



## **United to reduce food and farm related GHG-emissions 30 percent by 2030**

**Final version 27<sup>nd</sup> October 2022**

Political and business leaders participating in the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November 2022, representing # countries, regions and business stakeholders, commit to reduce their food and/or farm-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 30 percent by 2030, with best efforts to work towards higher goals aligning with a 1.5C pathway. This will also help to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and improve public health. The leaders are sending a signal to step up global ambition and encourage others to match their collective ambition for climate, nature, health and people. They are being supported by # global multi-stakeholder groups, including from non-profit organisations, the private sector and scientists.

We, leaders participating in the UN Climate Summit (COP27), representing # \* countries, regions and business representatives have come together at COP27 on November 2022, or commit afterwards, to send a united signal to step up global ambition for reducing food and/or farm-related GHG emissions and to commit to matching our ambition for climate, health, nature and people with the scale of the crisis at hand. We acknowledge that a collective effort to reduce our food and/or farm-related GHG emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030, could avoid over 0.1°C of warming by 2050, if enough countries, regions and business stakeholders participate, representing at least 50 percent of global anthropogenic food system GHG- emissions<sup>1</sup>. This goal builds on the Methane Pledge, a commitment made by over 100 countries at COP26 to reduce methane emissions 30 percent by 2030. The Methane Pledge goal is to prevent more than 8 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from reaching the atmosphere annually by 2030, which could eliminate over 0.2°C warming by 2050. A large share of global methane emissions is linked to agriculture (42 percent, mostly livestock), followed by fossil fuel operations (36 percent) according to the CCA-Coalition. However, most countries focus on reducing methane emissions 30 percent from fossil fuel operations. We commit to also reduce methane from agriculture.

We acknowledge that according to the most recent 2022 IPCC WG III report, food systems are responsible for between 23 and 42 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, and

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Methane Pledge, reducing methane emissions 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030, eliminates over 0.2°C warming by 2050 (8 Gton CO<sub>2</sub> eq). Agriculture related methane emissions contribute 42% to this pledge goal. The Climate Agreement on Food and Farming is broader than methane, also targeting CO<sub>2</sub>- and N<sub>2</sub>O-emissions from food systems. According to the 2022 IPCC WG III report, global GHG-emissions in 2019 were 59 Gton CO<sub>2</sub>eq and food systems are responsible for between 23 and 42 percent of global GHG-emissions (33% on average, equal to 19,6 Gton CO<sub>2</sub> eq). Reducing food system related GHG-emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to 2018-2020 levels means a reduction of 5.9 Gton CO<sub>2</sub> eq. and 7.4 Gton if food systems cause 42% of global emissions; comparable with the Methane Pledge goal of 8 Gton reduction. If 50% of global food system emissions are reduced by 30% by 2030, it eliminates 0.1°C warming by 2050.

reducing these emissions is essential to meet the 1.5°C target. The IPCC report highlighted the urgent need to reduce land use, food and agriculture related emissions, suggesting targeted mitigation policies like support for innovation, food and agriculture related GHG-emissions taxes (especially in high-income countries), and trade policies. In high and middle-income countries, shifts in food habits and policies will also improve public health and reduce surging health care costs (World Bank, Oxford University). If people in 85 countries on average would eat according to EAT-Lancet Planetary Health dietary guidelines by 2030, food-related GHG-emissions would be reduced by 42 percent: 1.8 Gton CO<sub>2</sub>e, mostly through reduced red meat consumption and higher intake of plant-based proteins (Springmann et al, 2020). According to the Emission Gap Report of 2021 an additional 11 Gton CO<sub>2</sub>e global emission reduction is needed to stay below the 2 degrees Celsius temperature increase. This means food consumption patterns according to the EAT-Lancet dietary guidelines can contribute 16 percent to this global goal.

We acknowledge that such lifestyle changes in high meat/animal protein consuming countries will also help to reverse biodiversity loss and deforestation. Biodiversity loss and deforestation lead to increasing GHG emissions because they decrease the amount of carbon sinks. We acknowledge the fact that according to new remote sensing surveys commissioned by FAO in 2020 agricultural expansion is causing almost 90 percent of global deforestation. Over 50 percent of this expansion is related to livestock grazing on grasslands or animal feed production (e.g. soy, maize). According to the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2022-2031, global protein availability from poultry, pork, beef, sheep meat and dairy are set to grow 16, 17, 8, 16 and 19.5 percent respectively, by 2031 (compared to 2019-2021). How can we align these trends with the Paris Climate Agreement and pledges for reducing methane and biodiversity loss? If we walk away from this challenge, we will be judged now and by future generations on our ability to meet our aims. We are in a state of planetary emergency, facing intersecting crises of high food prices, hunger, and malnutrition, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and climate change. Unless halted and reversed with immediate effect, these interdependent crisis will cause significant damage to global economic, social and political stability and will inhibit the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Everyone, including governments, business and individuals, has a role to play.

- The Climate Agreement on Food and Farming is empowering similar initiatives that will be mutually supportive, like The UK led agriculture breakthrough agenda for climate-smart agriculture by 2030 (with goals for businesses to reduce emissions linked to agricultural sectors by 15 % by 2040 and by 25 % in 2050, which includes cutting the emissions of livestock by 20 % by 2030 and 30 % by 2040), the FACT Dialogue, the FAST initiative, AIM for Climate, the Global Research Alliance (most of them focused at research, governance and investments). Most of these initiatives however don't have clear goals on reducing GHG-emissions from food systems by 2030. This is the added value of the COP27 Climate Agreement on Food and Farming, giving focus and ambition for a reduction goal by 2030. This will also speed up (research and funding) actions agreed in the AIM for Climate, GRA, FACT and FAST etc.

