



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# FAST Partnership

19 January 2026

**Submission by the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation  
(FAST) Partnership  
to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
on its activities in under the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on the  
implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security**

The Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership<sup>1</sup> welcomes the opportunity to share information on its activities relevant to the *Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (SIWA)* 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.

Employing over 1.2 billion people worldwide, agrifood systems are central to addressing climate change and advancing the sustainable use of natural resources. Yet they continue to receive a disproportionately small share of climate finance, and investments often fail to reach those most in need, including women, youth, family farmers, and Indigenous Peoples.

Recent FAO and partner publication<sup>2</sup> indicate that climate-related development finance for agrifood systems remains critically low. While total climate-related development finance across

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<sup>1</sup> FAO. 2025. Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership.

<https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-sustainable-transformation-partnership/en>

<sup>2</sup> Galbiati, G.M., Caputo, I., Brierley, I., Ducastel, A. & Bernoux, M. 2025. Climate-related development finance to agrifood systems – Global and regional trends. Report 2025. Rome, FAO.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7500en>

all sectors reached a record high of USD 145 billion in 2023 - the largest annual allocation to date, representing a 12 percent increase from USD 130 billion in 2022 - funding for agrifood systems has not kept pace. Climate-related development finance for agrifood systems rose by only one percent, from USD 27.3 billion in 2022 to USD 27.6 billion in 2023, causing the sector's share of total climate finance to decline. At the same time, around 673 million people faced hunger in 2024<sup>3</sup>, reflecting a sharp increase compared to pre-pandemic levels and underscoring the growing vulnerability of food systems amid converging climate, biodiversity, and socio-economic crises.

As countries confront escalating risks, scaling up both the quantity and quality of investment, alongside stronger policies, governance, and monitoring frameworks, is essential to enable ambitious agrifood systems transformation. In response to these challenges, FAO in collaboration with COP27 Presidency launched the FAST Partnership along with the SJWA, supporting coordinated action to mobilize finance, strengthen implementation, and accelerate impact on the ground.

The FAST Partnership is committed to accelerate the transformation of agrifood systems by 2030 by scaling up quality climate finance, supporting adaptation and a 1.5°C pathway, and strengthening inclusive, climate-resilient food systems through coordinated multi-stakeholder action. This submission compiles evidence and knowledge generated by the FAST Partnership.

### **Background of the FAST Partnership**

The FAST Partnership is a global, multi-stakeholder alliance, aimed at transforming agriculture and food systems by 2030 to be more resilient, climate-friendly, and secure, primarily by unlocking and increasing climate finance for sustainable agrifood transitions, supporting vulnerable groups, and promoting innovation for "triple wins" for people, planet, and climate. FAST Partnership strengthens its implementation by catalyzing finance, supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts in line with the 1.5°C pathway, and embedding agrifood systems within national climate policies such as NDCs and NAPs. Through coordinated engagement across governments, finance institutions, civil society, science, and the private sector, the Partnership helps operationalize the SJWA's systemic approach, building momentum, fostering collaboration, and avoiding duplication while advancing resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

The FAST Partnership is governed through a multi-stakeholder structure comprising a Board, a Task Force hosted by FAO, and membership of governments, organizations, and civil society actors. This inclusive governance model coordinates action through thematic working groups to strengthen climate finance, knowledge, and policy integration for agrifood systems, while promoting collaboration and building on existing initiatives. As of December 2025, FAST Partnership had 23 governments, two farmers organizations, three Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), 16 intergovernmental and civil society organizations as members.

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<sup>3</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2025. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 – Addressing high food price inflation for food security and nutrition. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6008en>

Furthermore, the Partnership 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, as well as COP-to-COP mechanism ensuring agriculture and food security remain priority for the COP Presidencies.

### **FAST Partnership's contribution to the objectives of the SJWA**

***(a) Promoting a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, taking into consideration regional, national and local circumstances, in order to deliver a range of multiple benefits, where applicable, such as adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and mitigation, recognizing that adaptation is a priority for vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers;***

Throughout 2025, the FAST Partnership promoted a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, recognizing the interconnections between climate change, agrifood systems, livelihoods and ecosystems. The FAST Partnership emphasized that climate action in agriculture should integrate adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development objectives, while reaffirming that adaptation remains a priority for vulnerable groups, including small-scale farmers, women and Indigenous Peoples.

