



# Dialogue on agri-food systems for food security, nutrition, and against poverty

**SISTEMAS AGROALIMENTARES PARA  
A SEGURANÇA ALIMENTAR,  
NUTRIÇÃO E CONTRA A POBREZA  
BRASIL - PAÍSES BAIXOS**

**AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY,  
NUTRITION, AND AGAINST POVERTY  
BRAZIL - NETHERLANDS  
A G20 MACS SIDE EVENT**

Report of multilateral dialogue between  
Brazil, The Netherlands and FAO

Brasília, May 14, 2024

METHODOLOGY	3
INTRODUCTION	4
PROLOGUE	
FAO, Jorge Meza	5
The Netherlands, Paul Van de Logt	6
Brazilian Government, Laura Delamonica	7
Embrapa, Marcelo Morandi	8
MAIN FOCUS	9
KEYWORDS	10
AXIS 1 - Opening panel	11 to 14
AXIS 2 - Global recommendations for the sustainability of agri-food systems: an overview	15 to 18
AXIS 3 - Innovations in national and local agri-food systems in Brazil and The Netherlands: success stories	19 to 23
AXIS 4 - Future perspectives for collaboration - Declaration of Belém and agri-food systems	24 to 25
PICTURES	26
FINAL CONSIDERATION	27
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	28
CREDITS	29

With the aim of adopting the recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (CSA) and the Rome-based government agencies, as well as the Food Systems Summit and the Food Systems Summit Assessment Moment, the Government of Brazil, the Embassy of the Netherlands in Brazil and the FAO, with support from Embrapa, have promoted a dialogue composed of around 60 key actors from the Brazilian and Dutch agricultural sector, policymakers, technicians, researchers and civil society representatives to debate the current status of food systems in each country and around the world. On May 14, 2024, the multilateral dialogue discussed an agenda of public policies, programs and innovations necessary to promote agri-food systems for food security, nutrition and against poverty.

This document presents the results of the multilateral dialogue on agri-food systems for food security, nutrition and against poverty. The purpose of the document is to serve as a basis for accessing the topics that were covered during the conference and bibliographic material.

The work was carried out by a team made up of members of FAO in Brasília and the food and nutrition consultant, Roberta Azevedo.

The work methodology adopted was informed by the following guidelines:

1. Present a preamble with speeches by representatives of the institutions responsible for the work;
2. Organize the main theme by indicating the keywords and results of the panels divided by axis;
3. Divide the main results into 4 axis, each containing the speakers with the central focus of the speech, panel synthesis, conclusion and pictures;
4. Exclude information that was not in-depth and only mentioned in the conference;
5. In addition to the guidelines above, the team took into account the following criteria: presenting a introduction and being faithful to the content presented in the dialogue.

The content of this work is a central theme in the global context as it is inserted in countries sustainability agendas and was developed at an important moment for Brazil, its presidency of the G20, and the World Meeting of Agricultural Research Leaders (MACS G20).

Today we are experiencing a global syndemic in which the problems caused by malnutrition in all its forms reach an increasing number of people, in addition to the harmful consequences of climate change. Almost 800 million people are food insecure and 2 billion are suffering the consequences of overweight and obesity. Climate change completes the concept of Global Syndemic with the synergistic combination between the pandemics of obesity and malnutrition, the three resulting mainly from the global agri-food system, in addition to other common social factors.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to discuss public policies and innovations that promote sustainable agri-food systems. A broad vision that seeks not only to address food insecurity and malnutrition, but also to integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the 28th Conference of the Parties, COP 28, held in December 2023 in Dubai, more than 130 countries signed the declaration on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems and climate action, boosting the inclusion of agri-food systems in national climate agendas to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

This initiative is part of a global movement and reaffirms previous commitments, such as those established at the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 and at the time of evaluation of the Food Systems Summit in 2023, in addition to the efforts of organizations such as the World Committee on Food Security, FAO, IFAD, and WFP.

In this context, one of the main objectives of this dialogue is to explore how the Netherlands and Brazil, important food producers, can contribute to the development of more sustainable, resilient and fair agri-food systems.

The aim is to present an overview of active policies and programs in both countries that support and promote sustainable agri-food systems with a focus on reducing food insecurity and poverty. It is also intended to increase understanding of the relationship between the sustainability of food systems and resilience to climate change, considering the three aspects of sustainable development. In addition, successful cases were presented in various areas, such as actions to strengthen family farming and promote resilience to climate change, as well as the challenges of promoting food and nutritional security for the population of the Amazon region and vulnerable groups.

It is expected that the discussions generated during the dialogue can inspire concrete actions to face the urgent challenges of our times.



