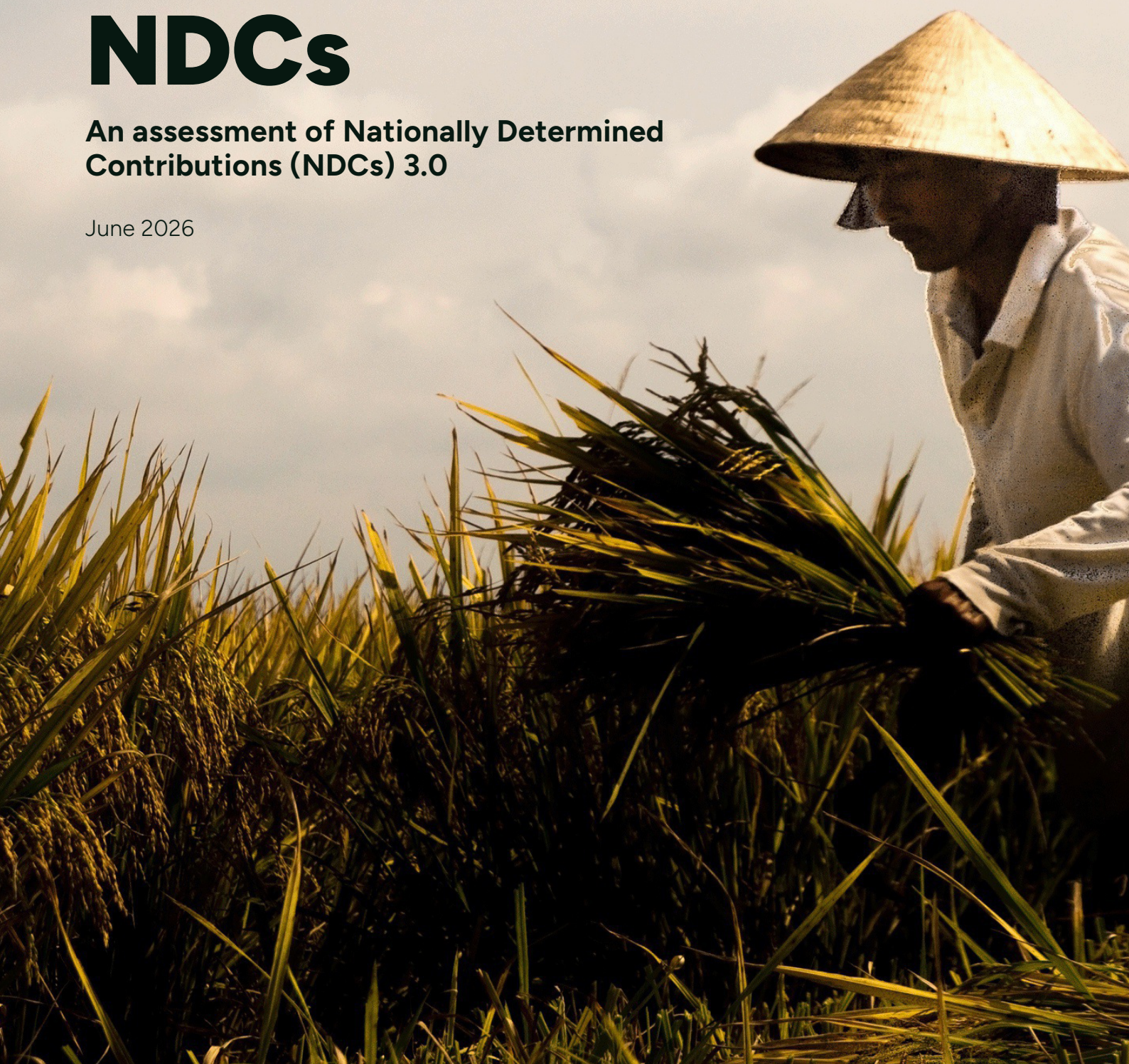


POLICY BRIEF

FOOD FORWARD NDCs

An assessment of Nationally Determined
Contributions (NDCs) 3.0

June 2026



Policy Brief

Food Forward NDCs

An assessment of Nationally
Determined Contributions (NDCs)
3.0

June 2026

AUTHORS

Haseeb Bakhtary (Climate Focus)
Georg Hahn (Climate Focus)
Malvika Kaushik (Climate Focus)
Martina Fleckenstein (WWF
International Food Practice)

DESIGNER

Elisa Perpignan

CONTACT

Martina Fleckenstein
mfleckenstein@wwfint.org
Haseeb Bakhtary
h.bakhtary@climatefocus.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WWF FOOD PRACTICE

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations, with over 30 million followers and a global network active in nearly 100 countries. Alongside work in areas like wildlife, oceans and forests, the WWF Food Practice works to transform the food system to protect people and planet. Our vision is a food system which provides healthy food to all people while restoring our planet. To help achieve this goal, we work across three pillars of the food system: Sustainable Production, Healthy and Sustainable Diets and Food Loss and Waste.

CLIMATE FOCUS

Climate Focus is a pioneering international advisory company and think tank that provides advice to companies, governments, multilateral, non-governmental and philanthropic organisations. We support our clients with research and advisory services to shape and navigate international and domestic climate, biodiversity, food systems, and sustainable development policies and strategies and to access climate and nature finance.

FAIRR INITIATIVE

The FAIRR Initiative (FAIRR) is a collaborative investor network with over 400 members globally, representing over US\$95 trillion in combined assets, which raises awareness of the material risks and opportunities in the global food sector. Our mission is to build a global network of investors who are aware of the issues linked to intensive animal production and seek to minimise the risks within the broader food system. We focus our efforts on providing high quality Research, facilitating Engagements and Policy action on behalf of our members.

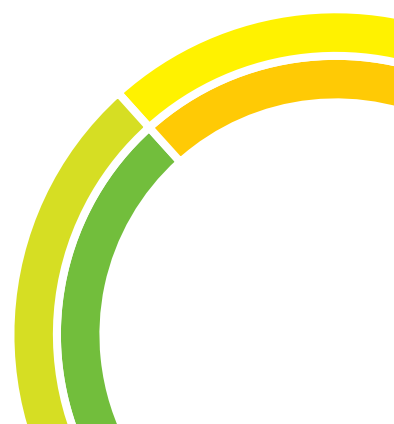
GAIN

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) is a Swiss-based foundation launched at the United Nations in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. Working with governments, businesses, and civil society, we aim to transform food systems so that they deliver more nutritious foods for all people, especially the most vulnerable. At GAIN, we believe that everyone in the world should have access to nutritious, safe, and affordable food. Today, one in three people – drawn from nearly every country on the planet – are unable to consume enough nutritious food. We work to develop and deliver solutions to this daily challenge.



Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Key messages	4
Context	5
Overview of trends	7
Findings	9
Nature-positive food production	10
Sustainable and resilient supply chains to reduce food loss and waste	12
Food consumption	13
Equity considerations in food systems governance	14
Recommendations	15
Endnotes	17



KEY MESSAGES

- ❑ **NDC ambition on agrifood systems is rising.** Most (97%) of NDCs 3.0 now include some agrifood systems measures, up from 93% of previous NDCs – a welcome advancement. Inclusion of a range of key policy measures – from production to supply chains and beyond – has increased since previous NDCs. This reflects growing recognition among governments that agrifood systems transformation is central to meeting climate goals.
- ❑ **Despite progress, critical gaps remain.** While nature-positive production is well-integrated, measures to reduce food waste and loss, shifting to sustainable healthy diets and improving nutrition remain low with only 28% and 26% of NDCs 3.0 respectively integrating these downstream measures.
- ❑ **A holistic approach is essential to build agrifood systems resilience.** Addressing agrifood systems only at the production level is insufficient. NDCs must integrate the full food chain — from nature-positive production and supply chain resilience to sustainable consumption and inclusive governance — to minimise trade-offs and maximise co-benefits of policies for climate, biodiversity, and food security. Piecemeal interventions risk locking in fragile systems exposed to the kind of cascading shocks demonstrated by the 2026 Strait of Hormuz disruption.
- ❑ **Scale up targeted finance and incentives for transformation.** Increase climate and nature finance for agrifood systems – especially for farmers and vulnerable countries – while mobilising private sector investment, and ensuring technology and solutions are accessible, affordable, and locally appropriate.
- ❑ **Equity and inclusion must become targeted and actionable.** 73% of NDCs 3.0 mention Indigenous Peoples and local communities (up from 45%), and 57% mention smallholders. But most NDCs do not specify concrete roles, decision-making authority, or dedicated financing for these groups. A just agrifood transformation requires that smallholders, women, youth, and Indigenous communities are not merely named as beneficiaries of policies but empowered as architects of climate solutions.
- ❑ **NDCs must align with national biodiversity strategies and adaptation plans.** Many NDCs 3.0 still operate in siloes from National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Adaptation Plans, missing major opportunities for coherence and co-benefits. Governments must invest in integrated monitoring frameworks, cross-ministerial coordination, and accessible data systems to track agrifood targets, enable adaptive management, and ensure accountability for both climate and nature commitments.



CONTEXT

The world's fragile agrifood system is increasingly exposed to cascading shocks. Recent disruptions such as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz highlight how deeply agrifood systems depend on interconnected energy, fertiliser, and trade flows.¹ Rising input costs, disrupted supply chains, and volatility in global food prices are already placing significant strain on vulnerable populations, particularly in developing regions dependent on imported inputs.²

These pressures compound existing structural vulnerabilities, including climate shocks, debt burdens, conflict, and limited fiscal capacity.³ The onset of the El Niño weather phenomenon this year is likely to further exacerbate food insecurity due to increased and more extreme droughts and disrupted rainfall patterns.⁴ This convergence of crises underscores the systemic fragility of global agrifood systems and their inability to reliably ensure food security within planetary boundaries. As a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and simultaneously highly vulnerable to climate impacts, agrifood systems sit at the centre of both the problem and the solution.⁵

A holistic approach to climate action in agrifood systems is therefore more urgent and essential than ever. Such an approach is a key pillar towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, yet it requires comprehensive, evidence-based policy action to ensure that agrifood systems are nature-positive, equitable, and resilient. Now is the time for policymakers to act with high ambition and urgency towards strengthening their agrifood systems with all governance instruments at their disposal.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – the plans that each Party to the Paris Agreement puts forward to mitigate national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and strengthen climate change adaptation – are the key governance instrument at the heart of the agreement's bottom-up approach.^a A Party's process of updating its individual NDC serves as a unique opportunity to perform a comprehensive review of national policy priorities, enabling Parties to determine pathways towards holistic agrifood system transformation that is in line with domestic mitigation and adaptation goals while enhancing food security and sovereignty.

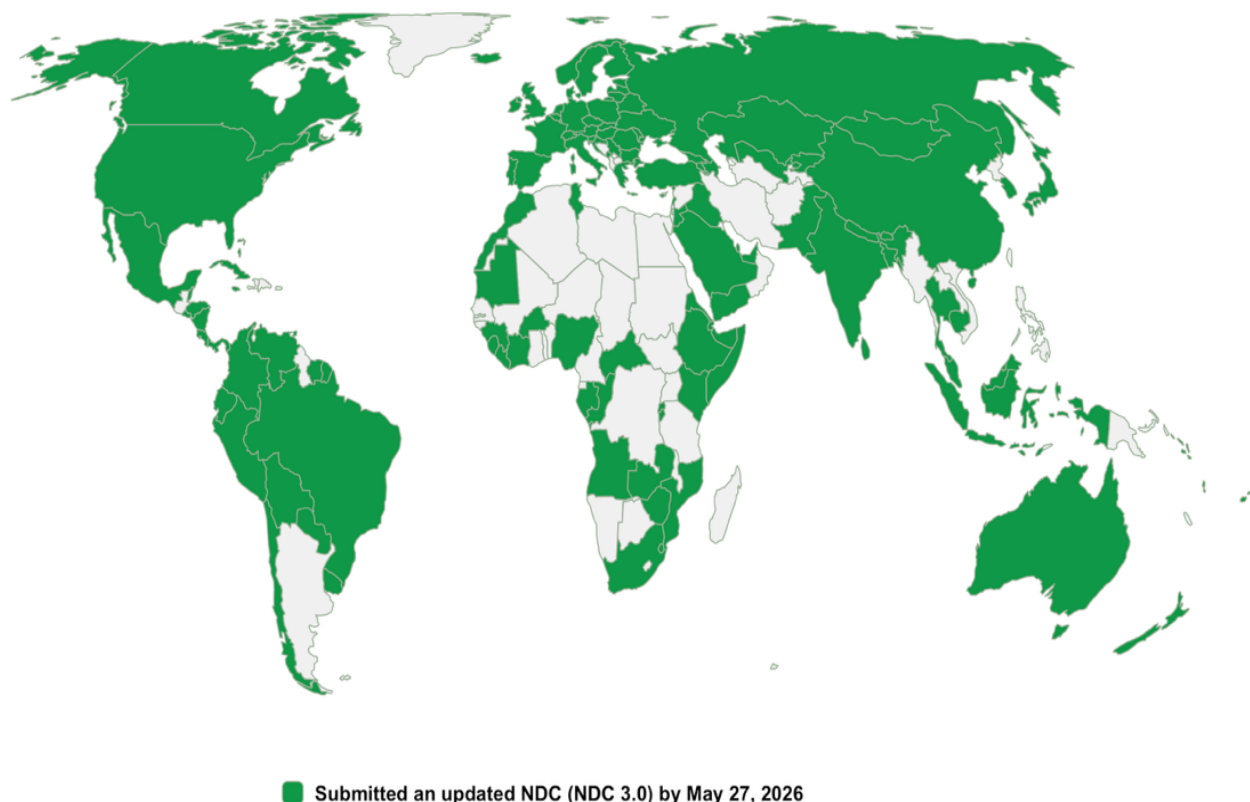
In this context, the Food Forward NDCs initiative was launched to support governments and other stakeholders with increasing the ambition regarding agrifood systems in the NDC process by highlighting progress, promoting best practices, identifying challenges, and highlighting synergistic policy options and tools for their implementation. This brief focuses on the integration of agrifood

