

SE04: The Convergence Initiative – Converging Food Systems and Climate Action for Better Food Security and a Sustainable Future

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Organized by: UN Food Systems Coordination Hub; FAO; COP28 Presidency United Arab Emirates; South Africa; European Commission, DG INTPA; The Netherlands

Description

Current food systems are impeding climate goals. In 2023, two global processes underscored the imperative of aligning food systems transformation with climate action agendas. Firstly, the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action at the UNFSS+2 emphasized the need to “align the implementation of national food systems transformation pathways with the continuous updates of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans for climate action. Secondly, the COP28 Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action endorsed by 160 countries affirmed political commitment “any path to fully achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement must include agriculture and food systems” and affirming that “agriculture and food systems must urgently adapt and transform to respond to the imperatives of climate change”.

Based on the idea that more can be achieved together, the Technical Cooperation Collaborative was formed at COP28 with the mission of supporting countries with enhanced access to quality technical cooperation to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.

Responding to this, the UN Deputy Secretary launched the Convergence Initiative at COP28 to enable governments and stakeholders at the national level to strengthen synergetic action for food systems transformation, supporting the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