# FAO

*“According to the latest report State of Food and Nutrition Security in the World (SOFI), the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity worldwide reached, in the year 2022, around 29.6% of the world population - 2.4 billion people, of which around 900 million (11.3%) experienced severe food insecurity.*

*At the same time, the world faces increasing CO2 emissions and loss of biodiversity. While they may already record substantial progress, these statistics emphasize the urgent need for transformative dialogues that lead to tangible solutions for change towards adequate nutrition and strengthening agri-food systems so that they are more sustainable, resilient, healthy and equitable.*

*It is imperative to recognize and disseminate best practices between countries and jointly seek strategies and commitments with the potential to reshape agri-food systems. This was the objective of FAO, as part of the United Nations, to support this event: to favor collective efforts to build a more just and sustainable future, prioritizing food security, nutrition and better living conditions for the current generation and as the future.”*

Jorge Meza, FAO Representative in Brazil

# The Netherlands

*“Our global food system is responsible for 70% of freshwater use and a quarter of global carbon emissions. And there are still millions of people without access to healthy food.*

*If we don't fix the food system, we won't solve the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, or poverty. We need to look at what we eat, how we produce it and what social impacts this production has.*

*Brazil and the Netherlands are powers in agriculture, with important results for our economy and access to food. But we both face environmental challenges and we still have groups that are undernourished or obese because they don't have access to a healthy diet.*

*Although we are very different countries, we share the challenge of ensuring good food for our own population and - as we are exporters - of guaranteeing access to good food for people in other countries.*

*The May 14, 2024 event provided an opportunity to learn from each other, to discuss what we have tried, and where we think we can help each other. The rich discussion shows that food systems and food security can and should be the basis of cooperation between Brazil, the Netherlands and FAO.”*

Paul van de Logt  
Agricultural Counselor at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Brazil

# Brazilian Government

*“The multiple crises affecting the world are a reality and have placed the issues of food and nutritional security at the top of political agendas.*

*For Brazil, agri-food systems encompass the way we produce, distribute, sell, and consume food.*

*The transformation of food systems must be associated with climate actions, but also be at the forefront of a just transition with reduced inequalities, taking into account different local realities and the particularities of different population groups. The multilateral debate on agriculture and food and nutritional security cannot ignore the social and economic aspects of sustainable development.*

*This debate on agri-food systems must incorporate the recommendations of the World Committee on Food Security, discussions within the agencies based in Rome, and must focus, above all, on the importance of facing the structural challenges that cause inequalities, including gender inequality, income and race.*

*Women and girls, indigenous peoples and traditional communities, people of African descent, family farmers, artisanal fishermen and other groups in vulnerable situations deserve to be at the center of our responses.*

*This is why climate action must be associated with social protection and the guarantee of human rights, in particular the human right to adequate food, as well as measures to eradicate poverty and food and nutritional insecurity.*

*In the words of President Lula, ending hunger is a challenge for the entire planet, which we can only overcome with political will and the strengthening of multilateralism.*

*For this reason, in the context of the Brazilian Presidency of the G20, Brazil proposed a Task Force to establish a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. Once the Global Alliance is launched, in November 2024, it is expected that all countries, financial institutions, academics and international organizations will join the initiative. “*

Laura Delamonica  
Deputy Head of SAN General Coordination, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# Embrapa

*“The current and future challenges posed by climate change and food insecurity demand continuous scientific and technological developments, knowledge exchange and social innovation that require long-term strategies and can benefit from international cooperation and financing. It is paramount to stress the fact that without support to adaptation and resilience of agricultural systems the impacts of climate change are compromising the potential for agriculture to contribute directly and indirectly to mitigation of GHG and could undoubtedly diminish the potential of agriculture to become part of the solution.*

*In mobilizing and coordinating efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals adopted under the 2030 Agenda, it is paramount: i) to have clarity about the quality and robustness of information based on science that will guide policy discussion; ii) to have clarity regarding the parameters and priorities for action and support; and iii) to build commitments around the key issues, based on the previous two sets of elements.*

*Considering the above-mentioned climate action and support, as well as international cooperation in food systems should focus on (“RESPECT approach”): strengthening the **resilience** of agri-food systems; supporting the development of **efficient** and locally adapted food systems; fostering continuous and inclusive **scientific** research and innovation; supporting **people** in promoting sustainable livelihoods and diversifying food production; boosting the generation and use of renewable **energy**; committing to reducing emissions caused by land use **change**; and, promoting sustainable **trade** of agricultural and food products with a cooperative approach.*

*This event was an opportunity to continue the global dialogue, enhance the understanding and awareness regarding the vulnerability of agriculture to current and future impacts of climate change and to foster actions to enhance investment in science and technology that result in adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and reduce the vulnerability of agriculture and the poorer people to current as well as future adversities inherent to the impact of climate change.”*

Marcelo Morandi  
Head of the International Relations Office, Embrapa

# The relationship between the sustainability of food systems and resilience to climate change

The multilateral dialogue on sustainable food systems brought different concepts and visions, building a complementary narrative. A polysemic concept was established and the common theme was the starting point for the speaker's approach and presentation.

Despite its multifocal characteristic, the main focus was to address the urgency in transforming the hegemonic food system into resilient, inclusive, systemic, and sustainable food systems, taking into account the three aspects of sustainable development as a way of ensuring food and nutritional security, preservation of biodiversity, mitigation of the harmful effects of climate change and eradication of poverty.

As a result of the theme, the speakers presented an overview of the institutional frameworks and active programs and policies that support and promote these changes in Brazil, Netherlands and FAO initiatives. Additionally, the speakers made connections between sustainable agri-food systems and resilience to climate change with a sustainable development approach, emphasizing social aspects relating to the local population; concrete cases of national government efforts with successful programs and initiatives that contribute to the adoption of healthy diets; and highlighted the Amazon and the challenges of food and nutritional promotion that the biome faces.





