to food systems transformation, explaining how the National Dialogues have facilitated setting their priority goals and actions to build sustainable food systems based on an inclusive understanding of current challenges and potential solutions. The dialogues proved to be a valuable opportunity to strengthen understanding and collaboration among national and Mediterranean actors on data, science, innovation, sharing of best practices and experiences. Opening the dialogues to different stakeholders (institutional & private actors, NGOs, academia & research institutions, local authorities, financial operators, etc) at national & subnational levels was highlighted as a success factor in moving forward.

The National Convenors explained how the Dialogues process helped identify many of the common challenges their countries face on many levels (environmental, social, economic, health-related), such as water and resources scarcity, climate change effects (e.g. desertification), increasing urbanization, high dependency on food imports, insufficient funding, prevalence of unhealthy and unsustainable dietary patterns, lack of capacity and limited training, weak legal frameworks and poor institutional coordination, etc. Some of the actions these countries are taking (or planning) to address these challenges were also shared. Proposed actions included the sustainable management of land & water; sustainable use of natural resources and of farm inputs (e.g. agroecology); promoting healthy dietary choices and sustainable consumption; strengthening urban-rural linkages; promoting sustainable rural entrepreneurship through the development of capacities and skills, with a focus on women and youth; reducing food losses and waste; improve and harmonise SFS governance at national and regional level, fostering reforms and strategies that cut across sectors (e.g. OneHealth), considering trade-offs, complementarities, also using some of the existing frameworks (e.g. F2F, FSS); etc.

Several speakers also stressed the importance of the cultural and "human" dimension of food in the region, with the Mediterranean diet as an opportunity to build healthier and more sustainable food systems. In this context, there was a call to switch to sustainable consumption and production models, noting that often consumption and production are still treated separately by policies and stakeholders, and recognizing that only a systemic approach would allow moving towards sustainable food systems.

The speakers also highlighted some of the elements needed to enable food systems transformation. These include the need to: foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at national and regional level to build trust and commitments based on shared understanding and inclusion; mobilize resources to implement actions at scale, through sustainable investments (public, private, blended) and other instruments such as public incentives (subsidies, taxes); harness the potential of innovation and technology, making them accessible to farmers/fishers/foresters; identify trade-offs between actions/sectors and strategies to minimize them; foster behavioural change across food systems actors through education and awareness building.

An important finding that emerged from the roundtable was the general agreement on the need for strengthened regional cooperation to foster sustainable food systems at different levels (harmonization of legal frameworks, setting of standards, trade, sharing of data, knowledge and best practices, promotion of regional models, etc). Some of the National Convenors welcomed the proposed SFS-MED Platform as a good basis to bring together Mediterranean stakeholders to share and collaborate, through a common approach to food systems, as a systemic response to the challenges hindering the region. The Platform was seen as a potential tool to integrate and address both thematic and crosscutting issues leading to food systems transformation and to the long-term, sustainable and inclusive development for the whole region.

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KEYWORDS

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- ✓ Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

Panel 1 introduced the topic of partnerships as a dialogue across all shores of the Mediterranean towards strengthened regional cooperation on SFS, overcoming fragmented sectorial approaches and jointly coping with the multiple interconnected challenges facing the region. The need of a shift towards blue, green and circular economy was raised as a priority to tackle these challenges through an integrated ecosystems approach and coordinated collaborative regional solutions, taking into account country specificities. The need for more participation from Southern/Eastern countries in the coordination and co-ownership of funded research projects was also pointed out. The necessity of setting an equal balance among diverse stakeholders in the co-development and governance of multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the SFS-MED Platform emerged as a key challenge. It was considered critical to have all stakeholders on the same playfield since the inception of the partnership, in order to avoid top-down decisions. The object of a collaboration needs to be clear for a partnership to work: collaborations are not sufficient per se, particularly in a multi-stakeholder context, but require a clear shared understanding on what the collaboration is about and how that can be done, taking in consideration the environmental, economic and social sustainability dimensions of a SFS transformation in the region. The urgent need of a change of paradigm for rethinking food systems in the Mediterranean was underlined, considering that the current one is mainly based on maximising productivity at the expenses of environment/health/social dimensions. A concern was raised about the fact that the need of an urgent and profound rethinking of our cultures on food systems was still not sufficiently recognized within the Summit debate. The desire to know how the SFS-MED Platform could contribute to such a change of paradigm was expressed to better understand how interested stakeholders could support the process, and according to which rules of engagement.