^a Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement obliges each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve.

system ambition and actions in the latest round of NDCs – so-called NDCs 3.0 – and how this has changed since the previous NDCs.

As of May 27, 2026, 143 Parties (including EU27) have submitted a new updated NDC (NDC 3.0) (see Figure 1); this includes 136 Parties that had submitted NDCs in previous years as well as seven Parties that had previously submitted only an INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution).^b

Figure 1. Countries that submitted an updated NDC (NDC 3.0) as of May 27, 2026



In the following sections, we review the previous NDCs and NDCs 3.0 of these 143 Parties, i.e. a total of 116 previous NDCs and 116 NDCs 3.0.^c The NDCs were reviewed to determine to what extent agrifood systems measures are incorporated in these climate plans. The review followed an updated version of the methodology used in the [initial review in 2022](#); it has been updated to include considerations for soil health, methane reduction from livestock production, and reduced animal protein in diets, among other things.

^b These are Djibouti, Liechtenstein, Niue, Palau, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Yemen. These parties had submitted Intended NDCs, which have been considered as previous NDCs in our analysis.

^c The total number of Parties that have submitted their NDC 3.0 includes the European Union (EU) with all its 27 Member States. Since the EU's NDC 3.0 was submitted on behalf of its Member States, the total number of NDCs is lower than the number of Parties with NDCs 3.0.

OVERVIEW OF TRENDS

Among the 116 NDCs 3.0 analysed, there is a high level of recognition of agrifood systems in Parties' climate plans. 97% of NDCs 3.0 include measures or targets related to agrifood systems. They have more agrifood systems measures compared to previous submissions.

Integration of agrifood systems measures in NDCs 3.0 and previous NDCs

INCLUSION OF	WITHIN 116 PREVIOUS NDCS		WITHIN 116 NDCS 3.0
Production measures			
Sustainable agriculture	97 (84%)	+2 ⇒	99 (85%)
Sustainable livestock	67 (58%)	+14 ⇒	81 (70%)
Soil health	57 (49%)	+16 ⇒	73 (63%)
Sustainable aquaculture	43 (37%)	+22 ⇒	65 (56%)
Climate-smart food production	56 (48%)	+8 ⇒	64 (55%)
Agroforestry	53 (46%)	+6 ⇒	59 (51%)
Agroecology	19 (16%)	+8 ⇒	27 (23%)
Ecosystems			
Forests	108 (93%)	-8 ⇒	100 (86%)
Marine and coastal	73 (63%)	+5 ⇒	78 (67%)
Wetlands, swamps	65 (56%)	+7 ⇒	72 (62%)
Grasslands and savannas	25 (22%)	+5 ⇒	31 (27%)
Supply chain measures			
Post-harvest food storage, processing and transport	29 (25%)	+24 ⇒	53 (46%)
Circular economy	41 (35%)	+4 ⇒	45 (39%)
Address food loss and waste	17 (15%)	+16 ⇒	33 (28%)
Consumption measures			
Food security and resilience	76 (66%)	+21 ⇒	97 (84%)
Sustainable healthy diets	7 (6%)	+23 ⇒	30 (26%)
Nutrition	7 (6%)	+16 ⇒	23 (20%)

Legend

- ⇒ Improvement in inclusion in NDCs 3.0 compared to previous submissions
- ⇒ Decline in inclusion in NDCs 3.0 compared to previous submissions
- >50% inclusion among assessed NDCs 3.0, regardless of trend
- <50% inclusion among assessed NDCs 3.0, regardless of trend

Examples of integration of agrifood systems measures in NDCs 3.0

AGROECOLOGY

Suriname aims to promote agroecological practices such as diversified crop production using drought- and salt-tolerant varieties, sustainable soil and water management (e.g. contour farming, composting, irrigation efficiency), reduced use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and integrating agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems for enhanced productivity and resilience. The government will also integrate agroecology in its just transition strategy for the coming decade. Under the pillar of green employment and skill development, it aims to scale-up national investment in training centres and curricula for agroecology, alongside renewable energy, circular economy, and eco-tourism.

FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

As part of its mitigation strategy, **Mexico** aims to reduce food loss, waste, and shrinkage throughout the supply chain, while also promoting behavioural changes that reduce waste generation and food waste. The country will develop a strategy to prevent and reduce food loss, waste, and shrinkage, including by promoting food collection and distribution through food banks. It will also strengthen collaboration between the private sector and all levels of government to reduce per capita solid waste generation, including through awareness and education campaigns.