# Opening Panel

## 1.1. Speakers and central focus of speeches



**André Driessen**

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Brazil | The Netherlands

*"If we don't fix food systems, we won't fix the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis or poverty. We need to analyze what we eat, what we produce and what the social impacts of this production are."*

*"It is necessary to transform agri-food systems. There are still people in a situation of hunger, despite having enough food for everyone, but there are also people who are overweight and obese. Currently, there are more people who are overweight and obese than people who are hungry. Therefore, the agri-food system is not working properly, allowing everyone to eat, and those who eat, to eat healthily. We have to think that we are all part of the agri-food system. A food system that goes from the base of production to the tip of consumption. Including, in addition to consumption, the disposal of waste and the reuse of food."*



**Jorge Meza**

FAO Representative  
in Brazil | FAO



**Laura Delamonica**

Deputy Head of the General Coordination of Food and Nutritional Security | MRE, Brazil

*"For Brazil, it is a key moment internally and internationally, it is a priority context, both for resuming the national and international protagonism of the Brazilian government, and it is a moment to really reinforce our agenda to combat hunger, poverty and all inequalities."*

**Valéria Burity**

Extraordinary Secretary Against Hunger and Poverty | MDS, Brazil

*"It is no wonder that there is talk of a global syndemic, with food systems associated with hunger, all forms of malnutrition and climate change. So it is very important for us to understand and guarantee food systems that guarantee adequate nutrition and that do not bring so many externalities such as the environment and social externalities. This dialogue in which agricultural policy is discussed in the transformation of food systems is extremely relevant."*



**Augusto Billi**

Director of the Non-Tariff Negotiations and Sustainability Department | MAPA, Brazil

*"We understand that agriculture has this role of food security and also climate security."*



*"Our challenge is great. Science, technology and research will play a crucial role in helping people overcome the situation we face today. We may be able to reduce the process of climate change, mitigate its effects and adapt to continue producing healthy and sustainable food, valuing the people, the people who live in rural areas, who are the peasants, the settlers, the "quilombolas", the indigenous people, rural women and, rural youth. They are today the ones who are being most affected by our choices, because they depend on nature to produce and to live and they are the ones who dedicate their lives so that we can improve the quality of food in urban areas."*



**Fernanda Machiaveli**

MDA, Brazil |  
Executive Secretary



**Marcos Aurelio Lopes Filho**

CONSEA, Brazil | General Coordinator

*"CONSEA, as an advisory body to the President of the Republic, has the role of bringing and reflecting all the richness, power, diversity of Brazilian civil society in the construction of documents such as the Food Guide for the Brazilian Population."*

### 1.2. Panel summary

Faced with the current challenges of climate crises, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, the speakers reinforced the importance of the agri-food systems agenda as the center of a transformation agenda. Brazil and the Netherlands are leading agricultural countries that cooperate and are partners in the group of friends of the Human Right to Adequate Food. They are powers in agriculture with important results for the economy and access to food, but both face environmental challenges and still have a large number of people who are food insecure and, above all, overweight and obese. Therefore, despite being very different, the two countries share the challenge of ensuring a healthy and adequate life for their own populations and, as they are exporters, for the populations of other countries.

For the speakers, two major challenges for this generation were highlighted, which are overcoming hunger and poverty and mitigating the harmful effects of climate change. Science, technology and research were highlighted with a crucial role in overcoming these challenges and guaranteeing the production of healthy and sustainable food, valuing the people and populations living in rural areas, the most vulnerable and affected groups, who depend on nature for subsistence and are those responsible for the food distributed in urban areas. The importance of understanding the concept of the topic, which is complex and polysemic, but consensus is essential to ensure adequate nutrition unaffected by environmental and social influences.

FAO presented the transformation of this global food system with a focus on food and nutritional security, presenting four important pillars: availability, stability, access and use.

In this context, it was mentioned that this a key and priority moment for Brazil in the resumption of the Brazilian government's national and international protagonism, in addition to being an opportune moment to reinforce the agenda to combat hunger, poverty and all inequalities. The country sees this commitment with the resumption of a series of initiatives since the beginning of President Lula's government, with the recreation of CONSEA, the launch of the Brazil Without Hunger Plan and the Food Acquisition Plan, and a series of other initiatives.

In the context of Brazil facing the presidency of the G20, the three axes that guide this mandate were mentioned, such as the issue of the three pillars of sustainable development, the issue of international governance reform and, mainly, the fight against hunger, poverty and all forms of inequality, a topic that is intrinsically related to the transformation of agri-food systems.

The importance of national companies such as Embrapa, which for over 50 years has been implementing technologies suitable for the tropical environment and allowing the country to be one of the largest food producers in the world, implementing biological nitrogen fixation technologies and techniques such as integration, crops, livestock, forest, direct planting, and allowing progress towards more sustainable agriculture. The diversification of food production has proven essential to maintain broad and rich biodiversity, and a diverse diet.

Technologies and innovations focused on agriculture are the focus of MACS G20 and show that agriculture plays a fundamental role in the planet's food, climate and energy security. Some practices that the country implements were highlighted, such as direct planting as well as investment in sustainable intensification with integration of crops, livestock and forest in the same area, capable of generating greater production and sequestering more organic matter. Some plans were also mentioned, such as the ABC, which is 14 years old and promotes sustainable practices, and the Safra Plan, which presents an approach with greater incentives for sustainable production, focusing on bioeconomy, biofuels and production using sustainable practices included within the ABC Plan.

