



Views on Belém Mission to 1.5

This submission represents the views of the [Just Food Transition Network](#), bringing together a globally diverse community of actors—including farmers, farm workers, pastoralists, women, youth, and advocates across public health, human and labour rights, animal welfare and environmental fields—reflecting a wide range of lived experiences and expertise. While united by a shared vision to phase out of industrial animal agriculture and call for a just transition towards equitable, humane and agroecological food systems, the network recognises and centres the diverse perspectives, needs and leadership of the communities most impacted by the transition.

Introduction

As Parties move from setting targets towards implementation, the success of the Belém Mission 1.5 will depend on identifying practical pathways to accelerate emissions reductions while strengthening resilience, food security and sovereignty and sustainable development outcomes. Food systems are central to this challenge. They contribute around one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions,¹ are highly vulnerable to climate impacts and remain closely linked to massive deforestation, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and public health risks. Food systems drive the demand of 40% of all petrochemicals² and 15% of fossil fuels globally.³ From land to sea, the unchecked expansion of industrial animal production and industrial fishing and aquaculture threatens the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals, contributing to emissions, ecosystem destruction and the erosion of critical carbon sinks across forests, grasslands, wetlands and oceans.

At the same time, food systems represent one of the greatest opportunities to simultaneously advance climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity protection, food security, public health and rural livelihoods. Strengthening the ambition and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) therefore requires a transition towards equitable, humane and agroecological food systems, supported by coherent policies, finance and international cooperation. Such a transition can help deliver the objectives of the Paris Agreement while contributing to the broader goals of the Belém Mission 1.5.

We therefore encourage Parties to recognise food systems as a central nexus issue within the Belém Mission 1.5. Equitable, humane and agroecological food systems are climate-resilient, locally and democratically governed, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote biodiversity, protect animal welfare, empower workers, and advance food sovereignty that fulfills food security. By placing this at the heart of implementation efforts, Parties can unlock multiple benefits across the Rio Conventions and accelerate progress towards a more resilient and more just future for people, animals and the planet.



Unlocking Food Systems Transformation for Climate-Resilient Development

1. Priority Actions for NDC and NAP Ambition

1.1. Scale up agroecology as a climate solution alongside a phaseout of industrial animal agriculture

Agroecology is a transformative approach that can simultaneously advance climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity conservation, public health, animal welfare, food security and rural livelihoods. It is rooted in local ecological, social and cultural contexts, enabling solutions that respond to regional and national circumstances while delivering multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits.⁴

Agroecology increases resilience to droughts, floods and other climate-related shocks by improving soil organic matter, enhancing water retention, strengthening natural soil fertility and promoting crop diversification. It also reduces emissions by avoiding synthetic nitrogen fertilisers and pesticides, while increasing the carbon sequestration potential of healthy soils. These benefits are particularly important for vulnerable groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples and smallholder farmers, for whom adaptation remains an urgent priority.

Agroecology also strengthens economic resilience by reducing dependence on expensive and volatile external inputs and increasing farmers' autonomy over production systems.⁵ This is particularly relevant in light of the recent war in the Middle East resulting in global fertiliser price shocks, which have exposed the vulnerability of food systems reliant on imported synthetic inputs. For climate-vulnerable developing countries, agroecology can serve as a critical adaptation strategy by reducing exposure to carbon-intensive and increasingly costly agricultural inputs. For high-income countries with emissions-intensive livestock sectors, agroecological transitions should be prioritised as a key mitigation measure.

Beyond environmental benefits, agroecology can contribute to more equitable and democratic food systems. By strengthening local food systems, supporting cooperatives and small and medium enterprises, and reducing dependence on highly concentrated agribusiness markets, agroecology helps redistribute economic opportunities, increase farmers' bargaining power and create fairer outcomes across food value chains. It offers a pathway towards food systems that are not only more resilient and sustainable, but also more inclusive and socially just. A just transition to agroecology would save even more lives by reducing the risks of antimicrobial resistance⁶, zoonotic disease⁷ transmission and exposure to pesticides.

