



## United to reduce food and farm related GHG-emissions 30% by 2030

Political leaders participating in the 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November 2022, representing # countries, as well as the European Union, commit to reduce national food and farm-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30 percent by 2030. This will also help to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and improve public health. The leaders are sending a signal to step up global ambition and encourage others to match their collective ambition for climate, nature, health and people. They are being supported by xxx number of global multi-stakeholder groups, including private sector ones.

We, political leaders participating in the UN Climate Summit (COP27), representing # \* countries and the European Union, have come together today, on # November 2022, to send a united signal to step up global ambition for reducing food and farm-related GHG emissions and to commit to matching our ambition for climate, health, nature and people with the scale of the crisis at hand. We acknowledge that a collective effort to reduce both national food and farm-related GHG emissions by 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030, could avoid over 0.2°C of warming by 2050, if enough countries participate. This goal builds on the Methane Pledge, a commitment made by over 100 countries at COP26 to reduce methane emissions 30 percent by 2030. Most global methane emissions are from agriculture (42 percent, mostly from livestock) followed by fossil fuel operations (36 percent) according to the [CCA-Coalition](#). However, most countries focus on reducing methane from fossil fuel operations. The 30 percent reduction goal for agriculture related GHG-emissions can be based on calculation methods for agriculture and land-use, agreed for reporting Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The 30 percent reduction goal for national per capita annual food consumption-related GHG-emissions, can be based on calculation methods used in the [globalcarbonatlas.org](#) or a [report](#) used by the EU Court of Auditors for EU countries to calculate national food related GHG-footprints (2018).

We acknowledge that according to the most recent [2022 IPCC WG III report](#), food systems are responsible for between 23 and 42 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and reducing these emissions is essential to meet the 1.5°C target. The [IPCC report](#) urgently called on UN countries to enact food and agriculture policies to reduce GHG emissions, support lifestyle shift towards more plant-based diets, implement food or farm related GHG-emission taxes (especially in high-income countries). In high and middle-income countries, such shifts in food habits and policies will also improve public health and reduce surging health care costs ([World Bank](#), [Oxford University](#)). If people in 85 countries on average would eat according to EAT-Lancet Planetary Health dietary guidelines by 2030, food-related GHG-emissions would be reduced by 42 percent: 1.8 Gton CO<sub>2</sub>e, mostly through reduced red meat consumption and higher intake of plant-based proteins ([Springmann et al, 2020](#)). According to the [Emission gap report 2021](#) an additional 11 Gton CO<sub>2</sub>e global emission reduction is needed to stay below 2 degrees Celsius temperature increase. This means food consumption patterns according to the EAT-Lancet dietary guidelines can contribute 16 percent to this global goal.

We acknowledge that such lifestyle changes in high meat/animal protein consuming countries will also help to reverse biodiversity loss and deforestation. Biodiversity loss and deforestation lead to increasing emissions of greenhouse gases (less carbon sinks). We acknowledge the fact that according to new remote sensing surveys commissioned by FAO in 2020 “agricultural expansion is causing almost 90% of global deforestation”. Over 50 percent of this expansion is related to livestock grazing on grasslands or animal feed production (e.g. soy, maize). According to the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2022-2031, global protein availability from poultry, pork, beef, sheep meat and dairy are set

to grow 16, 17, 8, 16 and 19,5 percent respectively, by 2031 (compared to 2019-2021). How can we align these trends with the Paris Climate Agreement and pledges for reducing methane and biodiversity loss? If we walk away from this challenge, we will be judged now and by future generations on our ability to meet our aims.

We are in a state of planetary emergency, facing intersecting crises of high food prices, hunger, and malnutrition, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and climate change. Unless halted and reversed with immediate effect, these interdependent crisis will cause significant damage to global economic, social and political stability and will inhibit the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Everyone, including governments, business and individuals, has a role to play. We therefore -if relevant - re-commit the Leader's Pledge for Nature, or the Methane Pledge or the High Ambition Coalition COP 26 Leaders' Statement, now more specific for urgent actions over the next seven years, to reduce food and/or farm-related GHG emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030:

**A. Taking at least two actions on Food and two actions on Farming, put in place by the end of 2025, that substantially help to realise the 2030 reduction goals:**

**Farming actions (commit to take at least two of the following voluntary actions):**

1. Provide financial incentives and other resources to animal farmers to reduce herd sizes.
2. Provide financial incentives and other 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 organic farming, crop rotation, low-tillage, multi-strata planting etc.
3. Legislate, monitor, and enforce maximum methane emissions from farms.
4. Ban the import and export of key agricultural commodities when linked to deforestation.
5. Apply the polluter pays principle on GHG emissions at the farm level or on imports.
6. Repurpose or eliminate agriculture subsidies that contribute to high greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Increase and encourage investments in low-carbon, climate resilient farming.

**Food actions (commit to take at least 2 voluntary actions):**

1. Establish national and per capita reduction goals for animal-based food consumption.
2. Launch educational, awareness and information campaigns highlighting the environmental and health benefits of plant-rich diets. This could include a requirement that supermarkets display sustainability ratings of food purchases, carbon footprint data or true pricing data incl. CO<sub>2</sub>-costs.
3. Eliminate or reduce consumer taxes on vegetables, fruits, seeds, nuts and wholegrain or subsidize healthy and sustainable plant based food.
4. Reduce public procurement of animal-based products, promote institutional plant-forward eating (e.g by joining the [Cool Food Pledge](#) for public bodies or serve climate neutral food products).
5. Legislate to restrict marketing and junk pricing of food products with a very high carbon footprint, e.g. 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 their external costs on climate and the environment. 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-wilding. Alternatively, include livestock GHG-emissions into ETS.
7. Legislate policies for supermarkets/retail/food service companies to reduce food-related GHG emissions by at least 30 percent by 2030 (including scope 3 emissions).
8. Encourage prevention of food waste from high carbon food products (with over 5 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/kg food product) e.g. by legislation for smaller portions of meat in catering/restaurants and smaller packaging of meat in retail.
9. Encourage or legislate the uptake of 25 percent alternative proteins content, like lupine, wheat, beans or rice, as low carbon substitutes in mixed meat products like minced meat or hamburgers.

**B. Updating the Climate Agreement on Food & Farming website \* annually with existing and new Food & Farm policies and relevant National Determined Contributions, including GHG emission reductions compared to 2020 and expected CO<sub>2</sub>-eq reduction impact by 2030.**

**C. Participating in annual virtual (FAO) meeting to share progress and discuss monitor reports.**

**D. Inviting other countries to sign this Climate Agreement on Food & Farming too.**

**E. Other voluntary commitments:**

We commit to mainstreaming low carbon, more plant-based food and farming practices into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies 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 and investments account for the value of low carbon, healthy and sustainable food and farming practices and by ensuring to give negative externalities on climate and nature a right price. We expect that by doing so, food prices and food shortages in the long term would be reduced. If overall food prices would rise, we commit to compensate lowest income groups to ensure the right and access to food.

\* The latest info on the number of endorsements can be found from mid October at <https://www.climateagreementfoodfarming.org/>