



## **COP27 Climate Agreement on Food & Farming**

United to reduce food & farm related GHG-emissions 30% by 2030 for Sustainable Development.

We, political leaders participating in the United Nations Summit on Climate (COP27), representing # \*) countries from all regions and the European Union, have come together today, on # November 2022, to send a united signal to step up global ambition for reducing food & farm related GHG-emissions and to commit to matching our collective ambition for climate, health, nature and people with the scale of the crisis at hand.

We acknowledge that a collective effort to reduce national food or farm related GHG emissions with 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030, could eliminate over 0.2°C warming by 2050, if sufficient countries would sign. This is a similar goal compared to the Methane Pledge, to reduce methane emissions 30% by 2030, signed last year by over 100 countries. Most global methane emissions are from agriculture (42 percent) followed by fossil fuel operations (36 percent) according to the CCA-Coalition.

We acknowledge that according to the most recent 2022 IPCC report, food systems are responsible for 23-42 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and reducing these emissions is needed, to meet the 1.5 degrees C target. The IPCC report urgently called on UN countries to enact food and agriculture policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support a shift to plant-based diets. The IPCC report also mentioned the importance of food or farm related GHG-emission taxes and lifestyle changes to eat less meat and more plant-based proteins. In high meat consuming countries, such shifts in food habits and tax systems will also improve public health and reduce exploding health care costs (World Bank, Oxford University). If 85 countries would encourage consumers to eat conforming to WHO healthy food recommendations, global GHG-emissions would be reduced by 0,52 Gton CO<sub>2</sub>. If people in 85 countries on average would eat according to EAT-Lancet Planetary Health dietary guidelines by 2030, global food-related GHG-emissions would be reduced by 42 percent: 1,8 Gton CO<sub>2</sub>e (giga tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent), mostly through reduced red meat consumption and higher intake of plant-based proteins. (Springmann et al., 2020).

We acknowledge that such lifestyle changes will also help to reverse increase public health costs, but also reverse biodiversity loss and deforestation. Biodiversity loss and deforestation lead to increasing emissions of greenhouse gasses (less carbon sinks). We acknowledge that fact that according to the FAO, the main cause of biodiversity loss is agriculture expansion (directly or indirectly relating to livestock and caused by the growing demand for animal proteins). New remote sensing surveys commissioned by FAO in 2020 showed that “agricultural expansion is causing almost 90% of global deforestation: 52% by cropland and almost 40% by livestock grazing at grasslands”. Cropland is partly used for animal feed like soy and maize. According to the same FAO report, “livestock grazing is causing almost 75% of deforestation in South America, and over 40% in North- and Central America”. According to the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2022-2031, globally, protein availability from poultry, pork, beef, sheep meat and dairy is projected to grow 16%, 17%, 8%, 16%, and 19,5% respectively, by 2031 (compared to 2019-2021). The challenge is how to align these trends with Paris Climate Agreement, zero-deforestation goals and pledges for reducing methane and biodiversity loss? If we walk away from this challenge, we recognize that we will be judged now and by future generations on our willingness and ability to meet our aims.

We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism, based on unity, solidarity and trust among countries, peoples and generations, as the only way for the world to effectively respond to current and future global environmental crises. We are in a state of planetary emergency: the interdependent crises of high food prices, hunger, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and climate change - driven in large part by unsustainable production and consumption - require urgent and immediate

global action. Science clearly shows that biodiversity loss, land and ocean degradation, pollution, resource depletion and climate change are accelerating at an unprecedented rate. This acceleration is causing irreversible harm to our life support systems and aggravating poverty and inequalities as well as hunger and malnutrition. Unless halted and reversed with immediate effect, it will cause significant damage to global economic, social and political resilience and stability and will render achieving the Sustainable Development Goals impossible.

This Pledge is a recognition of this crisis and an expression of the need for a profound re-commitment from World leaders to take urgent action. Against the backdrop of COVID19 and impacts of the war in Ukraine on food and energy prizes in many countries, which has crippled the world's economies and pressured governments everywhere to begin the process of rebuilding and renewing, decisions made now will have ramifications for all of us and for generations to come. We are committed to taking the necessary actions to achieve the visions of keeping on track to reduce GHG-emissions and ending biodiversity loss by 2030.

To put the world on the right track towards this long-term goal will require strong political will combined with real accountability and the appropriate legal, economic and financial tools and incentives. Everyone, governments, business and individuals, has a role to play. We therefore commit to undertake the following urgent actions over the next seven years as part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve Sustainable Development, to reduce food and/or farm related GHG emissions at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030:

- A. Updating the Climate Agreement on Food & Farming website annually with existing and new Food & Farm policies and relevant National Determined Contributions.
- B. Publishing (bi) annual public progress reports on farm & food GHG emission reductions compared to 2020 and expected CO<sub>2</sub>-eq reduction impact by 2030.
- C. Participating in annual virtual meetings (led by FAO) to share progress on food & farm related GHG-emission reduction and discuss monitor reports.
- D. Inviting other countries to sign this Climate Agreement on Food & Farming too.
- E. Taking at least two actions on Food and two on Farming, put in place by end 2025, that substantially help to realise the 2030 reduction goals:

