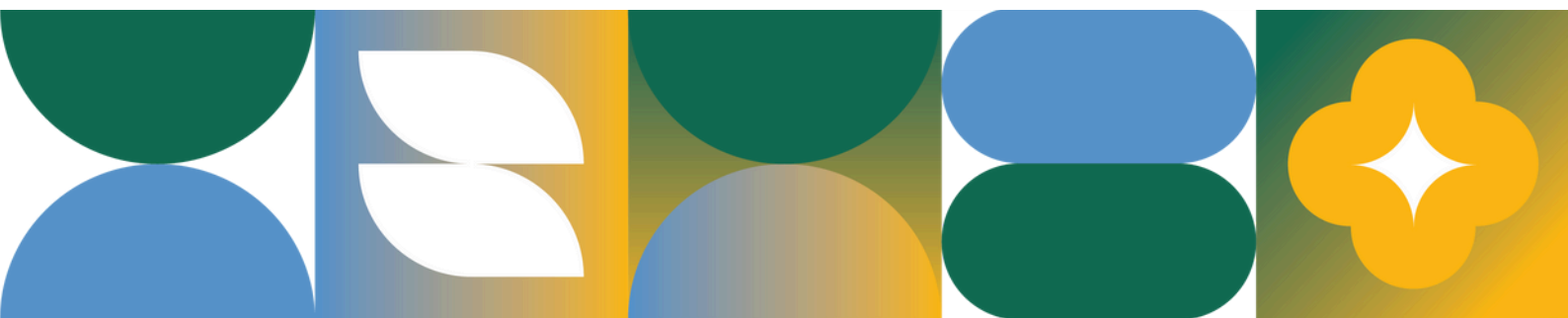


PRELIMINARY OUTCOME DOCUMENT

# CLIMATE CHANGE



## Introduction

The World Food Forum (WFF) Youth Assembly, in collaboration with YOUNGO Food and Ag WG, the NAM Youth Organization, ProVeg International, and the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS), hosted a youth-led capacity development session entitled “Youth Position on Agrifood Systems in NDCs 3.0 ahead of COP30.” Held virtually on 4 August 2025, the event brought together more than 250 youth leaders, policymakers, and experts to explore how agrifood systems can be better integrated into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and how young people can meaningfully shape climate action in the lead-up to COP30.

The session introduced participants to the Paris Agreement and its 2025 update cycle (NDCs 3.0), emphasizing the importance of embedding agrifood systems within national climate strategies. It underscored the critical role of youth in driving ambition, bridging intergenerational justice, and addressing systemic gaps in food and climate policies.

Through expert inputs, youth-led panels, and interactive breakout discussions, the session provided participants with both technical knowledge and practical strategies to engage in national climate planning. The event also served as a consultative step in developing a youth guidance document on agrifood systems in NDCs 3.0, to be presented ahead of COP30.

## The Consultative Process

The session was held virtually via Zoom and opened with an interactive ice-breaker session led by the Youth Policy Board. This was followed by insightful intervention from experts, COP29 Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) and partners, who introduced the context of NDCs, their link to agrifood systems, and the role of youth in shaping national climate commitments. The centerpiece of the session was a series of interactive breakout groups, where participants explored concrete pathways for youth influence on NDCs across different themes. Participants shared ideas, exchanged perspectives, and generated collective insights that were then consolidated during the plenary debrief. The session concluded with closing reflections and a call to action, encouraging youth to stay engaged in shaping the upcoming NDC 3.0 process.



# Key Themes Identified by Youth

## 1. Mitigation in Agrifood Systems

- Agriculture contributes roughly 30% of global GHG emissions, yet remains underrepresented in many NDCs.
- Youth highlighted mitigation opportunities such as regenerative agriculture, soil carbon sequestration, methane reduction in rice paddies, renewable energy for food systems, and food-loss prevention.
- Barriers include limited finance, inadequate policy support, weak extension services, and lack of access to indigenous seeds.

**Recommendation:** Explicitly integrate youth-led mitigation solutions into sector-specific NDC targets and ensure recognition of indigenous and agroecological practices.

## 2. Climate Finance for Youth-Led Action

- Participants emphasized the \$1.3 trillion economic potential of sustainable diets and the need to link Agrifood systems to climate finance windows (GCF, IFAD, GEF, Amazon Fund).
- Youth-led initiatives face barriers accessing finance due to eligibility criteria, lack of legal status, complex reporting templates, and information gaps.

**Recommendation:** Establish targeted funding streams for youth- and community-led initiatives, simplify application processes, and promote results-based finance models that reduce perceived risks for funders.

## 3. Gender Equality and NDCs

- Youth underlined that climate commitments often overlook gender dimensions in agrifood systems.
- Barriers include limited representation of women in decision-making, inadequate recognition of unpaid care work, and insufficient sex-disaggregated data.

**Recommendation:** Embed gender-transformative approaches in NDCs, ensure equal participation of young women in national consultations, and support community-driven, women-led adaptation projects.



#### 4. Adaptation and Resilience

- Youth identified food insecurity, weak extension services, and lack of climate-resilient seeds as key adaptation barriers.
- Solutions include promoting agroecology, diversified cropping, nature-based solutions (agroforestry, mangroves), and integrating indigenous knowledge into national strategies.

**Recommendation:** Strengthen extension services, legally recognize indigenous systems, and ensure adaptation plans reflect smallholder realities, land tenure security, and inclusive participation.

#### 5. Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRVs)

- Participants stressed that youth can play a key role in MRVs through community-based data collection, digital monitoring platforms, and storytelling approaches.
- Barriers include lack of technical training, digital infrastructure gaps, and limited institutional trust in youth-generated data.

**Recommendation:** Build capacity for youth-led MRV contributions and institutionalize youth participation in climate reporting frameworks.

### Call to Action

This session affirmed the urgency of integrating agrifood systems into NDCs 3.0 and recognized youth as essential partners in shaping ambitious, inclusive, and implementable national climate commitments.

We call on:

- **Governments and Policymakers** to embed agrifood systems in NDCs, ensure youth inclusion in national consultative processes, and recognize intergenerational justice in climate policy.
- **International Organizations and Climate Funds** to create targeted, accessible, and flexible finance mechanisms for youth and community-led agrifood projects, ensuring accountability and equity in resource distribution.
- **Civil Society and Academia** to expand platforms for youth training, peer-to-peer learning, and participatory monitoring of NDCs.
- **Private Sector and Food Industry** to invest in sustainable food systems, reduce supply chain emissions, and support regenerative agriculture initiatives.
- **Youth Worldwide** to continue mobilizing through advocacy, consultations, and data-driven initiatives, ensuring their voices influence national commitments and global negotiations on the road to COP30.

