AFSA
ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA

Action, not more talks

AFSA position on the future of agriculture under the UNFCCC

Nine years of negotiations: **COP31 must end the implementation gap**

Agriculture has been discussed within two dedicated work programmes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for close to a decade, first through the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture of 2017 - 2022, and then through the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA) of 2022–2026, which COP27 established through decision 3/CP.27 explicitly to advance implementation (UNFCCC, 2022). Together, these two work programmes have produced a cycle of workshops, submissions, synthesis reports and dialogues while delivering almost nothing to the people who feed the continent.

> *COP31 must not repeat Koronivia's failure to turn accumulated knowledge into accessible support for food producers.*

Only 0.8 per cent of climate finance reaches small-scale agrifood systems, after flows fell by 44 per cent in just two years (Chiriac et al., 2023), and food systems still receiving just about 7 per cent of global climate finance, less than a tenth of what they need (Vishnumolakala et al., 2025), exposing a delivery failure. Africa's smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, women and youth, who contribute least to the climate crisis (IPCC, 2022) yet bear its harshest impacts through floods, droughts, heat, failed harvests and deepening debt, have waited long enough for the international community to move from deliberation to delivery and action.

The cost of this delay is already being counted in African fields, where climate change has reduced agricultural productivity growth by 34 per cent since 1961 (IPCC, 2022) and climate-related disasters affected at least 13 million people across the continent in 2025 alone (WMO, 2026). As the SJWA reports to COP31, Parties must decide not whether to hold further discussions, but who will finance action, by when, through which institutions, and with what accountability to communities.

The evidence exists, political delivery is missing

Although the SJWA has fallen far short of its promise of implementation, it has generated gains that Parties should not discard, including a first workshop at SB62 in 2025 on systemic and holistic approaches to climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security, a second workshop at SB64 in 2026 on identifying needs and accessing means of implementation, annual synthesis reports mapping agriculture related work across the convention, and a functioning Sharm el-Sheikh online portal (UNFCCC, 2024, 2026). These are useful inputs rather than outcomes, and while the subsidiary bodies are required to report on progress and outcomes to COP31 (UNFCCC, 2022), AFSA demands that COP31 convert that record into an operational decision instead of renewing the same reporting cycle.

At SB64, the second workshop documented the barriers producers face in accessing finance and identified clear opportunities for agroecology and locally led action (UNFCCC, 2026a), yet Parties deferred consideration of key reports to SB65 (UNFCCC, 2026b). The portal also still primarily shares information and it does not guarantee resources. COP31 must explicitly adopt the workshop findings, establish a funded delivery pathway, and turn the portal into a publicly tracked mechanism connecting producer-defined priorities with finance and technical support.

AFSA demands a time-bound, financed implementation decision

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), bringing together more than 40 networks that represent about 200 million small-scale food producers across 50 African countries, rejects any COP31 outcome that merely extends workshops or relabels dialogue as implementation. For Africa's food producers, the test is whether resources and decision-making power reach communities and enable resilient, biodiverse and food-sovereign farming systems.

AFSA calls on COP31 to establish a dedicated, implementation-oriented agriculture and food systems framework, with a funded action plan, annual milestones, named institutional responsibilities and a public progress review at each COP. Parties should integrate community-led agroecology into NDCs and NAPs, with national delivery plans developed alongside farmer, pastoralist, fisherfolk, Indigenous, women's and youth organisations rather than imposed on them.

The decision must explicitly recognise agroecology as a proven and viable approach for adaptation and mitigation (FAO, 2018; HLPE, 2019; IPCC, 2022), including farmer-managed seed systems, soil restoration, biodiversity and territorial food systems, as a priority approach for adaptation and resilience. Also, parties should note that recognition without budget lines, accessible grants and producer-led governance is not implementation, therefore agroecology must be funded.

KEY ASKS

AFSA calls on Parties at COP31 to agree on a decision that:

