



# Climate Resilient Food Systems (CRFS) Alliance Advocacy Framework

**November 2024**

## **A. PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK**

A unified message and strategic communication among CRFS Alliance members at all levels is essential to drive coherence and alignment in climate action across all actors—governments, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, the private sector, academia, and more—throughout the food system. This approach fosters collaboration across food value chains, from production to consumption, promoting cross-cultural consensus and spurring urgent, systemic actions needed for climate-resilient food systems. The CRFS Alliance Advocacy Framework, updated annually, serves as a living document that integrates the latest science, emerging themes, and events, ensuring alignment with the evolving landscape of climate-resilient food systems.

## **B. KEY MESSAGES:**

### **1. Strengthen food and climate nexus**

Problem statement: The global food and climate nexus is increasingly urgent, as climate change threatens food security while agricultural practices strain ecosystems, harm human health, and drive rising greenhouse gas emissions. Without an integrated approach, efforts to end hunger and malnutrition could worsen climate impacts, and climate policies may weaken food systems. This disconnect undermines the resilience of communities and ecosystems, heightening vulnerability to climate shocks and food crises. Bridging this gap is essential for a sustainable and equitable future.

Future vision: The "food and climate nexus" becomes central to global strategies, creating resilient food systems that adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Call to action: Governments, UN agencies, the private sector, and civil society must collaborate to strengthen the climate-food nexus within National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This includes promoting approaches, methods, and tools that align food security objectives with climate goals, ensuring cross-sector coherence, and fostering partnerships. By uniting food and climate actors, we can implement sustainable and innovative practices critical to ensuring food security while addressing climate change.

## **2. Foster integrated food and climate action**

Problem Statement: Fragmented consideration of food systems individually – e.g. agriculture, food industries, markets, availability and access, quality and safety, consumption, diets, nutrition and health – do not yet reflect interlinkages between “climate and food systems”, and are not suited for climate resilient and sustainable futures.

Future Vision: “Food-climate nexus” becomes central to global strategies, fostering resilient food systems that can adapt to changing environmental conditions and reduce emissions. Food systems are addressed in a holistic manner, considering the sum of all components, actors and interactions along the food value chain, as well as transboundary aspects. This has helped to create food systems that are resilient to climate and other shocks and stressors. Additionally, food security and climate resilience approaches are predominantly integrated into a food and climate nexus approach.

Call to Action: Governments, UN agencies, the private sector, and civil society must take immediate action to integrate food systems with climate efforts, ensuring alignment in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and securing adequate financing. Global partnerships are essential to foster coherence and collaboration among food and climate actors, enabling the scaling of unified actions worldwide. Achieving this also requires cross-sectoral policy alignment, regulation, and incentives to ensure that food, climate, and related policies—such as water and energy—are mutually reinforcing and support sustainable, resilient outcomes.

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## **3. Mainstream regenerative agriculture and agroecology**

Problem Statement: Existing food systems at the global level and in many countries and regions are failing to end hunger, they do not provide adequate nutritious foods for healthy diets, they contribute to obesity and do not assure safety of foods. Climate change has adversely impacted food security on the one hand, and on one hand food systems contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. The current food systems contribute about 25% of annual anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and degrade 20-40% of global land area. Without a transition to regenerative agriculture, these systems will exacerbate climate change and food insecurity.

Future Vision: Farmers, herders and communities around the world apply regenerative production practices, working with nature rather than against it. Supported by strong enabling policy environment, these methods improve agroecological health, promote ethically sourced and predominantly plant-based diets, and foster achievement of food security and sustainable development. Consistent with the UNSG’s call in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, regenerative food production and supply chain practices have transformed the way food is produced and consumed.

Call to Action: Shift global food systems toward regenerative agriculture with strong policy frameworks, financial incentives, and capacity-building programs. Promote agroecological solutions in national policies and international climate agendas. This includes recognizing and integrating traditional knowledge and practices into modern agroecological approaches.

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#### **4. Strengthen consideration of vulnerable environments and communities**

Problem Statement: Countries in a vulnerable situation—LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and semi-arid lands—are disproportionately affected by climate change, despite contributing less than 4% of global emissions. They face severe food insecurity, with 24.2% of people in LDCs experiencing severe food insecurity compared to the global average of 11.3%.

Future Vision: Vulnerable nations secure full access to adequate climate finance, technology, and capacity-building programs, reducing food insecurity and building resilient, sustainable agrifood systems.