**Farming actions (we take at least two voluntary actions):**

1. Offer financial incentives to animal farmers to reduce their herd sizes.
2. Provide financial incentives and resources (i.e., training, natural fertilizers, supplies etc.) to farmers to reduce GHG-emissions. Many approaches can be deployed, eg agroecological or regenerative methods, like crop rotation, low-tillage, multi-strata planting, organic farming.
3. Legislate, monitor, and enforce maximum methane emissions from farms.
4. Ban importation of products derived from destruction of the Amazon rainforest.
5. Apply the pollution pays principle on GHG emissions at the farm level or import.
6. Reduce agriculture subsidies that contribute to high greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Increase and encourage investments in low-carbon, climate resilient farming.

**Food actions (we take at least 2 voluntary actions):**

1. Establish national and per capita reduction goals for animal-based food consumption.
2. Start education campaigns on the environmental and health benefits of plant-predominant diets. This could include a requirement that supermarkets display sustainability ratings of food purchases, or display carbon footprint data or true pricing data incl. CO<sub>2</sub>-costs. Similar education projects could be introduced in schools and other institutions.
3. Eliminate or reduce consumer taxes on vegetables and fruits or subsidize healthy plant based food.
4. Reduce public procurement of animal-based products, promote institutional plant-forward eating (eg by joining the Cool Food Pledge for public institutions) or serve climate neutral food products in public bodies.
5. Legislation to restrict marketing and junk pricing of food products with a very high carbon footprint, eg. bans for selling protein rich food at prices lower than normal retail cost prices.

6. Create a tax on high carbon footprint food products to reflect external costs on climate, environment and human health. Tax revenues could be used to finance farmers to reduce GHG-emissions, improve animal welfare or sustainability standards; or transition to plant farming (or re-wild if plant farming is not possible). Or include livestock (or dairy/meat sector) GHG-emissions into ETS (emission trading scheme).
7. Legislation or pricing policies for supermarkets/retail to reduce food related GHG-emissions with at least 30% by 2030 (scope 3 emission)
8. Encourage to prevent food waste from high carbon food products, e.g. by legislation for smaller portions of meat in catering/restaurants and smaller packaging of meat in retail.
9. Encourage or legislate the 25% uptake of vegetable proteins like lupine, wheat, white beans, seaweed or rice as healthy, low carbon substitutes in all kinds of mixed meat products like sausages, snacks, chicken products, minced meat, hamburgers, ready meals, pâté.

**Other commitments:**

F. We will lead by example through actions in our own countries.

G. We commit to transition to sustainable patterns of production and consumption and sustainable food systems that meet people's needs while remaining within planetary boundaries, including by: a. promoting behavioral changes and a significant scale-up in nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches on land and at sea; b. Supporting sustainable supply chains, significantly reducing the impact on ecosystems caused by global demand for commodities and encouraging practices that regenerate ecosystems; c. Shifting land use and agricultural policies away from environmentally harmful practices.

H. We commit to raising ambition and aligning our domestic climate, agriculture, food, trade and tax policies with the Paris Agreement, with enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century.

I. We commit to mainstreaming low carbon, more plant based food and farming practices into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in key sectors such as agriculture, retail, fisheries and forestry, tourism, trade and supply chains, and into those key international agreements and processes which hold levers for change, including the G7, G20, WTO, WHO, FAO, OECD and UNFCCC. We will do this by ensuring that across the whole of government, policies, decisions and investments account for the value of low carbon, more plant based, healthy food and farming practices and by ensuring to give negative externalities on climate or the environment a right price. We expect that by doing so, food prices in the long term would be reduced (preventing food shortages as a result of catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss, and encouraging more plant based food systems with a minimum of land-use impact and carbon footprints). If overall food prices would rise, we commit to compensate lowest income groups to ensure human rights to food.

J. We commit that our approach to the design and implementation of policy will be science-based, will recognize the crucial role of traditional and indigenous knowledge as well as science and research in the fight against ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change; and will engage the whole of society, including business and financial sectors, indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental human rights defenders, local governments and authorities, faithbased groups, women, youth, civil society groups, academia, and other stakeholders. In endorsing this Climate Agreement on Food & Farming, we commit ourselves not simply to words, but to meaningful action and mutual accountability to address the planetary emergency. With this Pledge, we also aim to support the United Nations system and its fundamental role in catalysing the global response to this crisis. We will join forces in the run up to the key international events, including the G7, the G20, the UN Environment Assembly, UNFCCC COP, aiming to achieve ambitious and realistic outcomes to pave the way for a strong Post-2020 Global GHG Emission Reduction Framework for Food & Farming, and we urge all stakeholders to join us in making commitments. We commit to meeting again next year, and beyond, at such key international events, in particular at the next UN General Assembly High Level Week in Sept 2023, to review progress and reaffirm commitments.

\*) The latest info on the number of endorsements can be found at a new website (to be ready mid October).