

# Agriculture Climate Alliance

## A Climate Agenda for Agriculture to 2050 and Beyond

Farmers around the world are at the front line of climate change. We must be proactive and ambitious in our actions to mitigate GHG emissions from agriculture and adapt to climate change. A failure to act risks exacerbating existing food security issues around the world.

Farmers are essential to climate action and have always sought to adapt and mitigate the challenges presented by a varied climate. But farmer's contribution isn't a given. While the risks are great, opportunities exist. Effective policies and the right support will allow farmers to capture the benefit the transition to a low-carbon economy offers.

But to capture the opportunity of the transition to a low-emissions economy, governments must invest in agriculture to innovate and adapt economically, transition justly and recognise the unique role that agriculture plays through both being an emitter, a sequester and a food and fibre provider.

Agriculture is on the frontline of climate impacts but also a critical part of the climate solution. Farmers and agriculture must be front of mind for policy makers when developing effective policies that reduce emissions, increase resilience and underpin global food security. Emissions reduction policies must recognise farmers for the role they play in managing landscapes, and their contribution to food security, and must provide a pathway for a profitable, productive, and sustainable agricultural sector into the future.

The long-term success of agriculture and global food security will depend on farmers' ability to innovate to reduce carbon emissions while increasing food and fibre production and managing future climate risks.

The Agriculture Climate Alliance seeks to ensure agriculture is at the centre of global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. At COP28, the Alliance is calling on governments and civil society to commit to 5 key principles that ensure farmers and agricultures are on a significant downward trajectory for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to food production, in-line with the Paris Agreement.

The Alliance is calling on governments and civil society to:

1. Develop and implement voluntary, market- and incentive-based emissions reduction policies that advance risk, science, and evidence-based outcomes and promote farmer and rural livelihoods.
2. Rapidly increase investment in climate research and development that drives innovation in agriculture and builds resilience in farming systems, assist the transition for developing countries and empowers the next generation of farmers.
3. Support fair distribution of new technologies and practices that reduce GHG emissions, increase agricultural productivity and farm business profitability and underpin adaptation and resilience around the world.



4. Recognise the essential role of livestock in the global agri-food system and fast-track research and development that mitigates related GHG emissions.
5. Reduce pre- and post-farm gate food waste to provide greater benefits for farmers, stimulate circular agriculture, increase food security and reduce GHG emissions along the food value chain.

## The Agriculture Climate Alliance

The Agriculture Climate Alliance is a group of like-minded organisations that seek to ensure agriculture is at the centre of global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Alliance advocates an ambitious, targeted approach to climate action in agriculture. In doing so, the Alliance seeks to underpin stronger livelihoods for farmers across the globe, underpinning rural economies.

## Background

In December 2015, 195 countries, under the banner of the United Nations Framework Convention, negotiated the “Paris Agreement” which aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to increase the ability to adapt to climate change.

The agriculture sector contributes to global emissions by both sequestering carbon in soils and vegetation and the emissions of GHG from farming practices such as livestock production, cropping practices, the use of fertilisers and the burning of savanna grasslands.

For agriculture, the scope 1 and 2 priorities will continue to reduce GHG emissions and seek more efficient and cost-effective ways to address emissions of enteric methane and nitrous oxide.

Carbon dioxide emissions in agriculture are already negligible, and where they exist, there will be change as renewable fuel sources become scalable, affordable and widely available. In line with findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), agriculture recognises that the global targets to different GHG are not the same.

Biological emissions from livestock are unlikely to be able to be reduced to zero without impacts on food production. Targets for methane and nitrous oxide from agriculture need to recognise the unique nature of food production, the need to achieve low GHG development in a manner that does not threaten food production, and differences in atmospheric lifetime of different GHG.

The transformation required to underpin these still has significant barriers and requires introducing technologies and innovation at scale to ensure no cost no productivity impacts on the sector. Failure to support transition will result in unacceptable impacts on food and feed security globally.



**The Agriculture Climate Alliance includes:**

AUSTRALIA

National Farmers' Federation Australia

NEW ZEALAND

Federated Farmers New Zealand

**Federation of Rural Associations of Mercosur (FARM)**

*ARGENTINA*

Argentine Rural Society (SRA)

Argentine Rural Confederations (CRA)

*BOLIVIA*

National Confederation of Agriculture (CONFEAGRO)

Bolivian Livestock Confederation (CONGABOL)

*BRAZIL*

National Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock (CNA)

Brazilian Rural Society (SRB)

*CHILE*

National Agricultural Society (SNA)

*PARAGUAY*

Paraguayan Rural Society (ARP)

*URUGUAY*

Uruguay Rural Society (ARU)

Uruguayan Rural Federation (FR)

*COLOMBIA*

Colombian Livestock Federation (FEDEGAN)

