

ProVeg International submission to UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance

Call for evidence: Information and data for the preparation of the Third report on progress towards achieving the goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency of implementation

22 June 2026

As a global organisation advocating for and contributing to the implementation of food systems transformation across 14 countries, including developing countries, and winner of the UN Momentum for Change Award, we welcome this call for evidence by the Standing Finance Committee (SCF) and are pleased to our views and insights regarding the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency of implementation, in preparation for the Third report on progress towards achieving the goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year.

Below we present key findings from a pilot research project commissioned by ProVeg Brazil and published last year to showcase how providing transition support for family farmers in the localised context, including agronomic, financial, legal, marketing and business support, can serve as a model to unlock economic opportunities in developing countries for producers while delivering sustainability goals and increasing food security.

Considering the needs of developing countries regarding food systems transformation as a critical mitigation action

Last year, the SCF dedicated its annual forum to "Accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture",¹ thereby recognising the pivotal role of food systems transformation to achieve sustainability goals. Speakers and participants consistently stressed the critical interconnections between climate change, agriculture, food systems and food security, and highlighted the urgent need for finance to be directed towards the agrifood sector to drive sustainable development and climate action.

While transforming agriculture and food systems must be a priority for all countries, it is particularly relevant to developing countries. Not only are many developing countries already experiencing the [Global Syndemic](#)², a triple burden of widespread malnutrition, obesity, alongside disrupted and/or diminished food availability and affordability due to climate and global market shocks; they are forecast to be most acutely hit by weather extremes linked to climate change in the future while also facing high population growth rates. Adding to these complexities, agriculture accounts for 29% of GDP and 65% of jobs in developing countries,³ making the agrifood sector critical for sustaining livelihoods and economic wellbeing.

¹ United Nations Climate Change. 2025 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance. <https://unfccc.int/event/2025-forum-of-the-standing-committee-on-finance>

² Swinburn B, Kraak V, Allender S et al (2019). The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change: The Lancet Commission report, *The Lancet*, 393, 791-846. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)32822-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)32822-8/fulltext)

³ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). 2.6 billion people draw their livelihoods mostly from agriculture. <https://www.cbd.int/article/biodiversityforfood-1>

Despite the importance of the agrifood sector in solving the triple planetary crisis as well as contributing to sustainable development globally, access to climate finance remains limited and unevenly distributed across many developing countries, constraining the implementation of sustainable production systems. Financial flows to sustainable agriculture and food systems in particular have been shown to be severely insufficient. To make matters worse, an alarming downward trend in food systems finance has been observed in recent years: while public climate finance almost doubled between 2017 and 2022, the percentage of climate finance for food systems fell from 3% to 2.5% during the same period.⁴

Unlocking economic opportunities through technical support to implement transitions from livestock to plant-based agroforestry - a case study from Brazil

Effective climate finance and international cooperation mechanisms are needed to support research infrastructure, innovation ecosystems, and entrepreneurship related to promoting sustainable food production systems in developing countries. In turn, these interventions can support locally appropriate healthy and sustainable diets, reduce import dependency, and create economic opportunities that align food production with climate mitigation goals while improving food security.

In light of this, ProVeg Brazil commissioned research to be conducted by the Organização Cooperativa de Agroecologia (OCA) to better understand how a food systems transformation can serve as a meaningful mitigation, adaptation, just transition, and food security action in developing countries. The findings demonstrate that transitioning from livestock farming to high-value crops in agroforestry systems, enabled through diverse technical support measures, can transform degraded pastures into biodiverse, carbon-rich landscapes that also deliver significantly higher farmer incomes and enhance local food security.⁵

The study utilizes a comparative socioeconomic and environmental analysis across all Brazilian biomes. The methodology models the financial and ecological transition of conventional livestock operations into plant-based Agroforestry Systems. To build these models, the researchers combined secondary data from official agricultural databases to establish conventional baselines with primary field expertise to design biome-specific agroecological layouts. By overlaying these datasets, the final simulations quantify and compare long-term shifts in land-use efficiency, net producer income, job creation potential, and carbon emission balances.

