COP30 Farmers' Summit

The farmers' dialogue

CNA Headquarters' Brasilia, 6 November 2025

Outcome document

Organized at the margins of the UNFCCC COP30, the Farmers' Dialogue analysed in depth the synergies, opportunities and concrete solutions that farmers can bring to UNFCCC processes.

Building on over a decade of farmers' engagement in the UNFCCC process through the Farmers' Constituency, relevant initiatives under the UN Decade of Family Farmers and examples of successful cross-sectoral cooperation, the Farmers' Summit contributed to:

1- Grounding high-level debates on sustainable food systems in the lived experience of farmers.
2- Strengthening engagement between farmers and other actors in the value chain to address growing uncertainty and advance action on climate, food security and sustainable development.
3- Building ownership among the global farming community on key issues at COP30 while enhancing the profile of farmer-driven climate solutions.

In the first part of the session, farmers had an invaluable opportunity to hear directly from international experts who are leading the preparations for the climate conference, as well as from those designing the programmes and initiatives promoted by the COP30 Presidency.

In the second part of the session, farmers and stakeholders in the room listened to the perspective of the farmer constituency, including their positions, proposals, experiences and real-world examples aimed at implementing the global climate agenda.

It was a historical occasion for farmers and farmers' organizations from all regions of the world to engage in a direct and open dialogue on the priorities that the farmers' constituency advocated for at COP30.

Discussion items

The Farmer-driven approach
Strengthening a farmer-driven approach emerged as a central element. Participants emphasized that climate solutions in agriculture must originate from farmers themselves, ensuring that practices, innovations and policies are grounded in the realities of agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

The importance of peer-to-peer learning among farmers
The dialogue highlighted the crucial role of peer-to-peer knowledge exchange as a mechanism to accelerate climate action on the ground. Farmers learning from other farmers, through shared practices, local results and community networks was recognized as one of the most effective ways to access innovation and scale sustainable solutions.

Importance of establishing tailored financial instruments for farmers. Making it easy for farmers to access finance
Participants stressed the need for design and implementation of financial instruments that are specifically tailored to the agricultural sector. Such mechanisms must simplify access to finance for farmers, mitigate financial risks and support investments on the transition to sustainability. Ensuring that funds reach farmers directly is essential for enabling real and timely transformation.

Voluntary carbon markets – how do we address the matter in the farming sector.

The discussion also examined the role of voluntary carbon and sustainability markets within the farming sector. Participants noted concerns related to policy developments, such as the anticipated increase in fertilizer taxation in the EU - from 20% to 40% by 2033 - which risks placing an additional burden on farmers. Farmers often bear significant costs in helping companies achieve their sustainability commitments, and this challenge extends across all agricultural inputs.

Farmers would like to have an active co-creator role in the dialogue that was held for the last 20 years on the emission trading system. While engaging in these discussions has helped farmers understand and contribute to market-based approaches, the need now is to be fully included in decision-making processes. Farmers need more predictability on the impact that these carbon markets may have on their business and how to implement that. As a common point of discussion, it emerged that strong, inclusive and long-term partnerships are fundamental to ensuring successful and equitable climate action.

The political dialogue between Farmers' Organizations and Governments

A valuable good practice of collaboration with government was shared by the Malawi representative. The government has understood that involving farmers directly, through the Farmers' Organization, may enable access to data that would otherwise be impossible to obtain.

Today, it is the government that actively reaches out to farmers' organizations. On the other hand, a truly responsive Farmers' Organization must be transparent, organized and consistent regarding what it can contribute. Farmers' Organization contributions must align with what the government needs and be presented in a structured and coherent manner.

Another strong example of effective dialogue with government was presented by Finland representative, the organisation decided to adopt a rigorous scientific approach to developing its carbon roadmap, according to which: agricultural production levels must be maintained; carbon storage must increase; the costs of achieving these objectives must be clearly calculated.

With this approach, the Government was able to find mechanisms to cover the transition expenses, which include investments in technology, farmers' training, and the capacity building of farmers' organisations.

