

CIDSE COP28 position on Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture

The COP28 Presidency has [highlighted](#) food as a key priority for the conference. They want increased climate finance directed towards food systems and have urged governments to align their national food policies with their NDCs. To facilitate this, the Presidency plans to unveil the "Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action" during the Summit, alongside organising a thematic day on "Food, Agriculture, and Water" on December 10th.

Delegates will also engage in discussions concerning the "Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on the Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security" ([SSJW](#)), established at COP27. The agenda will [likely](#) include addressing governance structures, coordination systems, means of implementation, and thematic priority workshops within the SSJW. Simultaneously, the Global Stocktake (GST) process could include guidance on the incorporation of food systems into the upcoming round of NDCs.

Some serious concerns [persist](#) about negotiations and initiatives on food and agriculture, where technological fixes and support for industrial agriculture are prioritised over solutions based on the use of agroecological principles that work with natural processes. Big-Ag is making a concerted effort to use terms more associated with greenwashing, such as regenerative agriculture, nature-based solutions, and efficiency. These approaches are less effective in terms of social equity or the maintenance of essential ecosystem services than those based on agroecological principles.

CIDSE's interest lies in ensuring that discussions on food systems at COP28 result in increased policy and funding support for agroecological approaches, ensuring support is increasingly channelled towards smallholder food producers in the Global South and local context specific solutions.

Policy asks:

1. COP28 discussions on agriculture and food security should lead to increased recognition of agroecology as an effective approach for climate action.
2. The GST outcome should include food systems as a dedicated sectoral element, with explicit commitments for climate finance and robust support mechanisms tailored to benefit smallholder food producers in the global south.
3. An agreement under the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on the Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security to have a robust coordination mechanism and inclusive governance structure with a defined mandate and deliverables. A comprehensive workplan with a dedicated workshop on agroecology, calling for close coordination with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
4. The Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food systems, and Climate Action should commit unequivocally to the transformation of food systems that are based on agroecological principles. Additionally, it must pledge support for rural women and recognise the indispensable role of Indigenous People and their knowledge.