THE CLIMAKERS
Guidelines for Policy Makers
Farmer-driven, science-based, result-oriented solutions for the National Governments to successfully implement the Paris Agreement in Agriculture
The Climakers Initiative, the Farmer-Driven Climate Change Agenda, was conceived by the World Farmers’ Organisation (WFO) in 2018 and is based on an Alliance through which farmers’ organizations and main stakeholders in the agricultural sector work together to propose practical solutions and guidelines for a farmer-driven approach to climate policies.

The Guidelines for Policymakers offer national Governments solutions to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement at the national level, based on farmers’ needs, expectations and best practices already implemented by producers, identified, and gathered by The Climakers Initiative. These guidelines explore three interrelated principles and outline some critical areas to help inform the national and global decision-making process to address climate change in agriculture.

Principles:

1. Governments have the opportunity to improve their NDCs thanks to these recommendations offered by the world farmers, based on their practical solutions validated by science according to a solid science-based approach.
2. It is important to integrate a farmer-driven approach in decision-making processes to better understand farmers’ priorities and challenges related to adaptation and mitigation actions.
3. A multi-stakeholder perspective needs to be applied to actions on the ground and at national level, putting the farmers at the heart of it.

Farmers Solutions inspiring action:

1. Water management and conservation practices
   - In Sri Lanka farmers have placed coconut shells near the roots to cope drought.
   - In France farmers adopt innovative irrigation techniques to use water efficiently in wine production.
   - In Guatemala and Honduras, rainwater harvesting ponds maximize water efficiency and diversify food production.
   - In Jamaica, dams have been built to manage water run from the hillside, channeled for irrigation purposes.
   - In Montserrat, farmers harvest water mainly through tanks that collect water from the roof of houses and farm buildings.

2. Soil management and conservation practices
   - In Germany farmers include cover crops to reduce tillage.
   - In Canada farmers have adopted practices such as intercropping and winter cover crops.
   - In Finland land management increases the productivity of soils and the resilience of production during less favorable seasons.
   - In the USA farmers operate a 100% no-till system with increased cropping diversity.
   - In Zimbabwe farmers are applying Conservation Agriculture.
3. Diversification and biodiversity conservation practices
   - In Palau the practices consisted in reinforcing technology for the production of traditional crops (ureor beluu in particular) and establishing partnerships between farmers, local government, hospital and school to ensure availability of staple food to local population.
   - In Kenya farm forestry and afforestation activities are implemented.
   - In Bhutan and Malaysia farmers adopted key strategies, including reforestation programs.
   - In Italy cardoon, a local vegetal species, has been promoted and preserved as an innovative source of bioplastics and bio-lubricants.
   - In Japan several initiatives to return storks to nature have been taken.

4. Alternative agricultural inputs transition practices
   - In Guatemala farmers introduced organic fertilizers for soil conservation.
   - In Nepal farmers started to introduce seed treatments.
   - In Ireland farmers use pig slurry as a valuable fertilizer.
   - In Belize, farmers started to use fewer fertilizers by replacing them with biofertilizers.
   - In Guatemala, farmers introduced organic fertilizers for soil conservation.
   - In Saint-Kitts, farmers adopt alternative agricultural inputs which improve soil fertility.

Recommendations to Governments to improve NDCs in a farmer-driven, science-based, solution-oriented way:

- Embrace a farmer-driven approach, by involving farmers’ organisations in the NDCs and NAPs design and implementation by the Governments is key to make national plan successful in the agricultural sector.
- Invest in filling the gap between farmers and public research so that science can provide farmers with effective answers.
- Build coherent food regulation and standards agreed among Governments, so that farmers can continue to meet society's demands for food while also protecting the climate.
- Direct the grant portion of climate finance to the farmers’ organisations to enhance their capacity to accompany the transition process to sustainable food systems.
- Ensure that education and trainings, including advisory services, are more accessible for farmers.
- Improve accessibility and affordability of new technologies, and access to knowledge transfer on processes or practices that farmers are called to implement, in order to transition to sustainable agriculture.
- Encourage financial institutions to provide loans to farmers at lower cost, with fair use of collaterals.

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Farmers are the only economic actor able to adapt to and mitigate climate change simultaneously, and agriculture is the only sector that contributes to biodiversity conservation through regenerative agriculture practices.