

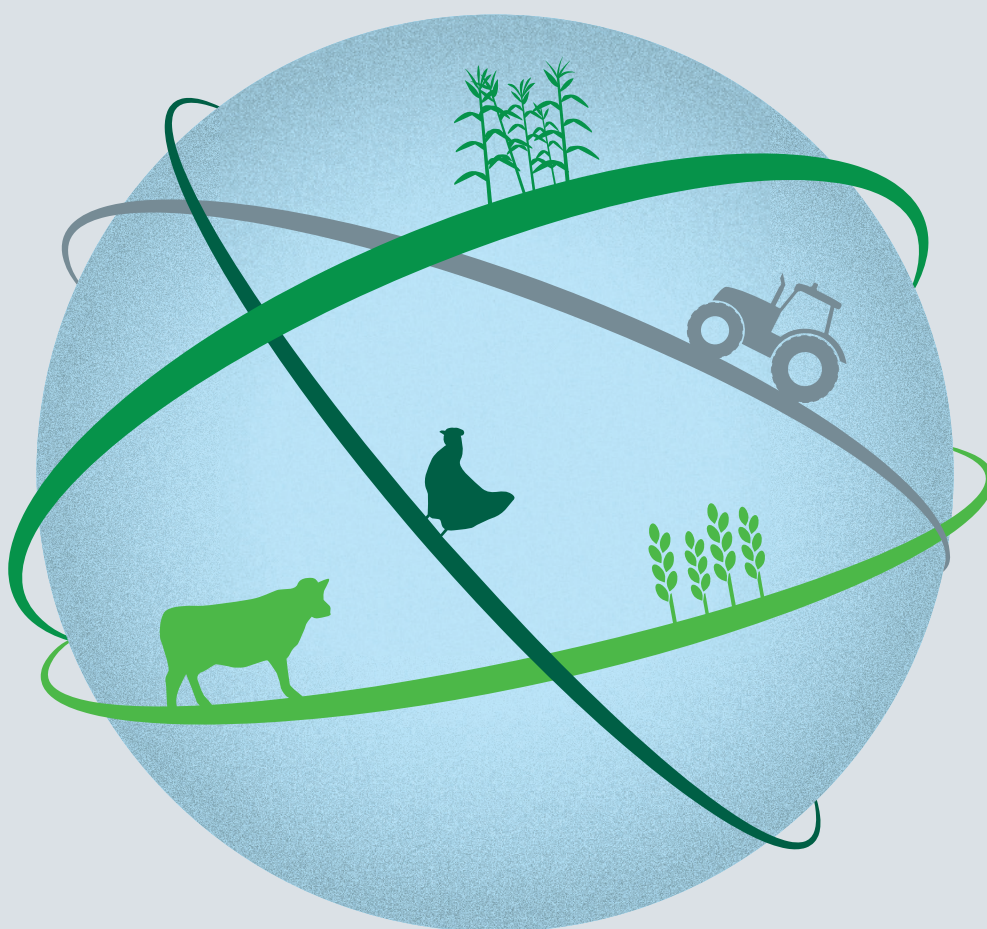


Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

GLOBAL
FORUM FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

17th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference

2025 Final Communiqué
Farming a Sustainable Bioeconomy



18 January 2025 - the English version is authentic

Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

2025 Final Communiqué

Farming a Sustainable Bioeconomy

1. We, the agriculture ministers of 62 nations, have assembled on 18 January 2025 for the 17th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference on the occasion of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) and have had insightful and fruitful discussions.
2. While a growing world population requires healthy and nutritious food and economic prosperity, dwindling natural resources, land degradation and drought, increasing biodiversity loss and the impacts of climate change and pollution present major challenges, especially for developing countries. We therefore recognise that sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems are crucial for global food security and nutrition. We thus urgently need to step up our efforts, and call upon the global community to join forces to achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on Zero Hunger.
3. We are gravely concerned by the wars and conflicts in the world and their effects on food security and nutrition and we highlight the human suffering they cause. We stress the need for reliable, sustained, sufficient and unhindered access of food to civilians in conflict areas, like Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially the Gaza Strip, Yemen and Lebanon. We appreciate in particular the supportive role of the relevant international organisations and regional cooperation organisations in this respect. Concerning the war in Ukraine, we reiterate our national positions and resolutions adopted at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly (A/RES/ES-11/1 and A/RES/ES-11/6). We highlight the negative added impacts of the war in Ukraine with regard to global food security. We call for unimpeded deliveries of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilisers/inputs across the Black Sea and welcome the Grain from Ukraine Programme. This is necessary to meet the demand in developing and least developed countries, particularly those in Africa. In this context, emphasising the importance of sustaining food and energy security, we call for the cessation of military destruction and other attacks on relevant infrastructure.
4. A sustainable bioeconomy is key in transforming the world economy, along with a sustainable, resilient and inclusive circular economy, as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns which includes renewable resources and respects planetary boundaries. We acknowledge that this change of paradigm must be in line with

global efforts towards the full achievement of all SDGs, including SDG 2, and we reaffirm that everyone should have access to safe, nutritious, affordable and sufficient food and healthy diets consistent with our commitment to foster the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. We stress the vital role of domestic production, international, regional and local trade and well-functioning markets for promoting a sustainable bioeconomy.

5. We, the Ministers of Agriculture from around the world, highlight that agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, plays a vital role in this change, since the sustainable primary production of biological resources and the resulting products and services are the foundation of a sustainable bioeconomy. We welcome and will build on the work that is done in political fora worldwide to foster the implementation of a sustainable and future-oriented bioeconomy, as lately under the Brazilian G20 presidency and on other platforms. We are looking forward to building on and enhancing the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy under the current South African Presidency. We are aware that we can only be successful in advancing this change of paradigm if we work hand in hand in a spirit of peace and cooperation. We thus commit to the following actions and principles:

Call for action

Producing biomass sustainably - Solving conflicts of interest

6. We commit to promote **sustainable biomass production** by accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in line with the Pact for the Future.¹

7. We stress that a sustainable bioeconomy can be of decisive importance in **enhancing sustainability**: when renewable biological resources are sourced, produced, managed and processed sustainably, bioeconomy can contribute to social, economic and environmental development and to reaching the SDGs. A sustainable bioeconomy can support the preservation, restoration and resilience of ecosystems and strengthen ecosystem services and nature-based solutions. We highlight the potential of a sustainable bioeconomy as an additional source of value creation and income, in particular in rural areas and for primary producers, family farmers, smallholder farmers, young farmers, women farmers fishing communities, people in vulnerable situations, Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities. This also accounts for the sustainable use of rangelands, resources from the sea and aquatic ecosystems, and non-timber forest products that are collected, such as fruits, nuts, resins, fibres, and medicinal and aromatic plants.

8. We acknowledge that the higher demand for biomass for food and non-food applications could lead to **conflicts of interests**, creating competition between different end-users with regard to the use of natural resources such as land or water. We need to prevent and mediate these conflicts, so that the allocation of land for the production of biomass for

¹ On 22nd September 2024, the **79th UN General Assembly (UNGA)**, adopted the **Pact for the Future**, a declaration designed to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

non-food purposes, such as energy generation and material use, does not negatively impact food production, climate change action or environmental preservation. We believe that it is possible to reconcile these interests, if properly managed. In addressing these issues, our priority is the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and sustainable development within planetary boundaries.

9. We underscore that a sustainable bioeconomy provides solutions for **climate change** mitigation by providing a climate-neutral resource base and carbon sink options. Bio-based solutions are key for the path towards net zero by 2050 and can contribute to reaching the goals set in the Paris Agreement, while meeting the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We stress that at the same time, a sustainable bioeconomy contributes solutions for climate change adaptation by promoting sustainable and resilient production systems, including sustainable land management, that also help ecosystem restoration and nutrient and water retention in soils. We will strengthen our efforts towards halting and reversing land degradation to achieve land degradation neutrality and deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 in line with the outcome of the global stocktake at COP28 and the Declaration of the High-Level Segment of the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and will enhance our efforts and collaboration leading in to COP30 in Brazil and beyond. We commit to build global ambition on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems and climate change in the run up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP30, thereby implementing the *COP28 Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action* by those countries that are signatories to this Declaration. We recommend giving due consideration to accessing climate and biodiversity financing and capacity-building for the agricultural sector in vulnerable regions and countries, including Small Island Developing States and African nations, to enhance adaptation and mitigation in context with regional circumstances and to ensure sustainable food systems and food security in the face of growing climate challenges.