At the global level the Partnership organized and participated in different events to promote dialogues on the interconnected solutions proposed by agrifood systems. These included the following events:

- [Scaling systematic and holistic climate action for better nutrition](#) at the Rome Nutrition Week in May 2025. The event promoted shared understanding of climate–nutrition integration across the nutrition, health, agrifood, and climate communities.
- In collaboration with the [Climate and Clean Air Coalition \(CCAC\)](#), the Partnership [convened a High-Level Ministerial Event at COP30](#)<sup>4</sup>. The dialogue focused on scalable agrifood solutions for resilience, food security, and climate action, highlighting the need for accessible, high-quality climate finance tailored to local needs and smallholders, women, and youth.
- A COP30 side event as part of Global Climate Action Agenda and its Axis III on agrifood systems transformation, facilitating exchanges among policymakers, finance actors,

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<sup>4</sup> IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin. (2025, November 19). Ministerial FAST+CCAC – Scaling up practical solutions for resilient agrifood systems – Food and Agriculture Day at COP30. <https://enb.iisd.org/ministerial-fastccac-scaling-practical-solutions-resilient-agri-food-systems-COP30>

farmer organizations and technical experts on lessons learned and practical experiences in implementing climate-resilient agricultural practices and policies.

The Partnership further strengthened the analytical foundation for holistic climate action through the publication of a 2025 FAO-led analysis on climate-related development finance to agrifood systems<sup>5</sup>. The analysis highlighted a growing gap between the scale of climate finance needs in agrifood systems and current investment levels. While overall climate-related development finance increased, finance to agrifood systems stagnated, and the share allocated to the sector declined over time. The report emphasized the central role of agrifood systems in adaptation, resilience, food security and emissions reduction, reinforcing the need for integrated approaches that align climate, agriculture and development priorities.

***(b) Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;***

In 2025, the FAST Partnership played a key role in enhancing coherence and coordination among Parties, financial institutions, initiatives and workstreams relevant to agriculture and food security.

A central contribution was the Partnership's support to the conceptualization and launch of the [Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net-Zero Land Degradation \(RAIZ\) Accelerator](#), which seeks to mobilize resources and support the sharing of technologies for the restoration of degraded agricultural areas in different regions of the world. The Partnership's engagement helped ensure coherence between COP processes, development finance actors and national priorities. RAIZ is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil (MAPA) under the FAST Partnership with the collaboration of the UNCCD, G20 Global Land Initiative, and the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) in partnership with the Action Agenda for Regenerative Landscapes.

In addition, the FAST Partnership advanced implementation of the Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers, a COP29 Azerbaijan Presidency Initiative, by promoting coherence across agrifood, food, and water initiatives. Acting as an aggregator, Harmoniya strengthened coordination, knowledge-sharing, and access to climate finance through a farmer-centric,

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<sup>5</sup> Galbiati, G.M., Caputo, I., Brierley, I., Ducastel, A. & Bernoux, M. 2025. Climate-related development finance to agrifood systems – Global and regional trends. Report 2025. Rome, FAO.  
<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7500en>

bottom-up approach, ensuring meaningful representation of farmers, particularly women and youth, in the Partnership governance and coordination processes, including Board and [Members meetings](#)<sup>6</sup> and aligning global finance discussions with on-the-ground needs.

Through these actions, the Partnership enhanced coordination and communication across institutions, initiatives and financial actors, reduced fragmentation, and strengthened the enabling environment for coherent and effective implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

***(c) Promoting synergies and strengthening engagement, collaboration and partnerships among national, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as well as under relevant processes and initiatives, in order to enhance the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;***

Strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement was a core focus of the FAST Partnership's work in 2025. The Partnership convened three Board meetings and one Annual Meeting, which ensured inclusive governance, strategic alignment and regular exchange among members. These meetings featured active participation from farmer organizations, reinforcing the Partnership's commitment to a farmer-centric approach.

In May 2025, the FAST Partnership organized a workshop on bridging collaboration between MDBs, Agricultural Public Development Banks (AgriPDBs) and farmers' organizations at FAO headquarters. Discussions focused on identifying institutional, financial and policy levers to improve climate finance access for agrifood systems, [particularly for small-scale farmers](#)<sup>7</sup>.

The FAST Partnership further promoted collaboration through the [FAST Partnership e-discussion report](#)<sup>8</sup> on gaps and challenges to accelerate climate finance, which captured diverse stakeholder perspectives on structural barriers and opportunities for scaling climate finance in agriculture.

