

Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security

- views from the farmers and other stakeholders of The Climakers Alliance -

The World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) is a member-based association bringing together national farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives from all over the world. WFO's mission is to represent the farmers' and advocate on their behalf in all the relevant international processes affecting their present and their future. With the aim to make a concrete contribution to the global efforts to combat climate change, the WFO conceived The Climakers Initiative.

The Climakers Initiative

The Climakers Initiative – or the *Farmer-Driven Climate Change Agenda* - was launched at the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice to offer to the Parties the experiences of farmers tackling the impact of climate change at the farm-level as possible solutions to implement the Paris Agreement in the agricultural sector.

The Initiative is based on an Alliance of various stakeholders, including farmers organizations, the private sector, research, academia, etc., working together to propose practical solutions and guidelines for a farmer-driven approach to climate policies.

- The Alliance recognizes the centrality of farmers in multistakeholder partnerships built to implement climate change programs and policies in agriculture, at the national level, following an authentic bottom-up approach through a renewed agenda that is farmer-driven, science-based, and result-oriented.
- The Alliance believes that farmers are the only ones capable of providing solutions to increase the adaptation of agricultural production to the direct effects of climate change and finding solutions that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. By protecting the environment and biodiversity, farmers protect themselves.
- The Alliance aims to influence the implementation of the NDCs, calling on Governments to base their national plans for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on the best practices that farmers are already implementing to mitigate and adapt to climate change, proving that farmers own an essential part of the solution.

Section one: Views on the objectives of the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work

The Alliance supports the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work to strengthen climate action on agriculture and food security and enhanced coordination to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementing climate action on agriculture and food security. The objectives proposed in paragraph 14 of the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work are critical to addressing the challenges posed by climate change and achieving sustainable development in the agricultural sector. Given the above, The Climakers Initiative invites Parties to consider policies, actions, and measures, which include farmers' recommendations and solutions.

- The Alliance recognizes the importance of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector. This could be achieved by adopting sustainable practices and technologies to integrate climate risk management into farming systems to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems to the impacts of climate change. The Climakers Initiative has demonstrated that farmers are at the frontline of reducing emissions, and their involvement in this objective is crucial, as they are the primary users of these practices and technologies.
- The Alliance recognizes the importance of involving farmers' recommendations and solutions, in the implementation of the NDCs, calling on Governments to base their national plans for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on the best practices farmers are already implementing while emphasizing the importance of ensuring that mitigation efforts do not compromise food security or farmers' livelihoods.
- The Alliance acknowledges the importance of promoting a systemic approach to addressing agriculture and food security issues. By considering the diversity of farming systems, measures and solutions should reflect regional, national, and local circumstances to deliver benefits for farmers, which are pragmatic and scalable to ensure fast and effective adoption and boost farmer-driven solutions.
- The Initiative recognizes the fundamental priority of increasing the ability to adapt to the effects of climate change and foster climate resilience in a manner that does not threaten food production, safeguards food security, and ends hunger. In the last five years, The Climakers Initiative has proven that practices and technologies that farmers are implementing worldwide can bring direct and indirect benefits for food and nutritional security, adaptation, and mitigation.
- The Alliance recognizes farmers as food producers and natural resource stewards and recommends that the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work should pay greater attention to the sustainable soil and integrated water management practices adopted by farmers at the farm level. During the experience of the Climakers Initiative, we have collected more than 100 best agricultural practices which globally enhance soil carbon stocking, soil health, and soil fertility, contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, and food security.
- The Climakers Initiative reminds that climate change affects farmers whose lives and livelihoods are ruined by the impacts of climate change, especially in the countries least responsible for its causes. The Initiative acknowledges the importance of the Loss and Damage Fund to assist farmers in developing countries in responding to loss and damage caused by climate change and recalls governments that the grant portion of climate finance and the insurance schemes should be directed to the farmers' organization to enhance their resiliency and capacity to accompany the transition process to sustainable food systems.
- The Alliance recognizes the critical role of sharing information and knowledge in developing and implementing national policies, plans, and strategies related to climate change. The Climakers Initiative demonstrates that this can be achieved by connecting

farmers and other key stakeholders through workshops at the regional level, taking into account country-specific needs and contexts. These workshops have helped increase farmers' knowledge and expertise on issues related to climate change and filled in the policy work on climate change and agriculture.

Section two: Views on the Sharm el-Sheikh Portal

As a multi-stakeholder Alliance, we acknowledge the importance of establishing an online portal under the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work to achieve the objectives of the Joint Work, as it provides a means for sharing information on projects, initiatives, and policies for increasing opportunities for implementing climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. Within the five years of the Climakers Alliance, we have witnessed the importance of sharing information through a network of various actors. We recognize the importance of this in sharing knowledge and experiences related to agriculture and climate change. We, therefore, underline the importance of providing a platform for case studies to demonstrate actions that farmers are taking, highlighting locally appropriate technologies and innovations, and addressing issues related to agriculture, food security, and climate change.

- The online portal should provide a means for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange between farmers on practical solutions that can be implemented at local levels. This will help ensure the portal empowers farmers to participate actively in climate-smart agriculture.
- The online portal should also entail pooling existing resources and information, including lesser-known regional projects and research. By facilitating the exchange of information and experiences, the portal could help build a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the agricultural sector in climate change.
- The Alliance recognizes that this portal could be an effective tool for disseminating information on climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and promoting collaboration among stakeholders. The Initiative has demonstrated that farmers learn best from farmers, so could the online portal showcase knowledge exchange between farmers on practical actions
- The Alliance recognizes the portal's potential to enhance farmers' participation in climate action. It is crucial to ensure the portal is accessible to all farmers, including those in remote and underserved areas. The portal could empower farmers to take an active role in climate-smart agriculture by providing them with access to information, resources, and opportunities.
- As a multi-stakeholder Alliance, we fully support this initiative and are committed to contributing to its operationalization. We can build a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector that benefits farmers and the environment by working together.