



Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on its activities in 2025 under the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) welcomes the opportunity to share information on its activities in 2025 relevant to the *Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (SJWA)* via the *Sharm el-Sheikh online portal* in response to the invitations contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2024/7, paragraph 111 and FCCC/SBI/2024/13, paragraph 58.

Sustainable and resilient agrifood systems are not only central to climate action but a prerequisite for achieving the Paris Agreement. Agrifood systems and the communities that depend on them are highly vulnerable to climate change while at the same time contributing 32 percent in 2023 of the global greenhouse gas emissionsⁱ. The sector also supports the livelihoods of over 1.2 billion people and remaining. Science-based agrifood solutions can simultaneously reduce emissions, enhance carbon sequestration, restore ecosystems, strengthen resilience to climate impacts, and safeguard food security and nutrition for allⁱⁱ.

Despite this potential, agrifood systems remain underrepresented in national climate plans and climate finance flows. Ambitious, well-designed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and just transition pathways that fully integrate agrifood systems are essential to close existing gaps in mitigation, adaptation, equity, and financing. The SJWA provides a critical platform to advance this integration at both national and international levels.

FAO is committed to accelerating climate action in agrifood systems to build resilience, reduce emissions, safeguard food security and support livelihoods. This submission compiles evidence and knowledge generated in 2025, building on the information covering the 2013–2024 period that FAO shared in December 2024. It contributes to FAO's supportive and facilitative role under the SJWA by highlighting recent initiatives, data, and experiences that demonstrate the transformative potential of agrifood systems for adaptation, mitigation, climate finance, and a just transition, and by reinforcing the need to place agriculture and food security at the center of the global climate agenda.

1) Mainstreaming Climate Change Work through FAO Strategic Framework and Strategy on Climate Change

FAO's work on climate change is guided by FAO Strategy on Climate Change for 2022–2031ⁱⁱⁱ, endorsed by all Member Countries and FAO's Strategic Framework's^{iv} Programme Priority Area Better Environment 1: Climate Change Mitigating and Adapted Agrifood Systems with a biennial progress reporting cycle.

The mid-term review of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change for the time period 2022–2025 confirmed its continued relevance and the Organization's unique capacity to support agrifood systems transformation in response to climate change. It highlighted the Strategy's alignment with the Paris Agreement, recent climate science, and evolving global priorities, including loss and damage, just transitions, accelerated adaptation, transparency, and carbon market mechanisms. Updates to the Action Plan also streamlined complementary outputs. The findings

of the mid-term review put the spotlight on the progress on raising FAO's visibility and impact in UNFCCC processes and global climate discussions; improving internal coordination across headquarters, regional and decentralized offices; expanding climate-agrifood interventions and support for policy reforms at the national level (e.g., NDCs, NAPs); enhancing country-level project implementation and financing; and strengthening peer learning, access to technical tools, and evidence to support policy advocacy and effective climate action in agrifood systems.

2) Supporting National Climate Plans – NAPs and NDCs

FAO analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)^v and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)^{vi} shows that agrifood systems are a major opportunity to accelerate climate action and climate-resilient development. Across NDCs, all countries identify mitigation potential in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector, while a clear majority also prioritize adaptation to strengthen resilience across agrifood systems. NAPs reinforce this opportunity, showing that climate impacts on agrifood systems are nearly universal and that countries place agrifood adaptation at the core of their national responses. Together, NDCs and NAPs position agrifood systems as a key entry point to reduce emissions, strengthen resilience, protect ecosystems and safeguard food security and livelihoods.

Building on the finding of the analysis, FAO in 2025 provided support to 53 countries in enhancing, strengthening and implementing NDCs and NAPs. This included support to update NDCs in 17 countries, developing or strengthening NAPs in 18 countries, and joint NDC-NAP related initiatives in 18 countries. This support was provided through FAO-UNDP *Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA)*^{vii} Programme and the *Facility for Action for Climate Empowerment to Achieve Nationally Determined Contributions (FACE-NDC)*^{viii} both funded by the International Climate Initiative of Germany, *NDC Helpdesk*^{ix} funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), *Food security and agriculture: accelerating adaptation (SAGA 2)*^x funded by the Government of Quebec, the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme and NDC-Partnership where FAO serves as the Steering Committee Member and Implementing Partner.