1.2. Promote sustainable and healthy diets

Raising the ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs requires reducing over-reliance on industrial animal protein and supporting a transition towards diets within planetary and social boundaries, including the diverse and culturally rooted plant-rich diets already consumed by many communities around the world.



Food systems transformation must address both production and consumption. Livestock production occupies nearly 80% of agricultural land while providing less than one-fifth of global calories,⁸ and approximately three-quarters of global soy production is used as animal feed.⁹ Consumption patterns in high-income countries continue to drive land conversion, emissions and biodiversity loss globally.

Parties should promote diets within planetary and social boundaries through measures such as:

- Food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) aligned with climate and health objectives. About one-third of FBDGs are incompatible with the agenda on non-communicable diseases, and most are incompatible with the Paris Agreement and other environmental targets¹⁰
- Public procurement policies supporting plant-rich diets
- Fiscal incentives that encourage healthy and sustainable consumption
- Awareness campaigns on healthy and sustainable diets

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identifies shifts towards diets rich in plant-based foods, particularly pulses, nuts, fruits and vegetables, such as vegetarian, pescatarian or vegan diets, as a substantial mitigation strategy for industrialised countries.¹¹ If G20 countries adopted diets within planetary boundaries, food-related emissions could decline by up to 46%.¹² Globally, such a transition could save an estimated 5.1 million lives and reduce healthcare costs by at least US\$735 billion per year by 2050.¹³

1.3. Protect and restore blue carbon ecosystems

Climate-resilient food systems must also address impacts on oceans. Industrial fishing, particularly bottom trawling, releases large quantities of carbon stored in seabed ecosystems while reducing the ocean's capacity to act as a carbon sink. For example, scope 3 emissions account for over 80% of all GHG emissions in salmon farming, 40% of which comes from feed¹⁴.

Parties should integrate ocean-climate-food system linkages into NDCs and NAPs by:

- Protecting and restoring mangroves, seagrasses and other blue carbon ecosystems
- Phasing out destructive fishing practices such as bottom trawling
- Supporting small-scale, low-impact and selective fisheries and low trophic aquaculture
- Addressing feed-related emissions in aquaculture value chains, including the use of wild-caught fish for aquaculture and livestock feed where this undermines marine ecosystems and coastal food security.

2. Enabling Conditions for Implementation

2.1. Redirect subsidies towards climate solutions

One of the most immediate opportunities to accelerate implementation is the reform of subsidies that currently support emissions-intensive food systems.



As highlighted in World Animal Protection's *Subsidising Factory Farm Harm*¹⁵, current subsidy structures overwhelmingly favour industrial livestock production while agroecology receives only an estimated 1-1.5% of agricultural funding. Subsidy-linked deforestation has released an estimated 4.3 billion tonnes of carbon over the last two decades.

Subsidy reform represents one of the most immediate and practical opportunities to finance a just transition. These resources are already public and grant-based, meaning they can be redirected without creating new financial mechanisms or relying on additional capital.

Because subsidies underpin global food systems, they are a powerful lever for change. Subsidies reform should be guided by just transition principles adopted under paragraph 12 of the COP30 Just Transition Work Programme decision, reforming them can turn public spending into a tool that delivers climate, biodiversity, food security, justice and development goals simultaneously.

Subsidy reform should not be viewed as a replacement for developed countries' obligations to provide climate finance. International public finance remains essential to support developing countries in implementing just food and agricultural transitions

Governments should:

- Phase out harmful agricultural subsidies
- Redirect public finance towards agroecology and sustainable fisheries
- Support smallholder farmers, fishers and Indigenous Peoples
- Ensure public spending aligns with NDC, NAP and Paris Agreement objectives

2.2. Align multilateral development banks with the Paris Agreement

Despite making commitments to align their investments with the Paris Agreement, the SDGs and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁶ multilateral development banks (MDBs) continue to finance industrial livestock production and feed expansion. Between 2010 and 2021, the five largest public development banks invested more than US\$4.5 billion in the sector.¹⁷ In addition, a recent tracking across 15 development banks and the Green Climate Fund done in 2023 found that the majority of direct and mobilised support for animal agriculture targeted industrial animal agriculture.¹⁸

