

## **Climate action for agri-food systems based on a scientific approach**

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Fostering and guiding climate action and support towards creating resilient and sustainable agri-food systems worldwide, capable of ensuring access to healthy food to all, is the expression of a combination of Sustainable Development Goals adopted under the 2030 Agenda. In mobilizing and coordinating efforts to achieve such objectives, it is paramount: i) to have clarity about the quality and robustness of information based on science that will guide policy discussion; ii) to have clarity regarding the parameters and priorities for action and support; and iii) to build commitments around the key issues, based on the previous two sets of elements.

Considering the available information, it is crucial to recognize that:

- Agri-food systems play a fundamental role in economic growth, fighting hunger and poverty, supporting social inclusion and protecting the environment. The way we produce, market and consume food is crucial to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in many of its Goals, and achieving the future we want.
- Efficient, resilient and sustainable food systems are essential to guarantee the Human Right to Adequate Food and to provide healthy food, at affordable prices and in adequate quantities, for the entire population. Thus, addressing the vulnerability of food production and distribution to climate change must be the top priority in any discussion relating both concepts.
- The increase in food production must be accompanied by the search for increasing sustainability, based on the principle that sustainable food systems can contribute to the challenge of overcoming hunger and all forms of malnutrition, while at the same time helping to tackle climate change.
- Agriculture is part of the solution to face climate change and is an important driver for meeting the goals of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Agrifood systems in which conventional agriculture, regenerative agriculture, agroecology, agroforestry and organic agriculture coexist, according to local circumstances, must be promoted, adopting the integrated landscape approach as a relevant connecting element.
- Distinct agri-food systems generate GHG emissions in different processes along their chains, in particular: land use and land use change, agricultural processes, transportation, industrial processing and waste management. As such, initiatives in reducing emissions in agrifood systems must be region-specific and tackle, as a priority, particular processes responsible for most of the emissions in country specific situations.

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- Building sustainable agri-food systems also includes, as essential components, initiatives and policies for social protection, including safeguards for traditional communities, indigenous people, women and children.
- The reduction of food loss and waste must be at the heart of any conjoint strategy aiming at addressing food insecurity and climate change.

It is paramount to stress the fact that without support to adaptation and resilience of agricultural systems the impacts of climate change are compromising the potential for agriculture to contribute directly and indirectly to mitigation of GHG and could undoubtedly be a greater negative driver for diminishing the potential of agriculture to become part of the solution.

Considering the previous, climate action and support as well as international cooperation in food systems should focus on:

**Resilience:** Strengthen the resilience of agrifood systems with a view to support international, national and local food and nutrition security policies, with a view of ensuring adequate and healthy food for all.

**Efficiency:** Support the development of efficient and locally adapted food systems, including by reducing food loss and waste in the agrifood systems, as well as environmentally harmful subsidies.

**Science:** Foster continuous and inclusive scientific research and innovation for the development and implementation of resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and the promotion of adequate and healthy food.

**People:** Support smallholders and family farmers, as well as traditional communities, in promoting sustainable livelihoods and diversifying food production.

**Energy:** Boost the generation and use of renewable energy within agrifood systems, including sustainable biofuels.

**Change:** Commit to reducing emissions caused by land use change, notably ending deforestation associated with agriculture or agrifood systems, recovering degraded land and promoting agroforestry, integrated systems, as well as greater integration of agrobiodiversity and other approaches in food systems.

**Trade:** Promote sustainable trade of agricultural and food products with a cooperative approach, through sharing of best practices, technology and the adequate allocation of finance, while ending distortive subsidies, preventing unilateral trade measures with negative impacts on food security and nutrition and creating positive incentives for sustainable trade and cultures.

This year Brazil is hosting the G20 meeting and by 2025 the COP30, opportunities to keep the global dialogue, enhance the understanding and awareness regarding the particular vulnerability of agriculture to current and future impacts of climate change and to foster actions to enhance investment in science and technology that result in adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and reduce the vulnerability of tropical agriculture and the poorer people to current as well as future adversities inherent to the impact of climate change.

Under the motto “Building a Fair World and a Sustainable Planet” Brazil is committed to articulate for a sustainable development with more social inclusion and less hunger. Food security equals peace.