CONSEA presented a vision of sustainable agri-food systems based in the Brazilian Population Food Guide, a landmark document built by many hands, through intersectoral and participatory governance, in addition to four premises. The first is the guarantee of food and nutritional security, in which these systems include access to land, water and decent working conditions for family farming. Not only because family farming is what feeds the world, it is what produces most of the food that is actually consumed on people's tables, but because it does so with less impact on natural resources. The second is that these food systems go through short, local and decentralized supply circuits. The third, the stimulation and promotion of the production and consumption of fresh, minimally processed foods and limiting the consumption of ultra-processed foods. And to conclude, the fourth is the promotion of cultural diversity and socio-biodiversity.

The National School Feeding Program and the Food Acquisition Program were highlighted for strengthening the sustainable agriculture policy, providing the purchase of food from family producers, and promoting the transformation of production systems to healthy, sustainable, fair and inclusive ones.

The expansion of the Brazil Without Hunger Plan (Brasil Sem Fome), a program of a set of interlinked economic, environmental and social policies and actions, was highlighted for presenting important results on the Brazilian scale of food and nutritional security. Such plan was presented in April 2024 and reduced the number of people in food insecurity from 15.5% (20 million) to 4.1% (8 million).

Initiatives and expectations were also presented in relation to Brazil with the presidency of COP 30 next year, the presidency of the BRICS and with its review of the national process for the United Nations Food Systems Summit, as well as its entry into the last year of the Food Systems Coalition and the Indigenous Food Systems Coalition.

All speakers highlighted the power of dialogues like this so that concepts, experiences and visions can be exchanged to make a joint work agenda possible.

### 1.3. Conclusion

In the opening panel, speakers addressed the importance of transforming agri-food systems into more sustainable, resilient, fair and inclusive ones. Brazil and the Netherlands are agricultural powers that share the challenges of overcoming the current global syndemic, the synergistic combination between the pandemics of obesity, malnutrition and climate change, three resulting elements mainly from the current global agri-food system, which in turn have caused devastating impacts to the world with environmental, social and economic consequences.

The speakers concluded that joint learning and mutual cooperation are essential, networking through dialogue and multilateral discussion, not only by dealing with food production, but also the entire social protection system.



# Panel 1. Global recommendations for the sustainability of agri-food systems: an overview

## 2.1. Speakers and central focus of speeches



**Laura Delamonica**

MRE, Brazil | Deputy  
Head of the CGSAN

*"The UAE's COP 28 declaration on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems and climate action has raised the profile of debates on agri-food systems around the world. Likewise, the United Nations Food Systems Summit and its segment brought the world back to this debate. The Brazilian position recognizes that these are important processes, but they are processes that were marked by little transparency in their design and little participation of multiple interested actors. For Brazil, social participation is the structuring axis of our debates on food and nutritional security. The country counts on the participation of civil society in all its diversity to discuss this topic."*

**Hans van Meijl**

Wageningen University, The Netherlands | Chief Economist at Wageningen Economic Research

*"We need farmers for today's and tomorrow's food production. How can we align jobs, governments, private sectors, knowledge institutions and financial sectors to make this transition happen, ensuring a fair income for farmers. So a holistic perspective is needed."*



**Marcelo Morandi**

EMBRAPA, Brazil | Head of the International Relations Office



*"The way we produce and consume food is crucial to implementing the 2030 Agenda to maintain sustainable development goals and achieve the future we want. An efficient, resilient and sustainable agricultural system is essential to guarantee the Human Right to Adequate Food and to offer healthy food at an adequate price and in adequate quantities to the population. Therefore, addressing the vulnerability of food production and distribution to climate change must be the priority in any discussion related to these two concepts."*

**Israel Rios**

FAO | Nutrition Officer

*"Agriculture has to focus on health, but health also has to focus on agriculture and the environment."*



**Paul van de Logt - panel moderator**

Agricultural Counselor at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Brazil



*"I think that the introduction of the discussion on food systems was FAO's most important initiative to dispel the idea that the world needs to produce more. It's not about that anymore, it's about producing better and being associated with healthy diets, but also with a very specific look at regions where supplement networks work well. Great agricultural powers have a great responsibility to show the world what the system should be and how it can be."*

### 2.2. Panel summary

In the first technical panel, speakers discussed some global perspectives and recommendations by representatives of the two countries participating in the dialogue.

According to the Brazilian government's perspective on the topic, 3 main axis were presented: the first is the polysemic concept that starts from some pre-established premises, the second climate action, and the third the eradication of all forms of inequality. In this context, the creation of the Task Force by the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty was mentioned, placing the issue of food and nutritional security at the top of the national and international political agenda. This Alliance will consist of national, financial and knowledge pillars that will help countries to implement national policies of recognized effectiveness in combating hunger, poverty and inequalities.

For Brazil, social participation is the structuring axis for the debate, counting on the participation of civil society in all its diversity and incorporating multiple actors such as innovative responses and investments from the private sector, academic investigations and cooperation with international organizations.

The transformation of these systems must be associated with climate actions, sustainability, but also linked to a fair transition and reduction of inequalities, taking into account regional particularities and the different needs of vulnerable populations. In other words, focused on the environmental axis but also on the social and economic axes. The results of the discussion on the topic at COP 28 were highlighted as important, but even so, the importance of returning to the recommendations of the World Committee on Food Security, the CSA, was emphasized so that the discussions produced by the common agencies FAO, IFAD and PMA, could be also incorporated into such a debate

In addition, seven premises considered as fundamental by the Brazilian government were ranked: resilience, efficiency, populations at greater vulnerability, science, energy, change and commerce.

From the perspective of climate action in agricultural systems, a scientific approach was presented by Embrapa, showing that the way food is produced and consumed is fundamental to achieving all sustainable development objectives. Some considerations were made such as the importance of the agricultural system in economic growth and the fight against hunger and poverty, supporting social inclusion and protecting the environment. Important points were presented such as the balance between adaptation and mitigation, a challenge nowadays as there are more resources allocated to mitigation and few funds aimed at adaptation. Another relevant reflection presented was the adaptation of economic and sustainable appropriate technology to preserve natural resources and the quality of life of the population.

In the view of the Head of Agricultural Science at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, Hans van Maijl, it is a challenge to feed 9 billion people by 2050 whilst reducing the current numbers of almost 800 million people who are food insecure and more than 2 billion people who are overweight and obese. These numbers show that almost half of the world's population faces problems related to food, in addition to the challenges faced in agriculture due to climate change with high greenhouse gas emissions. One of the solutions highlighted was a transition of production within the planet's ecological borders and a fair distribution among people. Issues such as loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, obesity, poverty, climate change challenge processes related to food production. Some solutions were presented, such as decentralization in the primary focus of production and the scope for a holistic look that includes consumption patterns with the implementation of policies and strategic actions by all public-private actors involved. Other points highlighted as a solution in this transformation process were investment in knowledge research to bring innovations and technological solutions with artificial intelligence and investments in propagating these technologies. Solutions to ensure food security and minimize climate effects were presented as being specific to each country and that each one will find what fits their realities, observing the guarantee of a long-term perspective in the agricultural sector and the conservation of biodiversity.

All statements share the premise that the objective of these sustainable agri-food systems is to guarantee food and nutritional security for future generations. FAO presented its Strategic Framework 2022-2031: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life. To achieve this, FAO has shown that it uses key accelerators such as innovation, technology and statistics, correlating nutrition with the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In this way, the program seeks to address hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, aligning them with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) through evidence-based strategies, multi-sectoral collaborations and innovative approaches. Five priority areas were presented, such as access to a healthy diet, nutrition for the most vulnerable, safe and healthy foods for all, reduction of food losses and waste, and transparent trade.

The concept of a healthy diet was also presented by FAO and WHO: it must be sufficient to guarantee an adequate supply of energy and essential nutrients, adjusted to maintain an adequate balance in caloric consumption, between the three main sources of energy. Also, a healthy diet must be diverse, including a wide variety of food groups, and moderate, being the consumption of foods aware of health risks and, therefore, limited and moderate.

Another important point was the distinction between a healthy diet and a standard diet. A healthy diet concerns basic and universal principles based on human biology. Diet standard refers to how foods are combined to form diets over time and it is highly contextual and influenced by the availability as well as accessibility of food, personal preferences and cultural factors, traditions, religion, amongst others.



The institution concluded the speech by presenting the Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2030 plan, authored by CELAC, a reference framework for regional actions and its four pillars: strengthening legal frameworks, production through a sustainable model, promotion of a healthy diet, and finally, sustainability of the agri-food system.

### 2.3. Conclusion

In the first technical panel, the speakers addressed specific concepts and actions of each institution, presenting a general overview of the topic. Everyone stated that ending hunger and all forms of social inequality is a challenge for the entire planet and that this can be done with the action of the public-private sectors, investment in science and the strengthening of multilateralism. The panel served as a reflection on the debate on the transformation of agri-food systems, aiming to seek joint solutions to these shared problems, albeit with different responsibilities, but with solutions designed together. The Panel reinforced actions focused on facilitating access to healthy diets, resulting from initiatives that encourage sustainable, fair, equitable and transparent food systems. The panel was mediated by Paul Van de Logt, Agricultural Counselor at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Brazil.





## Panel 2. Innovations in national and local agri-food systems in Brazil and the Netherlands: success stories

### 3.1. Speakers and central focus of speeches



**Erick Del Porto**

MDS, Brazil | Project Manager at the Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security

*"This hegemonic food system that we are seeing, making a connection with our seminar, is accelerating climate impacts and changes and putting the Human Right to Adequate Food at risk. We are resuming this cycle of public policies and recognizing the crucial links between poverty, inequality, health and the planet. And we want to promote this healthy and sustainable diet, because it is deeply linked to the fight against poverty and a less unequal world."*

**Luiza Trabuco**

MDS, Brazil | General Coordinator of Management Support for the National Food and Nutrition Security System

*"The great effort of Brazil Without Hunger was to resume programs and policies that were very successful in removing Brazil from the hunger map, but also to implement, qualify and expand these policies with the generation of new solutions that could cope with and respond to current challenges. The issue of climate change is one of these challenges."*



**Floor Boselie Abbenhuis**

Head of Strategy and Innovation at the Netherlands Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality | The Netherlands