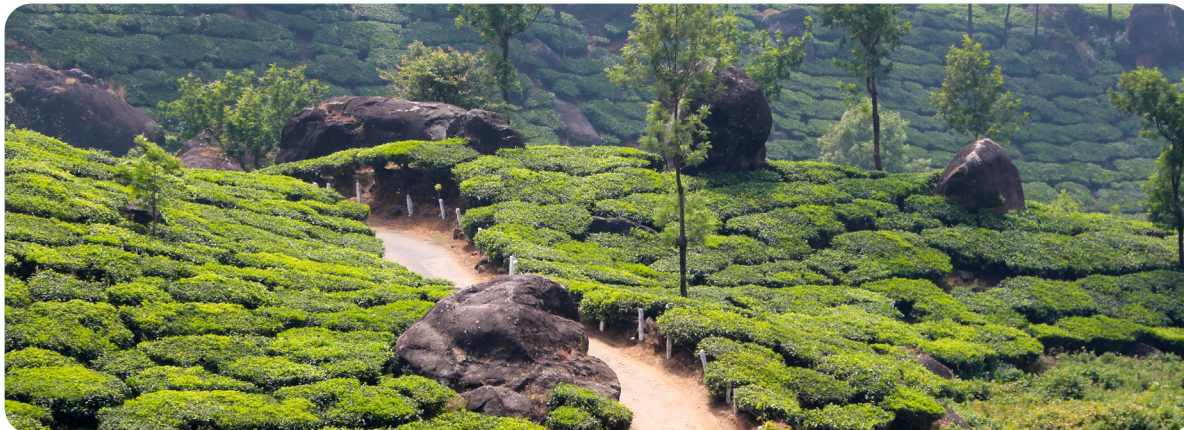
EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS IN FOOD SYSTEMS GOVERNANCE

Costa Rica aims to empower youth climate leadership through capacity building, engaging participation spaces, and financing mechanisms to enable them to design and implement joint mitigation and adaptation solutions in their territories. This will integrate gender, intersectionality, and intergenerational justice approaches to ensure the active inclusion of rural, indigenous, Afro-descendant, disabled, and LGBTIQ+ youth.

The country is promoting comprehensive climate change education that covers the formal, non-formal, and informal aspects of the education system and extends to local communities and sectoral institutions. It will introduce the concept of responsible management of resources such as food, ensuring cultural relevance and an intersectional gender approach, to equip people with the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for effective and sustained climate action.

SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY DIETS

Vanuatu commits to strengthen resilience in agriculture, through ensuring all people in Vanuatu have a nutritionally balanced diet from locally grown foods, including with a focus on traditional practices. The NDC also focuses on improving the availability and affordability of locally produced, healthy, and sustainable food options to replace imported, unhealthy, ultra-processed foods high in fats, sugars, and salt. The plan also mentions improving connectivity between island-based rural, peri-urban, and urban farmers and consumers, and a range of integrated interventions (e.g., new and improved feeder roads, enhanced market infrastructure, food storage and preservation technologies to provide consumers a greater diversity of nutritious locally grown foods).

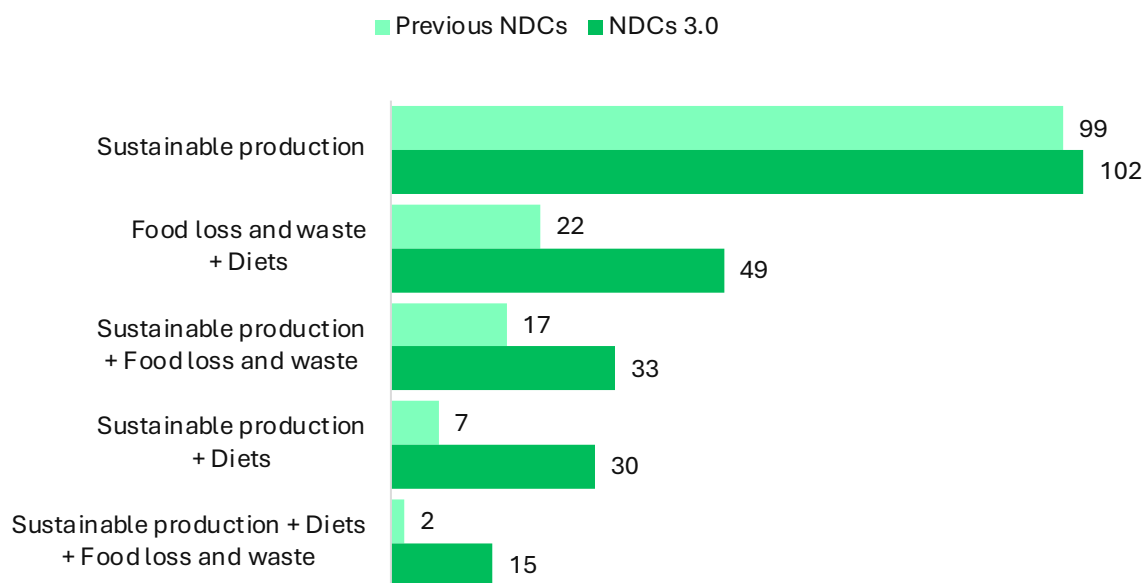


FINDINGS

Overall, most NDCs 3.0 (113, or 97%) include targets and measures related to agrifood systems—maintaining the high level seen in previous NDCs (108, or 93%) and reflecting strong recognition of their importance in climate planning.

NDCs 3.0 are more comprehensive than previous NDCs when it comes to integrating measures related to various components of agrifood systems – from food production to post-harvest transportation, processing and storage, to consumption and disposal (see Figure 2). Integrating multiple measures to address all parts of agrifood systems helps minimise policy trade-offs and can yield multiple positive outcomes for people, climate, and the planet.

Figure 2. Integration of different measures in NDCs 3.0. Total: 116 Previous NDCs, 116 NDCs 3.0



Policy measures and actions related to agrifood systems in NDCs include specific actions, practices, strategies, or regulations aimed at mitigation or building agrifood systems resilience that fall into four categories: nature-positive food production, reducing food loss and waste, shifting to sustainable and healthy diets, and inclusive food governance interventions.