Furthermore, in 2025 *Nature-positive Agrifood Systems Toolkit*^{xi} and *Climate Change Knowledge Hub*^{xii} were updated to support countries with credible knowledge and practical guidance to strengthen, align and implement NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs through integrated, climate- and nature-positive agrifood system action. These efforts contribute to climate-resilient, gender-responsive, and investment-ready agrifood systems consistent with the Paris Agreement, the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

3) Mobilising and Saling Climate Finance

While climate-related development finance grew by 12 percent between 2022 and 2023, funding for agrifood systems increased by only one percent, leaving a misalignment with the sector's role in curbing the potential for increased climate resilience, reduction of emissions, biodiversity protection, and food security. To help close this gap, FAO supports countries in accessing and mobilizing climate finance through multiple channels, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund, and the new Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) bilateral funding and support for developing carbon projects. For example:

- FAO's GCF portfolio in 2025 marks the largest sum ever approved for FAO-led climate projects in a single year totalling over USD 400 million, including USD 150 million out of 222 for the *Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall (SURAGWA) Initiative*, the first multi-country proposal and largest funding request ever. FAO's GCF Readiness Portfolio reached 114 projects by the end of 2025 directly investing in initiatives

that boost countries' capacities to address climate change. Doubling in five years, the portfolio has helped over 70 countries build the capacities and develop programming for increased investments in low-emission and climate-resilient agrifood systems. Half of FAO's readiness portfolio directly supporting Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, and fragile and conflict-affected countries.

- FAO's GEF portfolio reached a new milestone in its partnership in 2025. With the approval of the December 2025 Work Program, FAO's cumulative portfolio is valued at over USD 2 billion in grant financing and USD 14 billion in co-financing. With USD 739 million in GEF financing unlocked, FAO is the third largest agency by portfolio size in the GEF-8 Replenishment (July 2022-June 2026), and GEF-8 has been the largest replenishment period for FAO. 2025 is the last full year GEF-8, and FAO added USD 107.5 million in new GEF grants for 27 new projects this year.
- By joining the Santiago Network to respond to countries' technical assistance requests and becoming an accredited entity to the FRLD in 2025, FAO has begun facilitating countries' access to loss and damage finance by supporting highly vulnerable countries, including Senegal and Haiti, in preparing their applications to the Santiago Network and the FRLD.

The composition and quality of finance also present both challenges and opportunities. Through its pillars on access to finance, knowledge and policy support, the *Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership*^{xiii} directly addresses these gaps by promoting locally tailored and inclusive financing, strengthening capacity across stakeholders, fostering public-private-civil society collaboration, and scaling practical investments in sustainable agriculture, land restoration and climate resilience. The Partnership also serves as the implementing mechanism to COP Presidency initiatives, including Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net Zero Land Degradation (RAIZ) of COP30 and the Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers of COP29, which mobilize and scale finance for practical, on-the-ground solutions in sustainable agriculture and land restoration.

4) Advancing a Just and Inclusive Transition

A just transition cannot deliver better livelihoods and resilience without fully integrating agrifood systems into global and national climate programmes and financing inclusive, locally led solutions. Lessons learnt through FAO's work highlights that just transition pathways in agrifood systems^{xiv} must combine people-centred, rights-based and locally led approaches with targeted interventions that reduce vulnerability and build resilience. Core intervention areas include promoting green and climate-resilient production (such as agroecology and adaptive practices), supporting sustainable livelihoods and decent work, expanding shock-responsive social protection, strengthening land tenure and resource rights, scaling access to clean energy, and advancing inclusive, integrated land-use governance. Across all areas, just transitions should address structural inequalities, manage trade-offs transparently, respect Indigenous Peoples' rights through free, prior and informed consent, and be supported by equitable finance aligned with national plans and pathways under NDCs and NAPs.

5) Strengthening Capacities at Global and Regional Levels

FAO provides comprehensive global capacity building and advocacy to advance climate action through agrifood systems. In 2025, through the BMZ-funded *Enhancing Agrifood Negotiations* project, FAO supported organization of three regional dialogues in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America to strengthen negotiators' capacities and support preparations for the 62nd Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies and COP30 in Belém. FAO also contributed to technical discussions under the UAE-Belém work programme on indicators^{xv}, including on Target 9b on food and agriculture, hosted and supported preparations for the 2025 Standing Committee on Finance Forum^{xvi}, and provided financial support to the UNFCCC Secretariat to deliver the first 2025 SJWA annual synthesis report^{xvii} and in-session workshop^{xviii}.

Through its active role in the COP30 Global Climate Action Agenda, particularly under Axis III - transforming agriculture and food systems, FAO helped to mobilize non-state actors, showcase solutions, and shape multiple Plans to Accelerate Solutions, including *Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net Zero Land Degradation (RAIZ)*^{xix}, *Together for the Expansion of Resilient and Restorative Agroecology and Agroforestry (TERRA)*^{xx}, and *Bioeconomy Challenge*. Together, these efforts position FAO as a central actor in elevating agrifood systems within global climate negotiations and action.

Conclusion

Agrifood systems are essential to delivering the Paris Agreement, yet they remain insufficiently reflected in national climate plans, just transition pathways and climate finance. The evidence shows that fully integrating agrifood systems into national climate change plans and financing strategies is one of the most effective ways to close mitigation, adaptation, equity and implementation gaps while simultaneously strengthening food security, livelihoods and ecosystems.

FAO's 2025 work demonstrates how this integration can be achieved in practice—by raising ambition in national planning based on scientific evidence, mobilizing and improving the quality of climate finance, advancing people-centred just transition pathways, and strengthening capacities and advocacy under the UNFCCC. Scaling these efforts now requires sustained action to close policy, equity and finance gaps, combined with strong, locally led implementation. FAO will continue to support Members and partners to translate global commitments into concrete, equitable outcomes and to firmly anchor agrifood systems at the centre of climate action.

ⁱ FAO. 2025. Greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood systems – Global, regional and country trends, 2001–2023. FAOSTAT Analytical Brief Series, No. 115. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7300en>

ⁱⁱ Milne, E., Cerri, C.E., Schiettecatte, L.-S. & Bernoux, M., eds. 2025. Update on scientific findings on the interactions between agriculture, food systems and climate change. Environment and Natural Resources Management Working Paper No. 110. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6901en>

ⁱⁱⁱ FAO. 2022. FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f6270800-ee7-498f-9887-6d937c4f575a/content>

^{iv} FAO. 2022. FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/29404c26-c71d-4982-a899-77bdb2937eef/content>

^v Crumpler, K., Wybieralska, A., Roffredi, L., Tanganelli, E., Angioni, C., Prospero, P., Umulisa, V., Dahlet, G., Nelson, S., Nuutinen, M., Duchelle, A., Schiettecatte, L.-S., Rai, N., Salvatore, M., Some, S., Ayimasse, F., Totin, E., Wolf, J. & Bernoux, M. 2025. Agrifood systems in nationally determined contributions – Global analysis. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6284en>

^{vi} Crumpler, K., Wybieralska, A., Nelson, S., Hammett, L., Margiotta, G., Haensel, M., Raison, M., Roffredi, L., Angioni, C., Gialletti, A., Galbiati, G., Caputo, I., Alvar-Beltrán, J., Kanamaru, H., Wang, X., Bernoux, M., Kohli, R., Teng, J., & Wolf, J. 2025. Agrifood Systems in National Adaptation Plans – An analysis. Rome, FAO, and New York, NY, USA, UNDP. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7579en>

^{vii} FAO. 2025. Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/scala/en>

^{viii} FAO. 2025. Facility for Action for Climate Empowerment to Achieve Nationally Determined Contributions. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/climate-empowerment-for-ndcs/en>

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- ^{ix} FAO. 2025. NDC Agrifood System Help Desk. <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/what-we-do/policy-support/nationally-determined-contributions-and-long-term-strategies-3-0/en>
- ^x FAO. 2025. Food security and agriculture: accelerating adaptation. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/saga/en>
- ^{xi} WWF. 2025. Nature-positive Agrifood Systems Toolkit. <https://agrifood-systems-toolkit.panda.org/>
- ^{xii} FAO. 2025. Climate Change Knowledge Hub. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/info/climate-change>
- ^{xiii} FAO. 2025. Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership. <https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-sustainable-transformation-partnership/en>
- ^{xiv} FAO. 2025. Pathways towards a just transition in agrifood systems. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7550en>
- ^{xv} UNFCCC. 2025. Global goal on adaptation. Draft decision -/CMA.7. Proposal by the President. <https://unfccc.int/documents/653890>
- ^{xvi} UNFCCC. 2025. Report of Standing Committee on Finance. Addendum. Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2025_09_cma2025_13_a04.pdf
- ^{xvii} UNFCCC. 2025. Work undertaken by constituted bodies and financial and other entities under the Convention, as well as by relevant international organizations, on activities related to the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. Annual synthesis report by the secretariat. <https://unfccc.int/documents/645740>
- ^{xviii} UNFCCC. 2025. Workshop on systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems (this does not preclude other approaches) and food security, understanding, cooperation and integration into plans. <https://unfccc.int/event/workshop-on-systemic-and-holistic-approaches-to-implementation-of-climate-action-on-agriculture-food>
- ^{xix} FAO. 2025. Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net Zero Land Degradation. <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/fao-at-cop30/raiz/en>
- ^{xx} FAO. 2025. Together for the Expansion of Resilient and Restorative Agroecology and Agroforestry. <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/news-and-events/news-detail/en/c/1754964/>