

CFS Side Event:

“Growing sustainability: bridging food, biodiversity and climate goals for a 1.5°C future”

Friday, 27 October; 8.30 – 9.45 am

Moderator:

- Kaveh Zahedi, Director, Office of Climate change and Biodiversity, FAO

Opening remarks:

- Juan Lucas Restrepo, Global Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, CGIAR, and Director General of the Alliance of Biodiversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Panelists:

- H.E. Carla Barroso Carneiro, Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the Food and Agriculture Organization
- Prof Anne Marie Thow, Associate Professor in Public Policy and Health at University of Sydney
- Julie Belanger, Natural Resources Officer, Office of Climate Change and Biodiversity, FAO
- Imelda Bacudo, Senior Specialist, Food Systems, COP 28 Presidency

Summary and key outcomes of the side-events:

Introductory remarks

- The complexity of the challenges and impacts from climate change on agrifood systems and food security is now well established, as well as the contribution of unsustainable practices to reinforcing these global environmental crises.
- Multiple planning instruments exist at national level (NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, LDN targets, ...) but they do not always integrate issues related to agrifood systems systems and are not always coherent with one another.
- There is a need to elevate the discussion in international fora on how to better integrate these environmental challenges and planning instruments.
- The importance of integrating research, academia, civil society, as well as the private sector has been underlined, as well as the need to go beyond a sectoral approach.
- The objective, after the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework and as we approach UNFCCC COP28, is to shift the perception about agrifood systems as a central part of the solution to all environmental agendas, food security and nutrition.

Country example: Brazil

- Brazil has been making efforts to integrate the climate change – biodiversity – land degradation – food security nexus, and to address these challenges in alignment.
- The Representative underlined the importance of approaches such as bioeconomy, and the development of sustainable value chains, in order to achieve the objectives of restoring

ecosystems, decarbonizing economic model, promoting biodiversity, and encouraging the development and sustainability of local communities.

- It is crucial to identify, adopt, and scale-up solutions that are adapted to the local contexts.

Implementation of the CFS guidelines:

- The impacts between nutrition and climate change are too often overlooked, and the objective of the guidelines was to provide support in better understanding and addressing these challenges.
- The guidelines are not a “one size fits all” solution, but rather encourage for the identification and leveraging of local solutions.
- The implementation relies on three main pillars: governance, policy interventions, and partner action, underlying the importance of a multisectoral and multistakeholder approach.
- The role of governmental leadership is critical to balance the synergies and trade-offs that will necessarily result from an integrated approach of such complex issues.
- There is also a need to ensure a thorough monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes, as well as of the processes.

Opportunity raised by the GBF:

- The Global Biodiversity Framework introduces more ambitious targets, leaves more room to agriculture, and underlines the importance of civil society and local solutions;
- Several targets regard land degradation, nutrient depletion, fisheries, forestry, ... and this shows the importance of agrifood systems as a central part of the solution.
- Solutions exist but they need to be implemented and scaled up, in particular when it comes to soil health, carbon sequestration.

COP28 Presidency:

- Food systems are placed very high on the agenda of COP28, which will begin with the Emirati declaration on sustainable agriculture, food systems, and climate action, and will be concluded by a day on food and water
- The COP28 Presidency also recognizes the importance of leveraging more and better climate finance for the sector, and will have a dedicated session on the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) initiative at ministerial level.
- Although agriculture is only being discussed at the moment under specific agenda items : the Koronivia and Sharm-el-Sheikh joint works, there is a growing momentum on the need to integrate policy documents such as NDCs, NAPs, and sometimes NBSAPs.