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Foreword

COP 28 was a landmark moment for food systems. The leaders of 160 countries have now endorsed the COP 28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, pledging to place food and agriculture at the heart of national climate and other policies and increasing their investment in resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems.

Additionally at COP 28, a groundswell of non-State actors, including farmers, cities, businesses, financial institutions and civil society, endorsed the Food Systems Call to Action, and actors are continuing to join. This represents a significant alignment around a set of priority actions and principles aiming to transform food systems and provides a hopeful, positive vision of the future in which food systems deliver positive outcomes for people, nature and climate.

We must continue to build on this momentum and deliver on these pledges through action at all levels. The urgency is growing, and the longer we delay, the greater the risks and costs. Climate and nature crises, conflicts and rising levels of hunger and malnutrition are inflicting enormous suffering. Our efforts must centre around farmers and other frontline food systems actors, as they produce food for their families and ours and serve as critical stewards of our natural environment in the face of rising challenges.

This report shows that action is happening worldwide. While not exhaustive, it identifies a range of actions, from multi-stakeholder partnerships, to farmer-driven efforts, corporate action, targets and disclosure frameworks and city, consumer and grassroots initiatives. It includes emerging proof

points on what is needed to transition to sustainable, regenerative and agroecological approaches; to increase the accessibility, availability and affordability of healthy and locally appropriate diets for all; to conserve and restore nature; and to reduce food loss and waste.

Nonetheless, the report also highlights that much more work is needed to address barriers and scale action. There are significant gaps in the mobilization of resources needed to support a just transition that does not unduly burden the most vulnerable. This transition will require concerted and coordinated efforts adapted to local and national contexts.

The COP 29 Presidency's Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers will promote coherence,

bringing together initiatives, coalitions and networks to share experiences and identify synergies and gaps. The Harmoniya initiative will also facilitate finance and foster collaborations to support farmers, including by empowering communities and women in rural areas. This report is a contribution to these efforts from the food systems community to those working at the nexus of issues related to climate, nature, sustainable development, and food security to take stock of where we are and how we need to progress. This stocktake of non-State actor initiatives



Razan Al Mubarak
UN Climate Change
High-Level Champion, COP28

has also enriched the mapping of initiatives undertaken as part of the work plan of the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership.

We all have a role to play; and if we all take action, together we can go further, faster. We invite you to join the hundreds of food systems leaders who have already endorsed the Food Systems Call to Action as we continue to advance food systems transformation for people, nature and climate ahead of COP 30 in Brazil.



Nigar Arparadai UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, COP29





Food Systems Call to Action:
A shared vision
for transformation
and urgent action



Food systems are remarkable, providing food for our global population and livelihoods for over 4 billion people. They form the socioeconomic and cultural backbone of many communities and countries. Food systems are context-specific and deeply enmeshed in peoples' history, culture, daily lives, and livelihoods. Access to food is a fundamental human right, providing vital nutrients for health and well-being.

However, our current food systems are facing unprecedented and accelerating challenges.

Hundreds of millions of people are hungry, and over 3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. Food systems are both a cause and casualty of climate change; they are responsible for a third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and are highly vulnerable to climate impacts and other shocks and stresses, undermining food security and adaptation. Food systems are also the single largest driver of biodiversity loss and account for 70 per cent of global freshwater use.

Food systems comprise all the people, institutions, places and activities that play a part in growing, processing, transporting, selling, marketing and eating food. Food systems influence diets by determining what kinds of foods are produced; which foods are accessible, both physically and economically; and peoples' food preferences. They are also critical to food and nutrition security, people's livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

Delivery of a food systems approach that looks beyond agricultural production, and also addresses consumption, food loss and waste, biodiversity loss and land access and management is crucial for people, safeguarding food and nutrition security for current and future generations and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and for our climate (Paris Agreement), nature (Global Biodiversity Framework) and land goals (Convention to Combat Desertification).

Food production is deeply dependent on nature and climate.² Our current and future food security depends on healthy and functioning natural ecosystems and resources, including healthy land, soils, water and ocean.³ Protecting nature, combating climate change and providing adequate, nutritious food for all will require us to change not only how food is grown, but what kinds of food are produced.

Farmers⁴ and other frontline food systems actors⁵ are critical agents of change and solution-providers. They are already having to adapt and respond to the

impacts of the nature and climate crises. Many have deep experience in implementing sustainable, regenerative and agroecological approaches. They need support and resources to strengthen their efforts and cope with the future.

We are facing an unparalleled global emergency and must take urgent action now. The cost of the transition is high, with estimates suggesting that investments of at least USD 260 billion a year will be needed to halve current agri-food emissions by 2030. But the cost of inaction is much higher. The hidden social, economic and environmental costs of our current food systems amount to more than USD 10 trillion per year - roughly 10 per cent of global GDP - with the majority costs arising from dietary patterns.

Transformed, food systems can provide solutions to many of the problems we face. Resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems can safeguard food and nutrition security, build resilience to climate impacts, help to meet our climate mitigation needs, protect and restore nature and create prosperous and inclusive societies and economies.

¹ Food Systems Dashboard: https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/information/about-food-systems

² https://iucn.org/our-work/topic/food-and-agricultural-systems

³ FAO (2019) State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture: https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/ The-biodiversity-that-is-crucial-for-our-food-and-agriculture-is-disappearing-by-the-day/en

⁴ Defined according to the UNFCCC Farmers Constituency, which represents crop and livestock farmers, horticultural growers, pastoralists, foresters, ranchers, aqua-culturists, farmers organisations and co-operatives, farm workers, family farmers and businesses, women farmers, young farmers, Indigenous farmers, landowners and tenants in all their diversity producing food, fibre and energy, from smallholder farmers to those managing large areas of land, and including agricultural and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting farmers on the ground.

⁵ This term is intended to be inclusive of farmers, farmworkers, fishers, pastoralists, ranchers, aquaculturists, forest-dependent people, food value chain workers, Indigenous Peoples, youth, women and other people in vulnerable situations on the frontline of the food economy.

A multi-stakeholder Food Systems Call to Action

At COP 28, a diverse and powerful group of non-State actors⁶ came together to launch the Food Systems Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature and Climate (Food Systems CtA). Representing farmers and frontline communities, businesses, philanthropies, cities, consumers and many others, this broad coalition delivered a strong message to assembled world leaders and the global community gathered for the 28th Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that all actors must take urgent action to transform food systems to deliver positive outcomes for people, nature and climate.

Over the past several years, increasing attention has been directed towards food systems, spurred by the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) process and the efforts of multiple initiatives. The Food Systems CtA builds on these efforts, as well as the Food, Agriculture, and Land Use 2030 Climate Solutions, the Agriculture Breakthrough, the Sharm El Sheik Adaptation Agenda and the Race to Resilience and Race to Zero campaigns.

The Food Systems CtA complements the COP28
UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture,
Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, which
was also launched at COP 28. As of November 2024,
the leaders of 160 countries have pledged to place

food and agriculture at the heart of national climate and other policies and to increase their investment in resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems. The Food Systems CtA recognizes the vital role governments play in creating conditions that enable other actors to go further, faster. By mobilizing non-State actors, the Food Systems CtA aims to catalyse "ambition loops" between state and non-State actors, encouraging greater action and accountability.

Developed through a consultative process in 2023, the Food Systems CtA is a 2-page text, available in 7 languages, that highlights 10 priority actions and 4 principles intended to unlock the transformative potential of food systems. It centres on the need to support farmers and other frontline food systems actors, with a particular focus on women and youth, as well as vulnerable communities. Incorporating feedback from hundreds of individuals and entities, the final text was published on the **High-Level Champions** website along with an **endorsement** process. This process includes the submission of a Statement of Action for endorsers to emphasise additional priority points and detail the actions they are taking that align with the CtA, promoting transparency and accountability. The full list of current endorsers is available on the High-Level Champions website. The Food Systems CtA will remain open for endorsement by non-State actors until COP 30 in Belem.

Progress and gaps

Since COP 28, growing numbers of non-State actors have joined the Food Systems CtA, signalling their commitment to take action and work in partnership with others around a shared vision for food systems. As of November 2024, over 300 entities have endorsed the Food Systems CtA. This group includes:

- Farmer organizations representing 1.2 billion farmers⁷
- Subnational governments representing 2.2 billion residents⁸
- Businesses along the agri-food value chain with a revenue of ~USD 1 trillion⁹
- 150 civil society and philanthropic organisations operating in all regions of the world, of which a third are headquartered in emerging and developing countries.
- ⁷ The number of farmers represented by six organisations (~25 per cent of the signatories) who tagged themselves as farmers, fishers, pastoralists, ranchers and aquaculturists, with the World Farmers Organization and Eastern Africa Farmers Federation representing the vast majority.
- ⁸ Residents of 2,500+ cities represented by signatories who tagged themselves as governments (subnational, city or local).
- ⁹ Aggregated 2023 revenue of 27 companies (~55 per cent of corporate signatories) who tagged themselves as businesses or multi-stakeholder organizations; for the latter, only the revenue of businesses that have agreed to be directly represented in the Food Systems' Call to Action is included.
- 10 Regions represented by signatories who tagged themselves as civil society, philanthropy, or multistakeholder NGOs; for multi-stakeholder civil society organisations, only the regions of organizations that have agreed to be directly represented in the Food Systems CtA are included.



⁶ Non-State actors include farmers and other frontline food systems actors, civil society organisations, businesses, financial institutions, cities and subnational regions, consumer groups, women's groups, youth groups, philanthropies, research institutes, and many others.



