

MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS



# THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE NATIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP

*Strengthening synergistic action between  
food systems transformation and climate action agendas in Brazil  
(a pilot country of the Convergence Initiative)*

Brasilia, Brazil  
29-31 October 2024

## SUMMARY REPORT



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## BACKGROUND

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The [Convergence Initiative](#), building on key milestones from the [UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#) (UNFSS+2) and the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference [COP28](#), aims to integrate food systems transformation with climate action. Drawing from the FAO roadmap and other frameworks, it seeks to align SDG2 goals with the 1.5°C climate target, supporting countries in harmonizing food systems and climate agendas to advance the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a pilot country, Brazil held the first Convergence Initiative national inception workshop in Latin America, and the second worldwide, from October 29 to 31, 2024, in Brasilia. Led by Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Brazil's Food Systems National Convenor and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, with the support of the Center of Excellency of WFP and FAO, the workshop brought together government representatives, UN bodies, academia, and civil society. The dialogue aimed to set priorities for a synergized food and climate approach, contributing to the achievement of shared goals and supporting national policies such as the Brasil Sem Fome Plan (Brazil Without Hunger Plan) and Brasil Plano Clima (Brazil Climate Plan), among others.

Given Brazil's significant global role in agrifood systems transformation and climate action, the workshop focused on strengthening the alignment of Brazil's climate and food systems policies, emphasizing cross-sector collaboration to advance resilience and sustainable development. Key recommendations set a path for improving the integration of climate goals into all stages of the food system and to support the objectives of food systems transformation in climate plans, reinforcing Brazil's leadership ahead of the UNFSS+4 and UN Climate Summit 2025 (COP30).

As a result, the workshop identified barriers, gaps and challenges, but also the progress, positive points and opportunities of collaboration across the climate and food systems agendas. Discussions also identified guiding principles, priorities, and the way forward to accelerate the implementation of current national policies leading to greater policy coherence.



The workshop was designed to foster co-creation and collaborative development of a framework for the convergence, focusing on identifying needs, gaps, and local capacities and resources. Its components included facilitated discussions highlighting key initiatives, as well as capacity development modules aimed to address knowledge gaps and bridging food and climate processes.

Participants included the Food Systems National Convenor team, representatives from the Ministry of Women (MM), Ministry of Education (MEC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE), Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA), Ministry of Social Development, Family, and Fight Against Hunger (MDS), Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Technology (MCTI), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA) Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Agriculture (MDA), as well as the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).

Representatives from the Academia and scientific community included the Amazon Research Institute (INPA), Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation), Federal University of Sergipe (UFS), University of Brasília (UnB), and Fiocruz.

Civil society and non-governmental organizations were represented by the Mamirauá Institute for Sustainable Development, Federal Council of Nutrition (CFN), Brazilian Association of Nutritionists (ABN), Brazilian Semi-Arid Network (ASA), Institute for Society, Population, and Nature (ISPN), Xukuru Indigenous Agriculture Collective, National Council on Food and Nutritional Security (CONSEA) and Chapadinha/Lago Oeste Settlement.

Representatives from the UN system included the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Women, UNICEF Brazil, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (UNRCO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Day 1 – Setting the stage and building a common vision	Day 2 – Convergence interventions	Day 3 – Inclusive action and planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the current state of food systems transformation (FST) and climate action (CA).</li> <li>• <b>Trend analysis</b> on FST and CA.</li> <li>• Identifying existing multistakeholder platforms (Convergence Group).</li> <li>• Review, map, and reflection on <b>national initiatives</b>, challenges and capacities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National policy frameworks and opportunities</b> - analysis of national policy frameworks and plans that support the convergence initiative, including the NDCs, NAPs, and food systems national pathways.</li> <li>• Introduction to the Convergence Action Blueprints (CABs)</li> <li>• Identification of key areas and interventions for the successful integration of food and climate strategies</li> <li>• Setting milestones: tracking the progress of convergence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing an evaluation and accountability framework for convergence</li> <li>• Sharing insights, guiding principles, and priorities to accelerate the convergence of policies and efforts.</li> </ul>

# SUMMARY AND KEY POINTS OF THE WORKSHOP

## I. ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

### 1. BARRIERS, GAPS, AND CHALLENGES FOR CONVERGENCE

- Strengthen capacity-building of local government managers and representatives.
- Enhance strategic and innovative financing needs to enhance scientific and social evidence for implementing programs and policies.
- Improve the execution of public policies, with a focus on improving clarity regarding their scope and ensuring greater transparency.
- Bureaucracy may affect access to and execution of policies.
- Collecting evidence of implementation, evaluation and monitoring of policies on food systems transformation and climate action remains challenging.
- Technologies deserve to be further tailored to local realities.
- Strengthen integration among federal and local spheres to enhance coordination among government entities.
- Improve knowledge about territorial realities, inequalities, and particularities to improve state capacity of implementation, especially in rural areas.
- Inconsistencies between production models, such as food security and surplus production.
- Violence in rural and urban territories can delay progress.

