

2026 UNFCCC CLIMATE WEEK 4 | BAKU, AZERBAIJAN | 7-11 SEPTEMBER 2026
IMPLEMENTATION FORUM

IMPLEMENTATION LAB

Unlocking Climate Finance for Agriculture and Food Systems: Building partnerships to accelerate Implementation

9 September 2026 | Time: 14.00-15.30 | Room: A2

Version: 19.08.2026

Background and Objective

Agriculture and food systems are essential to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement while advancing food security, resilience and sustainable development. Although agriculture and food systems emissions have increased more slowly than overall global emissions and emissions intensity has declined, rapidly growing emissions from supply chains and consumption underscore the need for accelerated action across the entire value chain. At the same time, agriculture and food systems remain significantly underfunded, receiving only around 4 percent of global climate-related development finance, despite their critical role in delivering mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and sustainable development outcomes.

The [Global Climate Action Agenda](#), particularly **Axis III - Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems: Plans to Accelerate Solutions (PAS)**, provides a platform to move from ambition to implementation by strengthening collaboration, mobilizing investment, and scaling practical solutions. This Implementation Lab will bring together governments, financial institutions, development partners, the private sector, and regional organizations to identify practical actions that can accelerate investment in sustainable, resilient, and low-emission agrifood systems. Building on initiatives such as the FAST Partnership, the Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers, and other complementary efforts, the Lab will explore how greater coherence, stronger partnerships, and innovative financing approaches can help translate climate commitments into implementation on the ground.

Objectives:

- Highlight progress on finance mobilization by PASs and complementary initiatives under the Global Climate Action Agenda, including lessons learned, financing challenges, and emerging opportunities.
- Identify priority actions to scale investment, mobilize climate finance, and strengthen enabling policies for sustainable, resilient, and low-emission agriculture and food systems.
- Foster collaboration among governments, financial institutions, the private sector, and development partners to improve coherence across initiatives and accelerate implementation.
- Strengthen advocacy and partnerships to increase climate finance for agriculture and food systems, contributing to integrated outcomes for climate mitigation, adaptation, food security, resilience, and sustainable development.

Preliminary Agenda

Time	Segment
14:00-	Welcome and Setting the Context (10 minutes)
14:	Samed Ağırbaş, COP31 Climate High-Level Champion: Welcome Dan Ioschpe, COP30 Climate High-Level Champion (video message) Why agriculture and food systems matter for delivering the Global Climate Action Agenda and how this Lab contributes to Axis III and PASs. Moderator: Ilaria Caputo, Climate Finance Specialist, FAO Explaining the format and expected outputs of the session
14:10-	Setting the Scene: From Ambition to Implementation (10 minutes)
14:20	Two short (5-minute) interventions: Lisa Larsen, Executive Director, Climate High-Level Champions: How PAS support implementation under Axis III Ilaria Caputo, Climate Finance Specialist, FAO: Climate finance gap and investment opportunities in agrifood systems
14:20-	Implementation Snapshots (10 min)
14:30	Two lightening examples (5 minutes for each): Leyla Jabbarli-Mitova, Deputy Chairperson, Agro Credit and Development Agency: Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers Amina Akhmetzhanova, Country Engagement and Outreach Consultant, Climate & Clean Air Coalition: Unlocking Investment for Agricultural Methane Action: The CCAC Super Pollutant Country Action Accelerator
14:30-	Breakout Discussion (40 min):
15:10	<i>Each table should produce 2–3 concrete recommendations, identify potential partnerships, and propose next steps that can feed into the Global Climate Action Agenda Axis III.</i> Breakout Group 1. Building Bankable Investment Pipelines for Agriculture and Food Systems <u>Objective:</u> Identify practical approaches to strengthen the pipeline of investable agriculture and food systems projects and programmes that can attract climate finance. <u>Guiding questions:</u> • What actions are needed to strengthen bankable agriculture and food systems investment pipelines? • How can national climate and development plans better identify, prioritize, and prepare bankable agrifood investments?

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- How can governments, development partners, and financiers work together to strengthen project preparation, mobilize finance, and scale successful investments?

Expected outputs:

- Three priority actions to improve investment readiness.
- Priority partners needed to support pipeline development.
- One concrete opportunity for regional collaboration.

Breakout Group 2. Expanding Access to Climate Finance for Farmers and Agriculture and Food SMEs

Objective: Identify practical solutions to improve access to finance for farmers, producer organizations, cooperatives and agrifood SMEs.

Guiding questions:

- What actions can improve access to climate finance for farmers, producer organizations, cooperatives, and agrifood SMEs?
- Which financing approaches and partnerships can best expand access to climate finance, particularly for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other underserved groups?
- How can successful financing models be scaled up nationally and regionally?

Expected outputs:

- Priority financing solutions.
- Key partnerships to expand access.
- Recommendations for scaling successful approaches.

Breakout Group 3. Accelerating Implementation through Partnerships and the Global Climate Action Agenda

Objective: Explore how collaboration across initiatives can accelerate implementation and mobilize greater investment.

Guiding questions:

- How can PASs and complementary initiatives work together more effectively to accelerate implementation and attract investment in agriculture and food systems?
- What partnerships are needed among governments, development partners, financial institutions, and the private sector to scale up action?
- What concrete collaborative actions can be launched before COP31 to strengthen implementation, knowledge sharing, and regional cooperation for transforming agriculture and food systems?

Expected outputs:

- Priority partnership opportunities.
 - Joint actions to pursue before COP31.
 - Recommendations for strengthening coordination under the Global Climate Action Agenda.
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15:10- Reporting Back and Joint Priorities (15 min)

15:25 *Each breakout reports 3–4 priority recommendations (4 minutes each), followed by synthesis from the moderator.*

15:25- Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

15:30 Sally Higgins, Youth Climate Champion, COP31
Key takeaways, next steps and contribution to the Global Climate Action Agenda.