The CFS multi-stakeholder framework and its policy recommendations on agroecological innovation linked to the 13 principles of agroecological transformation was suggested as a possible model for the SFS-MED Platform to follow to develop an effective partnership. Within the framework of the 2021 CoR report "Agriculture and food security in the context of climate change in the Mediterranean", some tangible solutions were proposed for ensuring resilient food security and food sovereignty in the Mediterranean.

By taking into account the interconnected social, environmental, economic and nutritional and health-related challenges present in the Mediterranean, it was stressed that it is crucial to adopt an integrated approach, people-centered and specific to the Mediterranean context, to provide a better understanding of the multidimensionality of the sustainability of food systems, by linking the sustainable management of natural resources with the sustainable food consumption and production (SCP). In this context, the Mediterranean Diet could act as a sustainable lever to bridge the gap between consumption and food production in the region. The format of the SFS-MED Platform, initiated by CIHEAM, FAO and UfMS at the 2nd World MD Conference organized in 2019 by CIHEAM-Bari, was considered a possible operational framework for dialogue and action on the ground, and for setting up a Community of Practice for strengthening knowledge sharing, innovation and capacity building related to sustainable food consumption and production across the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the employability of youth and women, and the Mediterranean diet acting as a driver. The development of SFS-MED Platform flagship projects was foreseen as an enabling action for Mediterranean smallholders, rural and coastal communities, youth and women, to have more access to local and global markets. The 3rd World Conference on "Mediterranean diet and Sustainable Food Systems" foreseen in 2022 was presented by CIHEAM-Bari as an opportunity to further consolidate the programme of action of the SFS-MED Platform with all interested actors.

ACTION TRACKS

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✓	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation		Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Panel 2 discussed how sustainable finance and investments in line with green, blue and circular economy principles are pivotal to enabling FST in the Mediterranean, crucial for sustainability. Underfunding is a major issue, as it is still not seen as a priority in political agendas. These should take into consideration factors such as climate change, nutrition, agriculture, health and adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, in order to provide an enabling environment for investments in SFS, making them more attractive to the several players of the financial ecosystem (public and private entities, philanthropists, banks and international financial institutions (IFIs), cooperatives, insurances, etc). The UN and IFIs can play a catalyst role in this regard, supporting the mobilization of efforts and promoting policy reform to improve the investment climate to increase public and private finance and investments functional to making the private sector more agile, and to rebalance its role in relation to the public sector. The role of public development banks could also be enhanced through digitalization, paying attention also to social inclusion and gender equality, following the guidance of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris agreement. Tools such as blending can be used to leverage the areas of expertise of different stakeholders, capturing food systems as a whole, to scale up sustainable blue and green finance to develop more bankable projects and address negative externalities determined by phenomena such as COVID-19. In this respect, the Sustainable Blue Finance Principles and the EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities were mentioned. There is also a need to link innovation and finance through holistic and community-wide programmes with certification schemes that guarantee that the retail power of sustainability is utilised at its fullest, putting consumers' demand for healthy and sustainable products at the centre (the Mediterranean diet is a major asset in this regard).

Investments shall be made along the whole food value chain, strengthening linkages and increasing standards. For example, investments shall support transition towards more efficient landscape planning, diversification of crops, switch to organic farming, integration of precision farming, valorisation of biomass, sustainable aquaculture; resource efficiency should be the core of investments in agroindustry, consolidating processes, taking advantage of economies of scale to facilitate modernization through innovation.