A groundswell of action is occurring across food systems transformation solution areas. Farmers are adapting and responding to climate impacts and other shocks and stresses and implementing context-specific approaches, demonstrating results through farm- and landscape-level efforts. Businesses are investing in regenerative agriculture and healthy and sustainable diets, working with producers, value chain partners and the public sector to deliver against science-based targets. Financial institutions are developing innovative finance mechanisms to de-risk agricultural investments and catalyse more private capital. Cities are using their public procurement powers to increase access to healthy, locally appropriate foods. Civil society and philanthropies are providing support to a range of efforts to build the evidence base and scale action.

However, significant barriers and gaps remain. A lack of funding from all sources, especially for adaptation and resilience, is hindering progress at scale. Although strong global goals exist for people (Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)), nature (the Global Biodiversity Framework) and climate (the Paris Agreement), there is a need to develop and strengthen food systems targets and transition pathways that align with these goals, have clear timelines and are developed in a transparent and inclusive manner. Further work on the FAO Roadmap, launched at COP 28, can provide much needed guidance on how to end hunger without breaching the 1.5 °C limit. Stronger measurement systems and metrics to track progress across many food systems solution areas must also be implemented. More cross-sector and cross-value chain collaboration is critical to scaling action.

Throughout 2024, the Climate Champions Team, in collaboration with partners, have engaged with a wide range of food systems actors across the CtA endorser network and beyond to understand the priorities and key asks ahead of COP 30, building on the Food Systems CtA.

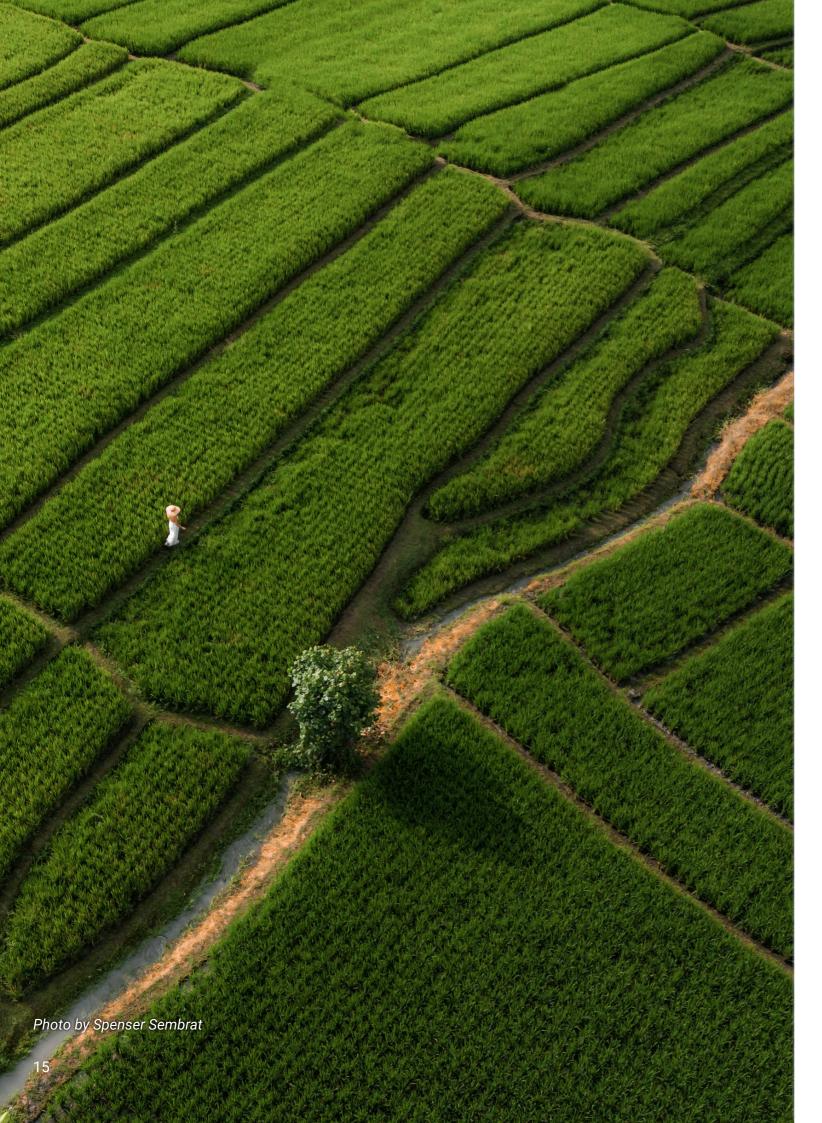
The key priorities emerging from this community include calls to:

- Scale finance: scale-up and re-orientate all sources of finance to incentivise and fund resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems
- Strengthen global targets, action plans and accountability: strengthen and implement existing global targets
 and action plans, strategies and policies at all levels, as well as accountability frameworks. This includes
 governments' updating their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national biodiversity strategies
 and action plans (NBSAPs) with ambitious, integrated action on food systems and nature aligned with global
 goals, being developed by 2025
- Support farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities: actively support and meaningfully include
 these critical actors in policymaking and decision-making processes, with a particular focus on the role of
 women and youth and intergenerational equity and justice

This report

This report provides a sample of the immense and widespread efforts taking place every day around the world, both within the Food Systems CtA endorser network and beyond. It aims to demonstrate an illustrative set of examples across a broad range of stakeholders, initiatives and organisations, to underscore that food systems transformation is possible and already underway. It is intended to be a contribution from the food systems community to those working at the nexus of issues related to climate, nature, sustainable development, and food security to

highlight some of the progress and actions happening across the 10 priority action areas and 4 principles of the Food Systems CtA. It also synthesises some of the key actions needed to accelerate progress under each action area based on consultations, meetings, webinars and dialogues that have engaged a diversity of food systems stakeholders throughout this year. This report is not intended to be a complete review of action on food systems, but rather an exploration and recognition of ongoing work driving change for people, nature and climate.



Chapter 1
Progress in ten priority action areas

Action #1 Support frontline food systems actors

Support frontline food systems actors to adapt and build resilience to climate risks, and other shocks and stresses.

2030 Climate Solutions:

Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture

Climate change is predicted to reduce major crop yields by **3–7 per cent** for every 1 °C increase in temperature, yet demand for food and food insecurity is rising. Smallholder farmers play a crucial role in maintaining food supplies, **producing 80 per cent of food in Africa and Asia**, while also acting as stewards of land, biodiversity and natural resources. Smallholders are also already driving adaptation and mitigation efforts, spending around **USD 368 billion annually** of their own income, yet receive only **1.7 per cent of global climate finance**. To achieve a just transition, **farmers must be recognised as critical agents of change** and as co-designers and implementers of food system solutions.

"Youth and other frontline communities are critical in implementing localised adaptation measures that build resilience; however, our ability to adapt, innovate, and thrive relies heavily on the availability of adequate financial resources. As young people, we advocate for increasing targeted and accessible finance directed to marginal groups through the Loss and Damage Fund, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and the New Collective Quantified Goal, particularly for youth in the Global South. Additionally, we support the FAST Initiative's mission to enhance both the quality and quantity of climate finance by bringing key stakeholders, including youth, to the table to navigate climate finance solutions."

Glindys Virginia Luciano, YOUNGO Food & Agriculture Working Group,
 Co-Contact Point; Action on Food Project Manager

Illustrative examples:

The collective efforts of global farmers' organizations such as the World Farmers' Organisation, the World Rural Forum and La Via Campesina, as well regional- and national-level organizations, have led to increasing recognition of farmers' key priorities and ongoing progress in adaptation and mitigation efforts. Through formal and informal engagement in the Rio Conventions and the development of farmer-led statements¹¹, these organizations are clearly articulating their members' key asks, including calls for strengthened and simplified mechanisms to access finance and resource mobilisation.

Directing financial support towards farmers, ADM

Capital's Asia Climate-Smart Landscape Fund

(ACLF) is providing medium-term loans to

smallholder farmers in Indonesia to enhance

livelihoods, employment and sustainable land use.

Degas Ghana and GAWA Capital are providing

financing and insurance products to smallholders

across Sub-Saharan Africa and low-income communities globally, respectively. **Lloyds Bank** and the **Soil Association** are supporting farmers in the UK through an **exchange platform** which provides farm data and insights and opportunities to apply for grants and funding.

One Acre Fund works with over 1 million smallholders in Africa, providing trainings, products and services. GrowHer:Kakao is investing in training and resources, directly supporting over 4,000 women smallholders in Indonesia. FAO and CIMMYT's Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) initiative promotes traditional climate-resilient crops and healthy soil management. Farmer-driven efforts such as The Climakers Initiative aim to encourage national policymakers to base their national climate plans on evidence and solutions coming from bottom-up experience and best practices that farmers are already implementing.

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Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Increase finance for adaptation and resilience and ensure finance mechanisms are simple and easy to access for frontline food systems actors.
- Develop tailored financial products for farmers, such as crop-specific insurance products and loans based on alternative credit risk scoring models.
- Work with farmers to increase access to technological solutions and innovations, including more resilient crop varieties, weather predictors, and early warning detection systems.

¹¹ UNFCCC Farmers Constituency: COP29 Joint Statement; World Rural Forum Statement of Family Farmers; World Farmers' Organisation Statement for CBD COP 16; European Council of Young Farmers EU Mandate 2024-2029.

The SEKEM Initiative in Egypt is supporting millions of farmers in implementing agriculture practices to ensure long-term resilience and increased incomes

The **SEKEM Initiative**, founded nearly 50 years ago, focuses on regenerative development through biodynamic and organic agriculture, along with socioeconomic and cultural initiatives, in Egypt. It has evolved into a network of NGOs, companies and educational institutions addressing food security, environmental degradation and climate change.