Building on previous relevant pledges, including the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, the Methane Pledge and the High Ambition Coalition COP 26 Leaders' Statement, we therefore commit to reducing food and/or farm-related GHG emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030, with best efforts to work towards higher goals aligning with a 1.5C pathway:

**A. Taking at least two actions on Food and two actions on Farming, put in place by the end of 2025, that substantially help to realise the 2030 reduction goals:**

### **Farming actions (commit to take at least two of the following voluntary actions):**

1. Provide financial incentives and other resources (i.e., training, natural fertilizers, supplies etc.) to farmers to reduce GHG-emissions. Many approaches can be deployed, e.g. agroecological and regenerative methods, like organic farming, crop rotation, carbon sequestration, low-tillage, multi-strata planting etc.
2. Provide financial incentives and other resources to animal farmers to reduce herd sizes.
3. Legislate, monitor, and enforce maximum methane emissions from farms.
4. End the import and export of key agricultural commodities when linked to deforestation.
5. Apply the polluter pays principle on GHG emissions at the farm level or on imports.
6. Repurpose or eliminate agriculture subsidies that contribute to high greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Increase and encourage investments in low-carbon, climate resilient farming and research (e.g. AIM for Climate, Global Research Alliance, FACT Dialogue, FAST Initiative).

### **Food actions (commit to take at least 2 voluntary actions):**

1. Establish national and per capita reduction goals for animal-based food consumption.
2. Launch educational, awareness and information campaigns highlighting the environmental and health benefits of plant-rich diets, e.g. requirements that supermarkets display food sustainability ratings, carbon footprint data or true pricing data incl. CO<sub>2</sub>-costs.
3. Eliminate or reduce consumer taxes on vegetables, fruits, seeds, nuts and wholegrain or subsidize healthy and sustainable plant based food.
4. Reduce public procurement of animal-based products, promote institutional plant-forward eating (e.g. by joining the Cool Food Pledge for public bodies or serve climate neutral food products).
5. Legislate to restrict marketing and junk pricing of food products with a very high carbon footprint, e.g. restrict selling (protein rich) food at prices lower than normal retail cost prices.
6. Create a tax on high carbon footprint food products to reflect their external costs on climate and the environment. Tax revenues could be used to finance farmers to reduce GHG-emissions, improve animal welfare or sustainability standards; transition to plant farming; or re-wilding. Alternatively, include livestock GHG-emissions into emission trading schemes (ETS).
7. Legislate policies for supermarkets/retail/food service companies to reduce food-related GHG emissions by at least 30 percent by 2030 (including scope 3 emissions).
8. Encourage prevention of food waste from high carbon food products (with over 5 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq/kg food product) e.g. by legislating for smaller portions of meat in catering/restaurants and smaller portions of meat in the retail sector.
9. Encourage or legislate for the uptake of 25 percent of alternative proteins content, like wheat, beans or rice, as low carbon substitutes in mixed meat products like minced meat or burgers.

B. Updating the Climate Agreement on Food and Farming website annually with existing and new Food and Farm policies and relevant National Determined Contributions, including GHG emission reductions compared to 2020 and expected CO<sub>2</sub>-eq reduction impact by 2030<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> The 30 percent reduction goal for agriculture-related GHG-emissions can be based on calculation methods for agriculture and land-use that were agreed for reporting Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The 30 percent reduction goal for national per capita annual food consumption-related GHG-emissions can be based on calculation methods used in the [globalcarbonatlas.org](https://globalcarbonatlas.org) or a report used by the EU Court of Auditors for EU countries to calculate national food related GHG-footprints (see p. 28 [https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21\\_16/SR\\_CAP-and-Climate\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21_16/SR_CAP-and-Climate_EN.pdf)).

Signatories can choose three options: 1) to reduce agriculture GHG-emissions 30 percent by 2030, 2) to reduce food related GHG-emissions 30 percent by 2030 or 3) both.

C. Participating in annual virtual meetings to share progress and discuss monitor reports.

D. Inviting other countries and stakeholders to sign or support this Climate Agreement on Food and Farming too.

E. Other voluntary commitments: We commit to mainstreaming low carbon, more plant-based food and farming practices into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and into those key international agreements and processes which hold levers for change, including the G7, G20, WTO, WHO, FAO, OECD and UNFCCC. We will do this by ensuring that across the whole of government, policies and investments account for the value of low carbon, healthy and sustainable food and farming practices and by ensuring negative externalities on climate and nature are given the right price. We expect that by doing so, food prices and food shortages in the long term would be reduced. If overall food prices would rise, we commit to compensate lowest income groups to ensure the right and access to food.

\* The latest info on the number of endorsements can be found at

<https://www.climateagreementfoodfarming.org/>

Signatories can sign [here](https://form.jotform.com/222742859990369). <https://form.jotform.com/222742859990369>

Non State actors (business, civil society, financial institutes, local governments, UN organisations, science, etc.) can fill in this form <https://form.jotform.com/222964663419364>

Signing in person during the COP27 conference can be done at a press conference 7<sup>th</sup> Nov in room Luxor 13.30-14 h. EET (13.30 h CET)

Registration: [info@climateagreementfoodfarming.org](mailto:info@climateagreementfoodfarming.org)

Another option is during a side event 11<sup>th</sup> November at 15h EET in Room 9 (Tutankhamun).

Registration via <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/food-system-climate-solutions-unfccc-un-cop27-in-personstreaming-tickets-450896161557>. Livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/UnfcccInt/playlists>

Questions? [info@climateagreementfoodfarming.org](mailto:info@climateagreementfoodfarming.org)

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