

EIG Submission on the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security

According to Decision FCCC/SB/2024/L.2 an in-session Workshop on the following topic will be organized for SB 62 in June 2025: ***systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security, understanding, cooperation and integration into plans.***

The EIG is pleased to share its views on the subject of that workshop, options for its format and suggested speakers, in response to the call for submissions from Decision FCCC/SB/2024/L.2, para. 7.

Format and Structure of the Workshop

The EIG suggest structuring the workshop in **three blocks**:

1. Creating a common **understanding** of food systems and its relevance for climate action in agriculture and food security
2. Examples and best practices of **cooperation** on systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security
3. Examples from different regions of the world demonstrating of how systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security can be integrated into policy **plans**.

The EIG also proposes that **each block be divided into two parts**:

In the first part, several invited speakers will share their findings and experiences.

The second part will be dedicated to coordination. Workshop participants and speakers will discuss in an interactive format the main question: what does the content presented mean for the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security? For the second part, we suggest a format which allows discussions to take place in smaller groups such as a World Café, break out groups or similar.

Suggested goals, content and speakers for the Workshop

1. Creating a common understanding of food systems and its relevance for climate action in agriculture and food security

- The goal of this workshop block should be to create a common understanding of the benefits and challenges of adopting systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food and nutrition security.
- When discussing a food systems approach, it is important to emphasize the interconnectedness of all the elements that intervene in food systems and to take an integrative view.
- Shifting the perspective from a sectoral viewpoint on agriculture to a food systems perspective brings different climate solutions and policy options into play. While sustainable agricultural practices remain important, additional levers become relevant. These include healthy diets through sustainable food systems, agro-ecological and other innovative approaches, reducing feed-food competition (the tensions and trade-offs between using edible crops and other resources to either feed people directly or feed livestock), the role of food processing and distribution, reducing of food loss and waste along the entire

value chain and sustainable and inclusive public and private procurement. Policy options should focus on promoting the transformation of food systems to meet the 1.5-degree objective of the Paris Agreement as well as policies for adaptation. This includes policies that ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns as well as sustainable and inclusive markets. A holistic food systems perspective highlights that all actors along the value chain have important options for climate action and can significantly contribute to creating more climate friendly and resilient food systems. Furthermore, a food systems perspective highlights the importance of coordinated action to achieve the full impact of mitigation and adaptation options, including those in agricultural production.

- Adopting a food systems perspective is not only crucial for identifying relevant levers for climate action, but also for strengthening food security and nutrition. The report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security stated that there is an urgent need to broaden our understanding of food security and to adopt a food systems analytical and policy framework. The report defined six dimensions of food security: Utilization, Availability, Access, Sustainability (long term), Stability (short term) and Agency. Achieving SDG 2 and all other SDGs in an integrated manner requires a food systems transformation that addresses all dimensions of food security and nutrition.
- We recommend Maximo Torrero, Chief Economist at FAO or another senior FAO leader as a speaker for this workshop block. Based on the *FAO Global Roadmap for Achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5°C threshold* he could present the relevance of adopting a food systems perspective to the implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security, including policy options.
- Other possible Speakers: Jennifer Clapp
- As a specific solution that only comes into play when we look at food systems, we suggest taking a deep dive into the example of reducing food loss and waste. Food loss and waste accounts for 8-10% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions - almost five times the total emissions from the aviation sector - and contributes to significant biodiversity loss, using up almost a third of the world's agricultural land. We recommend Dr Liz Goodall from the World Resource Institute to speak on this topic.

2. Examples and best practices of cooperation on systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security

- According to the IPCC, transforming food systems towards sustainability is essential to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees. This is a complex challenge that requires addressing interrelated issues across economic, social and environmental dimensions. Meeting these challenges requires constructive relationships and cooperation between policy makers, farmers, business, civil society and research institutions. The United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme have jointly produced a guide to improving multi-stakeholder collaboration for sustainable food system transformation, entitled *Rethinking our food systems: A guide to multi-stakeholder collaboration*¹. The EIG proposes to invite the authors of this guide to present and discuss their findings. The presentation should be based on concrete experiences and case studies, e.g. from the report "National and Sub-

¹ <https://www.undp.org/publications/rethinking-our-food-systems-guide-multi-stakeholder-collaboration>

national Food Systems Multi-Stakeholder Mechanisms: An Assessment of Experiences ².

- The Convergence Initiative of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub could also be presented in this workshop block. Launched by the UN Deputy Secretary-General at COP28, it drives the integration of food systems transformation and climate action for accelerated sustainable development. It bridges the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Accelerated Food Systems Transformation³ (UNFSS+2) and the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action⁴.

3. Examples from different regions of the world demonstrating of how systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security can be integrated into policy plans.

- To enable the transition to sustainable food systems, it is important to define concrete steps in national policy plans. At COP 28, 159 countries signed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action, committing to integrate food systems into relevant national policy plans. For this workshop block, the EIG proposes to present a set of national policy plans from different regions that integrate a food systems perspective to accelerate climate action and strengthen food security and nutrition.
- Switzerland would be pleased to present its Climate Strategy for Agriculture and Food, published in September 2023. The strategy takes a food systems approach, including production, processing, trade and consumption, and was developed by three federal offices. In this strategy, Switzerland defines 3 goals for 2050: a 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from Swiss agriculture (compared to 1990), a reduction of the climate footprint of food by two thirds (compared to 2020), while maintaining a food self-sufficiency rate of at least 50%. The biggest reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the food system will come from changes in consumption and production patterns. The action plan that accompanies the strategy contains a wide range of measures that will need to be adapted over time. Key elements of the action plan include reducing food loss and waste and promoting climate-friendly consumption patterns. Arable land should only be used to produce food for direct human consumption. Animals are fed mainly on grass from natural, non-arable grassland and on inedible losses and waste from food production. As a speaker we suggest Alwin Kopše, head of the international affairs and food systems unit at the Federal Office for Agriculture (Alwin.kopse@blw.admin.ch).
- This workshop block could also include the Food Forward NDCs tool⁵, developed by WWF and Climate Focus in partnership with an advisory group of technical experts. The interactive tool aims to help countries integrate sustainable food system policies into national climate plans. It provides evidence-based policy options and actions for transitioning to sustainable food systems.

² <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-food-systems/multi-stakeholder-mechanisms>

³ <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/documentation/un-secretary-general-call-to-action/en>

⁴ <https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-agriculture>

⁵ <https://foodforwardndcs.panda.org/>