SEKEM supports smallholder farmers in adopting regenerative agriculture and resilient practices, having already assisted 15,000 farmers and transitioned over 47,000 acres. Through its **Economy of Love** Standard, it promotes regenerative agriculture, carbon sequestration and sustainable livelihoods, ensuring transparency and fair wages. Additionally, SEKEM's efforts include scaling renewable energy, waste recycling and afforestation, with a goal of reaching 40,000 farmers by 2025.



Action #2 Align food systems with the 1.5°C goal

Align food systems with the 1.5 °C goal, reducing absolute GHG emissions from food systems (including emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide), and transitioning away from fossil fuel use within food systems whilst supporting renewable energy access, especially in developing countries.

2030 Climate Solutions:

- Nature-Based Solutions for Mitigation
- Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture

Food systems are responsible for a third of global GHG emissions, with methane from livestock production and nitrous oxide from fertiliser application as the two highest emitters. Industrial food systems are also highly energy-intensive and dependent on fossil fuels across agri-inputs, processing and packaging, retail, consumption and waste, accounting for 15 per cent of global use annually. Phasing away from fossil fuel dependency and reducing emissions from agri-sectors through locally appropriate transitions has the potential to contribute actively to the energy transition in coordination with better use of renewables. A food systems approach, transforming production and consumption collectively, will be essential to align with the 1.5 °C goal.

"Business, together with all stakeholders across our global food value chains, are working towards solutions that align food systems with the 1.5 °C goal. By channelling targeted investments and engaging in public-private collaboration, businesses can strengthen food system resilience and reduce global agri-food systems emissions by almost half by 2030. Together with the world's leading companies, WBCSD is committed to delivering the collective transformation needed."

Diane Holdorf, Executive Vice President,
 World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Illustrative examples:

Efforts are underway to develop time-bound targets and transition pathways for food systems. The FAO Roadmap sets out a global pathway to achieve food and nutrition security while meeting the 1.5 °C goal, building on existing country-level target-setting efforts by entities such as FABLE, which has developed pathways for over 20 countries. The 2024 Breakthrough Agenda Report assesses the status of international collaboration towards the implementation of sustainable practices in agriculture, focusing on enteric methane emissions from livestock and emissions from fertiliser production and application as deep dives.

In 2024, over **100 agri-food businesses** have established and validated **science-based targets** that include land-based emission reductions and removals through the **Forest, Land and Agriculture Science-Based Target-Setting Guidance (SBTi FLAG)**. These targets include committing to a 72 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050 for companies with significant activities in the land and agriculture sector, and a deforestation target set for no later

than 2025. The **Global Methane Hub** has committed **USD 200 million** to the Enteric Fermentation R&D Accelerator, which aims to identify, develop and sustainably scale breakthrough solutions such as feed additives, vaccines, genetics and measurement devices to reduce livestock emissions.

Increasingly, efforts are focusing on the development of sustainably produced and organic agri-inputs to improve soil health and reduce reliance on fossil-fuel based fertilisers without endangering food security. For example, OCP's USD 13 billion Green Investment Programme aims to increase more sustainable fertiliser production, transition to green energy by 2030 and focus on research and innovation in phosphorus recycling. The Rockefeller Foundation and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology are working in Kenya to promote black soldier fly larvae as an animal-feed enhancer and organic fertiliser producer via waste, reducing the input costs for farmers, improving soil fertility and increasing crop yields.

Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Deploy and scale-up viable practices and technologies to reduce methane emissions from agriculture
 (e.g. livestock management, including enteric fermentation, manure management and herd reduction where
 necessary and rice cultivation), as well as promote locally appropriate shifts to healthy and sustainable diets.
- Scale-up utilization of renewable energy for agriculture production, processing and distribution.
- Support farmers with tools and resources to improve appropriate fertiliser application without compromising food security, and increase R&D to support bio-input, organic and green fertilisers.
- Adopt and implement, as appropriate, science-based targets for climate (SBTi FLAG), covering scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, and nature (SBTN land use and water targets) and publicly disclose progress aligned to leading regulatory and voluntary frameworks and standards (e.g. CSRD, ISSB, TCFD, TNFD, GHG Protocol).
- Ensure that strategies take a food systems approach, identifying and monitoring the changes needed in consumption as well as production.

Danone leads the way with the first-ever methane reduction target in the dairy industry

Danone is the first company in the dairy industry to set an absolute methane reduction target, aiming to reduce methane emissions from its fresh milk supply chain by **30 per cent by 2030**. As of 2023, Danone had achieved a 13.3 per cent reduction, aligning with its broader 1.5 °C climate goal. The initiative includes regenerative agriculture practices such as feed optimization, herd and manure management, and innovative methane-reducing solutions such as seaweed-based feed additives. Collaborating with the **Environmental Defense Fund, Cornell University** and partners, Danone is scaling its methane reduction solutions across its supply chains. Additionally, Danone's efforts include supporting smallholder farms in North Africa through the USAID's "Advancing Women in Agricultural Supply Chains" initiative.



¹² Various definitions exist, including the **IPCC** and the **Planetary Health Diet**. This report recognises that diet shifts will differ around the world and should be equitable and respect sociocultural differences and local contexts.

Action #3 Address food and nutrition security

Address rising hunger and ensure vulnerable individuals, households, communities, and fragile regions experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity can meet their nutritional needs, ending hunger and malnutrition in all its form, noting that climate change will further exacerbate these risks.

2030 Climate Solutions:

Healthy and Sustainable Food for All

Over **730 million people** worldwide face hunger and **4 billion people** suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. Malnutrition is pervasive worldwide and disproportionately affects women and children, responsible for over **3 million child deaths** annually. War, rising food prices and climate change are exacerbating food and nutrition security. At the national and international levels, coordinated action, including support for **vulnerable regions** and communities, is required to achieve hunger and malnutrition targets.

Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Rapidly scale finance to reduce malnutrition and achieve SDG2 (zero hunger) by 2030.
- Support the provision and diversification of school meals that, in addition to playing a critical role in child nutrition, can support local agriculture and markets while simultaneously improving health, nutrition and education, making communities more resilient.
- Strengthen early warning systems for food crises, incorporating indicators such as child wasting and food prices.
- Ensure proper safety nets for vulnerable groups and integrate climate and nutrition-sensitive considerations, including gender-specific issues.
- Scale-up key nutrition interventions, including food diversification, fortification, availability and affordability.

Illustrative examples:

In 2023, CARE reached record programme implementation costs of approximately USD 858 million, reaching 167 million people in vulnerable communities across 109 countries. GAIN interventions have impacted access to nutritious food for 422,000 farmers and factory workers and their families globally and in Bangladesh, Nigeria, India, Kenya and Malawi. Food banks within the Global FoodBanking Network have expanded their distribution of food and grocery products by 25 per cent, with nearly 60 per cent of this growth taking place in emerging and developing economies.

Initiatives such as The Rockefeller Foundation's USD 10.7 million grant to the World Food Programme aim to improve access to nutritious food for vulnerable children in several countries, with a focus on school feeding programmes. Regionally, networks within the School Meals Coalition are supporting countries in East and West Africa to collaborate through workshops and advocacy, improving school meal programmes and policies. Tetra Pak also works with consumers, governments, and local NGOs to develop School Feeding Programmes linked to local agricultural development in Mexico, Bangladesh, Yemen, Uganda, and several other countries.

Rwanda fortified whole grains enhance nutrition security in schools

The **Rwanda Fortified Whole Grain Program**, launched in 2021 and supported by The **Rockefeller Foundation**, focuses on incorporating fortified whole grain maize flour (FWG) into school feeding programmes to enhance students' nutritional intake. In collaboration with the Rwanda Ministry of Education and the **World Food Programme**, the project partners with **local millers** to establish a sustainable supply chain that supports local economies. Additionally, it includes community engagement and education to promote awareness of whole grains' nutritional benefits. By further boosting the micronutrient content of whole grain maize flour through fortification, this initiative aims to improve health outcomes, support academic performance, and foster long-term resilience within Rwandan communities. At the pilot phase, the project delivered 30 metric tons of FWG maize flour to 18 schools, benefiting 13,765 students, and demonstrated that production of high quality and long shelf life FWG maize flour is feasible at the same cost as refined flour. The Government of Rwanda has committed to support scale up towards achieving universal coverage of school children in primary and secondary schools with FWG foods. Rwanda will be the first country to achieve universal coverage. The initiative is **scaling up** and has active efforts underway in Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Action #4

Improve availability, accessibility and affordability of healthy, nutritious, sustainable and locally appropriate diets for all

Change food environments to improve availability, accessibility, and affordability in support of healthy, nutritious, sustainable, and locally appropriate diets, transitioning to more diversified sources of protein and energy and more balanced diets in line with global goals and national circumstances.

2030 Climate Solutions:

Healthy and Sustainable Food for All

Over 3.1 billion people worldwide were unable to afford or access a healthy diet in 2021, a situation worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, climate change and inflation. Poor diet quality is the leading driver of non-communicable diseases and a major cause of premature death worldwide. Food systems need to provide adequate, nutritious food for all, especially the most vulnerable populations, while avoiding overconsumption, especially of ultra-processed foods, to prevent burdens on healthcare systems and the environment. As stated by the IPCC, shifting to healthy, sustainable diets¹³ can contribute to reducing ecosystem conversion and food systems emissions. Such dietary shifts will differ around the world and should be equitable and respect sociocultural differences and local contexts.

13 Ibid.

"To transform food consumption, we need to protect, empower and engage consumers. All around the world, people want access to healthy and sustainable food, but face significant barriers that can only be overcome through collective action and collaboration."