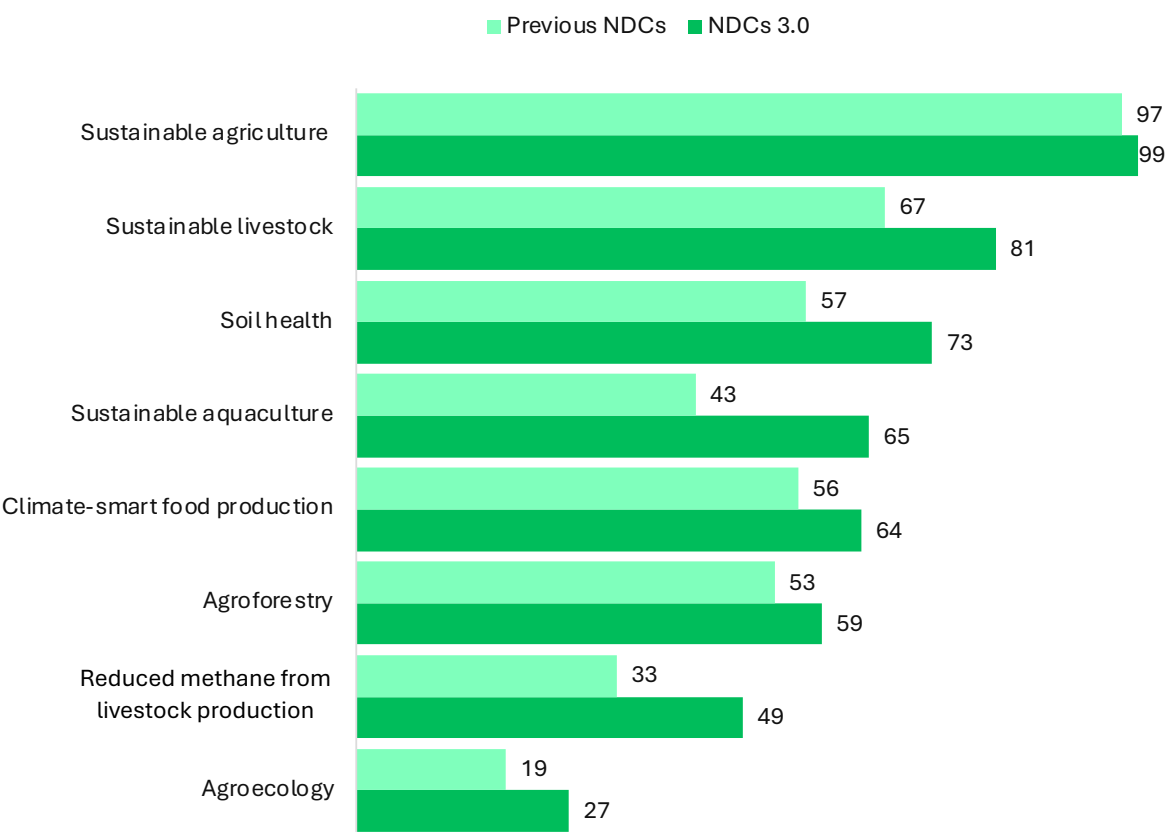
NATURE-POSITIVE FOOD PRODUCTION

Nature-positive food production systems advance the protection and restoration of nature by relying on agroecological principles and practices that enhance the richness and abundance of biodiversity in land and water and rehabilitate the functions of degraded natural systems to deliver a climate-positive future in which people and nature can thrive.^{6,7,8} Practices including organic farming, agroforestry, and regenerative farming have gained prominence as approaches to protect, manage, and restore nature, as well as to reduce emissions, while providing healthy food and securing the livelihoods of the people that produce it.⁹

102 NDCs 3.0 (88%) include at least one measure related to nature-positive food production, similar to previous NDCs (99 or 85%).

The inclusion of all assessed nature-positive food production measures improved in NDCs 3.0 compared to previous NDCs (see Figure 3). However, overall, interconnected approaches like agroecology and agroforestry remain the least represented. Mostly developing countries such as Bangladesh, Bolivia, Colombia, or Cambodia have included agroecology explicitly.

Figure 3. Inclusion of nature-positive agrifood systems measures in NDCs 3.0 vs. previous submissions. Total: 116 Previous NDCs, 116 NDCs 3.0

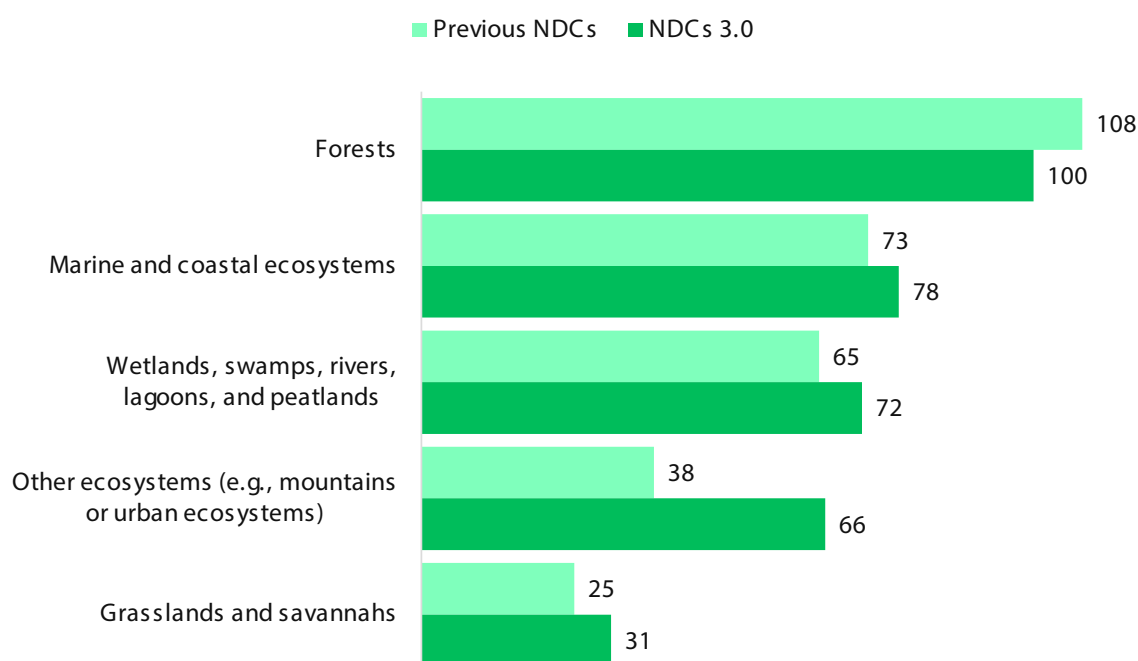


Forests are the most prominent ecosystems considered in NDCs 3.0 with 100 NDCs 3.0 (86%) mentioning them, though an even greater share of previous NDCs considers forests (93% or 108).

In addition to specific food production practices, measures to protect, manage, and restore key ecosystems like forests, grasslands, mangroves or wetlands are crucial to ensure food production within ecological limits and build climate resilience. Countries must significantly increase the area of natural ecosystems under protection and sustainable management to address the climate and biodiversity challenges. Food systems account for 90% of tropical deforestation and are the primary driver of biodiversity loss.^{10,11} Protection of areas most at risk of conversion around the world would provide emissions savings of about 1 GtCO₂e per year by 2030.¹² However, this must be based on fair and equitable approaches in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who are stewards of most of these ecosystems.

