

## Linking food & climate action: Complementarities between the UNFSS National Pathways and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Tuesday 12 October

On 12 October, 140 participants tuned into the CFS50 side-event *Linking food & climate action: Complementarities between the UNFSS National Pathways and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture*, co-organized by FAO, WWF, CGIAR, AGNES, Kenya and The Netherlands. Mr. Zitouni Ould-Dada, FAO's Deputy Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, set the stage with a keynote addressing the complementarities between UNFSS and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA), and highlighting how food systems can be the solution to the triple crisis of biodiversity loss, environment degradation and climate change. He also stressed the importance of finding locally adapted solutions for the millions of smallholder farmers who live off agriculture and who are severely suffering from the consequences of climate change. In his words: "COP27 will be an African COP. It will need to place great emphasis on agriculture, as it is essential for smallholder farmers in the region, and it must address ways to make agriculture and food systems more sustainable.

A second keynote speech was then delivered by Ambassador Ayman Amin, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Director, of the Department of Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. His Excellency shared the Egyptian Presidency's vision for COP27 and stressed the need to place great emphasis on agriculture during this COP. He believes: "COP27 is a COP for agriculture". He also confirmed the Egyptian Presidency's plan to "get the Koronivia family together" during COP27, in order to allow colleagues to have the right enabling environment to discuss enhancing the KWJA's work.

The event then moved to a panel discussion with four key experts on food and agriculture in the context of climate change: Veronica Ndetu, Head of the Climate Change Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives of Kenya; George Wamukoya, Team Leader of the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support, and spoke person of G77+China at negotiations related to Agriculture; Lucas du Pre, Senior Policy Officer Global Climate Policy and Food Security in the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality ; Leigh Winowiecki, Theme Leader for Soil and Land Health at World Agroforestry (ICRAF); and Margaret Yoovatana, Director of the International Agricultural Affairs Group of the Department of Agriculture, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand. The panel discussion was opened by a poll question to the audience, who were asked to choose what they wished to add as top priority, in the new Terms of Reference for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. About 57% of the participants answered they would like to improve sustainability of agricultural practices, closely followed by 41% who like agroecology as principle for resilient food systems. This question set the tone to a very engaging and lively panel discussion.

When discussing what is needed to scale up the implementation of the KWJA on the ground, Mrs. Ndetu stressed upon the need to involve a more stakeholder approach in the KWJA. "We need to empower women, by making sure they have the appropriate means to finance their agroecological transitions", she added. While, when asking about the connections between UNFSS's outcomes and the KWJA's coalition, Mrs. Winowiecki added: "we have to work together to scale soil health globally". She mentioned that monitoring is one of the most challenging aspects for farmers, therefore we must use all the platforms available to us, including COP27, to find solutions to this challenge.

Bernadette Fischler, Head of Advocacy at WWF-UK, closed the session by reiterating the need for greater enhancement of the KWJA's mandate and expressed everyone's hope that this can be further discussed during COP27. "We need to move away from the vicious cycle of the triple challenge of climate change, nature loss and food insecurity, and find a virtuous solution to address these inter-connected challenges".