



Submission of Solutions from the Land to COP27 decision

[Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security | UNFCCC](#)

Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security Carrying Forward the UNFCCC Koronivia Workstream

Solutions from the Land (SfL) is a farmer-led nonprofit corporationⁱ focused on land-based solutions to global challenges. ([Home - Solutions from the Land](#)) The SfL mission is to inspire, mobilize and equip agricultural, forestry and fishery leaders to advance pragmatic, proven and innovative agricultural solutions that benefit producers, the public and the planet in a new era where sustainably managed farms, ranches, fisheries and forests are at the forefront of resolving food system, food and nutrition security, energy, environmental and climate challenges to concurrently achieve global sustainable development goals (SDGs). We use the word, “**farmers**” to encompass farmers, ranchers, foresters, orchardists, grazers, aquaculturalists, and all those who are stewards of working landscapes. Working landscapes are agricultural croplands, grasslands, orchards and forests, vineyards, fisheries, and other lands and waters that are managed for livelihoods and the production of food, fiber, energy, and ecosystem services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our farmer perspectives and recommendations on the COP 27 Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. Effective agriculture and food system solutions that increase food and nutrition security and transform food systems require farmer and producers engaged as key actors in broad collaboration with industries, academia, civil society, and policymakers to bring the best science and engineering innovations to system-level solutions.

SfL supports Decision-/CP.27 Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (item #14) as proposed to the secretariat with explicit attention to the value and importance of the prior guidance and recommendations of Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and efforts to strengthen climate action on agriculture and food security and enhance coordination. [Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security | UNFCCC](#)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In preparing our response we first affirm the following guiding principles:

- **Farmers at all scales must be at the center of all discussions and decision-making.** Agriculture is the beginning of the food system and plays essential roles in producing abundant, nutritious food. This foundational tenant needs to be a shared core value in the development of global and country level workstreams.

- **Agriculture is not separate but part of the earth’s ecological system.** Food system pathways to the concurrent delivery of ecosystem health and food and nutrition security require agricultural systems innovations, technologies, agroecology and a wide variety of strategies and approaches at many scales.

PRIORITY WORKSTREAM RECOMMENDATIONS

SfL recommends six high profile global workstream priorities that are critical in the construction of sustainable, profitable and resilient agriculture and food systems. These priorities are foundational to local and global food security and nutrition; and enable capacities to consistently and concurrently deliver multiple SDG outcomes under increasing uncertainties and a changing climate.

- 1. Water is essential to all life. Shifting water-soil relationships are the signature of a variable and changing climate and capacity to produce food.** Water is necessary to the production of food and nutrition, energy, sustainable development, human health and robust ecosystems. Extreme climate events, increasing variability of local and global weather (drought-flooding; unseasonable extreme heat and cold) and the uncertainties of water distribution-scarcity and excess-are urgent issues affecting agricultural capacities to deliver an abundance of nutritious food for a growing global population. Addressing water scarcity and quality requires cross-boundary, multi-community landscape level uncommon collaborations among public-private partners committing time, finances and other resources to design, implement, and continuously evaluate system level adaptive management at multiple scales.
- 2. System approaches are needed to achieve integrated SDGs outcomes.** Expand diversified and sustainable agricultural intensification production strategies appropriate to different geographies; ecosystems and watersheds; cultures; and a wide variety of farm types and scales to meet present and future demand and changes in conditions. This entails both improved production efficiency per unit of land and improved water and ecosystem/habitat-enhancing production and management practices. These solutions can produce high quality protein, grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables, and reconnect with production processes that reintegrate livestock, orchards and forests, aquaculture, and crop agriculture as circular systems to better recycle nutrients on existing landscapes.
- 3. Integrated livestock systems for high quality protein and livelihoods for farmers at many scales.** Livestock management systems are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Eighty percent of the world’s poor are rural, engaged in farming, and many are malnourished with diets missing micronutrients and sufficient caloriesⁱⁱ. Sustainably managed livestock systems have high adaptive capacity, resilience to climate change and play broad roles in safeguarding food and nutrition security, livelihoods, nutrient cycling and carbon management. Specifically, livestock can: a) utilize forages, crop residues, and by-product wastes and convert them into high quality commodities, b) are critical to global food and nutritional security due to their

high-quality protein, essential fatty acids and bioavailable micronutrients, and c) provide livelihoods for farmers at many scales, heritage and cultures;

4. **Innovations, scientific, technical, local and indigenous knowledge.** Congruent with Decision CP.27 item #2 (d) regarding “the importance of the continued involvement of scientific and technical knowledge in transforming the agriculture sector, enabling conditions, the crucial role of farmers, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, including gender considerations, and of meeting the needs of farmers and food systems”, we place this as a high priority item and essential building block of uncommon collaborations needed to effectively address the problems of a changing climate to deliver food and nutrition security in the present with capacities to pivot and adjust to future changes;
5. **Innovative policy and social approaches** to scaling up. Congruent with Decision CP.27 item #2 (v) we support policies that enable farmers to concurrently produce multiple benefits for society without additional regulatory burdens that reduce efficiencies, effectiveness, and sustainability; and the need for a diversity of policies and solutions that are practical and foster agricultural adaptive responses and resilience.
6. **Context-specific priorities and solutions** must be aligned with national policies and priorities, be determined based on the social, economic and environmental conditions at site (including the diversity in types and scale of agricultural activity) and be subject to evaluation of potential synergies, tradeoffs and net benefits.

ⁱ Solutions from the Land 1430 Front Av, Lutherville, MD 21093 USA. Ernie Shea, President eshea@solutionsfromtheland.org

ⁱⁱ Animal proteins are sources of essential nutrients-zinc, vitamin A and iron necessary during pregnancy, lactation and early childhood for growth, cognitive development, and immune functions as well as provide human diets with other essential micronutrients, vitamin B₁₂, riboflavin, calcium and various essential fatty acids. FAO (2019) states, “These nutrients are difficult to obtain in adequate amounts of plant-based foods alone, including even modest amounts of animal source foods in diets adds much-needed nutrition value for better health outcomes.”