- Helena Leurent, Director General, Consumers International



"Sustainable food systems are critical in my city, and cities around the world, and with more than 70% of all food consumed in cities, mayors have a vital role in ensuring all our residents have access to healthy, delicious and sustainable food. As a mayor, food systems are a top priority. Linking climate action and food security is very critical to ensure the community's commitment to climate action. This is being operationalized through our school feeding programs, food waste reduction, community - led urban farming initiatives, and food markets. With many tools, we are making sure all of our residents have food that is good for people, planet and prosperit."

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- Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown and C40 Co-Chair

Illustrative examples:

The EAT-Lancet Commission's landmark Planetary
Health Diet¹⁴ sets out the requirements for a global
planetary diet that is healthy for both people and the
planet, and an update report is due in 2025 to
support dietary shifts at national levels. The Food
Systems Economics Commission is building on its
global policy report, released last year, unpacking
how the transition to human and planetary health
diets can be financed. The Food Culture Alliance
supports local stakeholder alliances in forming
coalitions to develop and implement sustainable,
food culture strategies at scale in Kenya, Indonesia,
and India.

The Access to Nutrition Initiative is working with the world's 35 largest food companies, along with dozens of national companies in India, Kenya and the USA, to transform markets so that by 2030, sales are primarily derived from healthy, sustainable products. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Basket tracks data to measure the shift toward increased consumption of plant-based protein, with a target for retailers to

achieve a 50-50 split between sales of plant and animal proteins by 2030. Retailers such as **Tesco** and **Albert Heijn** have set targets to expand plant-based food options in their stores to meet growing consumer demand for healthier, more sustainable foods. **Tilt Collective**, launched in September 2024, is focusing on a global shift towards plant-rich food systems working across civil society, philanthropy and public and private sectors.

The Good Food Institute is driving efforts to scale government funding for research and deployment of plant-based and cultivated meat, as well as to create a collaborative global regulatory framework. The Farm Animal Investment Risk and Return (FAIRR) Initiative's Protein Diversification Engagement, supported by 66 investors with over USD 10.8 trillion in assets under management, encourages food retailers and manufacturers to integrate protein diversification into their climate and nutrition strategies and promote sustainable alternative proteins.

Cities steering the race to healthy, sustainable diets

City leadership is driving increased access to healthy, sustainable and accessible diets through the "C40: Good Food Cities" Accelerator, which aims to reduce food-related carbon emissions by promoting plant-rich diets and reducing food waste. As part of this effort, New York City has implemented a programme in its Health + Hospitals system that prepares 15,000 culturally relevant, plant-based meals daily for patients, with 50 per cent of inpatients now choosing these meals. The programme achieved a 90 per cent approval rating and served 783,000 plant-based meals in 2023. This initiative is part of a broader effort to combat climate change and create healthier, more equitable communities, aiming to reduce the food-related carbon footprint by 33 per cent by 2030.

Collective purchasing power for local, affordable and healthy food

Mumbai Grahak Panchayat (MGP), a member of **Consumers International**, is a consumer-driven collective purchasing organization that leverages collective buying power to provide households with local, affordable and healthy food options. Operating in India since 1975, MGP's system involves voluntary participation, with families filling out requisition slips to place bulk orders that are delivered through a network of distribution centres.

MGP offers essential groceries such as grains, pulses and spices at a discount of over 20 per cent compared with market prices, benefiting over 36,000 families. By sourcing products directly from producers and reducing intermediaries, the initiative ensures access to quality food while maintaining a no-profit, no-loss model. MGP also promotes environmental sustainability by reducing plastic use and prioritizing healthy local alternatives. This collective purchasing model provides consistent access to affordable food, even during market fluctuations.

Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Revise dietary guidelines in line with the human and planetary health diet¹⁵, as appropriate to local contexts, to
 ensure that nutrition recommendations align with global climate goals.
- Leverage public procurement and regulatory measures and realign incentives to make healthy and sustainable choices more affordable, accessible and available for consumers.
- Increase investment in interdisciplinary research, pilots and data to design interventions for food environments that promote healthy, sustainable, affordable and locally appropriate diets.
- Improve consumers' understanding of healthy and sustainable diets through better quality information, marketing, advertising and public education.

15 Ibid.

¹⁴ The **Planetary Health Diet** emphasises a plant-forward diet where whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes comprise a greater proportion of foods consumed. Meat and dairy constitute important parts of the diet but in significantly smaller proportions than whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes.

Action #5 Scale-up sustainable, regenerative and agroecological approaches to food production

Support a transition to and scaling up of sustainable approaches to food production that deliver positive outcomes for people, nature, and climate (including agroecology, organic, regenerative and nature-positive approaches and sustainable aquaculture) and climate resilient management of capture fisheries, pursuing co-benefits with animal welfare, air quality and public health.

2030 Climate Solutions:

- Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture
- Aquatic Food

Transitioning to more sustainable, regenerative ¹⁶ and agroecological ¹⁷ approaches to food production offers an opportunity to invest in the natural ecosystems needed for long-term resilience while increasing future crop yields and livelihood opportunities across many landscape contexts. There is deep knowledge to draw upon. Regeneration has been at the heart of Indigenous food systems for generations. Many farmers and frontline food systems actors around the world have been implementing nature-friendly approaches for decades and understand what works in their specific contexts. In addition to landscapes, aquatic ecosystems have an important role to play, as aquatic food is a critical source of protein and micronutrients for more than 3 billion people.



Illustrative examples:

Thirty-five food and agriculture organisations are working to accelerate the transition towards resilient and regenerative food systems in the Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes and recently have launched their first regenerative landscape accelerator in the Brazilian Cerrado. Progress is also being made towards the development of Regen10's Outcomes-Based Framework, the zero-draft version of which was launched at COP 28. This aims to provide a holistic framework to enable the measurement of environmental, economic and sociocultural outcomes at the farm and landscape levels

Led by the Global Alliance of the Future of Food, over two dozen philanthropies are aligning around an effort to scale funding to catalyse the transition to regenerative and agroecological approaches.

Launched at COP 28, the First Movers Coalition for Food involves almost 40 organizations aiming to create aggregated market demand for sustainably produced and low-emission agricultural commodities

with a combined procurement commitment of up to USD 20 billion. The **Agroecology Coalition** and **Agroecology Fund** are pushing for increased funding and investments for farmers and frontline networks to support them to adopt and scale-up agroecology.

Additionally, organizations such as Technoserve, One Acre Fund and FOLU Country Platforms are working directly with farmers and governments to train farmers and design regional- or landscape-level transition plans. The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) connects 43 member networks across 50 African countries and advocates for territorial markets that enhance food sovereignty through access to healthy foods and direct farmerconsumer interactions, while addressing data gaps and resource limitations. The Samoan Safata District **Customary User Rights Program** combines traditional and modern practices to sustainably manage fisheries, protecting territorial rights while empowering local communities to manage their marine resources.

¹⁶ While there is no universally accepted definition of regenerative agriculture, and there are many varied definitions depending on context and culture, there is growing consensus that regenerative agriculture should deliver positive outcomes for people, nature, and climate.

¹⁷ The **Agroecology Coalition** defines agroecology as "an integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems" that "aims to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into account the social aspects that must be addressed for a sustainable and equitable food system". This definition is anchored on a set of elements defined by FAO and principles defined by the Committee on World Food Security High-Level Panel of Experts.

"Philanthropy has a critical role to play in catalysing finance for the food systems transition. Through the Regenerative and Agroecological Finance for Transition (RAFT), we are working with 30+ other philanthropies to accelerate and align regenerative and agroecological approaches to transform global food systems. Together we are mapping funding flows, identifying gaps, and identifying investable opportunities so that we can better align investments in key regions. RAFT aims to catalyze a transition to 50 per cent regenerative and agroecological food systems by 2040, with the goal of transitioning all agriculture and food systems by 2050. Cross-regional coordination and donor engagement have been established to facilitate a tenfold increase in the financial resources necessary for regenerative agriculture."

- Sara Farley, Vice President Global Food Portfolio, The Rockefeller Foundation



- Develop farmer-centric, outcomes-based frameworks co-designed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and other frontline food systems actors, with the aim of measuring progress and transparently assessing agricultural production transformation using data owned by farmers and landscape stewards.
- Increase incentives, reorient agricultural subsidies and address trade, finance and regulatory barriers to ensure
 a level playing field for the production and consumption of healthy and sustainable food products.
- Deploy innovative finance models, such as blended finance, to de-risk the transition to sustainable, regenerative and agroecological approaches, with agri-food companies sharing costs and risks across the value chain.
- Support the development and expansion of local markets and value chains for healthy, sustainably produced food, including through more direct connections between farmers and consumers.



Assessing natural farming through a wider lens: insights from India

The **Andhra Pradesh Community-Managed Natural Farming** (APCNF) programme involves 800,000 farmers across 200,000 hectares in India. Its key activities focus on reducing chemical inputs, improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity and increasing crop diversity, resulting in an average of four crops grown per farm.

To better understand natural farming, in 2020, **GIST Impact** evaluated the economic, social and health impacts of natural farming compared with conventional methods using the TEEBAgriFood framework, with support from the **Global Alliance for the Future of Food**. A recent study found that APCNF has led to a 49 per cent net increase in farmer incomes, a 44 per cent reduction in input costs and a 26 per cent decrease in health costs forprogramme participants compared with farmers using chemically intensive farming methods. This initiative has enhanced social capital in APCNF villages, promoting greater community cohesion, trust, support and knowledge sharing and positively impacting 50 million consumers. Importantly, this outcome shows that natural farming and agroecological transitions can comfortably feed communities, with better yields and crop diversity than conventional farming methods, providing important insights for policy makers in India and globally.