The inclusion of other key ecosystems such as wetlands, grasslands, and marine ecosystems has increased in NDCs 3.0 (see Figure 4). Positively, countries like Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Vanuatu or Zambia – where agrifood systems depend on multiple natural ecosystems – include considerations for each of these in their NDCs 3.0. On the contrary, countries like Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, Peru or South Africa – which are home to biodiversity-rich forests, wetlands, grasslands, mangroves, rivers, and other ecosystems – include only one or two ecosystems in their NDCs 3.0.

Figure 4. Inclusion of different ecosystems in NDCs 3.0 vs. previous submissions. Total: 116 Previous NDCs, 116 NDCs 3.0



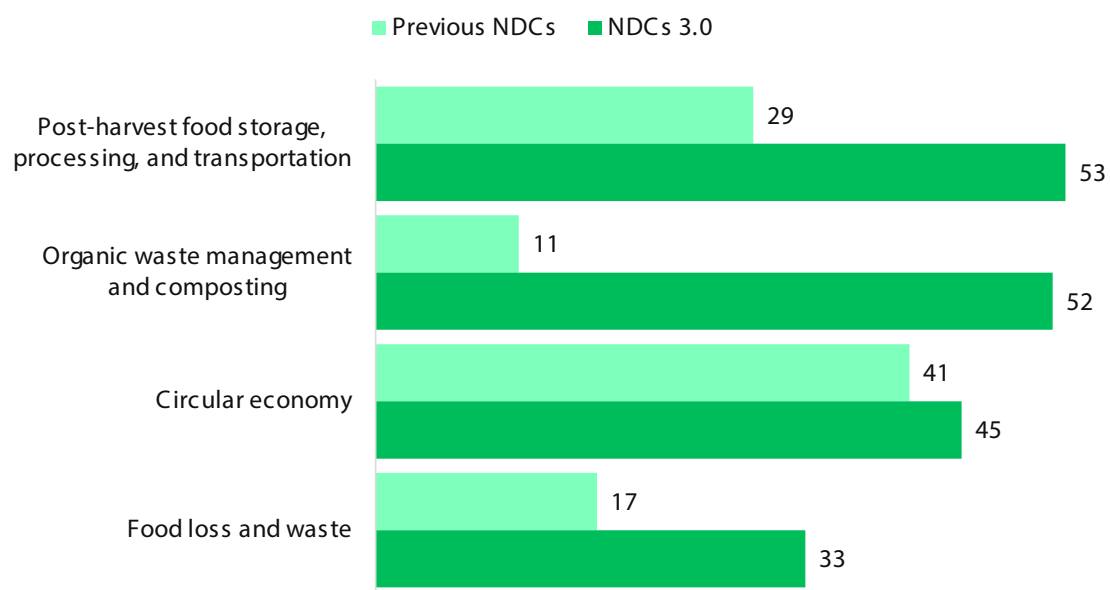
SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SUPPLY CHAINS TO REDUCE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

In 2023, it was estimated that around 13.3% of food harvested globally was lost at post-harvest stages (through the farm, transport, storage, wholesale and processing value chain stages).¹³ And according to 2024 UNEP statistics, 19% more is wasted at the retail, food service and household levels.¹⁴ Food loss and waste not only result in greenhouse gas emissions, but also drive the degradation of land, water, and soil – all of which are critical to food production.¹⁵ Hence, managing food supply chains to reduce food loss and waste has significant impacts on biodiversity and climate. Food supply chains can be improved to reduce food loss and waste, reducing pressure on resources by reducing demand.¹⁶

53 NDCs 3.0 (46%) consider post-harvest food measures that can reduce food loss and waste, compared to 29 previous NDCs (25%).

Measures like improving supply chain technologies, composting, and broader circular approaches in food systems that can help to address food loss and waste are increasingly considered in NDCs (see Figure 5). However, only 33 NDCs 3.0 (28%) include explicit measures to prevent or reduce food loss and waste which is a significant improvement compared to previous NDCs.

Figure 5. Supply chain measures in NDCs. Total: 116 Previous NDCs, 116 NDCs 3.0



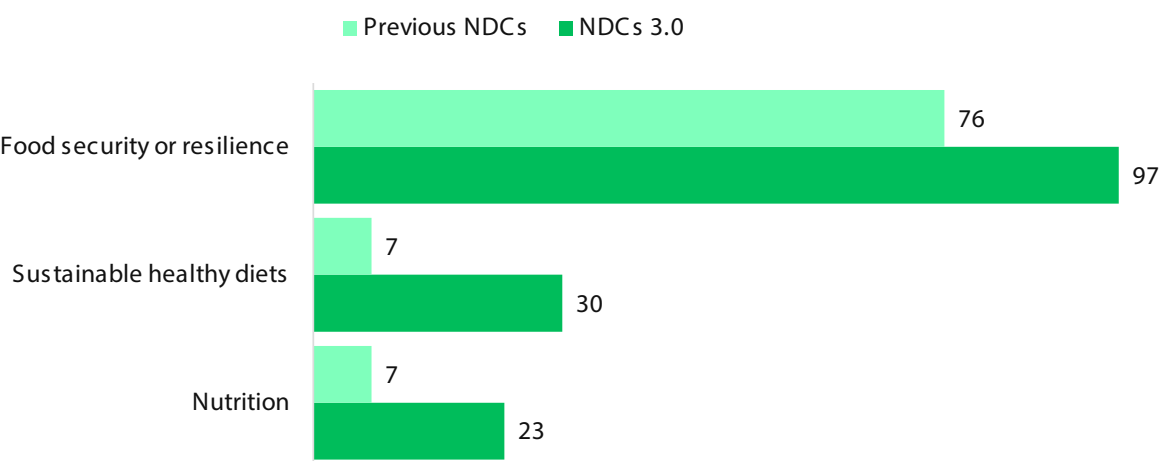
FOOD CONSUMPTION

A successful transformation of agrifood systems for climate and nature relies on a shift toward sustainable consumption and healthy diets produced within planetary boundaries, while respecting local food contexts. This requires that diets are overall protective of ecosystems; culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair, and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe, and healthy; and optimally using natural and human resources.¹⁷ And as climate variability intensifies, building the resilience of agrifood systems in order to enhance access to affordable, nutritious food options for all is only becoming more critical.¹⁸

The inclusion of sustainable consumption and diet-related measures has significantly increased in NDCs 3.0, with 30 submissions (26%) incorporating such measures compared to just 7 (6%) previous NDCs.