10. We encourage restoration, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources while ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of **biodiversity** in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices. We encourage a successful conclusion of the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Colombia and look forward to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Armenia. In line with the GBF, we will avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation processes, reduce pressure on water use, restore and regenerate ecosystems and restore soil health. We will advocate for resource-regenerating land use systems. In this regard, we highlight, among others, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and SDG 15. We will promote sustainable practices, such as drought management and strengthening drought resilience, and the promotion of the use of non-conventional water resources to safeguard water resources in agriculture by improving water-use efficiency and circularity and integrated sustainable water governance and management.

11. In addressing these challenges, we will promote **sustainable agriculture and food systems** through approaches such as agroecology, agroforestry, integrated, regenerative and organic farming, conservation agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, precision farming, sustainable intensification, urban agricultural systems and other innovative approaches, recognising that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We recognise the need for policy action to incentivise the scale-up of these approaches. In this regard, we commend the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). We will utilise context-specific and science-based approaches for sustainable fertiliser and pesticide management, including bioinputs. We stress the need to improve the availability, affordability and accessibility, including through research and development, and promote the efficient, sustainable and responsible production and use, of organic and inorganic fertilisers, including adaptive balance fertilisation strategy, through local fertiliser production. We will promote the responsible use of pesticides, avoiding the overuse and reducing the overall risk of pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals, and will increase integrated pest management. We will foster plant and animal breeding innovations, including through respective international mechanisms, recognise the special role of smallholder farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities as custodians of agrobiodiversity and promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and agrobiodiversity. We also highlight the potential of neglected and under-utilised species (NUS) to diversify and strengthen the resilience of our food systems.

12. We stress the vital role of a sustainable **blue bioeconomy** for all industries and sectors related to oceans, seas, coasts and lakes and for an innovative, resilient, inclusive and sustainable bioeconomy. We recognise that sustainable fisheries and aquaculture are essential for food security and nutrition and a healthy planet. We highlight algae as one of the most promising currently underutilized resources of a sustainable blue bioeconomy. We commit to effectively conserve, manage and sustainably use aquatic living resources. We commit to strengthen efforts towards the elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as part of the pathway to sustainable fisheries. We stress the importance of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and the FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture. We urge WTO members to submit their instruments of acceptance for the 2022 WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies so that it can enter into force. We call for effective disciplines on certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, in line with SDG target 14.6. We seek to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive and well-balanced agreement as soon as possible.

13. We will continue to advocate for the need for global governance under the **One Health** approach, as outlined by the Quadripartite in its One Health Joint Plan of Action. This includes measures to avoid food and feed contamination as well as the promotion of the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents in line with the Codex Alimentarius Antimicrobial Resistance texts and relevant WOAHP guidance, to mitigate antimicrobial resistance and to sustain therapeutic options in human and veterinary medicine and plant protection.

Using biomass sustainably — Ensuring global food security

14. We recognise the importance of advancing a **sustainable bioeconomy along with a circular economy** for all value chains to alleviate pressure on renewable biological resources. We commit to promote the use and valorisation of agricultural, forest and aquatic biomass and by-products. In this regard, we recognise the climate and sustainability-related benefits of renewable biological resources. We will advance sustainable consumption and production patterns. We highlight the fact that combining the bioeconomy with circularity can increase the profitability of agricultural businesses, allowing for the production of new and additional products that complement and diversify income, for instance by reusing residual materials and by-products across sectors. Also we will strive to support the use of agricultural co-products and unavoidable waste in value chains to reduce pollution and improve local value addition.

