

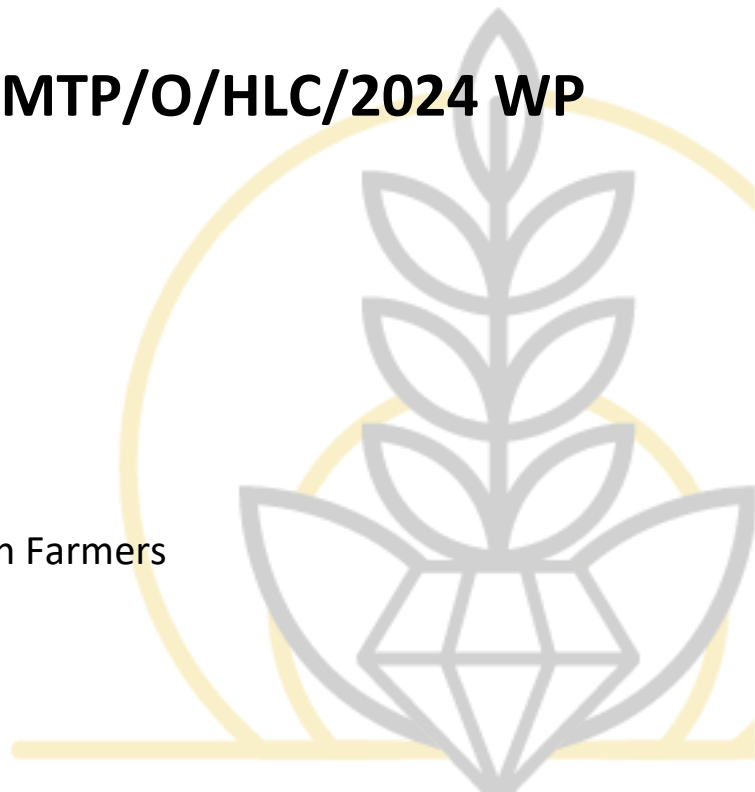


**Official input in the call for inputs to
the High Level Champions**

Reference number: C&E/MTP/O/HLC/2024 WP

Submitted by:
Mateusz Ciasnocha & the European Carbon Farmers

Warsaw, Poland; 31st July 2024



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This document is an official input submitted by Mateusz Ciasnocha and the European Carbon Farmers in the call for inputs to the High Level Champions announced on the 4th of June 2024 with reference number C&E/MTP/O/HLC/2024 WPA.

Structure of the Document

The four sections of this document are:

1. Introduction,
2. Thank you note to the High Level Champions with personal testimony,
3. Official input to the questions asked,
4. Conclusions.

Introduction

My name is [Mateusz Ciasnocha](#) and I am a [farmer from northern Poland](#) on the mission of building a farmer-centric bridge between climate and agricultural policies. In order to accelerate this mission the [European Carbon Farmers](#) were founded in 2020 in order to carry out work beyond the Ciasnocha Family Farms, namely in the areas of 1) Farmer, farm advisors and policy-makers trainings and 2) Policy making participation efforts, especially in the areas of “regenerative agriculture” and “carbon farming”.

In my personal capacity as a farmer and agricultural expert, as well as institutionally as the European Carbon Farmers we live the mission by implementing the Horizon-Europe-funded [MIDAS Project](#) – Grant Agreement Number 101082070 – serving in the [EU Soil Mission Advisory Board](#), as well as providing strategic support to key coalitions, such as the [CA4SH: Coalition of Action on Soil Health](#) emerging from the [United Nations Food Systems Summit](#) (UN FSS), where I served as the [UN FSS Champion](#).

Thank you note to the High Level Champions with personal testimony

Much if not all of our work up to date, some of which we have described above, would not be possible if not for the opportunity provided by the High Level Champions (HLCs) for COP26 and COP26, Mrs. Nigel Topping and Mr. Gonzalo Muñoz, were I served as the [Regenerative Agriculture Youth Fellow in the HLCs Team](#).