Measures to promote shifts toward more sustainable food consumption are often tied to plans for making food production more sustainable and resilient. Most NDCs 3.0 that include such measures are from developing countries and focus on building dietary diversity and enhancing access to adequate food and nutrition, with 23 NDCs 3.0 (20%) explicitly including nutrition as a targeted outcome of planned activities (see Figure 6). Only two developed countries – the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates – include dietary measures. While it is positive that developing countries are increasingly integrating dietary and nutrition-related measures, developed countries – where unsustainable and healthy diets are key drivers of global environmental degradation and climate change – must also follow suit.¹⁹ Similar to previous NDCs, none of the NDC 3.0s have addressed reducing or modifying the share of animal protein from diets.

Figure 6. Food consumption measures in NDCs 3.0 compared to previous NDCs. Total: 116 Previous NDCs, 116 NDCs 3.0



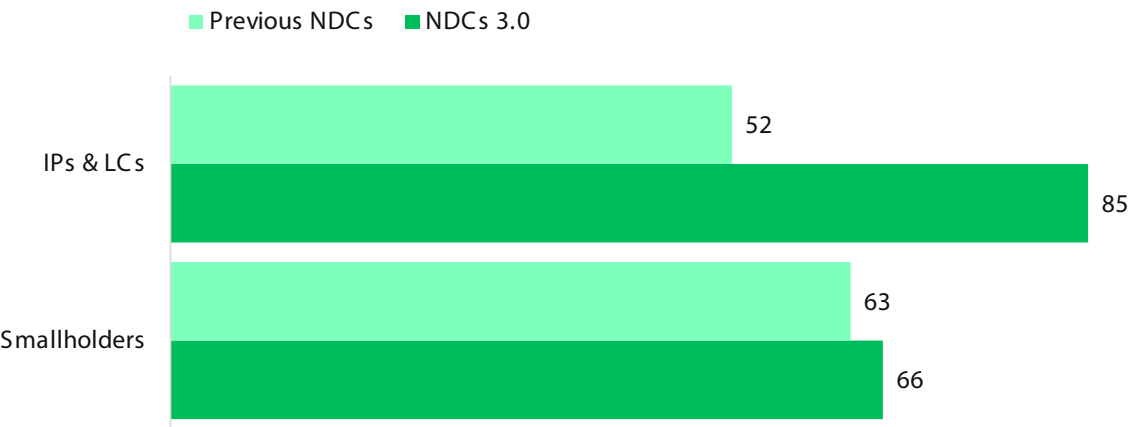
EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS GOVERNANCE

Agrifood systems measures need to be inclusive and collaborative, where all stakeholders are involved in designing and implementing relevant interventions. This can encourage a more holistic understanding of agriculture – not only as a system for producing food, but also for promoting soil health, biodiversity, clean water, nature-positive landscape management, and sustainable livelihoods. Marginalised groups like Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, and small-scale farmers who are at the forefront of food systems transformation play a critical role in climate efforts in developing countries. The inclusion of smallholders and their organisations in the creation and implementation of climate strategies is key to ensuring they reflect the real-world challenges facing the food and agriculture sector, and the solutions for building resilience and food sovereignty.²⁰

85 NDCs 3.0 (73%) explicitly mention Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities compared to 52 previous NDCs (45%). 66 NDCs 3.0 (57%) mention smallholders, slightly more than previous NDCs (54%).

While these trends are positive overall, there is still room for improvement, both in terms of the number of NDCs 3.0 that explicitly mention Indigenous Peoples and local communities and smallholders at all, as well as the degree to which NDCs specifically recognise the crucial role these groups play in facilitating a sustainable transformation of agrifood systems. Although most NDCs 3.0 mention Indigenous Peoples, local communities or smallholders (Figure 7), many do not include concrete measures to recognise the role of them in food systems transformation.

Figure 7. Equity considerations for food system measures in NDCs. Total: 116 Previous NDCs, 116 NDCs 3.0



RECOMMENDATIONS

A just and equitable agrifood systems transformation as part of the global climate agenda requires collective efforts at global and national levels:

1. Focus on equity and resilience in agrifood systems:

- ❑ A transformative agrifood systems approach to climate action must be inclusive, collaborative, based on equity and justice, and involve all stakeholders in designing and implementing relevant interventions. It must be based on equity and the right to food that can foster nature-positive production and healthy and nutritious diets.
- ❑ Geopolitical disruptions can translate into food production crises with alarming speed, as shown through the 2026 closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which drastically altered the flow of internationally traded fertilizers within weeks, forcing farmers into impossible choices. Governments must develop mechanisms to support farmers through such acute shocks, such as emergency subsidies or vouchers for fertilizer access or technical assistance on fertilizer-use efficiency and substitution (such as compost, green manures, and biological inputs).
- ❑ International efforts must ensure that climate measures do not exacerbate inequalities in agrifood systems or undermine food security and sovereignty. Climate-vulnerable countries often face overlapping pressures such as poverty, high debt, and exposure to geopolitical shocks (e.g. fertiliser and energy disruptions) combined with climate events such as El Niño which creates cascading risks that they are least equipped to absorb. Policies must therefore fully address the needs of vulnerable countries, including through financing that avoid increasing debt burdens.
- ❑ In medium and long-term, governments should reduce exposure to global supply disruptions by strengthening domestic and regional agrifood supply chains. This includes diversifying input sources, investing in local production of key inputs and foods, and improving storage, transport, and market infrastructure. Strengthening resilience across supply chains including through circular approaches and reduced dependence on imported inputs can help mitigate the impact of geopolitical shocks, stabilise food production, and ensure reliable access to nutritious food.

2. Take an agrifood systems approach to climate policymaking and implementation:

- ❑ Governments should integrate nature-positive production practices grounded in agroecological principles into NDCs to enhance carbon storage, restore biodiversity, and strengthen resilience to climate and economic shocks. Implementation should prioritise bottom-up, equity-based approaches led by smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, investing in locally managed agrifood systems that build local capacity, ownership, and long-term resilience. These can be supported by measures to reduce food loss and waste and scaling circular approaches such as composting and organic nutrient management that cut emissions and reduce dependence on imported inputs exposed to geopolitical disruptions such as the ongoing energy and fertiliser crisis. These supply-side measures should be complemented by a transition towards sustainable and nutritious diets, which reinforce resilient production systems while delivering climate, biodiversity, and health benefits.
- ❑ Governments should improve data systems and monitoring frameworks to track progress on agrifood systems targets within NDCs. Strengthening data collection, transparency, and analysis across production, supply chains, and consumption can support evidence-based policymaking, enable adaptive implementation, and ensure accountability. Investments in accessible data platforms, early warning systems, and integrated monitoring tools are

essential to identify risks, inform timely action, and maximise climate, biodiversity, and food security outcomes.