*"To secure the future of our food systems, we must use a systemic approach. The necessary systems require, and at the same time stimulate, a high level of innovation. Cooperation is needed between all food system stakeholders across regions, nationally and globally. I hope that today's meeting will help us identify opportunities for cooperation between our countries."*



**Bruno Silva**

FNDE/MEC, Brazil | International Advisor for the General Coordination of the National School Feeding Program

*"In situations of hunger and threat, we realize how effective the articulation of public policies is and how successful it is."*



**Thomas Patriota**

MDA, Brazil | Head of International Advisory

*"All policies developed by the MDA have been discussed internationally, seeking to preserve these policies, but also to disseminate them and learn from political dialogue at a regional, plurilateral or multilateral level. And, in this sense, it is very opportune to continue this type of dialogue focused on family farming and the 40% of women and men on the planet who feed, who are responsible for the majority of food produced and environmental preservation."*



**Selvarayu Ramasary**

FAO | Senior Innovation Officer

*"If we want to have science technology innovation at the center of the debate, we need to have finance first, we need to support the institutions that are developing knowledge and technologies. And also ensuring that these technologies and innovations are viable, accessible and comfortable for small producers, which is obviously an issue especially in the developing world."*



### 3.2. Panel overview

In the second thematic panel, the speakers brought informations from national and international programs by presenting the positive results generated so far.

The Plan Brazil Without Hunger was presented as a response from the Federal Government to the 33 million Brazilians in food insecurity, with the involvement of 24 ministries, with more than 80 programs and actions which are guided by the food systems approach. The three main axes that structure the plan were presented: the axis of access to income and citizenship; the axis of promoting adequate, fair and more egalitarian food systems; and the axis of mobilization actions to combat hunger. In the first axis, the aim is to reach people in situation of hunger and include them in protection systems. In this way, some already known plans were presented, but which had important changes with an improvement process to expand their results, such as "Bolsa Família", the Valorization of the Minimum Wage, and the Brazil Without Hunger Protocol, a new feature of the plan. In the second axis, some sets of programs and actions to strengthen family farming were outlined, such as the National Plan for Organic Production and Agroecology, "Bolsa Verde", the Cisterns Program, the New Basic Basket, the National Supply Policy, and the Cities Food Strategy. In addition, to the commitment to monitoring hunger and having instruments to guide public policies at the municipal, state and federal level. In the third axis, through the strategy of mobilizing society and governments, also promoting international mobilization, caravans were held in territories with a higher prevalence of food insecurity and the Task Force proposal by the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty was promoted. To conclude, it was presented along with the history of trajectory of hunger in Brazil, indicating that the country still has 8.7 million Brazilians in severe food insecurity.

The Food Acquisition Program was highlighted as one of the food and nutritional education programs. Its positive results with social and productive inclusion are based on two main axes: strengthening family farming and promoting access to food. Some innovations were integrated into the program, such as the mandatory, at least, parity of female participation and the simplification of access to the program for the participation of indigenous people, quilombolas and other traditional communities. The increase in the income of poorer producers, the amplification of diversity of production, and, at the local level, the growth in the GDP of the

municipalities involved, plus the guarantee of income for the most vulnerable producers were some of the concrete results presented in the panel obtained with the plan.

An alternative used by the Brazilian Government to remove the country from the Hunger Map, in 2014, was by the National School Feeding Program, through reaching people who attended schools, in addition to associating other policies and actions related to school meals, such as the Direct Money at School Program (PDDE). This program gives school managers the autonomy to create actions at weekends to attract students as an emergency means of receiving healthy food. Results of social and productive inclusion were also demonstrated through the program with the requirement that 30% of the budget be allocated to the purchase of products from family farming, promoting greater dietary diversity, ensuring short circuits and the maintenance of local cultural traditions and inputs.

As presented, the Cisterns Program was initially developed for the Brazilian semi-arid region, but, based on its good results, it is now moving towards new Brazilian biomes. In this program, social technologies were implemented to promote access to water for human and animal consumption as agriculture for populations facing periods of drought, ensuring safe consume. It is not just a cistern construction program presenting an execution design, but also involvement in the implementation of this technology together with the community and local civil society leaders. Positive responses were observed in the reduction of up to 69% in infant mortality due to diarrhea, in the expansion of individuals' autonomy, in the reduction of time to fetch water by up to 90%, in the 7.5% increase in school attendance, in the amplification of up to 82% of beneficiaries' income and an estimated economic return rate of 4.8% per year on properties with the technology implemented.

With the "Fomento Program", aimed at family farmers in greater vulnerability, the aim was to associate social and technical productive assistance with monitoring families for up to two years so that they can develop productive projects, based on their reality and with a transfer worth R\$ 4,600.00 per family. Some qualitative evidence was demonstrated, such as the agricultural structuring of more vulnerable families and other financial activities by rural populations.

The reformulation of the New Basic Basket was another action to guarantee food and nutritional security. It is based on the Brazilian Population Food Guide, which prioritizes agroecological and socio-biodiversity foods (mainly originating from family farming) with a predominance of fresh and minimally processed foods as the complete elimination of ultra-processed foods. This action has a positive impact on some public food purchasing programs such as the Food Acquisition and the National School Feeding Programs.

