RACE TO ZERO
Dialogues

Outcomes Document
"Regenerative Food and Agriculture Systems"

Tuesday 17th November 2020

Organised by:

Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU)
Global Alliance for the Future of Food
Salzburg Global Seminar
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
World Farmers Organization (WFO)
4/1000
CGIAR - Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)

Nature's Place In the Race - Three Key Points:

1. ***Time is ticking*.** We know what to do: in ten years, it is possible to transform our systems and create nature-positive and carbon-neutral economies. Our response to climate change requires a fundamental transformation across all our systems of food, land, and ocean use; infrastructure and the built environment; and extractives and energy. These systems represent more than a third of the global economy and provide up to two-thirds of all jobs, and now is the decisive decade for action.

2. ***Nature is a powerful ally.*** We know that nature-based solutions[1] have the potential to provide around a third of the solution to climate change by 2030 and are one of the most powerful ways for countries to enhance their national climate commitments in the lead up to COP26. Nature-based solutions have benefits for both mitigation and adaptation and must be fully integrated into every single Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) - and can also play a critical role in carbon-neutral nature-positive recovery packages, while providing a host of other benefits.

3. ***There is momentum but we need more action on the ground and from governments*.** There is growing recognition that the destruction of nature and climate change are critical risks for businesses, the economy and society – and that many sectors need to transform how they operate if we are to avoid total collapse. Nearly all private sector companies can and should responsibly integrate nature-based solutions into their science-based climate change (and nature-positive) strategies. There are a wealth of nature-based resources for companies to seek guidance from including the Science Based-Targets Network, Business for Nature, We Mean Business, the NCS Alliance, the Tropical Forest Alliance, We Value Nature.

Food systems have a pivotal role in delivering net zero by 2050

1. ***Scene-setting:*** At least a quarter of global GHG emissions come from net land use change and agriculture, driven by extractive industrialized food systems that operate beyond planetary boundaries and deplete natural systems. Only regenerative and resilient food and land use systems that put back more unto the land that is extracted can play an immediate and fundamental role in turning food production from a net source of carbon to a net sink, and getting the world to net zero emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.

    - Partners from across the world including *[the Food and Land Use Coalition, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Salzburg Global Seminar, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, 4/1000, World Farmers' Organisation, CGIAR's Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security Program, UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office]* are part of a mass mobilisation of net zero commitments and complementary initiatives from non-state actors through the Race to Zero campaign. These organisations and coalitions are dedicated to achieving the transition required to halve emissions by 2030, and then again by 2050 to stay within a 1.5°c increase in line with the Paris Agreement.

2. ***Nature connection:*** We need a thriving natural world and healthy ecosystems to grow nutritious food as well as to absorb carbon emissions. Nature provides drought and flood

[1] Nature-based solutions are defined by IUCN as 'actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits', Resolution 69, adopted by 1,300+ IUCN State and NGO Members at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii, USA.

prevention, supports biodiversity, helps prevent uncontrolled fires, and more. Shifting from an extractive paradigm to one of regeneration means we must integrate solutions and systems thinking across nature, food, and climate, and deliver these through policies and practices that promote and uphold human, animal, and ecological health. Nature-based solutions, including preventing further deforestation, are one set among many pathways that can support a race to zero emissions. Agriculture-based nature-based solutions can contribute to net zero emissions for people and planet by as much as 43 Gt of CO2-eq [according: https://exponentialroadmap.org/]. When combined with measures like reforestation and forest conservation this can go beyond 100 Gt of CO2-eq by 2030.

3. ***Diversity of solutions, and participants:*** A diversity of pathways and solutions exist for a successful transformation to net zero emissions. Approaching climate adaptation and mitigation through food systems broadens the range of opportunities available and enables action on interconnected issues like equity, biodiversity loss, nutrition, and more. Diversity also applies to the multitude of people from all walks of life around the world, who interact with food and agriculture systems, and therefore with nature, on a daily basis.

4. ***People centred:*** Women, smallholder farmers, vulnerable populations, and poor and marginalized communities, carry an uneven burden of climate change. Along with communities that depend on the land, and natural and rural environments, such as ranchers, foresters, and Indigenous peoples, they must be put at the centre of a just transition. From access to land and resources such as finance and technology, and more, these diverse communities must be guaranteed fair and equal access and protections in the race to zero. Farmers and ranchers have a pivotal role to play in the transition to nature-positive and carbon-neutral economies, and are natural stewards of climate change. Unfortunately, they have so far been largely absent or side-lined from crucial negotiations. Their agency must be strengthened, with encouragement to diversity and youth. Likewise, everyday consumers and organized citizens have a powerful role to usher change through their consumer choices and collective action for a food system that fixes the climate crisis as opposed to exacerbating it.