Action #6 Enhance water resilience

Enhance water resilience, water quality, and availability through integrated management of water and food systems and restoration of water-related ecosystems.

2030 Climate Solutions:

- Resilient Natural Landscapes
- Freshwater
- Food-Water Nexus

Agriculture accounts for more than **70 per cent** of all freshwater withdrawals worldwide, and global demand for water is expected to outstrip supply by **40 per cent** by 2050. Globally, a quarter of agriculture occurs in areas with **high water risk**, and freshwater biodiversity has been declining by an average of **83 per cent** since 1970. Agriculture must shift towards more water-efficient crops and practices to meet future food demand and build resilience to predicted insecurity while protecting soil health and biodiversity.

Illustrative examples:

As of 2024, **87 per cent** of the world's leading consumer processing producers and retailers have set at least 1 quantified ambition on water stewardship, with 25 per cent setting a near-term ambition by 2026¹⁸. 53 companies in the Beverage and Food Producers sector have endorsed the **CEO Water Mandate**, mobilising business leaders to address global water challenges. The **International Finance Corporation**'s **Global Challenge** programme on water also helps countries to strengthen their water security through advisory support and increasing private sector participation in water.

Water Institute are developing and innovating applied knowledge and tools for water governance by strengthening policies and expanding reach through international programmes, projects and multistakeholder platforms. Research institutes such as the International Water Management Institute are providing evidence and data analytics needed by governments, financing institutions, farmers and other partners to make informed decisions about agricultural water management technologies.

Collaborative platforms, such as the Water Footprint Network, also provide an opportunity for companies, organisations, and individuals to jointly tackle water crises by advancing fair water use.

Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Provide incentives and mobilise resources for farmers to improve efficient water use, diversify crops, and implement sustainable, regenerative and agroecological approaches, including practices to increase water productivity, soil health, and green water retention.
- Ensure that regulatory standards and policies address ecosystem and natural resource protection, reduce water demand, increase water productivity, conserve water quality and centre rights-based approaches to empower farmers to sustainably manage water sources.
- Enhance collaboration to evaluate and address trade-offs and unintended consequences of activities affecting water systems by all food system actors.

Building water resilience: salt-resistant crops secure the future of smallholder farmers in Egypt's Nile Delta

A project led by the **Arab Network for Environment and Development** (RAED) in Egypt's Nile Delta has focused on mitigating the effects of climate change, specifically soil salinity and waterlogging, by training 366 smallholder farmers to cultivate salt-tolerant crops and use advanced irrigation techniques. Through this project, eight new salt-resistant crops have been developed, including wheat and barley, improving food security and agricultural resilience. Approximately 100 rural women have been trained in food production and dairy processing, supporting them tocreate small income-generating projects. The project also has restored 200 hectares of degraded land and improved the livelihoods and incomes of local farmers by increasing both the quality and quantity of their crop yields.



¹⁸ Bain & Company research 2024.

Action #7 Improve soil health

Improve soil health through increased investments, expanded research, and scaling of healthy soil practices that increase soil carbon, prevent soil pollution, and reverse land degradation.

2030 Climate Solutions:

- Resilient Natural Landscapes
- Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture

Healthy soil is crucial for food production and provides several vital ecosystem services, including biodiversity, regulation of the water cycle, nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration¹⁹. However, topsoil is being lost at an annual rate of **36 billion tons**, resulting in annual losses in agricultural production totalling **USD 300 billion**. Investments in soil health are urgently needed to tackle the triple challenges of climate change, food and nutrition insecurity and biodiversity loss.

Illustrative examples:

Coalitions and initiatives advocating for the scaling of healthy soil practices are gaining momentum. The **Coalition of Action for Soil Health** (CA4SH), launched during the 2021 UNFSS, has grown to over **170 multi-stakeholder** members, with an overall goal of scaling healthy soil practices by addressing key implementation, financing, knowledge and policy gaps. The **Soil Values Program**, launched this year with a budget of EUR 100 million over 10 years, aims to improve soil fertility and productivity across 2 million hectares in the Sahel region, directly benefiting 1.5 million small-scale food producers, particularly women and youth.

The Africa Regional Hub for Fertilizer and Soil
Health was launched with an investment of USD 10
million and aims to provide strategic guidance,
knowledge dissemination and capacity development
in the region. FONTRAGRO is driving impact across
Latin America, with over USD 130 million mobilized
to support projects simultaneously enhancing
productivity and soil health. Research has also
expanded, with the United States Department of
Agriculture (USDA) investing USD 3 million to
support Cooperative Soil Science and Soil Survey
Research, and the Global Soil Partnership
announcing a new action framework for 2022–2030,
with a goal of improving and maintaining the health
of at least 50 per cent of the world's soils by 2030.

Refugee-led initiative improves soil health and resilience in Uganda

The **Nakivale Refugee Settlement initiative**, led by **KYETE BIINGI TAI NYEME** (KBTN), focuses on improving soil health and agricultural resilience. This initiative provides workshops on sustainable soil management techniques such as composting, organic farming and crop rotation. Over 550 refugee households have gained knowledge through the initiative, improving their agricultural practices and reducing soil degradation. Soil fertility and water retention have been enhanced through sustainable methods, supporting food security and environmental sustainability for over 300 households. This effort has strengthened climate resilience and built sustainable livelihoods for the refugee community.



¹⁹ https://www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org/

Action #8

Conserve and restore nature

Protect, conserve, and restore nature and biodiversity, including by halting and reversing loss of forests and other important ecosystems such as wetlands, grasslands, savannahs, and peatlands, contributing significantly to the restoration of degraded land and grazing pastures.

2030 Climate Solutions:

- Nature-Based Solutions for Mitigation
- Resilient Natural Landscapes
- · Halting deforestation and investing in nature

Food security relies on the vital resources and services provided by nature, yet food systems are the primary driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, accounting for **80 per cent of deforestation**. Healthy ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and marine systems also maintain the conditions needed to support food production, including **regulating rainfall**, stabilising and replenishing soils and sustaining fish stocks. Indigenous Peoples and local communities are vital custodians of biodiversity and natural resources, and their Traditional Knowledge must be acknowledged and respected.

"It's imperative to transform food systems if we are to have any hope of limiting the worst impacts of climate change. It requires actions from farm to fork, from bait to plate, and in tackling loss and waste particularly to slash methane emissions from food in landfill. But the only way food-based climate action can be truly successful is if it is aligned with actions to tackle nature loss and desertification. National stakeholders urgently need to align plans and integrate implementation if we are to nourish everyone within planetary boundaries."

- Joao Campari, Global Leader, Food & Agriculture Practice, WWF

Illustrative examples:

The Nature Positive for Climate Action call to action aims to mobilize businesses and financial institutions to integrate nature into their net zero transition plans; adopt nature-related targets, disclosures and deforestation policies; and increase investments in nature-based solutions. Over 500 businesses and financial institutions are responding to this call to action by adopting various standards and frameworks, including the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) and SBTi FLAG.

Within the Finance Sector Deforestation Action (FSDA) Initiative, a group of 33 financial institutions with more than USD 8 trillion in assets under management are working towards eliminating agricultural commodity-driven deforestation from their portfolios by 2025. A coalition of 190 financial institutions have signed the Finance for Biodiversity

Pledge, committing to protect and restore biodiversity through their finance activities and investments. 32 per cent of the world's leading consumer product producers and retailers have set at least 1 quantified ambition on deforestation, and 24 per cent setting a near-term ambition with a target year by 2026²⁰.

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) is supporting champions across Africa in their efforts to accelerate restoration efforts and enhance food security, with 129 million hectares committed for restoration. Restor, an open-access data network, connects over 200,000 sites where positive actions are being taken towards restoration and nature. The Trillion Trees project, supported by BirdLife International, the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF, aims to plant 1 trillion trees worldwide to protect and restore forests for the benefit of people, nature and climate.



20 Bain & Company Research 2024.

Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Increase investments and incentives in nature-based solutions and for sustainable, deforestation and conversion-free food production, and establish regulations for sustainable supply chains that are free from deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems.
- Implement zero-deforestation commitments by eliminating agricultural commodity-driven deforestation from investment portfolios and centrally integrating deforestation action into net zero transition plans.
- Adopt and implement science-based targets for climate and nature and assess, manage and disclose naturerelated impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities.
- Respect and support the rights of Indigenous Peoples, recognising their vital role as custodians of nature and supporting sustainable and resilient food production.

Preserving biodiversity through Amazigh cultural practices and seed conservation in Morocco's High Atlas

The Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association (MBLA) was founded in 2014 to safeguard the natural and cultural heritage of Morocco's High Atlas Mountains while promoting sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. MBLA enhances awareness and recognition of Amazigh cultural practices in biodiversity conservation, which contribute to the High Atlas' diverse and rich ecosystems. Through community-led initiatives such as community seed banks (CSBs), MBLA has conserved over 500 seed varieties, supporting biodiversity, food security and climate adaptation. Their innovative approach integrates scientific research with community-driven conservation practices, fostering resilience and empowering marginalized groups, particularly women and youth, across the region.