Call to Action: The global community must ensure urgent access to climate finance, technology, and capacity building for the most vulnerable countries. Stakeholders must prioritize these regions in disaster risk reduction, adaptation, and resilience-building initiatives, ensuring inclusive participation and equitable outcomes. Inclusive governance structures must be established to ensure the participation of vulnerable communities in decision-making processes.

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#### **5. Scale up climate finance for agrifood systems**

Problem Statement: Agrifood systems receive less than 5% of global climate finance, which is far below what is required to meet climate and food security targets. This financial gap threatens resilience-building efforts and the transition to low-emission food systems.

Future Vision: A sevenfold increase in climate finance for agrifood systems by 2030 to enable a just transition, foster food security, enable low-carbon practices, and increase resilience across the sector.

Call to Action: Ramp up climate finance for agrifood systems—currently less than 5% of global climate finance—to enable meaningful transformation. Governments, development banks, and the private sector must increase funding for both mitigation and resilience-building in food systems, especially in vulnerable nations.

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## **6. Increase investments in disaster risk reduction and early warning systems**

Problem Statement: The absence of effective early warning systems leads to catastrophic losses in agrifood systems, particularly in vulnerable regions. By 2050, an estimated 200 million people per year will need humanitarian aid due to climate-related disasters if early warning systems are not improved.

Future Vision: By 2027, all vulnerable communities are protected by multi-hazard early warning systems linked to early action protocols, minimizing climate-related food system losses.

Call to Action: Invest in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and early warning systems to safeguard agrifood systems from escalating climate risks. State and non-state actors must ensure that by 2027, all vulnerable communities are protected by these systems to safeguard agrifood systems from climate risks. Community-based disaster risk management and the role of local knowledge must be emphasized to enhance the effectiveness of early warning systems.

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## **7. Strengthen consideration of Indigenous Peoples and food systems**

Problem Statement: Indigenous Peoples, who manage 28% of the Earth's land surface, are critical to preserving biodiversity and building climate resilience. However, their food systems and ancestral knowledge are often excluded from policy frameworks, leaving their knowledge and contributions underutilized.

Future Vision: Indigenous Peoples' food systems are globally recognized and fully integrated into national adaptation plans, safeguarding biodiversity and food security while promoting sustainable land management practices.

Call to Action: Preserve and promote Indigenous Peoples' food systems by ensuring that Indigenous Peoples have the resources, recognition, and policy support needed to maintain their climate-resilient practices and that their collective rights are respected. Integrate these systems into broader food and climate strategies.

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## **8. Promote private sector engagement**

Problem Statement: The private sector's lack of involvement in sustainable food systems means that agrifood emissions continue to rise. The sector is responsible for approximately 31% of food system emissions, yet climate action efforts have largely focused on other sectors.

Future Vision: By 2030, the private sector leads sustainable food system transformations, reducing emissions, fostering innovation, and creating new economic opportunities through regenerative practices and climate-smart solutions.

Call to Action: Engage the private sector in transforming food systems by mandating scope 3 emissions targets, fostering multistakeholder collaboration, and investing in low-carbon, regenerative agriculture practices. Companies must align with global climate goals and drive sustainability at scale.

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## **9. Integrate food and nutrition security, conflict, and climate change**

Problem Statement: Conflict and climate change exacerbate food insecurity, with 60% of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change also experiencing armed conflict. Yet, these regions receive only USD 2.1 per person from multilateral climate funds, compared to USD 161.7 in non-fragile states.

Future Vision: Conflict-affected regions become resilient to climate shocks through targeted climate finance and conflict-sensitive agricultural practices, reducing hunger and promoting peace.

Call to Action: Integrate food security and conflict into climate action discussions, directing climate finance and resilience-building efforts to fragile and conflict-affected settings. Promote inclusive, conflict-sensitive agricultural practices.

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## **10. Embedding nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration in all agrifood policies and practices**

Problem Statement: Agrifood systems are central to desertification, climate change, and biodiversity loss challenges but are often underrecognized in the global environmental agenda. Agrifood systems are driving 80% of biodiversity loss globally. Approximately 90% of global forest cover changes between 2000 and 2018 were attributable to agricultural expansion, threatening ecosystems that are crucial for climate resilience and food security. In addition, more than half of the world's food production will be at risk of failure in the next 25 years as the water crisis accelerates. Without a shift to nature-based solutions, these systems will continue to undermine global environmental goals.

Future Vision: Agrifood systems fully integrate biodiversity conservation, sustainable water management, and ecosystem restoration, helping to protect natural capital and ensure climate resilience by 2030. Additionally, agrifood systems are fully integrated into the global environmental framework, recognized across the three Rio Conventions.

