



Bridging the Gaps

Advancing Coherent Policies for
Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
for Agriculture and Food Systems

FROM SANTOS TO BELEM

Key Actionable Messages from the High-Level PreCOP Convening in Santos-SP Bridging the Gaps: Climate Adaptation & Mitigation for Agriculture and Food Systems

With over 100 organizations represented, the Santos Pre-COP Convening brought together state and non-state actors, scientists, policymakers, local leaders and communities, private sector representatives, youth, and financial institutions in a highly interactive day of plenary dialogues and collaborative workshops. This document synthesizes the key actionable messages emerging from these exchanges – bridging climate, nature, and food agendas through coherent, inclusive, and solution-oriented approaches – to guide our shared path toward COP30 in Belém.

Overall Unifying Message:

Build nature-positive, sustainable, and inclusive food systems as the bridge connecting climate, land and biodiversity actions - rooted in agroecology, family farming, fair finance, coherent governance, and meaningful participation of local actors.

Integrated and Actionable Messages to Carry to Belem:

1. Make Food Systems a Central Pillar of Climate and Nature Action

- a) **Fully integrate food systems into climate and biodiversity agendas**, recognizing them as a core connector of the three Rio Conventions (Climate, Biodiversity, Desertification).
 - b) **Remove the “brackets”, both politically and rhetorically, around food systems** to make them a legitimate, standing pillar of climate action.
 - c) **Eliminate deforestation and ecosystem conversion immediately** from agricultural commodity supply chains.
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2. Position Agroecology and Family Farming as Core Solutions

- a) **Recognize agroecology and organic practices as proven, nature-positive strategies** that deliver climate adaptation, biodiversity restoration, and healthy diets.
 - b) **Treat family farming as the most effective yet underused investment** linking climate resilience, nature conservation, and food security.
 - c) **Encourage countries to embed agroecology in their NDCs and adaptation frameworks**, ensuring incentives and support for transition costs.
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3. Finance Transformation: From Fragmented Flows to Fair Systems

- a) **Scale and coordinate climate finance for food systems** by aligning financial regulation, credit systems, and risk pricing with sustainability - **rewarding regenerative practices and penalizing harmful ones**.
 - b) Accelerate access to finance by training local financial institutions to understand agricultural and climate risks, creating a **shared finance-technical assistance language**, and scaling **blended and revolving fund** models that lower the cost of capital.
 - c) **Empower farmer and fisherfolk organizations** to directly access and manage funds through **simplified, locally driven financing windows**.
 - d) **Unlock finance for regenerative agriculture by pairing investment with technical assistance**, guaranteeing purchase agreements, reframing sustainability as a **profitable investment**, and bundling policy and credit packages.
 - e) **Empower youth and local agents** through financial literacy, microcredit, and inclusive digital systems that bridge trust and access gaps.
 - f) **Redefine adaptation finance to be affordable and equitable**, lowering costs through technological innovation and improved national credit ratings.
 - g) **Ensure long-term, predictable, and accountable climate finance** that reaches communities directly, drives behavioral change, and supports innovation and inclusion.
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4. Governance for Coherence, Continuity, and Inclusion

- a) **Build integrated food and climate governance** through inclusive food councils anchored in nutrition, social protection, and public service delivery.

b) Ensure councils have **budgetary authority and clear mandates**, not only advisory roles, and are designed to manage power imbalances and foster multi-sector coordination.

c) Embed the COP30 Action Agenda within national frameworks by ensuring **political continuity, cross-ministerial coordination, and alignment between negotiations and implementation**.

d) **Promote coherent and convergent food system transitions** led by **vulnerable and marginalized groups**, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and diverse farmer profiles and **guarantee their meaningful participation** in negotiations and financing design to ensure legitimacy and impact.

5. Use Adaptation and Resilience as Gateways to Mitigation

a) Frame agricultural action around **regeneration** to connect adaptation and mitigation agendas.

b) **Measure positive tipping points** and communicate benefits clearly to strengthen political support.

c) Use **adaptation as an entry point** for mitigation, supported by **innovative financial mechanisms** that lower barriers to investment.

6. Embed People, Data, and Accountability in Global Frameworks

a) **Align the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and UAE Framework with local realities**, ensuring indicators reflect community-level progress.

b) Fund and operationalize **national and subnational data systems** to track adaptation results.

c) Include **people and equity metrics** in the GGA (particularly for **marginalized and vulnerable groups**) to ensure climate progress translates into human well-being.

d) Strengthen collaboration across **ministries, CSOs, and Indigenous peoples** to co-design and monitor adaptation frameworks.

7. Shift the Narrative: Build Shared Vision and Public Momentum

a) Build a **shared and inspiring vision** for food system transformation, communicated in **simple, visual, and inclusive messages** that engage citizens, culture, and media.

b) **Agree on common, measurable targets** for sustainable food systems, similar to renewables in energy.

c) **Simplify communication:** use accessible language and vivid examples to explain what transformation looks like.

d) **Engage politically and expand participation** across sectors (health, finance, environment) to rebalance power and create a collective movement.

e) **Align planetary health diets with climate and nature** goals to ensure that consumption patterns, retail strategies, and national food policies reinforce biodiversity protection, lower emissions, and promote healthier, more sustainable lifestyles.

8. Make True Costs Visible to Drive Better Decisions

a) Apply **True Cost Accounting (TCA)** in **simple, participatory ways** to reveal the social, health, and environmental costs of food systems.

b) Use TCA not just for analysis but as a **decision-making and advocacy tool** that empowers farmers, communities, and policymakers to act.

c) Combine **data and lived experience** to guide fairer, more sustainable production choices.

9. Create Economic Signals that Value and Reward Nature

a) Establish **market mechanisms and fiscal incentives** that assign real value to ecosystem services, encouraging preservation and restoration.

b) **Link climate, nature, and food finance** through instruments that reward **nature-positive and inclusive solutions**.

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