Innovative incentive models empower soy farmers

to eliminate deforestation and land conversion

The Farmer First Clusters Initiative, a collaborative effort by six agribusinesses through the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Soft Commodities Forum, aims to eliminate deforestation and land conversion driven by soy production in Brazil's Cerrado, supported by an initial investment of USD 7.2 million. A sustainable incentives model has been developed, providing solutions to soy producers to adopt zero-deforestation practices and restore degraded lands. The initiative has implemented six key solutions, including payments for surplus legal reserves, sustainable farming systems and green finance mechanisms. It promotes climate-smart agricultural practices, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and preserves native vegetation. The initiative has successfully engaged farmers in sustainable practices, contributing to GHG emissions reductions and sustainable soy production.

Action #9 Halve food loss and waste

Intensify efforts to halve food loss and waste, including through circular economy approaches.

2030 Climate Solutions:

Reducing Food Loss and Waste

Globally, around **one third** of total food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted. Beyond the impacts on food security and the economic cost of **USD 940 billion** annually, food loss and waste also account for **8–10 per cent** of GHGs. In 2022, **1.05 billion tonnes** of food were wasted worldwide, equivalent to approximately 19 percent of all food available to consumers. In 2019, **13.8 percent of food was lost worldwide** on farms after harvesting and at the transport, storage and processing stages. The percentage of loss was **greater in lower income countries**. It is essential to address food loss and waste at all levels to improve food security and climate contributions.

Food bank inside a trading post creates opportunities for Filipino farmers

Led by the **Global FoodBanking Network** and funded by The **Rockefeller Foundation**, the project at the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal has successfully reduced food waste and post-harvest losses by facilitating a food bank where farmers can exchange surplus produce for essential goods. This initiative has enhanced food security for local farmers and their families while improving nutrition to schoolchildren through donations of surplus vegetables to feeding programmes. Additionally, the initiative has supported farmers' livelihoods by implementing a barter system and promoting sustainable food recovery practices. The project was designed to be scalable and replicable at other trading posts across the Philippines.

²¹ Bain & Company Research 2024.

Illustrative examples:

As of 2024, 45 per cent of the world's top consumer goods producers and retailers have committed to measurable targets to reduce food waste, with 15 per cent aiming to achieve these goals before 2026²¹. Additionally, **74 per cent** of these companies have set public food loss and waste baselines against which to measure their progress, and 54 per cent have measured and publicly reported food loss and waste data in multiple years. Through the 10x20x30 initiative, Champions 12.3, led by the World Resources Institute (WRI), brings together more than 10 of the world's largest food retailers and providers, each of which is engaging at least 20 suppliers to halve food loss and waste by 2030. Reducing Food **Loss and Waste - A Roadmap for Philanthropy** was also launched at COP 28, identifying USD 300 million in ready-to-fund philanthropic investments.

WRAP is delivering projects across the world, aiming to halve food waste by food manufacturers and retail, reduce food-related GHG emissions and protect water resources for food supplies. FOLU Country Platforms are helping governments to tailor

and adopt global measurement frameworks to assess progress at the country level, such as the national Food Loss and Waste Standard Calculation Method in Indonesia. The World Economic Forum is promoting a range of innovations, such as hydroponic farming, community fridges and the use of "imperfect" produce that might otherwise go to waste. Technology is playing an increasingly important role, with companies such as IBM using artificial intelligence and machine learning to optimise supply chains and prevent unnecessary waste.

The Global FoodBanking Network supports community-led solutions to reduce food loss and waste and alleviate hunger in nearly 50 countries, preventing 1.8 million metric tons of CO2 in 2023. The Global Farm Loss Tool, launched in 2024 by the WWF and the Consumer Goods Forum, is helping farmers and supply chain stakeholders to measure and reduce on-farm food losses. The Too Good To Go app redistributes surplus food that would otherwise go to waste, with a 46 per cent increase in meals redistributed last year.

Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Increase investment in post-harvest and cold-storage infrastructure and finance more advanced agricultural equipment, especially in lower income countries.
- Encourage private sector actors to implement food loss and waste reduction technologies and practices and to require their suppliers to do the same.
- Improve measurement systems, identify hotspots and improve data availability and communications across supply chains, including better information on crop availability and consumer demand.
- Promote public education on sustainable consumer behaviour from purchase to recycling, harmonise labelling standards and provide policy incentives to retailers and other food providers (e.g. to donate food to food banks).

Action #10 Reorient and scale-up all sources of finance

Reorient, align, de-risk, and scale-up finance, including multilateral, private, philanthropic, and blended finance, to promote food systems adaptation and resilience, as well as mitigation, closing the finance gap with particular attention towards the adaptation needs of low-income countries and increasing direct access for frontline food system actors.

2030 Climate Solutions:

Financing the Food Systems Transition

Funding from all sources – domestic, public, private, multilateral, philanthropic and blended – must be scaled-up and reoriented to fund the transition to resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems. Currently, funding is heavily skewed towards incentivising unsustainable practices: for example, the majority of the USD 540 billion in annual support to agricultural producers is either price-distorting or harmful to nature and health. To match the predicted climate transition scenarios and halve current agri-food systems emissions by 2030, it is estimated that finance to food systems must reach at least USD 260 billion per year. However, food systems received only USD 28.5 billion (4.3 per cent of global climate finance) between 2019 and 2022. Additionally, the finance gap between mitigation and adaptation funding is substantial, with adaptation receiving significantly less, despite the critical needs of lower income countries. The cost of food systems transition will be high, but the cost of inaction will be much higher, with hidden social, economic and environmental costs amounting to USD 10 trillion per year, roughly 10 per cent of global GDP.



Illustrative examples:

In 2023, the **Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance** (NZAOA) expanded its membership by 12; it now comprises 86 institutional investments with USD 9.6 trillion in assets under management, many of whom have exposure to the agri-food sector, who are committed to aligning their investment portfolios with the Paris Agreement. Additionally, the Forum for Insurance Transition to Net Zero (FTI) has brought together 19 insurers and reinsurers to de-risk agricultural investments, fostering an increase in private capital flow into climate-adaptive food systems. Also in 2023, **26 blended finance deals** focused on agriculture were launched globally, raising USD 4 billion. Innovative finance mechanisms are essential for attracting private sector involvement by leveraging public, private and philanthropic funds to reduce risk.

FAIRR, with over 400 members globally representing over USD 75 trillion in combined assets, is mobilising investors to call for the realignment of financial flows to support climate and nature. Banks such as Rabobank are providing innovative agri-food investment solutions to support farmers and other actors. GrowAsia's GrowBeyond Fund is channelling blended capital to small-scale agribusinesses in Southeast Asia, with an aim to catalyse USD 1 billion 2030. Philanthropic funding efforts are increasing, with notable investments from Bezos Earth Fund and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the alignment of several philanthropies around regenerative agriculture.



"To successfully address the crucial global challenges of climate change and biodiversity preservation, investor engagement on these challenges is key. We cannot hope to achieve the decarbonisation goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement without substantial changes to the food industry, but currently it's estimated that around 90% of global agricultural subsidies are harmful to the environment. That is why FAIRR investor members with \$7 trillion in assets signed a statement highlighting the need to realign G20 agricultural subsidies with climate change and nature goals."

- Dr Helena Wright, Director of Policy, FAIRR Initiative

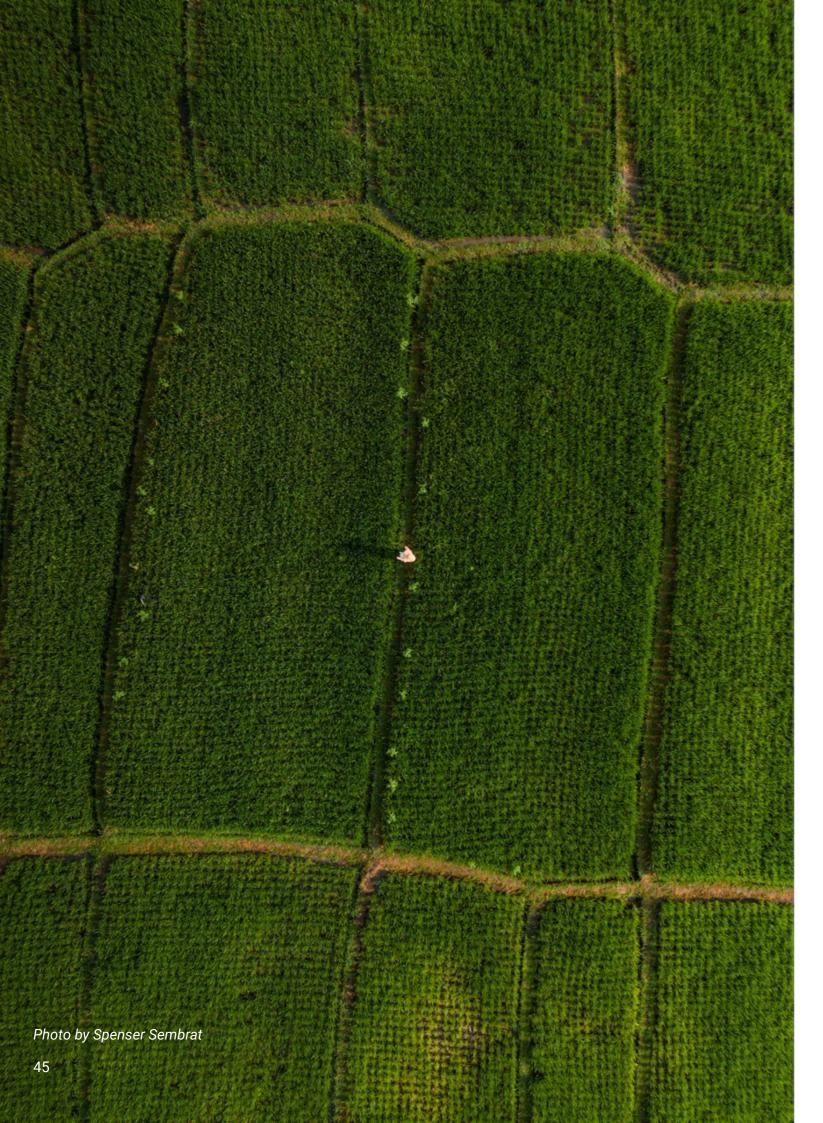
Actions to accelerate progress include:

- Align and transform the business models and financial flows of agri-food businesses and financial institutions
 with the goals of the Paris Agreement and Global Biodiversity Framework, increasing investments in naturebased solutions and redirecting investments that drive commodity-driven deforestation, conversion and
 associated human rights abuses from portfolios.
- Scale innovative finance models to catalyse private finance, sharing learnings and upskilling local ecosystem actors including local financial institutions.
- Repurpose global subsidies to agriculture and other sectors to incentivise positive outcomes for resilient, sustainable and equitable food systems.
- Integrate food and agriculture into target-setting, disclosure and reporting frameworks to drive accountability, and publicly report on progress.