The National Strategy for Food and Nutritional Security in Cities (“Alimenta Cidades”) will be implemented in priority municipalities and will reach around 60 million Brazilians in urban centers, covering strategic actions to combat losses, waste and obesity considering the specific context of the territories. With 85% of the Brazilian population living in cities, the concern for the supply and availability of healthy foods and adequate eating environments were presented as the key points for the conception of this action.

In the context of family farming, some of the Brazilian Government's efforts were highlighted, such as Agrarian Reform, whose policy of access to land is essential for environmental preservation and for ensuring farmer safety, allowing the stabilization of production and marketing, in addition to preserving several forms of culture that are also related to healthy and adequate eating. The Family Farming Registry (CAF) is obtained by family farmers when they meet the criteria directing credit to these populations. The “Garantia Safra” was also mentioned and is an action of the National Program for Strengthening Family Agriculture (PRONAF), which aims to guarantee minimum survival conditions for family farmers in municipalities systematically subject to severe crop loss due to the phenomenon of drought or excess water, guaranteeing income, as long as production losses due to climate change are demonstrated.

In the context of programs and actions developed by the Netherlands, some examples were detailed such as the Precision Agriculture Program, which aims to accelerate innovation and the adoption of precision agriculture technologies by producers, decreasing their environmental footprint, increasing their profits and making more profitable and sustainable production. Policy instruments such as the creation of National Field bring together some sectors involved, combining university research and the sharing of experiences between producers who see their results enhanced when they exchange their experiences.

Through Field Nets, the Network of Regional Field Laboratories, participating properties count on governmental subsidies and actions that cooperate with producers. These laboratories have helped to build sustainable regional agricultural systems, within planetary boundaries and economic viability for farmers. Their participation is essential as they are the ones who know the specific needs of their regions and realities.

The creation of the Netherlands Food Partnership, an organization of platforms that connect the Dutch agricultural food sectors to low and middle-income countries, seeks to accelerate innovation at an international level with the aim of supporting changes in the food system. It is structured around two main activities with community engagement and facilitation of partnerships focused on food system outreach points.

The objectives and results of the Seed NL Program were also presented, which, through the production of Dutch knowledge and available materials, promotes the strengthening of the seed sector in other countries and provides access to good quality seeds with the aim of increasing productivity and profitability of these producers. Important partnerships have already been signed between the Dutch public-private sectors and countries such as Nigeria and Ethiopia.

In the last stage of the panel, the role of scientific technology and innovation for the transformation of the agricultural system was presented by FAO, pointing out its three main aspects: FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 (4 accelerators), science and innovation, and the innovation office. The FAO Strategic Framework presents twenty priority areas, all of which contribute to SDG 2. To achieve science and technology, the concepts of financing, training and governance were presented as bases for strengthening the use of science and innovation in technical, regulatory work and operations. Six different types of technologies were mentioned, such as biotechnology, digital technologies, precision agriculture, renewable energy technologies, agricultural mechanization and automation, and food processing technology. In the field of innovations, they were characterized as technological, institutional, social, political, and financial.

Finally, the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), an initiative established within the scope of the G20, was presented at the first meeting of the MACs, in Mexico, in 2012. Its objectives are to promote capacity development and shared knowledge to strengthen a system of national agricultural innovation (SIA) with evidence-based policies and facilitation of multilateral mechanisms thereby promoting better SIA impacts and innovations in tropical and semi-tropical regions. TAP currently has 52 members with annual assemblies. It also incubate TAPipedia, an online knowledge platform for education in tropical agriculture with around 5,000 resources, including documents and learning materials focused on the agricultural innovation system.

### **3.3. Conclusion**

The central issue presented in the panel by the speakers were examples of implemented programs and actions that have collected positive results focusing on innovations of different natures in agri-food systems. In the Brazilian context, an overview was presented of the recent trajectory of food and nutritional security indicators, hunger and how the current government is rebuilding and implementing a set of public policies to combat hunger and promote food and nutritional security to once again remove the country from the Hunger Map. In parallel, foreign representatives presented programs focusing on innovations and technologies that are bringing better results, not only economic and environmental, but also social, with international cooperation in the exchange of knowledge and experiences. The speakers achieved the panel's objective with their concrete presentations which allowed an understanding of the proposed scenario. The mediator was Sergio Dorfler, from FAO.

## Panel 3. Future perspectives for collaboration – Declaration of Belém and agri-food systems

### 4.1. Speakers and central focus of speeches



**Vanessa Grazziotin**  
ATCO | Executive  
Director

*"It would be very important if we could expand the partnership so that we can, based on a plan, have the possibility of showing the development of our Amazon region throughout the world, in a harmonious, inclusive way that environmentally preserves that which is a sovereign heritage of each country, but which provides an environmental service, without a doubt, to the entire planet, to people who want to live with dignity, who want to live safely and above all who want to see future generations live like this, with safety and dignity."*

**Daniel Peter**

MMA, Brazil | Director of Rural Environmental Management

*"There is still much to be done to address the environmental and socioeconomic challenges in the region and to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for present and future generations. It is imperative that we continue to collaborate and work together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation to protect and preserve the Amazon, a global treasure, trove of biodiversity and a living example of the importance of sustainability for our planet."*



**Jorge Meza - panel moderator**

FAO | FAO Representative in Brazil

*"We have many experiences to share, which are very effective and which, for me, show that we are on a path of effort and work to end hunger in the world."*

### 4.2. Panel summary

The emphasis on the Amazon in the last panel was discussed by the speakers with a main focus, the Treaty of Belém. Initially, a brief overview of the Amazon and the role it plays in the process of climate change was presented. This is because this ecosystem creates flying rivers that influence temperature, water and rainfall. It was emphasized that, when discussing the Amazon, it also means discussing measures to be taken to contain global climate warming.

