

Views on workshop under the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on climate action on agriculture & food security

“Progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action in agriculture and food security”

Submitted by the World Federation for Animals (WFA) on behalf of 73 organisations

The World Federation for Animals (WFA) welcomes the opportunity for UNFCCC Parties and observers to discuss means of implementation (MoI) for climate action in agriculture and food security.

In this submission, we provide our views on:

1. the **subject of the workshop**, with recommended focus areas on redirecting environmentally harmful subsidies and enabling just transitions in agrifood systems;
2. the workshop’s **format**, and
3. potential **speakers** at the workshop.



1. VIEWS ON

Subject of the workshop

Access to finance, technology, and capacity-building are essential to implement the Paris Agreement while ensuring that food systems are sustainable and meet people's needs.

Although the agrifood system is a vast, untapped source of low-cost climate action, investment needs for agrifood mitigation and resilience are far greater than today's flows. Climate finance directed to agrifood systems accounts for only **7.2%** of global climate finance (USD 94.9 billion in 2021/22). This is far below what is needed to align agrifood systems with climate goals: around **USD 1.1 trillion** per year through 2030 (roughly twelve times current levels).

Critically, this investment gap exists alongside **approximately** USD 540 billion in annual global agricultural subsidies, 87% of which are price-distorting and environmentally harmful.





Suggested topic 1

Repurposing environmentally harmful subsidies as a MoI entry point

WFA recommends that the workshop include a dedicated focus on redirecting environmentally harmful subsidies and incentives.

A lack of investment does not necessarily reflect a lack of resources; significant public finance continues to support high-emission and environmentally damaging practices.

For example, [analysis](#) of the EU Common Agricultural Policy support found that beef and lamb receive 580 times more in subsidies than legumes.

Similarly, development finance institutions (including multilateral development banks and climate funds) continue to catalyse investment in environmentally harmful, high-emission livestock-intensive models, thereby influencing wider investment decisions. In 2023, tracking across 15 development banks and the Green Climate Fund [found](#) that the majority of direct and mobilised support for animal agriculture targeted industrial animal agriculture.

This is particularly problematic given that livestock accounts for approximately 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, being one of the biggest [contributors](#) to agrifood system emissions.

The workshop should create space for Parties to discuss practical approaches to subsidy reform and repurposing, particularly those that can accelerate mitigation and adaptation outcomes and strengthen food security without increasing debt burdens.

Subsidy reform can accelerate investment in:

- (i) higher-welfare, lower-emission, and biodiversity-positive production systems (including well-run agroecological and integrated systems), and
- (ii) the enabling conditions for more plant-rich diets and protein diversification.

Reorienting incentives towards these two pathways can deliver multiple benefits: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving resilience to climate impacts and disasters, reducing pressure on land and water, and improving the affordability of staple foods, while supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services. Repurposing subsidies can also support a transition towards sustainable nitrogen management, an emerging governance priority across UNEP and the Rio Conventions, thereby reducing pollution, improving soil health, and strengthening food security.

Aligning public subsidies with broader food-systems transformation efforts discussed in other UN processes, such as the UN Food Systems Summit and FAO livestock transformation processes, can strengthen coherence across UN institutions and accelerate the shift away from emissions-intensive systems.



Suggested topic 2

Mol that enables just transitions in agrifood systems

WFA also recommends that the workshop explicitly address the means of implementation needed to enable just transitions away from emissions-intensive, biodiversity-destructive, and low-welfare farming models.

Agrifood systems underpin livelihoods, cultures and ecosystems worldwide and employ a substantial share of the global workforce. An estimated 80% of the world's food producers are smallholder farmers, who are already disproportionately exposed to climate impacts and food insecurity despite contributing least to the climate crisis.

In many developing countries, persistent gaps between identified needs and available Mol remain a primary barrier to ambition and action. These gaps extend beyond finance to include the development and transfer of appropriate technologies, capacity-building,

social protection, institutional support, and enabling policy environments. These considerations are directly relevant to the UNFCCC Just Transition Work Programme, offering an opportunity to align agrifood system priorities with broader justice and equity frameworks.