### 2. ACHIEVEMENT, PROGRESS, AND STRENGTHS

Transversality and coordination	Institutions and knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability of food and the capacity to transform food systems associated with the sustainable use of natural resources.</li><li>• Inclusion of food and nutrition security policies across the governmental agenda.</li><li>• Social oversight in public policies.</li><li>• Networking and collaboration among state, national, and international bodies</li><li>• International visibility of Brazil in food systems forums.</li><li>• Robust sectoral plans addressing food systems transformation and climate action already exist, with additional plans currently under development.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The government is prioritizing climate action and agrifood systems and is sensitive to the issue.</li><li>• Existing engagement of public universities in research, education, and extension.</li><li>• Robustness and availability of data and statistics for policy formulation.</li><li>• Established scientific and technological institutions.</li><li>• Creativity for climate innovation.</li><li>• Creativity and innovation are being harnessed to address climate emergencies.</li><li>• Knowledge and diversity of expertise, including social technologies.</li></ul>

Transversality and coordination	Institutions and knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstreaming of public policies for food security, nutrition, and social protection.</li> <li>• Robustness of data and statistics for the formulation and guidance of policies.</li> <li>• Social control, ensuring that public policies include actions for social oversight.</li> <li>• International visibility in global forums that elevate Brazil's presence.</li> <li>• Networking and collaboration among various stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autonomy and self-sufficiency to solve problems.</li> </ul>

### 3. COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

#### Integration of climate change and food systems:

- Strengthening agroecology and family farming in harmony with biomes.
- More robust evidence on climate change in public policies.
- Inclusion of climate change in municipal development plans in conjunction with food systems.
- Identification of an appropriate permanent forum to advance discussions on climate change and food systems.
- Consider the possibility of reforming the Interministerial Climate Council to include civil society in an equitable manner.
- Increase collection and availability of data.
- Networking among regional state bodies.

#### Strategic programs and national plans:

- Assistance for policies in guiding programs: school feeding program, national food and nutrition security plan, national agroecology plan.
- Improvement of communication regarding climate impact at the local level.
- Educational programs for systemic transformation including youth and science.
- Opportunity to include sectoral chapters in other plans that are being developed.
- Consider including food and nutrition security policies in all climate-related plans.
- Consider including climate change in all municipal, federal, regional, and other development plans.

## II. CONVERGENCE ACTION BLUEPRINT

### 1. PILAR I: VISION AND OBJECTIVES

#### a. Guiding Principles:

- Climate agenda for conflict prevention.
- Representation of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities.
- Recognition of land rights and agrarian reform.
- Intersectionality.
- Dialogue across sectors.
- Equity and reduction of inequalities.
- Universality - inclusion of people in all their diversity.
- Participation and social oversight.
- Sustainable practices in agri-food production.
- Social protection.
- Prevention of conflicts of interest in food and nutrition security and climate action.
- Promotion and protection of human rights.
- Increased territorial focus in policy planning.
- Solidarity and dignity.
- Climate justice and just transitions.



## **b. Acceleration in the implementation and optimization of current policies:**

- Develop general communication strategies regarding convergence initiatives.
- Map key stakeholders.
- Identify priority spaces for convergence.
- Improve funding efficiency and avoid fragmentation.
- Optimize human, technical, technological, and financial resources across different sectors.
- Map and diagnose existing plans, actions, and governance spaces aligned for convergence to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Ensure commitment and engagement from political leaders and diverse stakeholders.

## **2. PILAR II: KEY CONVERGENCE INTERVENTIONS**

### **c. Prioritization**

- Promote urban and peri-urban agroecological agriculture.
- Prioritize basic staple foods.
- Address all forms of violence in rural and urban areas.
- Implement strategies for adding value to agroecological and organic products in markets, including incentives for these products.
- Suggest a framework within municipalities for convergence.
- Include goals and actions in state plans for organic production.
- Develop policies for technical assistance and rural and fishery extension that respect agroecological dimensions and ancestral knowledge of communities, ensuring shared agroecological knowledge between extension workers and communities.
- Provide technical assistance and extension services based on agroecology and fisheries.
- Create strategies to reduce food loss and waste.
- Develop effective communication strategies regarding food systems transformation and climate action.
- Invest in new production practices that coexist with terrestrial and aquatic biomes.
- Incentivize short food production and distribution chains.
- Reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacities.
- Promote healthy diets, according to WHO rules and regulations.
- Expand sustainable conservation units.
- Align food production with strategies for recovering degraded areas.
- Foster urban and peri-urban agriculture based on agroecological principles.
- Promote the sustainable conservation and use of biodiversity, respecting the perspectives of traditional peoples and communities regarding water, land, and biodiversity.
- Develop sustainable strategies for land and water use and other natural resources
- Support land demarcation, titling, and agrarian reform.
- Optimize the use of existing resources and mobilize new resources from different sources, such as RED++, diversify funding mechanisms, interministerial cross-cutting fund portfolio, among others.