MDBs should:

- Exclude industrial livestock and feed operations from Paris-aligned investments
- End financing for the expansion of industrial animal agriculture
- Prioritise agroecology, humane and rights-based sustainable fisheries, low trophic aquaculture and locally-led food system solutions
- Expand access to grant-based and highly concessional finance



2.3. Operationalise the Just Transition Mechanism

The emerging Just Transition Mechanism presents an important opportunity to strengthen means of implementation for food systems transformation. The Mechanism can provide a framework to align finance, technology and capacity-building with equity and livelihoods considerations that are central to agrifood transitions.

The Mechanism should:

- Support transitions away from industrial animal agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture towards equitable, humane and agroecological food systems
- Prioritise smallholder farmers, fishers, Pastoralists, informal workers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and rural communities
- Facilitate access to finance, technology and capacity-building
- Complement and strengthen the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action in Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA). Greater coherence between SJWA and just transition processes can support more coordinated access to public and concessional finance, technology deployment and skills development, while avoiding lock-in to high-emission and inequitable production models such as industrial animal agriculture.

3. Addressing Systemic Barriers

3.1. Avoid perpetuating false solutions

Several approaches risk entrenching industrial food systems while delivering limited or uncertain climate benefits. They do not address the root causes of climate change but have the potential to worsen the crisis, which can be defined as false solutions. These include:

- Industrial biogas and methane digesters that prolong manure-intensive systems and are vulnerable to methane leakage
- Carbon offsets that delay direct emissions reductions, often allow major emitters to avoid direct emissions reductions while raising concerns about accountability and environmental justice
- Soil carbon and carbon farming schemes with unresolved permanence and measurement challenges
- Feed additives aimed at reducing enteric methane, which remain unproven at scale and may reinforce intensive livestock systems
- Sustainable intensification approaches that fail to address structural impacts
- Claims regarding regenerative grazing that overstate sequestration benefits
- Alternative methane accounting approaches such as GWP*, which risk understating the near-term warming impacts of livestock methane emissions. While methane is a short-lived climate pollutant, it has more than 80 times the warming potential of CO₂ over a 20-year period. The



promotion of GWP* by parts of the livestock industry can obscure the urgent need to reduce methane emissions by suggesting that existing emissions levels can be maintained indefinitely.

Parties should prioritise absolute emissions reductions and systemic transformation rather than technological fixes that perpetuate high-emissions production models.

3.2. Address corporate concentration and weak governance

A small number of corporations dominate global agrifood supply chains, including seeds, agrochemicals, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries¹⁹. This concentration enables disproportionate influence over policy, markets and production systems, reinforcing industrial, high-emission models and limiting the agency of farmers, fishers and consumers.

Governments should strengthen:

- Policy coherence across food, agriculture, fisheries, climate, biodiversity and health sectors. Fragmented policymaking across agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, energy, climate and development leads to unintended consequences and shifting of harms between ecosystems. For example, land-based activities such as deforestation, fertiliser use and pollution degrade marine ecosystems, while some bioenergy and waste-to-energy pathways increase pressure on land, water and ocean systems.
- Competition and anti-monopoly measures. Existing trade and investment regimes prioritise export-oriented production and global supply chains, often at the expense of food sovereignty, environmental protection and local resilience. These frameworks can restrict governments' ability to regulate harmful practices and enable further consolidation across meat, dairy, seafood and feed sectors.
- Secure tenure rights for land, water and marine resources. Smallholders, Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities often lack secure rights to land, water and marine resources. This exposes them to displacement from agricultural expansion, aquaculture, conservation schemes and carbon market activities, undermining their ability to steward ecosystems and participate in the transition.

3.3. Reform financial system incentives

Current economic systems continue to treat food primarily as a commodity rather than a public good. Financial flows often prioritise exports, speculation and production growth rather than climate resilience, ecosystem protection, public health, justice and food security.