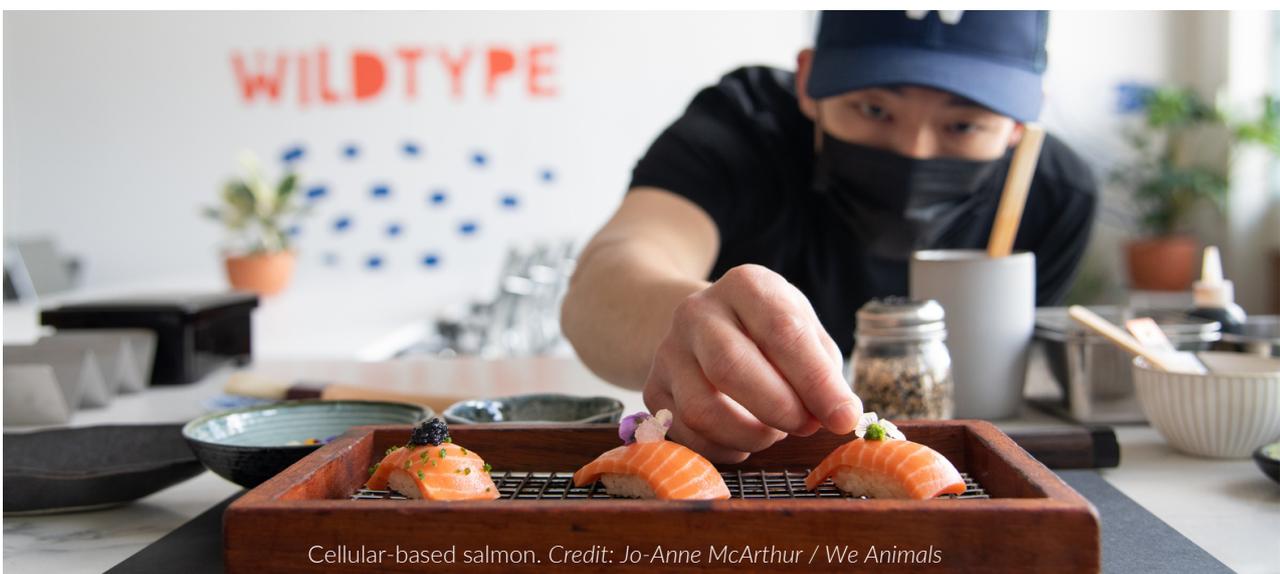
The workshop could briefly consider how SJWA-identified Mol priorities could be more closely linked to the Just Transition Work Programme and Mechanism under the UNFCCC.

In practice, the effectiveness of Mol will depend on how well trade-offs are managed. Without careful targeting, finance, technology, and capacity-building can unintentionally reinforce emissions-intensive livestock systems or shift environmental and social burdens rather than reduce them. For example, investments framed solely around productivity or efficiency gains may incentivise further intensification, with adverse consequences for climate, ecosystems, and animal welfare.

To support genuinely sustainable outcomes, just transition approaches relevant to the livestock sector should incorporate animal welfare considerations. This includes directing finance towards higher-welfare, lower-emission, and biodiversity-positive systems, and supporting technologies and practices that improve animal health and resilience under climate change. Embedding animal welfare within Mol frameworks can help avoid maladaptation and deliver more equitable and durable food system transformation. Moreover, an Mol approach grounded in the principles of One Health can ensure that agrifood climate action delivers co-benefits across health, sustainability, and resilience.

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The two suggested workshop topics are mutually reinforcing: redirecting existing finance through subsidy reform can unlock substantial resources for just transitions, making ambitious climate action in agrifood systems more financially feasible.



Cellular-based salmon. Credit: Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals

2. OPTIONS FOR THE **Format of the workshop**

On the structure

To remain laser-focused on the workshop's thematic objective, i.e. identifying needs and improving access to MoI, WFA suggests structuring the workshop around three pillars:

- Finance (including subsidy reform/repurposing, public finance alignment, and mechanisms to de-risk transition investments);
- Technology (including technologies and practices that strengthen resilience and reduce emissions, such as animal welfare measures to manage heat stress and disease risks, and technologies that enable protein diversification).
- Capacity-building (including extension services and workforce transition support).

The workshop should conclude with a dedicated “pathway forward” session to identify 6–10 concrete, actionable recommendations to improve access to MoI for climate action in agriculture and food security.

On the participation modalities

WFA encourages the Secretariat to prioritise interactive and participatory formats, such as moderated dialogues and breakout sessions. This could include:

- Facilitated roundtables/breakouts organised by the three MoI pillars, where participants jointly identify barriers and practical solutions; and
- Plenary “harvesting” moments to report back key insights, points of convergence and concrete opportunities for action.

Accredited observers, including civil society organisations, practitioners, and technical experts, should be able to actively participate and contribute throughout the workshop.

3. SUGGESTED **Speakers for the workshop**

Suggested speaker profiles include:

- Public finance and subsidy reform practitioners
- Lead authors of recent analyses on environmentally harmful subsidies and pathways for reform, including in agriculture and fisheries
- Just transition experts with agrifood systems experience

Submission information

Submitting organisation:

World Federation for Animals (coalition of 70+ NGOs working globally to improve animal welfare and environmental outcomes)

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