



Submission to the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture on future topics to be considered at COP27 - Two pager

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Submission from organizations as part of the 50by40 UNFCCC Action Group Coalition, on future topics not listed in decision 4/CP.23 and views on the future of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.

We welcome that the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) has served as a critical platform to bring food and agriculture into the climate change discussions under the UNFCCC. Now it is clear that food systems as a whole must be integral in UNFCCC processes, and that a holistic systemic approach in food systems, including consumption, must be taken if we are to meet the Paris Agreement targets to limit global warming. KJWA must continue to play a key role in facilitating ambitious, evidence-based agreements and actions to build more resilient, climate-compatible food systems globally.

We call on KJWA to consider means of promoting sustainable consumption practices, which we see as going hand in hand with fostering a climate-compatible food and agricultural production system, covering industrial animal agriculture and aquaculture, including the production and consumption of animals and animal feed. Governments can implement concrete, science-based and meaningful measures that will enable people to make more sustainable, healthy food choices.

Nutritious, plant-rich diets have been shown to present multiple co-benefits and play a critical role in improving human health, protecting the environment and safeguarding food security. Given the existential threat of climate change demands urgent and comprehensive action across all areas of human activity, we strongly urge global leaders and climate negotiators to leverage the transformative potential that a just transition towards more plant-rich diets, including alternative proteins, can offer. One way to achieve this is through enhancing innovation and open-access R&D on the potential of alternative proteins to make these products accessible, affordable and appealing to consumers.

As the world continues to grapple with the devastating consequences of extreme weather events over recent months, including devastating heat waves, droughts and flooding, which has added to the pressure on global food supplies, governments must heed the advice by leading independent expert bodies and develop a pathway to transition away from animal-centric food systems through dietary shifts. This year's report on droughts by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), for instance, highlights that,

“[w]e need to protect and manage lands through improved consumption and production practices. On the agriculture side, this means sustainable and efficient management techniques that grow more food on less land and with less water. On the consumption side, this means changing our relationships with food, fodder and fiber, moving toward plant-based diets, reducing or stopping the consumption of animals.”¹

In light of the well-documented scientific evidence for a need to change consumer behaviours to support the goals of the Paris Agreement, we welcome the submissions made previously by the European Union and Brazil on KJWA topic 2(e), *Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others*, to include an examination of how to

“increase consumers’ awareness of their role in adopting healthier and more sustainable diets that have low environmental impacts and low carbon footprint, and contribute to food and nutrition security”.²

We strongly encourage the Parties to pursue this examination as a next step moving forward and to also include an assessment of how policy influences dietary patterns and what specific actions governments should take to accelerate the transition to sustainable diets, including through shifting subsidies, procurement programs and national dietary guidelines.

It is important to recognise that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility also applies to food systems. We therefore call in particular on governments in the Global North, where overconsumption of animal-based products is prevalent, to lead the charge in developing and delivering measures to shift consumer behaviour.

Changes in agrifood production and consumption, including aquaculture, must be implemented in tandem, as one significantly influences the other. KJWA can and should address not only agricultural production, but also the food system in an inclusive manner, including the role of consumers, government legislation and fiscal incentives in order to deliver effective, long-term solutions, and examine government measures that cut across policy areas, including, but not limited to, public health, environment, public procurement, business, investment and innovation.

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¹ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2022) Drought in Numbers. Available at <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-05/Drought%20in%20Numbers.pdf> [Accessed on 24/10/2022].

² Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (2020) Analysis of submissions on topics 2(e) and 2(f). Available at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb3978en/cb3978en.pdf> [Accessed on 24/10/2022].