5. ***Supportive policy and finance:*** Today the predominant policy environment does not expose and constrain the vast hidden costs generated by food and agricultural systems. Public funds often go to subsidies that are not geared towards rewarding systemic solutions, including those that protect nature. Similarly, private forms of available capital or the means to deliver it are not enough to match the net zero potential in food and agricultural systems. There is widespread agreement that transforming financial flows and metrics of success can bring outsized economic and social opportunity, build resilience in response to COVID-19, and play a pivotal role in the creation of healthy, sustainable food systems.

6. ***Dialogue & partnership:*** Race to Zero dialogues aim to elevate and project the voices of many net zero committed businesses, cities, universities, governments, investors, and citizen movements over the coming year, in close alignment with the Marrakesh Partnership and the Climate Action Pathways. The dialogues are supporting exponential action to reimagine and transform our food systems towards regeneration and climate change mitigation. Supported by the leadership of the high level climate champions, the Race to Zero campaign means that thousands of people will have an opportunity to take part in the mass mobilisation of net zero commitments in the run up to COP26 and share in a collective vision of a better world.

Session Outcomes for Regenerative Food and Agriculture Day:

Session name & lead partner	Highlighted outcomes from the session
Race To Zero: 10 Critical Transitions In Food And Land UsE: Opening Session **(Food and Land Use Coalition - FOLU)** **9-10:30GMT**	Our findings and discussions reveal that the ways in which people produce and consume food and use land currently account for USD 12 trillion a year in hidden costs to the environment, human health and development, costs that are set to rise to USD 16 trillion by 2050 if current trends continue. 10 necessary transitions include – but are not limited to – measures to protect and restore nature and climate, empower and protect indigenous communities, finance nature-based solutions, promote a diverse and healthy diet, reduce waste, and strengthen rural economies. These stand to unlock USD 4.5 trillion in new business opportunities each year by 2030, at the same time as saving costs of USD 5.7 trillion a year in damage to people and the planet by 2030, more than 15 times the investment cost of up to USD 350 billion a year. Through this session ● A suite of food, [land use] & agriculture solutions around healthy diets, productive and regenerative agriculture and stronger rural livelihoods are incorporated more fully into the conversation to achieve greater ambition around NDCs, specifically in FOLU countries and regions including China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia & Sub-Saharan Africa. ● A core group of around 10+ multi-stakeholders, which will include farmers, civil society and finance/business communities, will develop and rally around a set of core goals of the food & agriculture community, rooted in FOLU critical transitions and complementary to the goals of the climate community on 1.5-degree temperature goal, five-yearly updates and financial support for developing countries. ● Dialogues, which bridge climate and food, will prevail as an inclusive tool over the coming 12 months, and 25+ will be activated in the FOLU-network to take the lead on organizing these discussions.
Climate & the Future of Food: Priority Actions for Systems Transformation **(Global Alliance for the Future of Food & Salzburg Global Seminar)** **11:00-12:30 GMT**	A diverse group of stakeholders articulated their expectations, including hopes for the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit and UNFCCC COP26. These can be summarised as: ● Transformation to healthy, nutritious, sustainable, and low-carbon food systems ● Requires holistic and integrated food system approach ● That addresses both climate change and food security together and recognizes the interconnectedness of land use, food systems, health and climate change

	● Based on shifting to agroecological and regenerative models of farming, especially by smallholder farmers, women, respecting the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and promoting less and better meat ● Based on principles of inclusion, equity, food sovereignty and a right to food These included tensions/divergences such as: ● Need to scrutinize net zero climate targets by governments and corporations to prevent climate washing ● Need to realign incentive mechanisms to promote health and sustainability ● Need for genuinely inclusive and participatory processes that particularly include underrepresented voices ● lack of consensus on how to transform agriculture and the role of industrial agriculture in a complex global supply chain vs small-scale farming and local food systems ● Vested interests in growth and maximizing profit vs public good and environmental justice From the Q&A and the dialogue, the suggestions for concrete actions for the food and climate communities to address the concerns, join forces, and align on key messages are: ● Importance of multi stakeholder collective action: public private collaboration, working with farmers, especially smallholder farmers, and Indigenous Peoples to integrated traditional knowledge and on the ground reality into design and implementation of solutions ● Support for a rights-based approach and cultural respect as a foundation for collective action. Acknowledge and mitigate power imbalance. ● Creating space for diverse perspectives to engage in a transparent process ● Produce more food + Protect more + human rights
Soil as Climate Solution **(WBCSD, WFO, 4/1000)** **13:00 - 14:30 GMT**	The session brought together farmers, political and business leaders, and experts to envisage a multi-stakeholder action plan to scale soil-as a climate solution capable of addressing multiple priorities – including mitigation, adaptation, and resilience – and using nature-positive production while ensuring farmers and ranchers are front and center of the agenda. The session elevates the need for national NDCs to be implemented with key stakeholders like farmers and their specific needs and expectations regarding climate mitigation and adaptation. This important solutions orientated session convened and built upon a key moment when public attention and attitudes to soil health and its potential co-benefits was focused and strong with these key messages: ● Soil health enhancement and carbon sequestration can offer a potent climate solution, provided it is delivered on sound, contextually accurate science, and in unison to other mitigation, adaptation, productivity and livelihoods strategies.