Call to Action: Governments, UN agencies, the private sector, and civil society must work together to embed nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration in all agrifood policies and practices. They must prioritize biodiversity conservation, water management, and invest in restoring ecosystems to ensure the long-term sustainability of food systems. They must work together in promoting collaboration across Rio Conventions, support for sustainable and regenerative food

production and facilitate access to and deployment of innovative technologies, such as precision agriculture and climate-smart tools, to help farmers mitigate climate-related risks whilst preserving forests and biodiversity.

### **C. ABOUT THE CRFS ALLIANCE**

**Who we are:** The CRFS Alliance was borne out of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) in 2021 out of the efforts of three main co-leads: WFP, UNFCCC, and FAO. The Alliance provides a platform for achieving climate-resilient food systems by synergizing efforts across the different actors who are part of the Alliance. The Alliance is constituted by a range of different actors, both UN and non-UN who have specific comparative advantages, field presence, and expertise. Each of them brings a wealth of knowledge, capacity, and dedication to build a world where food systems are climate resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

**Our Vision:** The vision of the CRFS Alliance is a world where food systems are sustainable, inclusive, and resilient, where food systems actors, including governments, the private sector, the UN, civil society, academia, finance, and all stakeholders come together to preserve ecosystems and resources to ensure healthy and nutritious foods for present and future generations, whilst neutralizing the negative impacts of production, transformation and consumption emissions, soil degradation, water depletion, and biodiversity loss.

**What we do:** The CRFS Alliance provides countries and stakeholders a unique portfolio of solutions, which directly address the need for:

- Food systems to become more resilient to climate change induced extreme weather events or shocks and stresses, and
- Food production, processing, transportation and consumption to become more sustainable in becoming part of the climate solutions in reducing emissions and other negative impacts on the environment.
- Systemic solutions to tackle the inter-connected global crises that are unfolding –climate emergency and the adjoined conflict and protracted crises, biodiversity loss, pollution, that are aggravating the food systems.

The Alliance acts as a bridge between climate and food actors to join efforts with a focus on the most vulnerable and at-risk countries and regions arid and semi-arid land areas, flood prone areas, the least developed countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries. Further, the Alliance acts as a connector across the multitude of different initiatives and partnerships currently ongoing to provide an accessible entry point to countries to a vast network of support options such as knowledge, technologies and innovations, finance for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

## **Deliverables for 2024 to 2025:**

- Six Regional Workshops on Climate-Food-Water Integration to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation in six regions, resulting in stronger regional policy frameworks that collectively address climate, water, and food systems.
- Rio Conventions Food Systems Integrated Programme in three countries to implement integrated approaches targeting food systems within the frameworks of land preservation, biodiversity, and climate change adaptation.
- Finalize Country Diagnostics in ten countries by conducting an analysis of NAPs, NDCs, and relevant policy documents to integrate food systems with climate action, aligning national strategies with UN frameworks.
- Support for Bankable Projects on Food Systems in NAPs by collaborating with GEF, GCF, and financial entities to develop a project preparation template and training modules for the food systems component of NAPs.
- Alignment of interventions and solutions with countries' needs and priorities through – inter alia - dedicated surveys and needs and capacity assessment to be issued to countries which have formally expressed an interest in the work of Alliance to outline areas where support is needed.
- Strategic engagement on high-level events and summits and global policy processes.
- A connection network with an overview of all members and supporters of the Alliance.

## **Composition of the Alliance:**

The Alliance comprises both country partners (Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Ethiopia, Fiji, Germany, Libya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Somalia, State of Palestine, The Gambia, The Philippines, Uganda) and a diverse set of organizations ranging from the UN, to private sector, to research and Academia to civil society organizations (4SD, Adaptation Fund, African Union Commission, AIM for Climate (AIM4C), Agroecology Coalition, Bangladesh Rural Advance Committee (BRAC), BRAC International, CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), CGIAR, Club of Rome, Clim-EAT, Commonwealth Secretariat, Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), EU Directorate-General for Climate Action (EU DG-CLIMA), FAO, FAST (Food and Agriculture Systems Transformation), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), FSIP, FSS Hub, GCF (Green Climate Fund), GEF (Global Environment Facility), Global Business Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), Global Resilient Supply Chains Alliance, Global Shield, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Coalition, ICCCAD, IFAD, InsuResilience Global Partnership, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences (IAAS), SHE Foundation, SEKEM, STAG (Science and Technology Advisory Group), TAPP Coalition, The Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), UN Foundation, UNCCD

(United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), Water and Energy for Food (WE4F) Programme, WB (World Bank), WFP (World Food Programme), World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), World Farmers' Organization).

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