

## Family farming joins the call for a Global Mutirão in a collective effort to implement climate solutions

The **Family Farming Pre-COP30**, organised by the World Rural Forum (WRF) and its member organisations with the support of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), convened in Brasilia from 3 to 5 June 2025. The meeting succeeded in articulating family farming proposals with the priorities of the Brazilian Government's COP30 Presidency, recognising the strategic role of this sector in climate action.

Family farming accounts for more than 80% of agricultural holdings, and produces nearly 80% of the planet's food in terms of value<sup>1</sup>. Its role is fundamental to ensuring food and nutritional security, preserving biodiversity and soil health, and sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people in rural areas, constituting a central actor in food systems, as reflected in the **United Nations Decade of Family Farming** (UNDDFF 2019-2028).

Although the agricultural sector as a whole is responsible for 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions, family farming, due to its characteristics and practices, has the potential to contribute significantly to reducing these emissions and building resilience mechanisms against extreme climate events. Therefore, **transforming how we think about agriculture and food, and supporting family farmers by placing them at the heart of the discussion, represents one of the most powerful levers for achieving the Paris Agreement.**

This transformative potential is based on the fact that family farming already plays a key role in the integrated implementation of the three Rio Conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). **Across all continents, family farming develops sustainable practices that bring climate action to life:** it produces food in a diversified manner, sequesters carbon, restores soil fertility, preserves biodiversity, and develops actions against desertification. Family farmers scale up resilient practices, promote agroecology and organic production, integrate crops with forestry and livestock systems, and preserve traditional knowledge, generating territorial solutions that contribute significantly to these global goals.

<sup>1</sup> Lowder, SK., Sánchez, M.V. & Bertini, R. (2019) [Farms, family farms, farmland distribution and farm labour: What do we know today?](#)



In this way, family farming represents an essential sector for environmental solutions and is key to a **just transformation** of food systems that leaves no one behind. Likewise, these efforts contribute to the objectives of the **Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty**, adding experiences and concrete practices of family farming to nourish a basket of policies that inspire stakeholders.

In recent years, positive progress has been observed in the inclusion of food systems and agriculture in the international climate agenda. The Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action from COP28, signed by more than 150 countries, committed States to scale up adaptation and resilience for farmers, and integrate food into **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. This process continued with the Harmoniya Initiative for Farmers at COP29 in Baku, building a continuous “COP-to-COP” dialogue, keeping farmers at the center of global agenda priorities.

The upcoming COP30 in Brazil is shaping up as an “implementation COP”, focused on putting these agreements and commitments into action, advancing the necessary transformations at all levels.

### FAMILY FARMING AT COP30: PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

The following are the priority areas that represent opportunities and should be prioritised for family farming to scale up climate action:

1. **Recognition as a key actor:** Family farming must be recognized as a key actor in climate action, with effective participation in governance structures and an active role in policy formulation and climate finance implementation.
2. **Integration into national policy frameworks:** Participation and integration of family farming at the national level in NDCs, National Adaptation and Mitigation Plans, fostering convergence with national biodiversity and desertification plans and allowing for a higher level of ambition at local and national levels.
3. **Access to climate finance:** We must eliminate barriers that prevent family farming's access to climate finance, through adequate mechanisms, simplified procedures, and a favorable policy environment that recognises family farming organisations as indispensable allies in policy and project implementation.
4. **Comprehensive transformation and dedicated fund:** Responding to these challenges requires comprehensive transformation involving reforms at national and global levels accompanied by specific financial resources for family farming. Family farming organisations propose creating a specific fund for empowerment and resilience that recognises their key role in channeling funds quickly, effectively, and transparently.



5. **Empowerment of youth and women:** Empower youth and women in family farming through specific policies, capacity building, equitable access to resources, and participation in decision-making. The decision to develop a new Gender Action Plan to be adopted at COP30 opens a key opportunity for women in family farming to influence more inclusive and effective climate actions with their experience.
6. **Access to land and water:** Ensuring secure, equitable, and sustainable access to land and water for farming families constitutes an enabling condition for climate action. Land tenure is key to investment in sustainable practices, resilience against crises, and continuity of food production. It is necessary to promote public policies that recognise and protect the territorial rights of family farming, especially women and youth.
7. **Mainstreaming into global frameworks:** Family farming must be mainstreamed into global climate frameworks. COP30 must position it as a strategic sector by delivering clear mandates that enable scaling up its contributions to climate solutions.

## THE COP WE WANT: MAINSTREAMING FAMILY FARMING INTO GLOBAL CLIMATE FRAMEWORKS

Multilateralism and climate ambition are strengthened by better representation of family farmers. It is vital that global climate governance includes their voices, with effective participation in negotiation tables, policy design mechanisms, and climate finance. Their livelihoods offer a unique opportunity to address multiple challenges simultaneously, through the implementation of integrative approaches that contribute to adaptation and resilience objectives, mitigation, and socioeconomic support to communities.

To achieve this, COP30 ought to:

- **Recognition on Food Day:** Ensure express recognition of family farming on COP30's Food Day, with specific mention in the Brazilian Presidency's Action Agenda and participation in key high-level spaces.
- Ensure that the **Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work Programme** on Agriculture and Food Security keeps family farmers at the center of discussions and focuses on practical solutions.
- **Global Goal on Adaptation:** We must advance the GGA with specific indicators for family farming, which will ensure accountability, policy and finance traceability, and make it possible to generate evidence and concrete research lines on the impacts and contributions of family farming to climate resilience.
- **Just Transitions:** Ensure that the Just Transition Work Programme supports urgent and equitable climate action based on family farming experiences, building from territories and promoting social justice and rural livelihoods.



- **Climate finance frameworks:** Strengthen the presence of family farming in climate finance frameworks negotiated under the United Nations umbrella and new initiatives seeking to mobilize resources for nature conservation and promotion of rural livelihoods. This includes influencing the implementation of the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)**, the **Baku to Belém Roadmap**, and the operationalisation of the **Loss and Damage Fund**, ensuring fair distribution of benefits for rural communities.

## CONCLUSION

**The path forward is clear, and the time for family farming is now.** Family farmers must be recognised as key climate actors, with meaningful participation in national policy design, access to climate finance, and leadership in transforming global climate frameworks.

**Family farming has the capacity, knowledge, commitment, and potential to offer transformative climate solutions from the ground up.** Strengthening the technical, organisational, and advocacy capacities of family farming organisations is key to ensuring their effective participation in climate policies, access to financing, and implementation of sustainable solutions from territories.

In this implementation stage, family farming commits to collaborating with governments, international organisations, the private sector, and civil society to transform food systems and achieve common climate objectives. Family farming will continue to fulfill its role in the "mutirão" for climate action, contributing its unique experience, innovation, and commitment to every alliance and initiative.

Family farming welcomes and celebrates the efforts of the Brazilian COP30 Presidency and organised civil society to position family farming as a key sector in climate action. Brazil's leadership, by connecting climate solutions with people's daily lives, deeply reflects the mission and values of this sector that permeates the local economy, health, community, and our relationship with nature.

Family farming wishes the Presidency every success and requests its contribution to make this positioning known to governments that are friends of family farming. COP30 in Belém will be the stage to meet again, reinforce and consolidate the collective commitment to a sustainable and equitable future.