- Governments should strengthen institutional capacity and governance frameworks to effectively design, coordinate, and implement agrifood systems policy measures within NDCs. This includes strengthening cross-ministerial coordination, clarifying roles and responsibilities across governance levels, and investing in technical and administrative capacities. Robust institutions and inclusive governance mechanisms are essential to ensure coherent policy implementation, support stakeholder participation, and deliver sustained climate, biodiversity, and food security outcomes.
- Governments should align NDCs with other national frameworks including National Adaptation Plans, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to ensure coherent and mutually reinforcing policy implementation. Integrating agrifood systems across sectors such as energy, trade, health, and infrastructure can reduce trade-offs, address systemic risks, and maximise co-benefits for climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and food security. Strengthened coordination across ministries and governance levels is essential to support effective and consistent implementation.

3. Make incentive structures and climate financing fit for purpose:

- Despite the accelerating climate impacts on agrifood systems around the world, finance for climate action in agrifood systems remains vastly insufficient. Developed countries must not only deliver on their current financial commitments for climate but also ramp up finance beyond those existing commitments. Specifically, climate and nature finance pledges and agreements should explicitly include dedicated finance for farmers and local communities and be fulfilled in a timely manner. Supporting the livelihoods of farmers, fishers, and aquaculture workers ensures income stability, enabling continued access to food despite economic and climate-related challenges.
- Donors and investors can support governments through technology transfer and exchange, sharing existing tools and technologies for sustainable and resilient practices – from early warning systems to soil and food system pest and disease surveillance. Where new technology is found to be beneficial to communities, they must ensure that it is also affordable and accessible.
- Governments should actively engage private sector actors across agrifood system including producers, processors, retailers, and investors to drive the transition towards sustainable, resilient, and nutritious food systems. This includes aligning market incentives, standards, and procurement policies to support nature-positive production, reduce food loss and waste, and promote sustainable consumption. Clear policy signals including in NDCs, risk-sharing mechanisms, and blended finance approaches can help mobilise private investment and scale implementation while ensuring that business practices contribute to climate, biodiversity, and food security goals and targets.

The [Food Forward NDCs & NBSAPs](#) tool provides comprehensive guidance and tools for 37 policy options in the above areas that can support agrifood systems transformation and progress towards global climate and biodiversity goals.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2026). Strait of Hormuz: Time running out to avert global food security crisis, FAO warns. <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/strait-of-hormuz--time-running-out-to-avert-global-food-security-crisis--fao-warns/en>.
- ² FAO (2026). FAO Food Price Index. <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en>.
- ³ FAO (2026). Strait of Hormuz: Time running out to avert global food security crisis, FAO warns. <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/strait-of-hormuz--time-running-out-to-avert-global-food-security-crisis--fao-warns/en>.
- ⁴ EU Joint Research Center (2026). Raising energy and fertilizer prices and upcoming El Niño main concerns to farming. https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/raising-energy-and-fertilizer-prices-and-upcoming-el-nino-main-concerns-farming-2026-04-02_en.
- ⁵ Crippa, M., Solazzo, E., Guizzardi, D. et al. (2021). Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. *Nat Food* 2, 198–209. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-021-00225-9>
- ⁶ Bruil, J., van den Berg, L., Doornbos, S. & Oerlemans, N. (2021). Farming with Biodiversity – Towards Nature-Positive Production at Scale. https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/food_practice/sustainable_production/farming_with_biodiversity/
- ⁷ Rockström, J., Edenhofer, O., Gaertner, J. & DeClerck, F. (2020). Planet-proofing the global food system. *Nat Food* 1, 3–5. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-019-0010-4>
- ⁸ DeClerck, F. A., Koziell, I., Sidhu, A., Wirths, J., Benton, T., Garibaldi, L. A.,... & Winowiecki, L. (2021). Biodiversity and agriculture: rapid evidence review. <https://doi.org/10.5337/2021.215>
- ⁹ Bruil, J., van den Berg, L., Doornbos, S. & Oerlemans, N. (2021). Farming with Biodiversity – Towards Nature-Positive Production at Scale. https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/food_practice/sustainable_production/farming_with_biodiversity/
- ¹⁰ Pendrill, F., Gardner, T. A., Meyfroidt, P., Persson, U. M., Adams, J., Azevedo, T., et al. (2022). Disentangling the numbers behind agriculture-driven tropical deforestation. *Science*, 377(6611), eabm9267. <https://www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1126/science.abm9267>.
- ¹¹ Benton, T. G., Bieg, C., Harwatt, H., Pudasaini, R., & Wellesley, L. (2021). Food system impacts on biodiversity loss. Three levers for food system transformation in support of nature. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/02/food-system-im-pacts-biodiversity-loss>
- ¹² Conservation International. (2022). Exponential Road Map for Natural Climate Solutions. <https://cicloud.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/default-source/s3-library/publication-pdfs/exponential-roadmap-for-natural-climate-solutions.pdf>
- ¹³ FAO. (n.d.). Indicator 12.3.1 – Global Food Loss and Waste. SDG Indicators Data Portal. <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/indicators/1231-global-food-losses/en>
- ¹⁴ United Nations Environment Programme (2024). Food Waste Index Report 2024. Think Eat Save: Tracking Progress to Halve Global Food Waste. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/45230>
- ¹⁵ Benton, T. G., Bieg, C., Harwatt, H., Pudasaini, R., & Wellesley, L. (2021). Food system impacts on biodiversity loss. Three levers for food system transformation in support of nature. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/02/food-system-im-pacts-biodiversity-loss>
- ¹⁶ High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). (2017). Nutrition and food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i7846e>
- ¹⁷ High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). (2017). Nutrition and food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i7846e>
- ¹⁸ López Noriega, I. L., Dawson, I. K., Vernooy, R., Köhler-Rollefson, I., & Halewood, M. (2017). Agricultural diversification as an adaptation strategy. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/81378>
- ¹⁹ Springmann, M., Clark, M., Mason-D'Croz, D. et al. (2018). Options for keeping the food system within environmental limits. *Nature* 562, 519–525. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0594-0>
- ²⁰ Family Farmers for Climate Action (2025). Feeding the world in a changing climate. <https://climatefocus.com/publications/feeding-the-world-in-a-changing-climate/>