



## G7 of the Farmers' Organisations

Ortigia, Sicily, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Declaration

In a world hit by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and numerous conflicts, including the recent ones affecting Ukraine, Israel and the Palestinians, food security is front and centre in the news and a priority for politicians and citizens across the planet, proving in the most tragic way the deep interconnectedness of food systems, geopolitics, and global prosperity.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (*FAO, SOFI, 2024*), between 713 and 757 million people are still suffering from hunger. Similarly, about 2.8 billion people, more than one-third of people in the world, cannot afford a healthy and balanced diet.

Furthermore, the world population is estimated to continue growing to 9.7 billion by 2050 (*UN World Population Prospects, 2022*). In this regard, the food required to feed the world's population is expected to increase by 1.7 times over the 40 years from 2010 to 2050. As a result, a global food shortage may occur.

The challenge of climate change further emphasizes the risk of food insecurity and conflicts, generating ever greater instability. Nearly 282 million people, or 21.5% of the population of 59 countries around the world, faced acute levels of food insecurity in 2022, according to the United Nations' data ([Global Report on Food Crises, 2024](#)).

We, the presidents of the agricultural organizations of the G7 countries, reaffirm the central role of farmers in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda.



In particular, we stress the critical role that farmers play, not only in eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG2), but also in building resilient and sustainable food systems in the face of the global climate challenge.

When confronted with these immense challenges, we farmers feel as strongly as ever how important our role is in feeding the world sustainably. On the occasion of the major multilateral events of 2024 such as the 3 COPs: COP29 Climate in Azerbaijan (11-22 November 2024), COP16 Biodiversity in Colombia (21 October – 1 November 2024) and COP16 Desertification in Saudi Arabia (2-13 December 2024), and the G20 meetings, we call on the governments of the G7 countries to make:

- a declaration in favour of a vision for agriculture and for farmers supporting the value of work and economic growth;
- a cohesive effort to overcome the dual challenge of ensuring we grow enough food to feed a growing population, while at the same time reducing the resources and emissions needed to do it, and
- a joint commitment to backing policies that support sustainable food production, ensure economic viability for farmers, rise to the challenges of climate change, and promote trading relationships that enshrine these principles.

### Recommendations

It is necessary to invest more in **developing sustainable, resilient, competitive, and productive local food systems**, capable of enhancing the work of farmers, integrating it into fair supply chains that generate value for all actors, from producers to consumers.

Farmers need a **robust agriculture marketplace** to remain globally competitive and support the innovations required to meet the challenges of the future.



It is also necessary to ensure that **international trade, including trade that supports sustainable farming systems, is based on clear, fair, shared rules**, the principles of **reciprocity**, transparency and stability, and recognizes the cultural value of farming in many societies. At the same time, we must reinvigorate multilateral entities like the WTO as effective forums to establish trade rules and settle trade disputes.

The balance between resilient local food systems, with short value chains supporting thriving communities on the one hand, and fair and transparent international value chains on the other is essential to achieve the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals, the success of which unfortunately appears some way off.

Farmers are the first to be directly impacted by climate change, but also the most powerful allies in combatting the challenges it presents, for their ability to capture and store carbon, improve soil health, preserve and strengthen biodiversity, and innovate to produce food for a growing global population while managing their environmental impact.

It is also essential to increase the level of **investment** to support the transition to resilient food systems, which can adapt to and mitigate **climate change**.

**Innovation** is a key factor in overcoming these challenges: an innovation process that starts from farmers and their needs, closing the gap with the research and development community and proposing pragmatic, cutting-edge and ethically acceptable solutions for communities and consumers, ranging from seeds and genetics to marketing techniques, from precision agriculture to the use of artificial intelligence to grow productivity and sustainability.

It is fundamental to build new **bridges between producers and consumers**, promoting a better understanding of agriculture and strengthening the link between those who produce food using natural resources in a sustainable way and those who bring that food to the table every day, opposing any attempt to replace the food resulting from the work of farmers with lab-based products. Food produced through farming must remain fundamental to a sustainable, global food



system, avoiding the concentration of power in the agri-food chain, and underpinning the diversity and richness of traditional agricultural producers and the quality of food they produce.

Thanks to the commitment of our organizations, working with fellow agricultural leaders from around the world, we can reach farmers, even in the most remote rural areas, to share knowledge, and work together to create the conditions for a sustainable and resilient global future for farming. Supporting family farmers and building capacity in the agricultural sector in developing countries is also vital.

By working with governments across the world, we hope to build a new relationship between urban and rural areas, for a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet, for a transparent and fair agri-food value chain, and for a climate-friendly model of farming, rooting the international cooperation system on the real needs of family farmers.

We call on the governments of the G7 countries to take up this challenge, and to engage with farmers. The G7 governments must also ensure these issues are on the agenda at every international event, from COP29 Climate to WTO negotiations and COP16 Biodiversity, just to mention a few.

As such, we request the G7 governments continue to engage with us, the presidents of the farmers' organisations of the G7 countries, to advance our shared commitment to secure a peaceful, prosperous, food-secure future for generations to come.

Ortigia, Italy, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024



## Signatories

  
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