Finance for a forest-positive future: the transition to sustainable cattle and soy production

The **Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado, and Chaco** (IFACC) initiative, launched in 2021, aims to secure USD 10 billion in commitments and USD 1 billion in disbursements by 2025 to promote sustainable agriculture in Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. IFACC focuses on deforestation-free soy and beef production by using already cleared lands and collaborating with companies, banks and investors. By October 2024, the initiative had 22 signatories and had protected over 135,000 hectares of ecosystems, while restoring 739 hectares. IFACC is transforming agricultural practices to build resilient, nature-positive economies in South America.





Chapter 2 Progress in four principles

Principle #1

Centre efforts on frontline food systems actors, with a particular focus on women and youth

Frontline food systems actors, including farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, are at the heart of food systems' efforts to advance climate adaptation and mitigation. These actors' deep and **generational connections** to the land and nature are crucial to an equitable food systems transformation that works with, rather than against, nature.

However, frontline food systems actors lack the financing and investments needed to scale up progress, have limited access to inefficiently mobilised resources and are often marginalised in decision-making processes that impact their livelihoods, food security and climate resilience.

Collective calls from frontline food system actors highlight the need for:

- Effective and conducive policy environments enabling the participation of frontline food systems actors in decision-making forums, including national platforms to develop NDCs and NBSAPs and direct engagement with negotiators.
- Direct and proportional access to funds to support efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate, biodiversity and loss and damage and to propel capacity building and innovation.
- Increased recognition of the rights of frontline food systems actors and their roles as solution-builders and drivers of climate action, food system transformation, biodiversity conservation and nature protection.
- Opportunities to improve organizational capacity to administer their institutions effectively, access funds, participate in global climate discussions, partner with other relevant actors and mobilise collective influences and strategic communications focused on their needs and priorities.





"This principle is vital because it recognizes the essential role that women and youth play in driving sustainable food systems, which is often overlooked. It is the priority of Georgian Farmers' Association to ensure the necessary resources and recognition for farmers' contributions in food systems, provide inclusive platforms to amplify and integrate their voices in decision-making processes across food systems, which are still so fragile and require urgent actions. It is important to further empower women and youth with the skills and opportunities they need to innovate, adapt, and lead within the agricultural sector, while safeguarding the environment"

- Tamar Toria, Executive Director, Georgian Farmers Association



"A inclusão de jovens na transformação dos sistemas alimentares é vital para assegurar que suas vozes e talentos sejam valorizados nas decisões que moldam o futuro. Reconhecendo a juventude como agente transformador, é possível desenvolver soluções para chegar a realidade que queremos construir"

— João Pedro Leôncio, Membro GT Juventudes, Frente Parlamentar Mista Ambientalista, Congresso Nacional Brazil

Principle #2 Promote a just transition

Food systems transitions will require profound changes, but crucially, the transition process itself must be fair, equitable and inclusive. A just transition must be founded upon clear principles that guide just pathways, as well as achieve just outcomes, addressing systemic social and economic inequalities and access to finance, technology and other tools and resources. It must engage and listen to those who are most at risk, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as those farming at the centre of our food systems and those on the frontlines of climate and nature crises.

The **Just Rural Transition** initiative has outlined **10 guiding principles** for achieving a just food systems transition and explored their implications in terms of the desired outcomes, planning and decision-making

processes and systemic changes that may be needed, as well as the tensions that must be managed. Action Aid has also published Principles for a Just Transition in Agriculture, highlighting the need to address food system inequalities, ensure inclusive and participatory processes and the development of a comprehensive framework. The Climate Investment Fund has designed a Just Transition Planning Toolbox, providing practical guidance and resources for planning equitable and inclusive climate and sustainability transitions. The **Decent Work for Equitable Food Systems Coalition** has launched a multi-stakeholder partnership to advance labour and human rights, decent jobs and fair and adequate incomes and wages within the agri-food sector.





Promoting a just transition is essential to ensuring that food systems are not only sustainable but also equitable, particularly for marginalized communities who are often the most vulnerable. By advancing equitable livelihoods and engaging stakeholders in decision-making, we empower young people, women, and indigenous groups to shape their future and secure access to land and resources. Looking forward, my priority is to deepen multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure that these voices are heard and that policies reflect the needs of those at the frontline of climate and food system challenges."

- Richard Kachungu, Executive Director, Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (YEFI)



There is growing recognition globally that tenure rights are foundational to a just transition. Land and resource rights are especially crucial for women and girls within communities across the rural-to-urban continuum (in Indigenous, local, and rural communities, and in informal settlements). They face gendered discrimination, disproportionate climate impacts, and hold crucial ecosystem and community knowledge as well as stewardship and care roles. The Stand for Her Land global advocacy initiative builds political will and accelerates implementation for land tenure rights for women and girls globally, with a priority on grassroots women's leadership in our efforts from local to global levels."

Beth Roberts, Director, Center for Women's Land Rights,
 Landesa and Global Lead, Stand for Her Land



Principle #3 Respect the rights of Indigenous peoples

Despite protecting a significant amount of land and forests, natural resources and biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples face mounting challenges that are affecting their lives, livelihoods and territories. Violence against Indigenous Peoples is increasing, and projects that critically affect their territories often proceed without securing their right to free, prior, and informed consent in decisions that affect their ways of living and the food systems they support.

Indigenous Peoples' food systems offer unique insights, practices, biocultural knowledge and the empirical evidence needed to transition to more sustainable food systems. Indigenous Peoples' cultural identities and livelihoods are centred around shared traditional knowledge and innovation, which must be respected and protected to preserve their wisdom and guide our unified efforts towards a transition to equitable food systems for people, nature and climate.



En los Pueblos Indígenas reside la memoria histórica y su rol como guardianes de la Madre Tierra. Deben ser respetados porque ellos viven siguiendo los principios fundamentales: amar a la madre tierra. Es necesario incluir a la juventud y ofrecer espacios y talleres para enseñarles sobre el origen de los Pueblos Indígenas, su lenguaje y el valor de su tarea para asegurar que estos principios no se pierdan. Los principios de nuestros abuelos y abuelas sobre nuestros sistemas alimentarios y la siembra ancestral son las guías para el buen vivir, para saber cuándo y dónde plantar, sostener una alimentación balanceada y una buena salud. Frente a los desafíos del cambio climático, es necesario construir unidad respetando la memoria histórica de los Pueblos Indigenas quienes poseen la sabiduría y el conocimiento a través del tiempo y para todo el mundo."

- Briseida Iglesias, Guna People, Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)

Principle #4 Promote multi-stakeholder collaboration

Food systems transformation requires a holistic set of coordinated actions by diverse stakeholders at all levels. Regional and global collaborations can promote rapid learning and align trade, market and investment flows to support transition pathways. Through multi-stakeholder collaboration, progress can be made in multiple action and outcome areas, with actors sharing their knowledge, data and learnings to nurture partnerships and co-create food systems for all.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub acts as a catalyst in the UN system related to the contributions of food systems transformations to the 2030 Agenda, coordinating between UN agencies,

coalitions, the private sector and other actors to galvanise food systems knowledge in support of countries' actions. During COP 29, the Harmoniya Initiative will facilitate the sharing of experiences and identification of synergies and gaps in efforts to achieve food systems transformation, and will act as an aggregator to bring together initiatives, networks and partnerships. The Global Food Systems Network Map from Meridian Institute identifies 94 food systems-related initiatives representing efforts across both terrestrial and aquatic food systems and has mapped a landscape of these initiatives' diversified focuses on the climate nexus, production systems, diets and nutrition, human labour and environmental health.





Food systems evolve in response to multiple influences including market signals, local contexts, incentives, climate change and violent conflict. Increasingly this evolution is being shaped in ways that enable people to enjoy good nutrition and health, food producers and processors to have resilient livelihoods, farmers to regenerate and steward planetary resources, and younger people (especially women) to access equitable opportunities. This is achieved through widespread engagement in policy development, through facilitated, multi-stakeholder dialogues that encourage exploration and collaboration so that food systems deliver for people, nature, and climate. It is challenging work, but vital for our common future."

- Sir David Nabarro, Strategic Director, 4SD



Food systems are woven through every aspect of our lives, and so everyone must have a say in the future of our food. We must transform global, national and territorial food systems to become more sustainable, resilient, and nature-positive, but we must also ensure that any changes are equitable and holistic, supporting livelihoods with a regenerative conscience. Multi-stakeholder collaboration to deliver common visions of change, open and inclusive dialogues, and long-term action agendas and partnerships are necessary to make progres. The road from Cali and Azerbaijan to Belen must unite us with stronger voices to deliver for people, nature and prosperity with a higher ambition towards COP30 in Brazil."

