

Agriculture Policy Dialogue

Virtual Senior Technical Officials' Meeting

Meeting Summary

May 29, 2024

Purpose of the Agriculture Policy Dialogue:

Catalyse policy leadership to accelerate transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Objectives:

The objective of this virtual policy dialogue session was to engage policy makers globally in the agenda of the dialogue and set priorities for the new year:

1. Where can the policy dialogue be most helpful to share experiences and solution options, at thematic and regional levels, and what can you offer to support the Dialogue (eg co-hosting, case studies, field visits...)?
2. Given our commitments under the Emirates Declaration, what key policy actions are you taking to make progress on these (to deliver low emission, environmentally sustainable agriculture and food production)?

Context for Global Virtual Dialogue:

Building on previous engagements at GFFA, AGRF (now AFSF), and UNFSS, the UK and World Bank convened this 13th session of the Policy Dialogue to accelerate transition to Sustainable Agriculture on 29 May 2024. In preparation for COP30 in Brazil, this dialogue was designed to explore country priorities for the Policy Dialogue, and how development partners can best support sustainable agriculture development.

To set the context for the dialogue, the World Bank presented the recently published report “[Recipe for a Livable Planet](#)”, the UAE COP28 Presidency presented on follow up actions to [the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action](#), and FCDO presented on global priorities and recent country initiatives for more sustainable agriculture. Several of the significant points from the presentations include:

- The Emirates Declaration was a key turning point in integrating ag and food systems into country's climate action plans.
- Addressing emissions in the agrifood system is critical to achieving the Paris Agreement targets and the SDGs.
- Annual investment in mitigation needs to increase by 18x to US\$260 billion per year to cut current agrifood emissions in half by 2030 and put us on a path to net zero by 2050.
- The agrifood system is a huge, untapped source of low-cost climate change action, but these are complex issues, and solutions need to be tailored to local context.
- There is growing evidence on the range of positive pathways available to reorient our agrifood systems to deliver for people, climate and nature.

Summary:

During the discussion participants set out several priority issues for the Dialogue to consider in 2024/25 including:

- Stakeholder engagement in the context of ‘push back’ from the sector on environmental schemes – How can we engage agrifood producers in the policy reform process and ensure they aren’t being left behind and their concerns are addressed in policy design? What type of public dialogue should we engage in to bring agrifood producers closer to policy makers?
- Balancing climate, nature, and the economics of agriculture was recognized as a significant challenge. Policy changes need to make sense economically for producers and to avoid unintended consequences, and different approaches will be needed within countries depending on the local context. Different country experiences would be interesting to share.
- Exploring options for lower interest rates for producers that engage in environmentally sustainable practices to incentivize and support sustainable production. There was also a recognition of the importance of climate finance vocabulary in the types of support available or excluded (e.g. nature based solutions) and the importance of the private sector as a ‘critical cook’ in the recipe for a livable planet.
- A proper enabling environment to pilot and test incentives and scale innovations was highlighted by participants. Incentives must be carefully considered using economic and scientific indicators, and proper stakeholder engagement. Evidence demonstrates that repurposing a portion of agricultural support as investments in green innovations and rural infrastructure can lead to concurrent improvements in emission reduction, land use change, and productivity.
- Assessing the financial architecture for food systems transformation was presented as an opportunity for the Dialogue to engage stakeholders.
- Support for accessible tools for analysis and evaluation of agriculture policies to strengthen mitigation or resilience actions.

In terms of implementing the Emirates Declaration and other national and international obligations effectively participants were most concerned with ensuring that agrifood producers are not left behind, and how we can connect them better to policy makers.

Countries also discussed the challenge of technology transfer from the global north to global south and that many of these technologies are tied to fossil fuels. It was recognized that many developing countries are at the forefront of developing their own key energy solutions and technology and that this should be considered a topic for future engagement.

Next Steps:

Countries were invited to provide any additional written feedback on the proposals for the Agriculture Policy Dialogue in 2024/25. A concept note and forward look will be circulated to Policy Dialogue countries with proposed events throughout 2024 and 2025.