15. We recognise the need to better manage and reduce overall consumption of resources to stay within planetary boundaries and promote other sustainable alternatives. In this context, we underscore the importance of **using biomass in multiple stages** to maximise resource efficiency, minimise waste and reduce the input of new materials, which, in effect, extends total biomass availability within a given system. The climate benefits of biomass use are particularly high in, but not limited to, applications where carbon is stored in long-lasting products and that have few or no other fossil-free options.

16. In this regard, we firmly underscore the vital role of promoting access and availability of safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Therefore we need to give priority to **food security** in our national policies.

17. We underline that diversifying **protein sources** may contribute to enhance global food security and nutrition. They may also contribute to reduce the need for resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and restore ecosystems while moving towards sustainable livestock farming and fishing. Furthermore, we are aware that a variety of approaches, such as the production of vitamins and amino acids with the help of microorganisms, breeding innovations and novel precision fermentation processes, may contribute to make food more nutritious.

18. We acknowledge that a sustainable bioeconomy and a circular economy can reduce **food loss and waste**. We are aware that one third of all food is lost or wasted globally each year² due to a variety of factors, for example a lack of storage and processing facilities. We commit to, by 2030, halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains to achieve SDG 12.3.

Strengthening innovation — Promoting communication

² UNEP, Food Waste Index Report 2024. Think Eat Save: Tracking Progress to Halve Global Food Waste (unep.org)

19. We stress that **science, technology and innovation**, training, communication and cross-sectoral cooperation are vital elements for a successful transition towards a global sustainable bioeconomy, while acknowledging traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. Raising consumer awareness about the benefits and value of bioeconomy products is crucial for fostering sustainable consumption patterns.

20. We highlight that access to **financing** is required to give the bioeconomy a head start and provide growth opportunities, in particular for smallholder producers, young entrepreneurs, female entrepreneurs, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. In this context, we acknowledge the CFS *Principles on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems* as key guidance for relevant stakeholders. We note with concern that many of the technological developments in the bioeconomy have difficulties maturing because they struggle to scale up. We therefore advocate to support infrastructure and services for incubation and acceleration. We stress the fact that supporting startups is crucial for building a resilient and dynamic bioeconomy. We acknowledge that enhancing financial resilience for smallholder producers entails improving access to affordable credit, offering support, and providing insurance products to mitigate risks, as applicable to the respective country contexts.

21. We stress the need to utilise transparent, comparable, measurable, inclusive, science-based and context-specific **criteria and methodologies** to assess the sustainability of bioeconomy activities at different levels, including for value chains. We refer for this part to the work undertaken by the FAO in developing tools and guidelines that support countries and producers in mainstreaming sustainability criteria into the bioeconomy. We should work towards levelling the playing field with other economic activities. We also emphasise the need for global collaboration to enhance bioeconomy data collection and analysis, enabling informed and sustainable bioeconomy development.

22. We stress the key role of emerging **technologies** and other innovative approaches, digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence to enhance sustainable agriculture and precision farming and better nutrient management to thus reduce the need for water, fertilisers and pesticides. We highlight the need to advance internationally coordinated work on the definition, norms and standards for bioinputs, such as inoculants, biofertilisers and biopesticides. We are aware that to advance the global economy, more research and development is needed to produce innovative bioeconomy products, and recognise the need to make these technologies accessible to producers from all countries to promote their wide adoption.

23. We acknowledge that bioeconomy activities are expected to be developed through safe, secure and responsible use of science, technology, innovation, Indigenous and traditional knowledge, with the potential **benefits, risks and impacts** of the bioeconomy assessed scientifically..

24. We emphasise the vital role of Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges, and local communities' **traditional knowledge** in driving sustainable innovation and resilience. In this context, we also highlight the importance of the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization* and the *FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

25. We will strive to foster voluntary technology and knowledge **exchange** on mutually agreed terms. We will promote the exchange of knowledge between actors, sectors and disciplines and overcome silo-thinking. We stress the need to enhance the transfer of knowledge from theory to practice and call upon academia to improve linkages with the business sector. We will strive to enable all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, family farmers, women and youth to participate in knowledge generation, transfers and exchanges. We highlight the role played by technical assistance and rural extension in this regard.