Key barriers include:

- Continued support for harmful systems: Public subsidies, development finance and private investment continue to prioritise industrial agriculture, industrial fishing and intensive aquaculture, reinforcing high-emission and environmentally damaging production models.
- Underinvestment in sustainable alternatives: Agroecology, sustainable fisheries, low-impact aquaculture and locally rooted food systems remain significantly underfunded despite their potential to deliver climate, biodiversity and social benefits.
- Limited provision and access to finance for small-scale actors: Smallholders, fishers, Indigenous Peoples and local enterprises often face structural barriers to accessing finance, including complex funding mechanisms and limited direct support.
- Failure to account for true costs: Environmental, social and public health costs are routinely externalised, masking the true impacts of industrial food systems and delaying the transition towards more sustainable alternatives.
- Diverting scarce public funds to derisk private investment instead of investing directly in agroecology, a proven community-led solution

Developing countries face additional structural constraints, including unsustainable debt burdens and limited access to grant-based and concessional finance. These challenges can constrain ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs and perpetuate dependence on extractive and export-oriented development pathways. Addressing these inequities is essential to enabling equitable and effective food systems transformation.

4. Strengthening International Cooperation

Food systems should be recognised as a nexus issue within the Belém Mission 1.5 and across international climate and development cooperation efforts. As Parties advance the COP30 Presidency's Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030 and the emerging Roadmap to Transition Away from Fossil Fuels, food systems should be recognised as a critical area where climate, nature, health and development objectives intersect. Without addressing the food system drivers of deforestation, emissions and fossil fuel dependence, these goals will be difficult to achieve.

Parties should strengthen cooperation through:

- Greater coherence between climate, biodiversity, health and land agendas, including through cooperation under the Rio Conventions
- Stronger integration of food systems within NDCs, NAPs and future Global Stocktake processes
- Enhanced cooperation between the SJWA and the Just Transition workstreams
- Increased support for South-South and triangular cooperation on agroecology and sustainable fisheries
- Improved knowledge-sharing on equitable, humane and agroecological food system transitions



- Expanded access to grant-based and concessional climate finance for developing countries
- Alignment of efforts to halt deforestation, transition away from fossil fuels and transform food systems through coordinated international action

At the national level, greater coherence is also needed between ministries responsible for agriculture, fisheries, environment, climate, health and finance to ensure that food system policies support, rather than undermine, climate and development objectives.

This approach will help unlock food systems transformation as a pathway to climate-resilient development while delivering benefits for people, animals, nature and future generations.



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³ Global Alliance for the Future of Food. (2023). Power shift: Why we need to wean industrial food systems off fossil fuel. https://futureoffood.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ga_food-energy-nexus_report.pdf

⁴ High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition. (2019). Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition. https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Reports/HLPE-Report-14_EN.pdf

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⁶ FAO. 2018. Livestock and agroecology: How they can support the transition towards sustainable food and agriculture. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/ded6e1c7-68cf-4401-8bb6-2bde2156e144/content>

⁷ Idem

⁸ Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser. (2019). Land Use. <https://ourworldindata.org/land-use>

⁹ Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. *Science*, 360(6392), 987–992. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aag0216>

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¹¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), ed. (2023). *Climate Change 2022 - Mitigation of Climate Change: Working Group III Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*.

¹² EAT. 2020. Diet for a Better Future: Rebooting and Reimagining Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems in the G20. eatforum.org/content/uploads/2020/07/Diets-for-a-Better-Future_G20_National-Dietary-Guidelines.pdf

¹³ Springmann, M., Godfray, H. C. J., Rayner, M., & Scarborough, P. 2016. Analysis and valuation of the health and climate change cobenefits of dietary change. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113(15), 4146–4151. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1523119113>

¹⁴ FAIRR. Sustainable Aquaculture Engagement. <https://www.fairr.org/engagements/sustainable-aquaculture>

¹⁵ World Animal Protection. (2025). Subsidising factory farm harm Redirecting subsidies toward a Just Transition to feed our world. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WAP_20251216_subsidising-factory-farm-harm.pdf

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