The report demonstrates how this transition provides practical solutions to challenges faced by family farmers in the local context. The authors highlight that agroforestry systems (AFSs) are better adapted to climate change, while high-value crop production also mitigates emissions compared to livestock farming, thereby aligning food production with sustainability goals and increasing food system resilience. Moreover, the report shows that, on average, the transition doubles the producer's income, with increases reaching up to 1525% in exceptional circumstances.

⁴ Global Alliance for the Future of Food (2024). Climate Finance Report.

https://futureoffood.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ga_climatefinancereport_2024.pdf

⁵ ProVeg Brazil (2025). Increasing Income, Respecting the Planet, Nourishing People. 2025.

<https://proveg.org/br/report/transicao-agroflorestas-vegetais/>

Increased income, greater appreciation for producers, and increased autonomy were found to provide incentives to attract new generations, and create opportunities for value addition and rural entrepreneurship for women and young people. Challenges to access credit can be addressed by working with financial institutions on the creation of credit lines as well as adopting policies to divert funds from deforested areas to regenerative plant-based agroforests. Other advantages the transition was shown to offer to producers include reduced input costs, lower volatility and fluctuations in revenue, access to payments for environmental services, as well as increased food security for their family and the local community.

Transitioning from conventional livestock to plant-based Agroforestry Systems achieves a complete environmental reversal, converting carbon-emitting lands into carbon-negative areas while boosting labor to 30 jobs per million of income versus just 7 in the livestock sector. Furthermore, this shift radically optimizes land use, proving that AFSs can produce up to 30 times more protein per area than traditional animal agriculture, while requiring twelve times less land to achieve the same gross income.

In conclusion, the report found that high-value crop production in agroforests has shown to be more promising than any other type of animal agriculture (beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry and pig) in all Brazilian biomes, when the income increase is assessed. The report emphasises that these benefits can only be realised if the transition is effectively implemented by providing technical support to local producers, along with other leverages, such as financing and specific credit lines.

Enhancing finance and technical support towards a just, sustainable, plant-forward food systems transformation, including in developing countries

We welcome the Draft decision -/CP.30 by Parties at COP30 in Belem related to the SCF that “underscores that accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture is essential, including for protecting biodiversity and supporting vulnerable communities”.⁶ Yet, current climate finance for food does not match the significant emissions from, nor the hidden environmental and social costs of, food production and consumption, and does not consider the current impacts of climate change affecting the millions of people who rely on food and agriculture for their livelihoods.

The impact of food systems is profound and manifold, from ensuring sustainability to health and food security, and sustainable food systems must therefore be at the centre of climate mitigation strategies across all countries. The research report coordinated by ProVeg Brazil indicates that transitioning to more sustainable food production systems such as high-value crops agroforestry systems offers an effective mitigation, adaptation, just transition and food security strategy for low and middle-income countries that can improve sustainability while also improving the livelihoods and food security of family farmers and their local communities.

We therefore urge the SCF to assist countries to enhance financial and technical support towards the implementation of a holistic food systems transformation, including by providing support to family farmers to transition towards more sustainable production models, while also driving forward consumption-side measures, including healthy and sustainable, locally relevant,

⁶ UNFCCC (2025). Proposal by the Presidency COP agenda item 8(b) Matters relating to finance: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/SCF_cop30_1.pdf.

plant-forward diets. Developing countries in particular have much to gain from leveraging effective financial support to transform local food systems into an effective tool to mitigate climate change, safeguard economic wellbeing and ensure better food security.

For any questions or further information, please contact:

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ProVeg has received the United Nations' Momentum for Change Award and works closely with key UN food and environment agencies. We have observer status with the UNFCCC, the IPCC, the CBD, special consultative status with ECOSOC, and are accredited for UNEA.

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