



## UNFCCC COP 25

### Outcome Document

### Agri-food chains Roundtable

# Advancing Climate Actions on Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Food Chains for a 1.5° C Net Zero World

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

**Leads:** FAO, A2R and Global Resilience Partnership

**Supporting Organisations:** Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA), Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), CGIAR Climate Change and Food Security Research Programme (CCAFS), Earth Security Group, EAT Forum, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), Huairou Commission, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, iDE, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRRR), Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and World Bank.

## Advancing Climate Actions on Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Food Chains for a 1.5° C Net Zero World

### Summary of outcome document

**Transforming the agri-food system as a priority climate solution** was highlighted by over 100 participants at the Marrakech Partnership Global Climate Action-MPGCA Agrifood Roundtable held on 5 December 2019. A diverse set of 34 speakers from grassroots, indigenous communities, farmers, business leaders, academics, international organizations, and ministers all came to same conclusion: **the current agri-food systems (from farm to table) is making everyone uncomfortable and its time for radical and transformative change.**

Without these transformative changes to build climate resilient future that is inclusive and just – across scales, sectors and geographies – the life supporting services delivered by agri-food systems are no longer tenable nor sustainable.

**But we have the solutions at hand!** Including over 230 solutions and ideas were generated during the event on existing and potential solutions to transform the current agri-food system so that it delivers a resilient, healthy and prosperous future for all. With concerted and convergent action at all levels, the agri-food sectors - a current emitter with potential sequestration of at least 30% of GHG - offer a suite of climate, environmental, social and economic solutions across essential and complementary functions that are central to both the Paris Agreement and the achievement of the SDGs.

The inequalities and power relationships that frequently benefit larger multinational corporations in the agri-food systems must be changed urgently as the main food value chains are commodity focused and affect the resilience of entire landscapes and most vulnerable people.

Building climate resilience and transforming the agri-food systems require systemic efforts with access to knowledge, innovation and finance especially at all levels but especially at community levels. These solutions will entail deep structural changes in political, economic and social systems together with unconventional approaches that re-frame current operational and financial models; and a collective push for action that capitalizes on already existing solutions to drive them to scale. Together, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems can deliver at least 7 benefits:

1. **Thriving food and agriculture sector that is inclusive, productive and profitable**, one that can feed the additional 2 billion people by 2050 sustainably while also offering an attractive and just source of livelihoods (especially for youth) for more than 2.5 billion people, including some 500 million smallholders, who provide 80% of the food supply in developing countries and 50% globally. A sector that elevates diversity over mono-cropping and gives economic viability to local produce by eliminating perverse subsidies and capturing its full value at a fair price to local producers, while also internalizing the critical climate and environmental functions performed.



2. **Sustainable diets and well-nourished populations**, with 820 million people lifted from undernourishment and 680 million people from obesity – avoiding USD 4.5 trillion per year in costs from this double burden. Ensuring access to safe, nutritious and healthy diets can also avert 11 million deaths per year (or 19% to 24% of total deaths among adults) and meet the needs for quality food rich in micro-nutrients across all sectors of societies, especially for those most vulnerable to climate risks from extremes and variability.
3. **Securing the health and wellbeing of youth and future generations as informed and capable change agents** in shifting to healthy and climate friendly diets to be a key source of solution to climate change especially in the city-region continuum. Re-envisioning food labels to match the concerns for health, justice, climate and environmental impacts is the first step in the process. And while shifting culturally embedded food taste and preferences will take time, product innovation, such as plant-based foods, offer real-time solutions to shift consumption preferences to sustainable and climate friendly diets.
4. **Diversified and resilient food and agriculture systems** that anticipate, cope and adapt to the threats and impacts from multiple climate change risks, with the potential to **eliminate 26-80% of climate-related damage and losses** (especially from drought) currently absorbed by the sector.
5. **A whole value chain that acts as a climate change mitigation solution with low carbon and low emissions**. Carbon sequestered into soils and forests has the potential of capturing 30% of GHG. Halting deforestation from food value chains, preventing soil degradation and mainstreaming regenerative food production, are all part of nature-based solutions that deliver tangible GHG mitigation/adaptation/resilience benefits while also preserving biodiversity-rich landscapes that deliver irreplaceable, life supporting services and functions.
6. **Reduced environmental impact through sustainable management of renewable natural resources at ecosystem, species and gene levels**, as part of nature-based solutions, with smallholders as custodians of natural resources. ...reverse ocean and fisheries collapse and increase in biodiversity and ecosystems services for safeguarding key life supporting functions
7. **Eliminated food loss and waste from the current 30% global average** that carries a price tag of \$940 billion per year in economic losses. If emissions from food loss and waste were added up, as a country, it would be third largest emitter after US and China. Getting this number down to zero results in immediate spillover benefits for income generation, food security and climate mitigation. Creative business to business agricultural platforms already exist and connect producers and sellers directly to eliminate food waste at source and provide market opportunities to imperfect and surplus product that would otherwise go to waste. On the consumption and retail side, halving per capita global food waste is another area where innovative platforms and practices already play a key role to climate change solution.



In Conclusion: Urgently transforming the agri-food systems require actions from all, at all levels, bringing inclusive and climate & environmental risk driven innovations, technologies, marketing, finance and sharing of knowledge while also addressing the inequity of powers between multinational corporations and smallholders with focus on the most vulnerable, poor and marginal groups such as youth, women and indigenous people, particularly in LDCs and SIDs.