	● The evidence of the benefits of investing in changing production practices in ways that increase soil health is unequivocal. Farmer prosperity, drought / flood / fire control, freshwater quality, and enhanced biodiversity are only some of the benefits.
	● The carbon sequestration potential of soil and be a significant 2.3 to 5 GT CO2Eq is increasingly more understood. While estimates still vary, and some obstacles remain in terms of monitoring, reporting, and verification, it is vitally important to better understand this solution in order to unlock one of the largest carbon sinks we have.
	● At a policy level, measures should expose the social and environmental costs of not protecting soil health, and direct public investment like subsidies to forms of food production that reward ecological function.
	● At the investment level: the amount of investment, as well as the financial instruments to deliver it, are vastly under-utilized relative to the potential that soil and related nature based solutions have for climate drawdown (i.e. upwards of 30% of total ghg mitigation needs).
	● Companies like Syngenta are already working with farmers to invest and support in soil health, and are able to finance 3-5 year transition periods associated with changing practices.
	● Farmers and ranchers of all scales and geographies are important drivers and beneficiaries from the widespread adoption of soil climate solutions, primarily through aspects such as improved productivity, livelihoods and access to payment for ecosystem services. Many farmer organizations have boldly step up to NZ (eg. UK NFU, NZ federated farmers, Danish platform). In the UK the NFU has set a more ambitious target than its government, ie NZ 10 years earlier, by 2040. Farmers involved in the climaker program are taking this to grassroots level.
	● Investments should consider carefully the pre-existing debt burdens for farmers, and so should ensure public sector and technical support, first loss risk adjustment and wider investment into rural communities and prosperity. The agency and leadership from these constituents will be central to getting us to net zero by 2050.
	● Central to scaling are Coalition building, Offsetting / Insetting, and De-risking
	● From Deputy Special Envoy to UNFSS:
	  ○ NBS can only work if they work for people
	  ○ Possibility of soil carbon central, but not excuse for inaction
	  ○ Holistic thinking on: tenure rights, women, policy incentives, innovation, solid frameworks in nation states not companies, substantial participation of farmers.
	  ○ Getting this right, could be the biggest job engine of 21 century, making rural livelihoods attractive.
	  ○ Get engaged in track 3.

Transforming agriculture and food innovation systems to win the race to zero	This CCAFS and FCDO event brought together **hundreds of key stakeholders** from across our global food system to **pinpoint both the challenges to and the opportunities available in fostering more**

(CCAFS) 15:00 - 16:30 GMT	**innovation in how we produce, distribute and consume food** to secure nutritional diets for all, while limiting carbon emissions. To meet the UN's global goals on hunger and poverty by 2030, this event **mapped out** how the upcoming Climate Adaptation Summit, the UN Food Systems Summit and COP 26 can all be **stepping stones** to meeting those ambitions, with a particular focus on '**innovation**'. **Participants were provided with a roadmap of how to engage in these global policy process and dialogues over the next 12 months**, so they could pinpoint areas where they can contribute with specific commitments and actions, and build new global partnerships around their ideas. The panellists debated not only technological solutions to food security, but also broader concepts of 'innovation' that reflect the fact that food security is often determined by policy, societal factors and the sustainability of business models. At the end of the event, **participants pledged on social media to join the #RaceToZero**, highlighting how they would help foster innovation in food systems. **CAFS used the event to call for three commitments** that would radically transform innovation in our food systems: ● **Catalyse USD 1.8 trillion** investment for climate resilient food systems and develop new approaches to innovation to scale up the impact of this investment. ROI in R&D can range from 2:1 to 17:1 ● **Reform research agencies** in a way that enables scientists to innovate with farmers, governments and businesses in order to find practical solutions that work. ● **Close the gender gap** in food systems, where too many women can't adopt new farming methods and technology because of the barriers they face in accessing finance, fertile land, training and address the hurdles they face in selling produce in markets. Stakeholders will be engaged over the next 12 months, to deliver concrete actions at the COP to transform innovation systems and accelerate progress towards the Race to Zero.
Closing Session **16:30 - 16:45 GMT**	Nigel Topping - COP26 High Level Champion Gonzalo Muñoz Abogabir - COP25 High Level Champion Min. Atonio Walker - Minister of Agriculture of Chile Rachel Lambert - Senior Livelihoods Advisor, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office