



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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Copied to:

Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister and Peter Hill, CEO COP26

1 November 2021

On behalf of the 16 undersigned food companies and financial institutions, we write to urge the COP26 Presidency to include industrialized animal agriculture, one of the most significant sources of man-made climate changing emissions, among the priorities on the COP26 agenda. Not only is this sector instrumental to effectively addressing the climate emergency we face, but it is also key to improving our resiliency, the global economy and public health.

We are keenly aware of the risks that climate change presents, and while committed to addressing this individually, the necessary changes will not happen without the public and private sectors working together. Building a sustainable and resilient future requires comprehensive policy reform, financial incentives and widespread collaboration among governments, policy makers, financial institutions, businesses, communities and other stakeholders of the food system. This is an issue that truly includes the entire global community.

Currently, energy, fossil fuel, transport and industry dominate climate mitigation discussions and policies, and yet, agriculture, more specifically animal agriculture, even with conservative estimates, is responsible for approximately 14.5-16.5%ⁱ of human-induced greenhouse gas emissions, on par with all forms of transportation combined.ⁱⁱ Further, business-as-usual growth scenarios for the animal agriculture industry project that within ten years, the livestock sector will account for almost half (49%) of the world's emissions budget for 1.5°C by 2030.ⁱⁱⁱ These projections make it clear that transforming our food production systems and policies as well as consumption habits must be part of the global solution roadmap.

The goals outlined by the COP26 Presidency prioritize enhanced investment in renewable energy and transformation in the transport sector as tactics to secure global net zero. However, research indicates that even with the immediate cessation of emissions from fossil fuels, current trends in world food production would make it impossible to limit warming to the 1.5°C target and make it difficult to realize the 2°C target.^{iv} A transition to the production of more food crops and a shift away from industrial animal agriculture must be made if we intend to meet the steep and rapid reductions in emissions necessary to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Production and consumption shifts could contribute up to one-fifth of the mitigation needed to meet the Paris below 2°C target.^v Failure by the livestock sector to reduce its emissions, on the other hand, will place a heavier burden of emission reductions on other sectors and reduce the feasibility of meeting the Paris targets.

Policies that encourage dietary changes towards more plant-centric diets would also benefit the economy. A joint report by the International Labour Organisation and the Inter-American Development Bank revealed that a transition to a net-zero emission economy in Latin America and the Caribbean, driven primarily by a transition from meat-heavy diets to more plant-based diets,



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would result in the net creation of **15 million more jobs in the region than under a business-as-usual scenario and would reduce the region's agricultural GHG emissions.**^{vi}

Diets are driven by availability and affordability of food, geography and cultural habits. It is therefore imperative that policy be a part of the solution. The IPCC determined with high confidence that policies operating across the food system, including policies that influence dietary choices, would allow for more sustainable land-use management, result in greater food security and low emissions trajectories, contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and improve public health.^{vii}

For these reasons, we urge you include the following three climate mitigation solutions in formal COP26 discussions:

- 1. Shifting subsidies and financial incentives from industrialized livestock production to more sustainable plant-based agriculture, thus supporting a just transition in the agriculture sector;**
- 2. Incentivising investment in the development of alternatives to animal agriculture and creating a supportive regulatory environment for innovation and growth within the protein landscape;**
- 3. Amending government procurement priorities to lower GHG pathways within the public sector by decreasing animal-based food procurement and increasing procurement of plant-based foods.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated concerns about the global climate crisis, and, as much of the documentation from the United Nations notes, the transition to a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future will require action across the globe. Close collaboration between governments, companies and financial institutions is vital if we want to save our planet. No matter how uncomfortable it is to address change in this sector, it is integral to mitigating the climate emergency we face.

Yours sincerely,

Aleph Farms
Beyond Investing
Blue Horizon Corporation
Capital V
Eat Just
Fenn Foods
Heura Foods
Lever VC
Linda McCartney's Food
Mosa Meat B.V.
NRF PCL
Rebellyous Foods
The Very Good Food Company
Unovis Asset Management
Veg Capital
Wicked Kitchen



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- ⁱ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2017). *Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM)*. Rome (Italy): Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). <http://www.fao.org/gleam/results/en/>.
- ⁱⁱ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2014). *Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Edenhofer, O., R. Pichs-Madruga, Y. Sokona, E. Farahani, S. Kadner, K. Seyboth, A. Adler, I. Baum, S. Brunner, P. Eickemeier, B. Kriemann, J. Savolainen, S. Schlömer, C. von Stechow, T. Zwickel and J.C. Minx (eds.)] <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg3/>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Harwatt, H. (2018). Including animal to plant protein shifts in climate change mitigation policy: a proposed three-step strategy. *Climate Policy* 19, 533–41. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14693062.2018.1528965>.
- ^{iv} Clark, M. A. et al. (2020). Global food system emissions could preclude achieving the 1.5° and 2°C climate change targets. *Science* 370, 705–708. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/370/6517/705>.
- ^v Griscom, B. et al. (2017) Natural climate solutions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114 (44), 11645-11650. <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645>.
- ^{vi} Saget, C., Vogt-Schilb, A., Luu, T. (2020). *Jobs in a net-zero emissions future in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Inter-American Development Bank and International Labour Organization, Washington D.C. and Geneva. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002509>.
- ^{vii} Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2019). *Summary for Policymakers*. In: *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems* [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.-O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)]. https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2020/02/SPM_Updated-Jan20.pdf