To support transparency and collaboration, the Partnership also launched an interactive agriculture related [Initiatives mapping](#)<sup>9</sup>. This online tool enables stakeholders to identify and

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<sup>6</sup> FAO. 2025. FAST Partnership Members Meeting Report 2025. Rome, FAO.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/4953f6af-a975-4be0-8205-c3db8fab1220>

<sup>7</sup> FAO. 2025. Identifying Levers for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems: Meeting Report, Rome, Italy, 6–8 May 2025. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/6a1080ff-06d0-45f3-9e5f-dde6684b185a>

<sup>8</sup> World Rural Forum and Young Professionals for Agricultural Development. 2025. FAST Partnership E-discussion Report: Gaps and Challenges to Accelerate Climate Finance: A Peer-to-Peer Learning Exercise. June 2025. <https://www.ruralforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/FAST-Partnership-E-discussion-report.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Initiatives mapping tool. [Initiatives mapping | FAST Partnership | FAO](#)

connect with initiatives across regions and themes, enhancing visibility, promoting synergies and supporting more coordinated climate action

***(d) Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with their respective procedures and mandates;***

In 2025, the FAST Partnership provided technical support and advisory services to Parties and partners to strengthen climate action on agriculture and food security.

The FAST Partnership Joint Climate Finance Consultation Series was a year-long, iterative process that brought committed member countries, farmer organizations, and technical partners across Asia, Africa, and Latin America to co-create a multi-country, donor-ready portfolio for agrifood system transformation. The process brought participants through three progressive consultations: first identifying shared priorities and funding barriers, then shaping a unified Theory of Change, and finally consolidating measurable goals and investment pathways. The series culminated in the development of a single Umbrella Goal Statement.

In addition, the FAST Partnership continued its engagement through the climate finance webinar series.

In November 2025, the Task Force organized the webinar on the [FAO Nationally Determined Contribution Expert \(NEXT\) Tool for Farmers' Organizations](#), which provided targeted technical guidance on the use of the NEXT Tool to support farmers' organizations' engagement in nationally determined contribution (NDC) processes related to agriculture and food systems. The webinar strengthened capacities to align farmers' priorities with national climate objectives and supported inclusive climate action.

In December 2025, FAST Partnership organized a two-session webinar series on [unlocking carbon markets in agrifood systems](#), highlighting how high-integrity markets can mobilize climate finance aligned with national goals. The sessions emphasized enabling policy conditions—such as governance frameworks, authorization procedures, Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, and institutional readiness—and shared practical case examples to support responsible scaling and sustainable investment.

***(e) Enhancing research and development on issues related to agriculture and food security and consolidating and sharing related scientific, technological and other information, knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), experience, innovations and best practices;***

The Partnership's analysis of [climate-related development finance to agrifood systems](#) established a robust evidence base to facilitate high-level policy dialogue and strategic investment decisions. By underscoring prevailing trends in climate finance allocations, the analysis identified critical and persistent funding gaps that hinder global efforts toward climate adaptation and long-term food security.

[The FAST Partnership e-discussion](#) complemented these analytical findings by synthesizing experiential knowledge, practitioner insights, and cross-regional best practices. This initiative served to bridge the gap between global policy and localized implementation.

Collectively, these outputs facilitated the exchange of scientific, technological, and practical expertise, integrating indigenous and local knowledge with farmer-led innovations to ensure that climate solutions are both scalable and context-specific.

***(f) Evaluating progress in implementing and cooperating on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;***

In 2025, progress was reviewed through the FAST Partnership governance processes, including Board meetings and the Annual Meeting. These meetings provided structured opportunities to assess progress on flagship initiatives, review alignment with FAST's strategic pillars and identify areas for improvement. During the year, the Task Force engaged in a consultative process to identify the priorities of the 2026/2027 workplan. These consultations culminated in in-person workshops in Rome to define the activities Members will be focusing on in the next biennium. While no standalone evaluation report was produced, these processes contributed to continuous monitoring and management of activities.

***(g) Sharing information and knowledge on developing and implementing national policies, plans and strategies related to climate change, while recognizing country-specific needs and contexts;***

In 2025, the FAST Partnership did not undertake activities exclusively dedicated to national policies, plans and strategies. However, information exchange on national policy frameworks and country experiences was embedded within COP-level events, technical consultations and partnership discussions, facilitating informal sharing while recognizing country-specific contexts and needs.