It was during this formative time that my [“Visit a farmer” call](#) emerged, which has been and remains the guiding principle of our work since. Right after finishing my service in the HLCs Team – combined with service in the UN FSS process, all of it complimentary with the HLCs work – I have combined all of those insights in

the proposal and appeal for the establishment of the [Working Group on Climate Neutral and Nature Positive Agriculture](#) [the document in Polish is available [here](#)] submitted to – among others – the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland in December 2021.

Further work, such as supporting the [HLCs Call to Action on Food Systems](#), strategic participation in COP28, including as the [Lead Farmer Co-Host of the Food Systems Pavilion](#) and the [YSI @ COP28 webinar series](#), SB60, including the [YSI live from SB60 webinar](#), as well as [meeting with the President of the Republic of Poland before the COP28](#) are natural consequences of the commitment to the mission: **building a farmer-centric bridge between climate and agricultural policy.**

Last, but not least, this work is rooted in strategic support, inspiration and personal relations with three HLCs: Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow from Poland, Mr. Gonzalo Muñoz from Chile and Mr. Nigel Topping from the United Kingdom. I am grateful for the level of quality and leadership they all brought to the HLCs role and I am so grateful to their successors, currently H.E. Razan Al Mubarak & Ms. Nigar Arpadarai, for bringing to this role. Thank you so, so, so much for your leadership, especially in the area of the food systems and specifically farmer engagement.

Official input to the questions asked

Keeping in mind the short perspective from which we are speaking presented in the document above, we are sharing three key suggestions in this call for inputs:

1. **The work of the HLCs is of pivotal importance** to the UNFCCC work and translating scientific consensus into climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts at the on-the-ground level, as well as building policy coherence within and beyond nations between various policy areas.
 - a. **This is why HLCs work should definitely continue and be enhanced as much as possible as soon as possible.**
2. **We suggest that the most effective way to enhance and scale HLCs work is by mirroring HLCs roles and the HLCs Team at nation-based level.** We suggest HLCs Team should encourage and show resource mobilisation opportunities for the HLCs in cooperation with the Parties to **establish the “Country HLCs” and the “Youth Country HLCs” roles with the (Youth) Country HLCs Teams.**
 - a. Exact nature of the (Youth) Country HLCs and its Team is to be defined using the best practice approach available.
 - b. Some inspiration for this can provide the [EU Soil Mission Board](#) with the EU Soil Mission Mirror Boards, the [EU Climate Pact Ambassadors Network](#) and the [Working Group Proposal from December 2021](#) referred to earlier in the document.
 - i. *Please note: we are speaking from our experience, as Mateusz Ciasnocha is both the EU Soil Mission Board Member, as well as [EU Climate Pact Ambassador](#).*

3. **The priority of HLCs Team – and the (Youth) Country HLCs Team suggested above in point 2. – should be closing the missing middle, which is a lack of policy coherence between various policy fields.**
- a. With the [HLCs Call to Action of Food Systems](#), the [UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#) signed by the majority of the Heads of State of the world and the [Harmonia Initiative](#) to be officially launched at the COP29 by the COP29 Presidency, as well as the fact that food systems are the key entry point and lever in accelerating not only climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts but also providing opportunities for the just transition, **we strongly suggest food systems to be the first policy area in which HLCs dedicate themselves to strategically supporting and accelerating the process of closing policy gaps.**

Conclusions

This document presented the official input of Mateusz Ciasnocha and the European Carbon Farmers in the call for inputs issued by the High Level Champions – H.E. Razan Al Mubarak and Ms. Nigar Arpadarai – on the 4th of June 2024 with reference number C&E/MTP/O/HLC/2024 WP.

We are deeply grateful for the HLCs work and fully supportive of it calling for enhancement of this work by setting of on a process of establishing the (Young) Country HLCs roles and its support Teams. Once established, we suggest that the enhanced structure to focus its attention on closing policy gaps in the area of food systems, something the HLCs enabled massive progress up to date and which still remains the key priority area for the Parties and the NSAs alike.

Thank you note

We would like to thank you for devoting your time and attention to reading and analysing our official input in this call for inputs.

We remain fully committed to supporting and working with HLCs, as well as all other interested stakeholders in moving our input from paper towards transformational implementation.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this official input and we are looking forward to the next steps in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Mateusz Ciasnocha
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