The primary role of every farmers' organization, at all levels, is to influence public policies. Everything begins with the quality of the relationship between farmers' organizations and the government. In South Africa, for example, farmers are currently in conflict with a government proposal aiming simply to reduce livestock numbers, rather than focusing on improving efficiency.

Improving efficiency can lead to significant differences, such as 38 liters of milk per cow per day[1] in Denmark compared to 1.5[2] (CSA,2021) liters in Ethiopia.

Policies must therefore be adapted to local conditions, and investments must reflect those differences.

Enhancing efficiency must always be aligned with the specific context. Influencing national policies requires a clear, coordinated strategy from farmers' organizations.

In Zimbabwe for example, this is especially connected to farmers' participation in carbon markets within cotton production systems. In this context, partnerships are being exploited to address greenhouse gas emissions in the country.

[1] https://www.agrifarming.in/dairy-farming-in-denmark-breeds-how-to-start

[2] CSA (2021) Central Statistical Agency of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Agricultural Sample Survey: Report on Livestock and Livestock Characteristics (Private Peasant Holdings). Statistical Bulletin 587(2).

Another good example is the integrated agricultural production method, such as the model presented from Việt Nam. The dialogue highlighted how synergies between mitigation and adaptation are extremely important and can generate added value for both farmers and the environment.

Everywhere, but particularly in carbon farming, actions must make sense for farmers. When discussing good agricultural practices, the focus should be on promoting the practice itself, not solely the resulting carbon market benefits. By emphasizing the practice, it is also possible to capture additional elements such as biodiversity. Farmers engage more readily when the conversation uses their language, reflects their realities, and acknowledges the complexity of their work.

Moreover, it is important to involve the research sector in these conversations, alongside farmers' organizations and policymakers. The Brazilian model is a best practice on this concept.

Moreover, it is important that more clear and transparent communication is made on the efforts that farmers make to become more sustainable, and to adapt to and mitigate climate change. Consumers are not aware of the investments that farmers have to make in order to produce more with less.

Data and metrics

Over the last 30 years, farmers' efforts to improve the sustainability of their farms have not been properly measured. There are no records. This creates a major challenge: how can farmers be incentivized by governments if past achievements are not even recognized? Today, environmental considerations have become more important than farmers and rural communities themselves, which is perceived as unfair.

It was unanimously agreed that indicators, metrics and data are at the core of sound policies and effective practices. Yet the real challenge lies in ensuring that measurement systems are robust, strategic, efficient and truly fit for purpose. He also reminded the group that any farmers' organization is only as strong as its weakest member.

Main recommendations:

1) Farmer-driven approach is the first priority shared unanimously by all the Farmers' Organizations in the room. Farmer-driven approach does not mean that Farmers are the central target of policies and programmes. It means that farmers must be involved in the design and co-creation phase of policies and programmes in the agricultural sector.
2) Importance of establishing tailored financial instruments that could bring concrete financial results for the farmers. Making it easier for farmers to use their collaterals based on the farming business cycle and not on the ownership of good like the land of farm itself, which may be difficult in some countries, for example.

3) Strong partnerships are at the core of any successful processes. This applies to the carbon market in agriculture, as well as at value chain level. If we want to have systemic impact, we must have a systematic approach.
4) Strong scientific approach for the ecological transition in agriculture is needed. In the carbon for example: production level must be kept, if not increased; carbon storing must increase, and there is a cost to achieve these objectives. Well, Governments have to find a way to cover that cost, not the farmers!
5) The main role of every farmers' organisation at all levels is to influence policies. Therefore, everything starts with what is the relationship between the FOs and the Government. If needed, FOs have to fight with the Governments. If we want that Policies be different, that investments be different, then we have to first be clear on what we want, then we have to be ready and capable of to present our value proposition, because influencing policies at all levels requires a strategy that we, Farmers' Organizations, have to prepare. Even if we think of the overall chapter on indicators, metrics, data are the core of good policies and practices, we have to ensure that an effective measurement is established.

Main outcome of the session:

1) Awareness among the farmers' community on the climate agenda, the status of negotiations, opportunities and challenges was raised
2) In-depth discussion was held on the priorities identified by the farmers' constituency
3) The convergence of the farmers' vision on common ground points of the climate negotiations was reinforced.