

UNFCCC Farmers' Constituency Statement for COP27

This statement is submitted on behalf of the hundreds of millions of women, men, and young family farmers, ranchers, fishers, forest-harvesters, herders, pastoralists and their organizations and cooperatives, across the world who are on the frontline of climate change and work each and every day to feed a growing population.

As family farmers, we wish to thank the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture negotiators for recognizing the unique potential of agriculture in tackling climate change and the opportunity to intervene.

Going forward, it is time to establish a cross-boundary, permanent body under the Convention, similar to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), that deals with all aspects of agriculture performing a coordinating role with a view to further global climate action by farmers, ranchers, foresters, fisherfolk, herders, pastoralists and their cooperatives of all types and sizes.

Farmers' participation in this process is instrumental in raising global climate ambition for our sector, unleashing the great potential that agriculture and its people have in the fight against climate change and in empowering the world's farmers to adapt to its ongoing impacts.

Farmers are amongst the first impacted by climate change and are at the heart of climate solutions, and their fundamental role in our food systems and protecting the environment must be recognized at COP27. Farmers are already contributing to global efforts; they are part of the solution. Y

The process must be inclusive, farmer-driven and recognise the diversity of global farming systems, so that it will deliver long-lasting sustainable solutions for our climate, food systems and economy.

Parties must not lose sight of the need to reduce emissions in all sectors and keep 1.5 alive. The agricultural sector is the only one able to mitigate and adapt to climate change at the same time. Agriculture is here to collaborate on improved methods for measuring emissions, so that on-farm emission reduction efforts are even better recognized, as well as the sector's capacity to sequester additional carbon.

As people who work closely with nature and depend on the ecosystem for a living, we are not just facing loss of incomes from the impacts of climate change, but a complete loss of livelihood. This is why we are committed to playing our part in meeting the climate challenge. As farmers, we are already taking climate action each day and growing season, but greater collaboration and investment is required to survive economically and in the face of extreme weather events.

Climate action must complement, and not contradict, action on improving global food security.

Tragically, the latest United Nations World Food Program State of Food Security and Nutrition report shows the world is moving backwards in efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. "The number of people affected by hunger globally rose to as many as 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 46 million since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic." This must not be ignored.

At COP27, it is critical that climate policy remains consistent with the Paris Agreement in "Recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular

vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change,” hence “increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production.”

At COP27 the world’s farmers must be at the heart of climate policy to ensure that it reduces global agricultural emissions, increases the climate resilience of the global food system and contributes towards ending the global food security crisis.

Specifically, the farmers constituency request that at COP27 a priority be placed upon:

A Constituted Body for Agriculture

It is time to establish a cross-boundary, permanent body under the convention, similar to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), that deals with all aspects of agriculture hence performing a coordinating role with a view to further global climate action by farmers, ranchers, foresters, fisherfolk, herders, pastoralists and their cooperatives of all types and sizes.

Increasing climate finance investments in agriculture and forestry and improved access to direct finance to family farmers’ organizations and cooperatives

- Increased finance for farmers for adaptation and resilience, as well as Loss and Damage is essential. Key gaps in strengthening the capacity of rural businesses and livelihoods to cope with and bounce back from climate and other risks must be identified, and enhanced action on agriculture and forestry in NDCs actively encouraged and facilitated by the financial instruments under the Convention such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- With respect to mitigation, improving farmers’ access to finance is critical to supporting a transition to innovative production and harvesting methods that would allow the sector to increase sustainability, carbon sequestration, and build resilience to future shocks. Currently, only 2.2% of global climate finance is invested in agriculture-related sectors. This imbalance must be addressed.
- Given our diversity t, financial interventions need to be properly customized. We are calling for access to affordable tailored credit and grant mechanisms based on a thorough knowledge of the sector that align with farmers’ unique needs and local conditions.
- Procedures to access climate finance must be simplified and the availability and predictability of support improved.

Supporting global partnerships to advance farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing, adaptation and mitigation technical assistance

- There is no one size fits all approach. Every farming practice must be customized by farm and be both economically and environmentally sustainable to realize the full potential of agriculture in the fight against climate change.
- Research, innovation, adaptation and mitigation technical assistance should therefore be easily accessible, pragmatic, and scalable to ensure fast and effective adoption to a wide number of individuals and boost farmer-driven solutions. Farmers are innovators in their own right. Assistance must be specific and relevant to the unique ecological characteristics of each area.

Only by involving farmers, from project genesis to successful implementation will it be possible to create win-win strategies for farmers and the ecosystem itself.

Acknowledging the critical role of livestock in the global food system

- Livestock production systems hold great and still untapped potential in fostering soil health, soil fertility, biodiversity, and increased carbon sequestration> Farmers are already providing valuable solutions based on innovative and nature-positive approaches to livestock management.
- Food Systems must be inclusive, farmer-driven, solution-based and science-rooted. These are the core principles that make livestock fundamental to the future's sustainable food systems. Livestock, and its welfare, are fundamental components of the global food systems and policies designed to reduce agricultural emissions must take a bottom up approach that embraces the diversity of global farming systems.
- Livestock (including working livestock) plays an integral role in economic, social, and environmental development. Working together through the entire value chain, in a joint bottom-up approach, including all actors and not only institutions, is the only way to deliver environmentally, socially, and economically viable solutions for a sustainable livestock sector that everyone can benefit from, ensuring that no one will be left behind.

Ensuring the rights of farmers including peasants, women, young farmers and other rural workers

- The rights of farmers, including peasant farmers and women must be protected. This is particularly relevant to issues of land rights and tenure, and in strengthening the bargaining power of farmers, ranchers, foresters, forest-harvesters, fisherfolk, herders, pastoralists in supply chains and their resilience in the face of global market volatility and the inclusion and empowerment of women farmers.
- The full realisation of the rights detailed in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be ensured and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Support the youth's involvement in farming and agriculture-related businesses and enterprises

Farmers for Sustainable Food Systems

The Farmers' Constituency recalls and reiterates the Producers' Declaration at the United Nations Food Systems Summit principles and recommendations as the basis for a climate-friendly transition to sustainable food systems.

Likewise, the Farmers recognize the UN Decade of Family Farming and the seven pillars of its Global Action Plans as a reference to promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems.

Farmers are the key to unlocking inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient food systems and economies. It is time for action, and we are ready to work with you for a successful outcome in Sharm El-Sheikh.

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Members of the Farmers Constituency at COP27 on November 8th, 2022