- Claudia Martínez Zuleta, Executive Director, E3 Asesorías



Chapter 3 Looking ahead

Around the world, actions to achieve resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems are underway. The various examples and illustrative proof points across the 10 action areas and 4 principles of the Food Systems Call to Action highlighted in this report are incredibly positive, encouraging, and should be celebrated. However, more needs to be done, and significant barriers and challenges remain.

We all have a role to play, and if we all take action, together we can go further, faster. We invite you to join the hundreds of food systems leaders who have already endorsed the Call to Action as we continue to advance food systems transformation for people, nature and climate ahead of COP 30 in Brazil.



Join a growing movement of food systems leaders championing this work.

To learn more and endorse the Food Systems Call to Action, scan the QR code, visit the Climate Champions website or contact foodsystems@climatechampions.team

4iAfrica

4SD foundation

Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab (J-WAFS),
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Access To Nutrition Initiative (ATNI) ADM Capital

Africa Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development

African Climate Foundation

Agro Food Investment

Agrodairy

Agroecology Coalition

Agroecology Fund

Agropecuaria La Criolla S.A.

Aleph Farms

Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities (AERC)

AMAGRO A.G.

Animal Alliance Network

Aquatic Blue Food Coalition

Aquatro Cultura de Impacto

Asia Investor Group on Climate Change

Asociación de Mujeres Eulalenses para el Desarrollo Integral Pixan Konob -AMEDIPK-

Association Ivoirienne des Consommateurs (AIC)

Association Santé et Environnement

ATS Food MMC

Aves Nobles y Derivados, S.L.

Avrora MMC

AZ AGROMILA MMC

Azərşəkər Azərsun Holdina

B Lab Global

B Lab Switzerland Alliance for

Baif Development Research Foundation

Banco Alimentar Contra a Fome na

Banco de Alimentos Paraguay

Baramoda

Bezos Earth Fund

Bio Food Products Ltd

BIO Natura Gabon

Biodiversity Television Network (BTN-TV)

Biome Makers

Bioversity International UK/USA Burness

C40 Cities Cafedirect PLC

Carlsberg Azerbaycan

Cellular Agriculture Europe Center For Environmental Education

Center for Global Commons at U-Tokyo

Center for Study Indonesian Food Anthropology and Social Enterprise Gastro Tourism Academy

Centre for Resilience and Sustainable Development (CRSD), University of Cambridge, UK

Centre Multifonctionnel de Bepanda pour les personnes socialement vulnérables (CMB)

Ceres

Changing Markets Foundation Children's Investment Fund Foundation

Chilis on Wheels

China Association for Social and **Economic Systematic Analysis**

Citizens' Climate International Clarmondial

CLAS Coalition for Americas' Health

Cleantech21 Foundation

Clim-Fat

Climate Action Network Uganda

Climate Action network Zimbabwe

Climate Bonds Initiative

Climate-KIC

ClimateWorks Foundation

Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)

Coalizão Brasil Clima, Florestas e

Agricultura

Commonland

Compassion in World Farming

Confédération Nationale des Producteurs Agricoles du Congo (CONAPAC)

Conservation International Consumers Association of Bangladesh

Consumers International

COP28 Action Agenda on

COPROFAM

CORDIO East Africa CREA Argentina

Danone

Degas Ghana Limited dsm-firmenich

Dulcet Association

Earth Analytics Group

East African Farmers Federation (EAFF)

Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum

Ecosistema Jaguar

Edama EIT Food iVZW

Eja-Ice Limited

Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford

Environmental Defense Fund

European Carbon Farmers European Climate Foundation

Farm Journal Foundation

Farmer in Agriculture Livestock Cooperative Organic Cooperative (FALCON)

Farmers' Seed Network (China) Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab at Tufts

Food and Land Use Coalition

Food Bank Botswana

Food Banks Canada

Food for Humanity Initiative Food Future Foundation

Food Security Foundation India, India Food Banking Network

Food System Innovations

Food Systems for the Future

Food Systems Pavilion Food Tank

Food Tank

Food, Farming & Countryside

Fundación Nueva Generación

Argentina

Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina Future Economy Forum

Future Food Movement

Galletas Gullón S.A.

GAWA Capital

Gendercc Southern Africa Women For Climate Justice

Georgian Farmers' Association Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Global Alliance for the Future of Food

Global Alliance of Territorial

Global Commons Alliance

Global Methane Hub Good Food Finance Network (GFFN) Goumbook- MENAT Regenerative

GP Cotton Holdings

Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment

Green Africa Youth Organization

Greenovation Hub Greenspoon

Greenworks Inc

Griffith Foods Growing to Give

GYBN Niger Health of the Soil International

Heliopolis University Holmheck EcoConsult

HowGood

Humane Society International

ICLEI CityFood ID Capital

IFOAM - Organics International

IKEA Foundation Indigenous Women and Girls Initiative

Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development (IBCSD)

Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group

Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado and Chaco (IFACC)

Institute for Climate and Peace Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Instituto Clima e Sociedade

Instituto Comida do Amanhã

Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da

Instituto Regenera Inter IKEA Services B.V.

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) International Plant Based Foods

Working Group International Union for Conservation of

IRO Organization for Community Development

Jamaica Network of Rural Women

Jeremy Coller Foundation

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE) International

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

KYETE BIINGI TAI NYEME (KBTN) Level4international

Lu-Mun Holdina Maa Ayodhya Seva Sansthan

Macdoch Foundation Madre Brava

Marine ecosystems protected Areas (MEPA) Trust

McKnight Foundation

Mercy For Animals Micro Enterprise Support Programme

Mighty Earth

Mosa Meat

Mission East MKT İstehsalat Kommersiya MMC

Mujeres Territoriales de Mesoamérica

Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Municipality of Funchal

National Alliance for Agroecology the

Natural Capitalism Solutions Nature Friendly Farming Network

Nestlé

NeverEndingFood Permaculture

No Hunger Food Bank Novolyze

NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy

OCP Group Ode Partners One Acre Fund

One Earth One planet Business for Biodiversity

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

Paulig Group Pegasus Capital Advisors

Philanthropic Collaboration for Renegerative and Agroecological Transitions

Planet Tracker

Plant Based Foods Global Alliance Plant Based Treaty

Plataforma LEDS LAC

Pollination Practical Action Proforest

ProVeg International

Rainforest Alliance Rare

Red de Bancos de Alimentos de México

Regen10

RegensHope Initiative Regional Impact Trade Alliance Resilience Rising

Rikolto Robert Bosch Stiftung

Robertson Foundation Rural PM

Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, Andhra Pradesh Community-managed Natural farming porgamme

Savoir Consulting: ESG. Sustainability. Food & Agribusin

SDG2 Advocacy Hub

Seawards

SEKEM Shamba Centre for Food & Climate Shenzhen GoalBlue Low Carbon Development Promoting Center (深圳

市为蓝低碳发展促进中心)(简称 "GoalBlue为蓝") Silo Construction

Agricultural Unions

Simon Fraser University Skills4impact Sm Sunrise Global Visions (SSGV)

Societe Sommac Southern African Confederation of

Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions Stronger Foundations for Nutrition

Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) Sustainability Impact Network Africa

Sustainable Food Trust Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture Syngenta Group

SynTao Co., Ltd. Tapp Coalition Tetra Pak

Thai Union Group PCL The Advanced Plant Growth Centre

The Blended Finance Taskforce

The Climate Group

The Club of Rome The Egyptian Bio-Dynamic Association

The Farm of Francesco

The Food Foundation The Food System Resiliency Table

The FutureFood Platform

The Global FoodBanking Network

The Good Food Fund The Good Food Institute

The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty (TIP)

The Inga Foundation USA The Just Rural Transition Secretariat

The Landbanking Group The Nature Conservancy

The Power of Nutrition The Rockefeller Foundation

The Waste and Resources Action rogramme (WRAP)

Transforming Urban Rural Food Systems Consortium (TURFS)

True Value of Food Initiative

Unilever UNISC International Unovis Asset Management BV

Vaidic Srijan LLP VeaTech Invest

Veris Strategies Viña Polkura

Walton Family Foundation We Mean Business Coalition

Wellbeing Economy Alliance

Wetlands International

Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture (WANDA)

Working Women's Forum (India) World Animal Protection

World Benchmarking Alliance World Business Council for Sustainable Development

World Farmers Organisation World Future Council

World Resources Institute WWF

Yielder

Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (YEFI) YOUNGO

Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network The) الجمعية الأردنية لمكافحة التصحر وتنمية ال Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development)

الجمعيه المصريه للنهوض بالمرأة والطفل محافظة الجمعيه المصريه للنهوض بالمرأة والطفل محافظة (Egyptian NGO for Women and المنوفيه Arab Office for) المكتب العربي للشباب والبيئة

Youth and Environment (AOYE)) (partner featuring in our case studies) Egypt Nile) المنتدى الوطني المصري لنهر النيل Discourse Forum (EgNDF)) New) جمعية ليبيا الجديدة للبيئة والموارد الطبيعية

Libya for Environment and Natural Resources) Dibeen for) دبين للتنمية البيئة Environmental Development)

مبيئة ابوظبي (Abu Dhabi Environment Network) مؤسسة المنتدى المصري للتنمية المستدامة (Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF))

م. مركز ابن بطوطة للدراسات وأبحاث التنمية المحلية (Ibn Battouta Center for Studies and Local Development Research)

上海绿色光年环保服务中心 (Shanghai Green Lightyear Environmental Protection Service Center)

山水自然保护中心 (Shanshui Nature

Conservation Center)