



# Bridging the Gaps

Advancing Coherent Policies for  
Climate Adaptation and Mitigation  
for Agriculture and Food Systems

## FROM SANTOS TO BELEM

### Key Actionable Messages from the High-Level PreCOP Convening in Santos-SP Bridging the Gaps: Climate Adaptation & Mitigation for Agriculture and Food Systems

With over 100 organizations represented, the Santos Pre-COP Convening brought together state and non-state actors, scientists, policymakers, local leaders and communities, private sector representatives, youth, and financial institutions in a highly interactive day of plenary dialogues and collaborative workshops. This document synthesizes the key actionable messages emerging from these exchanges – bridging climate, nature, and food agendas through coherent, inclusive, and solution-oriented approaches – to guide our shared path toward COP30 in Belém.

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#### Overall Unifying Message:

Build nature-positive, sustainable, and inclusive food systems as the bridge connecting climate, land and biodiversity actions - rooted in agroecology, family farming, fair finance, coherent governance, and meaningful participation of local actors.

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#### Integrated and Actionable Messages to Carry to Belem:

##### 1. Make Food Systems a Central Pillar of Climate and Nature Action

- a) **Fully integrate food systems into climate and biodiversity agendas**, recognizing them as a core connector of the three Rio Conventions (Climate, Biodiversity, Desertification).
  - b) **Remove the “brackets”, both politically and rhetorically, around food systems** to make them a legitimate, standing pillar of climate action.
  - c) **Eliminate deforestation and ecosystem conversion immediately** from agricultural commodity supply chains.
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## 2. Position Agroecology and Family Farming as Core Solutions

- a) **Recognize agroecology and organic practices as proven, nature-positive strategies** that deliver climate adaptation, biodiversity restoration, and healthy diets.
  - b) **Treat family farming as the most effective yet underused investment** linking climate resilience, nature conservation, and food security.
  - c) **Encourage countries to embed agroecology in their NDCs and adaptation frameworks**, ensuring incentives and support for transition costs.
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## 3. Finance Transformation: From Fragmented Flows to Fair Systems

- a) **Scale and coordinate climate finance for food systems** by aligning financial regulation, credit systems, and risk pricing with sustainability - **rewarding regenerative practices and penalizing harmful ones**.
  - b) Accelerate access to finance by training local financial institutions to understand agricultural and climate risks, creating a **shared finance–technical assistance language**, and scaling **blended and revolving fund** models that lower the cost of capital.
  - c) **Empower farmer and fisherfolk organizations** to directly access and manage funds through **simplified, locally driven financing windows**.
  - d) **Unlock finance for regenerative agriculture by pairing investment with technical assistance**, guaranteeing purchase agreements, reframing sustainability as a **profitable investment**, and bundling policy and credit packages.
  - e) **Empower youth and local agents** through financial literacy, microcredit, and inclusive digital systems that bridge trust and access gaps.
  - f) **Redefine adaptation finance to be affordable and equitable**, lowering costs through technological innovation and improved national credit ratings.
  - g) **Ensure long-term, predictable, and accountable climate finance** that reaches communities directly, drives behavioral change, and supports innovation and inclusion.
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## 4. Governance for Coherence, Continuity, and Inclusion

- a) **Build integrated food and climate governance** through inclusive food councils anchored in nutrition, social protection, and public service delivery.

b) Ensure councils have **budgetary authority and clear mandates**, not only advisory roles, and are designed to manage power imbalances and foster multi-sector coordination.

c) Embed the COP30 Action Agenda within national frameworks by ensuring **political continuity, cross-ministerial coordination, and alignment between negotiations and implementation**.

d) **Promote coherent and convergent food system transitions** led by **vulnerable and marginalized groups**, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and diverse farmer profiles and **guarantee their meaningful participation** in negotiations and financing design to ensure legitimacy and impact.

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## 5. Use Adaptation and Resilience as Gateways to Mitigation

a) Frame agricultural action around **regeneration** to connect adaptation and mitigation agendas.

b) **Measure positive tipping points** and communicate benefits clearly to strengthen political support.

c) Use **adaptation as an entry point** for mitigation, supported by **innovative financial mechanisms** that lower barriers to investment.

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## 6. Embed People, Data, and Accountability in Global Frameworks

a) **Align the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and UAE Framework with local realities**, ensuring indicators reflect community-level progress.

b) Fund and operationalize **national and subnational data systems** to track adaptation results.

c) Include **people and equity metrics** in the GGA (particularly for **marginalized and vulnerable groups**) to ensure climate progress translates into human well-being.

d) Strengthen collaboration across **ministries, CSOs, and Indigenous peoples** to co-design and monitor adaptation frameworks.

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## 7. Shift the Narrative: Build Shared Vision and Public Momentum

a) Build a **shared and inspiring vision** for food system transformation, communicated in **simple, visual, and inclusive messages** that engage citizens, culture, and media.

b) **Agree on common, measurable targets** for sustainable food systems, similar to renewables in energy.

c) **Simplify communication:** use accessible language and vivid examples to explain what transformation looks like.

d) **Engage politically and expand participation** across sectors (health, finance, environment) to rebalance power and create a collective movement.

e) **Align planetary health diets with climate and nature** goals to ensure that consumption patterns, retail strategies, and national food policies reinforce biodiversity protection, lower emissions, and promote healthier, more sustainable lifestyles.

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## 8. Make True Costs Visible to Drive Better Decisions

a) Apply **True Cost Accounting (TCA)** in **simple, participatory ways** to reveal the social, health, and environmental costs of food systems.

b) Use TCA not just for analysis but as a **decision-making and advocacy tool** that empowers farmers, communities, and policymakers to act.

c) Combine **data and lived experience** to guide fairer, more sustainable production choices.

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## 9. Create Economic Signals that Value and Reward Nature

a) Establish **market mechanisms and fiscal incentives** that assign real value to ecosystem services, encouraging preservation and restoration.

b) **Link climate, nature, and food finance** through instruments that reward **nature-positive and inclusive solutions**.

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