Advancing a little further in the panel, ATCO, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, an intergovernmental organization, was represented by its current director, Vanessa Grazziotin, who provided to the public some information about its emergence, structure, mission and actions. It derives from an Amazon cooperation treaty signed between the eight countries in the region in 1978 and its mission is to deepen cooperation between Amazon countries, reducing their asymmetries in order to move towards an integration system. It operates in conjunction with the countries, as they are the ones implementing the projects and

identifies the type of program, formula and content of a regional and Amazonian program. The importance and need for ACTO to be increasingly integrated has been proven, and that is why there were so many resolutions approved at the last Amazon Summit, which took place on the 8th and 9th of August 2023, followed by the signing of the Declaration of Belém by the eight countries in the region.

A general overview of the Declaration of Belém was presented. It presents a framework for regional and international cooperation to face environmental, climate and socioeconomic challenges in the Amazon. This declaration has 113 objectives and 29 resolutions and represents a commitment to protecting biodiversity, recognizing the rights and knowledge of indigenous and traditional populations, and addressing urgent issues, such as deforestation, climate change and environmental degradation. With the Declaration of Belém and the ACTO initiatives, the aim is to promote sustainable food systems in the Amazon, supporting family farming, the sustainable management of natural resources, the strengthening of local value chains and respect for the traditional knowledge of indigenous and traditional populations.

Through dialogues held between member countries, in the context of the Declaration, these countries identified the need to create the Amazon observatory for cooperation and exchange of information and good practices that occur in member countries, to establish monitoring of all actions developed with training initiatives, capacity building to strengthen public agents, encourage scientific research in order to promote food security and sovereignty in the context of the forest. Innovation, mechanization of production, public policies to support production, marketing, biodiversity foods consumption, agroforestry innovative systems and development of projects on food and nutritional security for traditional peoples were identified as some examples of the region's needs.

The panel emphasized that there is still much to be done to face the environmental and socioeconomic challenges in the region and to guarantee a prosperous and sustainable future for present and future generations. Also cooperation is extremely important to protect and preserve the largest tropical forest on the planet.

### 4.3. Conclusion

The fourth and final panel of the day was dedicated to the Amazon and the speakers highlighted the OTCA, the Treaty of Belém and their developments, focusing more specifically on issues that address sustainable food systems in the context of the forest. The need for joint work and cooperation between countries to protect and preserve the Amazon was the point of greatest convergence among the speakers.





Dutch Embassy



Reception



Panel 3



Guests



Guests



Panel 4



Guests



Lunch time

All speakers recognized that it is a real challenge to address the issue of transforming agri-food systems and presented their concepts, perspectives and global recommendations for sustainability. The heterogeneous nature of the group, operating in different sectors, had an important result in highlighting the challenges arising from all layers that the topic covers. The set of participants included organizations and ideologies considered priorities for dialogue. The challenges described include summaries of the speakers' speeches with mention of social, economic, environmental, innovation and governance issues such as:

- Implementing the **2030 agenda** and sustaining the **SDGs**;
- Combating the **global syndemic**;
- Overcoming **hunger** and **poverty**;
- Overcoming all forms of **malnutrition** such as overweight, obesity and associated NCDs;
- Overcoming **monotony** and **low food biodiversity**;
- Consumers' lack of awareness about the **origin** and **impacts** of their choices on the food chain;
- The impacts of **climate change** with **increasing temperatures**;
- Land losses due to **urban expansion** and how **to feed the growing population in cities**;
- **Higher prevalence** of food insecurity in **rural areas**;
- **Innovations and access to appropriate technologies** for small producers;
- The **commitment** of responsible governments to **society** in the **governance** of public policies;
- The role that the **Amazon** plays in the planet's **climate change**.

# Guests

### **World Bank**

**IDB** | Inter-American Development Bank

**BNDS** | National Bank for Economic and Social Development

**CAF** | Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

**CNA** | Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock

**CONAFER** | National Confederation of Family Farmers and Family Entrepreneurs of Brazil

**CONTAG** | National Confederation of Agricultural Workers

**European Union Delegation to Brazil**

**German Embassy**

**New Zealand Embassy**

**United Kingdom Embassy**

**United States of America Embassy**

**IFAD** | International Fund for Agricultural Development

**Fiocruz** | Oswaldo Cruz Foundation

**FNDE** | National Education Development Fund

**IFPRI** | International Food Policy Research Institute

**IICA** | Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

**MAPA** | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

**MDA** | Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Farming

**MDS** | Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger

**MMA** | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

**MRE** | Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**MS** | Ministry of Health

**OIA** | International Agricultural Research Group

**OTCA** | Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

**PCF** | Pact Against Hunger

**UNDP** | United Nations Development Program

**Private sector representatives**

**SEBRAE** | Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service

**Secretariat of Agriculture and Supply of the State of São Paulo**

**Sovereignty and Climate**

**USAID** | United States Agency for International Development

**WFP** | World Food Program



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