Among others, investments shall target foods that have competitive edge for export, where they can be leveraged by promoting capacity building and skills development, fostering a more agile system and shifting the subsidies regime. Public and private support to farmers/fishers and SMEs to learn the grammar of sustainability in developing comprehensive business plans could help de-risking investments and putting consumers at the centre. IFIs should support more foreign direct investments in private sector and primary agriculture, triggering the creation of linkages to foster inclusion and economic activities especially for youth, and contributing to the development of infrastructures. Standards for environment, social inclusion, governance, procurement (transparency, pricing, etc) are also important to attract more investment in the region.

Finance and investments are necessary to build stakeholders' capacities to advance sustainability in their practices, fully understanding its potential and not considering it only as an administrative burden. An ideal setting for this to happen is the SFS-MED Platform: dialogue and mutual support can enhance policy coherence within and across countries and partners, focusing on green, inclusive, digital innovation to support the scaling up of investments contributing to sustainable growth. Such a platform is also a useful tool to consolidate lessons learned, push for high-standards, and support capacity and institutional building for countries and companies (in particular MSMEs), creating the perfect enabling environment for cooperation, understanding, mutual support to achieve the common goals of sustainability.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

Panel 3 discussed how capacity development and awareness raising are key to the transformation of food systems, which requires deep behavioural change of both producers and consumers, respecting diversity, plurality of cultures and opinions, but at the same time trying to stick to common guiding principles. The discussion pivoted around these main pillars: circularity of green/blue economies, biodiversity, landscape management, Mediterranean diet & urban food framework. A multi-stakeholder approach is crucial to mobilizing all actors, directly involving them in research and innovation projects at local level, co-designing food systems' transition to sustainability through policy labs and flagship projects to test solutions in real life. The European Commission has allocated about 500 million euros (Horizon) to support R&I projects on food systems transformation that include components linked to capacity building and awareness raising. Bridges need to be built between business leaders, research and decision-makers under a shared vision, where the science-policy interface and multi-stakeholder dialogue are crucial to achieve coordinated policies. In this environment, stakeholders are able to complement their efforts, recognising and respecting each other's requirements. Food systems transformation must be an inclusive process. Women's participation is paramount, and needs to be enhanced. Women shall be empowered to transfer skills and to improve their awareness on climate change, technology, human rights, health issues, agriculture, food security, production, consumption. In addition, a social and cultural change in the mindset of people is required to foster women and youth entrepreneurship (through more opportunities and more motivation), especially in the agricultural sector (cooperatives) and in rural contexts. Moreover, policy-making needs to adopt a strategic and inclusive vision to create an enabling environment for effective cooperation among all actors/stakeholders: governments, academia, private sector and civil society (quadruple helix) shall find synergies and cooperate for the collective interest of people. Engagement of youth is paramount to increase awareness and deliver messages on food systems transformation, including through events, campaigns and media outlets (social media, cinema, etc.) at national and regional level. Knowledge and capacities on food systems sustainability need to be enhanced, especially in rural contexts, including through training and education. Multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the SFS-MED Platform are crucial to support entrepreneurs in the transition to more sustainable practices at local and national level, developing sustainable business plans, accessing funding, establishing solid networks, etc. Such partnerships have the potential to be effective also at regional level, provided that countries agree on minimum common measures (i.e. framework) for the sustainability of food systems.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No major divergences have emerged from the discussions, but there was common consensus on the need of a change of route in food systems, pushing for their transformation towards sustainability by 2030.

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KEYWORDS

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- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Outcomes of SFS-MED Dialogue 1**
<https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/6814/official-feedback-6814-en.pdf?t=1620829111>
- **Ridolfi, Dernini, Morrison, Mathiesen, Capone, "Changing route: Common action on food systems transformation in the Mediterranean"**
<https://newmedit.iamb.it/bup/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/New-Medit-2020-Vol-XIX-N3-08-Changing-route.pdf>
- **Sustainable Blue Finance Principles**
<https://www.unepfi.org/blue-finance/>
- **EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities**
https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/sustainable-finance/eu-taxonomy-sustainable-activities_en