### 3. PILAR III: KEY CONVERGENCE MILESTONES

#### a. Next steps:

1. Consolidate the collective discussion.
2. Mature positions of government sectors and civil society.
3. Systematize contributions:
  - i. Distribute to participants a package with all the workshop presentations and reference documents such as Brazil's food systems national pathway, NDC, and NAP.
  - i. Finalize and distribute a context document for convergence, including background analysis.
  - i. Finalize and distribute the workshop summary report of the discussion for feedback.
  - i. Consolidate the feedback and elaborate the final version of the convergence blueprint.
2. Hold a meeting to evaluate the next steps and perspectives.
3. Present the blueprint to interested and involved sectors.
4. Consider the possibility of the National Convenor presenting the blueprint to the Climate Change Committee (CIM) or another appropriate body, aligning with the CIM process.
5. Evaluate the possibility of organizing a meeting to present the blueprint in the first semester of 2025.
6. Present the blueprint at strategic moments: UNFSS+4, COP30, FAO Conference, World Food Forum.
7. Engage and conduct advocacy actions at all levels and in key political moments.
8. Evaluate the implementation of the framework at relevant conferences related to climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the UN Food Systems Summit Process.

#### b. Available resources

- Amazon Fund (Fundo Amazônia)
- Adaptation Fund for Loss and Damage (Fundo Adaptação a Perdas e Danos)
- BNDES (National Bank for Economic and Social Development)
- BRICS Bank
- UN BR Fund (Fundo BR ONU)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Petrobras
- Northern Bank Foundation (Fundación del Banco del Norte)
- Parliamentary amendments (Emendas parlamentares)
- BB Fund (Fundo BB)
- JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)
- World Bank
- Labor Public Ministry (Ministério Público do Trabalho)
- Climate Authority (Autoridade Climática)
- IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
- Fund for Restructuring Food Systems at COP28
- Research organizations (Órganos de investigación)
- Among others



#### 4. PILLAR IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*Note: It is essential to define sustainability success based on the concept of sustainable development agreed upon at Rio-92 and integrating climate action and food systems.*

##### a. Progress indicators for measuring success:

- Governance space established.
- Climate and food systems policies executed jointly, with adequate oversight.
- Projects and processes implemented in the territories.
- Territorial initiatives demonstrating convergence.
- Continuous education programs.
- Inclusive processes.
- Publications influenced by the convergence.
- Mapping of entities and individuals participating in the implementation of joint climate and food systems policies.
- An inclusive framework aiming at COP30 to facilitate convergence.

##### b. Actors to be included:

- Brazilian Forum on Climate Change and the Interministerial Committee on Climate Change (18 ministries): Evaluate the possibility of establishing an advisory group within this forum, to guarantee the articulation of food systems and climate action plans.
- Expanded civil society participation, with a format to be defined.
- Evaluate the participation of relevant international organizations as observers.
- Academia and public sector representatives from additional sectors connected to the climate agenda.
- Evaluate the participation of private sector representatives, bearing in mind the need to avoid conflicts of interest.

## ANNEX - AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

Day 1: Setting the stage and building the foundations		Speakers
8:30 - 9:00 am	Registration	
9:00 - 9:20 am	Welcoming remarks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. H.E Maria Laura da Rocha. Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</li> <li>2. Mr. Jorge Meza. FAO Representative in Brazil.</li> <li>3. Mr. Daniel Balaban. Director of the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil.</li> <li>4. Arnoud Hameleers. IFAD Country Director in Brazil.</li> </ol> <p>Moderator: Mr. Stefanos Fotiou. Director. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.</p>
9:20 - 9:40 am	Coffee break	
9:40 - 10:00 am	Introduction of the participants and expectations from the workshop	Facilitator: Ms. Nicole De Paula. Technical Officer. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
10:00 - 10:20 am	Setting the scene: Convergence Initiative presentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Stefanos Fotiou. Director. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.</li> <li>2. Ms. Laura Delamonica. Deputy General Coordination for Food and Nutrition Security (CGSAN). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil &amp; Food Systems National Convenor Support team.</li> </ol>
10:20 - 11:00 am	Overview of the current state of food systems transformation policies in Brazil (review of national policy frameworks and plans)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Sergio Schneider. Consultant - Background analysis.</li> <li>2. Márcia Muchagata., Project Manager at the National Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security - Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger (MDS)</li> <li>3. Ms. Tayse Muniz. Faculty member at the Federal University of Sergipe.</li> </ol>
11:00 - 11:40 am	Overview of the current state of climate action related to food systems in the country (review of national policy frameworks and plans)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Sergio Schneider. Consultant - Background analysis.</li> <li>2. Sr. Marcelo Morandi. Researcher at the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa).</li> <li>3. Mr. Iran Neves Ordonio. Leader of the Indigenous collective Jupago Kreká.</li> </ol>