Creating a fair framework — Harnessing change

26. We will strive to make bioeconomy **governance** more effective and inclusive with wide social participation. We will work towards establishing and safeguarding robust and coherent policy frameworks in order to enable a consistent and coherent development of national, regional and local bioeconomy strategies and their implementation. We will strengthen cooperation and inclusion at different levels, promoting a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.

27. In order to strengthen **international cooperation**, we will highlight the importance of a sustainable bioeconomy to decision-makers around the world. In this regard, we stress the important role of existing global bioeconomy alliances and partnerships and the role of international organisations. We welcome the leadership by Brazil in establishing the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy as an important first step towards a sustainable global bioeconomy. We also recognise the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty as a tool to promote international cooperation towards improving food security and poverty alleviation in tandem with the sustainable use of bioeconomy.

28. Recalling the Communiqué of the 7th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference at the 2015 GFFA, we commend the work undertaken by FAO in developing tools and guidelines that support countries and producers in mainstreaming sustainability criteria into the bioeconomy. We welcome the FAO project funded by Germany on a **Global Bioeconomy Partnership** that will define and support preparation of the terms of reference and governance framework of such a partnership. Recognising the need for such an initiative, we call for its active consideration once completed.

29. We recognise the importance of **trade** to a functioning bioeconomy. We commit to support a rules-based, open, predictable, transparent, non-discriminatory, sustainable, equitable, fair and inclusive multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at its core. We stress the need to engage constructively with other WTO members

leading up to the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) with the aim of achieving a positive outcome. We will strive to ensure market access for sustainable bioeconomy products and processes and avoid any unjustified export restrictions. We highlight the importance of actively supporting the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) which enhances transparency on world agricultural markets.

30. We support sustainable, inclusive, transparent and reliable **value chains** for bioeconomy products where local and rural communities benefit from the opportunities that the sustainable bioeconomy provides. We underline that the position of stakeholders, in particular smallholder producers, female producers, young producers and Indigenous Peoples must be strengthened. We recognise that bioeconomy activities should be inclusive and equitable, uphold the rights of all persons and promote gender equality. In this regard, we commend the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*.

31. We underscore that secure **access** to land and natural resources, in particular for small-scale producers including female producers, young producers and Indigenous Peoples, is of paramount importance for sustainable biomass production and thus for a successful transition towards a sustainable global bioeconomy. We therefore highlight the vital need to strengthen access to land and secure land property, management control and inheritance and customary rights. In this regard, we welcome the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT).

32. While fostering a sustainable bioeconomy, we commit to achieve food security across its four pillars, namely availability, access, utilisation and stability. We support strengthening the progressive realisation of the **right to adequate food** in the context of national food security. We stress the important role the CFS plays in this respect and highlight the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security* endorsed by the CFS as a key guidance.

33. We advocate promoting **rural and urban** bioeconomy development to support local biobased value chains that valorise waste, residues and by-products and promote decentralised biomass processing, entrepreneurship and innovation. We recognise the need for improvements in sustainable infrastructure in order to facilitate the equal participation of people living in rural and remote areas. We highlight the importance of strengthening rural-urban interlinkages in this regard.

34. At a time when the world is reeling from an unprecedented number of crises, we commit to **stand together** and to work closely with each other in a spirit of peace and cooperation towards a sustainable and resilient world free from hunger and malnutrition with a thriving bioeconomy. We look forward to meeting again at the 2026 GFFA.



List of participants

Albania	Latvia	San Marino
Armenia	Lebanon	Senegal
Australia	Liberia	Slovakia
Belgium	Lithuania	Slovenia
Brazil	Luxembourg	Somalia
Bulgaria	Mali	South Africa
Burundi	Malta	Spain
Cambodia	Mauritania	Sweden
China	Montenegro	Switzerland
Côte d'Ivoire	Morocco	Tajikistan
Croatia	Netherlands	Thailand
Cyprus	Nigeria	Türkiye
Czechia	North Macedonia	Ukraine
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Norway	United Kingdom
Estonia	Oman	Uruguay
Finland	Palestine	Uzbekistan
France	Philippines	Yemen
Germany	Poland	Zambia
Haiti	Portugal	
Iraq	Qatar	
Italy	Republic of Moldova	
Japan	Romania	