***Specify clearly which activities took place in 2025 as those will be the main focus of the annual report by the secretariat. If you extend your reporting to activities that occurred in previous years or that are planned for 2026, report those separately;***

- Convened a High-Level Ministerial Event at COP addressing issues related to agriculture and food security in the context of climate change, with emphasis on adaptation and the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Organized a COP side event to facilitate exchange on integrated and holistic approaches to agrifood systems transformation, including adaptation, resilience and mitigation co-benefits.
- Contributed to the conceptualization and launch of the Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net-Zero Land Degradation (RAIZ) Accelerator, supporting coherence between climate finance and agrifood system priorities.
- Supported the implementation of the COP29 Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers as a flagship programme under the FAST Partnership, strengthening coordination among initiatives and financial actors.
- Convened three FAST Partnership Board meetings and one Annual Meeting, ensuring strategic oversight, coordination and inclusive participation, including farmer organizations.
- Organized a workshop on bridging collaboration between multilateral development banks, agricultural public development banks and farmers' organizations (FAO headquarters, May 2025), with a focus on improving access to climate finance.
- Conducted a consultation series on joint access to climate finance, facilitating technical dialogue among Parties and relevant stakeholders.
- Delivered a webinar on carbon markets relevant to agrifood systems, with attention to integrity, safeguards and farmer-relevant opportunities.
- Completed and disseminated an analysis on climate-related development finance to agrifood systems, identifying trends, gaps and opportunities, particularly for adaptation finance.
- Facilitated a FAST Partnership e-discussion on gaps and challenges to accelerate climate finance and published a synthesis report.
- Launched an interactive initiative mapping on the FAST Partnership website to enhance transparency, coordination and synergies among initiatives.

***Include examples (if any) where the conclusions referred to in paragraph 2 of the decision 3/CP.27 were taken into account by FAST [...], when promoting climate initiatives in considering issues related to agriculture, and to promote the sharing of information and knowledge on best practices and means of implementation;***

When promoting climate initiatives related to agriculture and food security, the FAST Partnership took into account the conclusions of decision 3/CP.27 by emphasizing adaptation as a priority, particularly in its COP-level dialogues, technical consultations on access to finance, and knowledge products addressing finance gaps and implementation challenges. The Partnership promoted the sharing of information on best practices and means of implementation through peer-to-peer exchanges and publicly available knowledge tools.

***Highlight information you consider relevant regarding financial allocations and needs, and challenges in and barriers to accessing support for finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building relevant to climate action on agriculture and food security, considering the vulnerability of farmers and other groups vulnerable to climate change impacts, especially small-scale farmers, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and children, and the measures taken to address such barriers;***

The [climate-related development finance to agrifood systems analysis](#) published in 2025 clarified that, while efforts have been made to provide resources for adaptation, mitigation, and transformative change, barriers persist, including inequitable distribution of support, limited availability of suitable financial instruments, and gaps in technical knowledge. Measures to address these challenges include increasing grant-based and targeted support, promoting integrated investment approaches, enhancing coordination among donors and financial institutions, and developing tools and programs that ensure vulnerable groups can access the resources needed to build resilience, adopt sustainable practices, and contribute effectively to climate action.

In addition, the [e-discussion](#) provided a unique platform for members and partners to share experiences, challenges, and solutions across diverse contexts, highlighting structural barriers to climate finance for agrifood systems. Recurring themes included the complexity and inaccessibility of existing funding structures, capacity and data gaps, youth-specific barriers, and the limited participation of frontline actors in decision-making. Participants emphasized the need for multi-year, inclusive finance aligned with national priorities and local knowledge, as well as co-created solutions empowering vulnerable groups as active decision-makers.

***Include a list of references where more information on work related to agriculture and food security by FAST can be found.***

- [FAST Partnership website](#)
- [FAST Partnership Terms of Reference](#)
- [FAST Partnership Operational Guidelines](#)

- [FAST Partnership and Climate and Clean Air Coalition High-level Ministerial meeting report](#)
- [FAST Partnership E-discussion report Gaps and challenges to accelerate climate finance: A peer-to-peer learning exercise](#)
- [Climate-related development finance to agrifood systems – Global and regional trends - Report 2025](#)
- [FAST Partnership webinar series](#)
- [FAST Partnership newsletter series](#)
- [FAST Partnership Members Meeting Report 2025](#)
- [Identifying levers for the transformation of agrifood systems - Meeting Report](#)
- [The triple gap in finance for agrifood systems](#)

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