11:40 - 1:30 pm	Review of national initiatives developed by other stakeholders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Albaneide Peixinho - WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil.</li> <li>Fernanda Cristina Romero - Chemicals and Pollution Policy Lead, UNEP.</li> <li>Fernanda Viana - Instituto Mamirauá.</li> </ol>
1:30 - 2:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Building blocks of effective multi-stakeholder collaboration for food systems transformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daniel Henrique Bandoni - Food Security Coordinator at the National Fund for Educational Development, Ministry of Education.</li> <li>Mr. Paulo Mário Carvalho de Faria - Director, National Secretariat of Aquaculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture.</li> <li>Sra. Fernanda Gomes Rodrigues - General Coordinator of Food Sovereignty and Security, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology.</li> </ol>
3:30 - 4:40 pm	Understanding the specific challenges faced at the national level, including progress, gaps, needs and local capacities and resources available in the country	Group discussion
4:40 - 5:00 pm	<b>Coffee break</b>	
5:00 - 5:30 pm	Summary of the group discussions - Identification and prioritization of key areas for collaboration	
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Recap of Day 1 and preparation of Day 2.	
<b>Day 2: Co-creation and capacity building</b>		<b>Speakers</b>
9:00 - 9:10 am	Review of Day 1 outcomes and overview of Day 2	
9:10 - 10:10 am	Achieving SDG 2 without breaching the 1.5 °C threshold: A global roadmap	Mr. David Laborde. Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization's Agricultural Economics Division.
10:10 - 10:40 am	Round of introductions	Facilitator: Ms. Nicole De Paula. Technical Officer. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
10:40 - 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	

11:00 - 1:00 pm	Leading systems change: the role of NDC and NAPs for the national pathway for food systems transformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Luiza Trabuco - Director of Programs, Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger (MDS).</li> <li>Ms. Marília Leão - Executive Secretary, CONSEA.</li> <li>Mr. Eduardo Nilson - Researcher in International Cooperation, Food, Nutrition, Health, and Culture Program, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.</li> <li>Mr. Érico Rocha - General Coordinator of Mitigation and Ozone Layer, Ministry of the Environment.</li> </ol>
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Lunch	
2:00- 3:00 pm	Introduction of the draft Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) Framework	Mr. Stefanos Fotiou – Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.
	Developing the elements of the framework adapted to the national context - Initial co-creation of the CAB. Pilar I: Vision and objectives	Group discussions
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Identification of implementation needs and priorities of the CAB	Group discussions
4:00 - 4:20 pm	Coffee break	
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Identifying resource requirements to achieve the CAB	Group discussions
5:00 - 5:15 pm	Recap of Day 2 and preparation of Day 3	
<b>Day 3: Inclusive Action Planning</b>		<b>Speakers</b>
9:00 - 9:10 am	Review of Day 2 outcomes and overview of Day 3	
9:10- 10:20 am	Strengthening systems leadership through science-policy society interfaces (SPSIs)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Maria Eduarda Lima de Vasconcelos - General Coordinator of Rural Youth, Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Agriculture.</li> <li>Mr. Niels Soendergaard - Institute of International Relations, University of Brasília.</li> <li>Mr. Marcio Rojas – Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology.</li> </ol>
10:20 - 10:40 am	Coffee break	

10:40 - 12:00 am	Explore the M&E framework's practical applications in the national context, identifying challenges and opportunities	Group discussions
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Knowledge sharing module: Systemic approach for food systems transformation and climate action convergence	Ms. Ivone Ribeiro - Family Farmer, Chapadinha Settlement/Lago Oeste. Mr. Arthur Vieira Sobrinho - Student, Winner of the Innovation Award, School Garden/Embrapa.
2:00 - 3:30 pm	Summary of discussions, next steps and way forward.	Discussions in plenary
3:30 - 3:40 pm	Coffee break	
3:40 - 4:00 pm	Recap of the workshop	
4:00 - 4:30 pm	Closing	