

## **Corporate-Smart Greenwash: why we reject the Global Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture**

We, the undersigned civil society organisations, hereby manifest our rejection of the proposed Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture to be launched at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Leaders' Summit. This proposed alliance is a deceptive and deeply contradictory initiative.

Food producers and providers – farmers, fisherfolk, and pastoralists – together with our food systems are on the front lines of climate change. We know that urgent action must be taken to cool the planet, to help farming systems – and particularly small-scale farmers – adapt to a changing climate, and to revive and reclaim the agroecological systems on which future sustainable food production depends.

The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, however, will not deliver the solutions that we so urgently need. Instead, “climate-smart” agriculture provides a dangerous platform for corporations to implement the very activities we oppose. By endorsing the activities of the planet's worst climate offenders in agribusiness and industrial agriculture, the Alliance will undermine the very objectives that it claims to aim for.

Although some organizations have constructively engaged in good faith for several months with the Alliance to express serious concerns, the concerns have been ignored. Instead, the Alliance is clearly being structured to serve big business interests, not to address the climate crisis.

We reject “climate-smart” agriculture and the Global Alliance for a number of reasons already articulated in previous efforts to interface with the promoters, including:

### **1. No environmental or social criteria**

The final framework of the Alliance does not contain any criteria or definitions for what can – or cannot – be considered “climate-smart agriculture.” Industrial approaches that increase greenhouse gas emissions and farmers' vulnerability by driving deforestation, using genetically modified (GM) seeds, increasing synthetic fertiliser use or intensifying industrial livestock production, are all apparently welcome to use the “climate-smart” label to promote their practices as solutions to climate change.

### **2. Carbon trading**

The originators of “climate-smart” agriculture – the FAO and the World Bank – have a vision that “climate-smart” projects will be funded in part by carbon offset schemes. Many of our groups question the environmental and social integrity of carbon offsetting. Carbon sequestration in soils is not permanent and is easily reversible, and should be especially excluded from schemes to offset emissions. Carbon offset schemes in agriculture will create one more driver of land dispossession of smallholder farmers, particularly in the Global South, and unfairly place the burden of mitigation on those who are most vulnerable to, but have least contributed to, the climate crisis.

### **3. A new space for promoting agribusiness and industrial agriculture**

Companies with activities resulting in dire social impacts on farmers and communities, such as those driving land grabbing or promoting GM seeds, already claim that they are “climate-smart.” Yara (the world's largest fertilizer manufacturer), Syngenta (GM seeds), McDonald's, and Walmart are all at the “climate-smart” table. Climate-smart agriculture will serve as a new promotional space for the planet's worst social and environmental offenders in agriculture. The proposed Global Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture seems to be yet another strategy by powerful players to prop up industrial agriculture, which undermines the basic human right to food. It is nothing new, nothing innovative, and not what we need.

We do urgently need climate action! Unfortunately, the Alliance seriously misses the mark. Real climate solutions are already out there in farmers' fields – based on agroecological practices and the relocalisation of food systems to effectively fight hunger. Instead of creating one more body for business-as-usual, governments, funding agencies, and international organizations should be taking bold action: committing to shift resources away from climate-damaging practices of chemical-intensive industrial agriculture and meat production and towards investment in and commitment to agroecology, food sovereignty, and support to small-scale food producers.

The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development concluded in 2008 that business-as-usual in agriculture is not an option; instead, a thorough and radical overhaul of present international and agricultural policies is essential to meet the challenges of the future.

We reject the Global Alliance as one more step by a small percentage of the UN's total membership to promote industrial agriculture against all the evidence of its destructive impacts on people, biodiversity, seed, water, soils, and climate. It is merely one more attempt to block the real change needed to fix our broken food systems and our broken climate, change which instead must be based on food sovereignty and agroecological approaches for agriculture and food production and the effective reduction of greenhouse gases.

### **International Organisations & Farmers' Movements**

ActionAid International  
Centro de Estudios Internacionales y de Agricultura Internacional (CERAI)  
CIDSE  
Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Genetique African (COPAGEN)  
Corporate Europe Observatory  
Earth in Brackets  
Foro Rural Mundial (FRM)  
Friends of the Earth International  
IBON International  
Inades-Formation  
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)  
International-Lawyers.Org (INTLawyers)  
GRET  
LDC Watch  
Mesa de Coordinación Latinoamericana de Comercio Justo  
Send a Cow  
South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)  
South Asia Peasants Coalition  
Third World Network

### **National Organisations & Farmers' Movements**

Abalimi Bezekhaya (Farmers of Hope), South Africa  
ACRA-CCS Foundation, Italy  
Action Contre la Faim, France  
Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network (AEFJN), Brussels  
Agrosolidaria Federacion el Tambo Cauca, Colombia  
Alliance International sur les OMD (AIOMD), Niger  
All Nepal Peasants Federation (ANPFa), Nepal  
Antenne Nationale du Niger (AAIOMD-Niger)  
Asemblea Nacional Ambiental (ANA), Republica Dominicana  
Asociacion de Prosumidores Agroecologicos "Agrosolidaria Seccional Viani" Colombia  
Asociacion Nacional de Productores Ecologistas del Peru (ANPE)  
Asociacion Viva Amazonica de San Martin, Peru  
Association Malienne pour la Sécurité et la Souveraineté Alimentaires (AMASSA)  
Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)  
Beyond Copenhagen, India  
Biofuelwatch, UK  
Biowatch South Africa  
Bolivian Platform on Climate Change, Bolivia  
Campaign for Climate Justice Nepal (CCJN)  
Carbon Market Watch, Belgium  
CCFD-Terre Solidaire, France

Centre for community economics and development consultants society (CECOEDECON), India  
 Cecosesola, Barquisimeto, Venezuela  
 Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales (CARI), France  
 Centre for Learning on Sustainable Agriculture (ILEIA), the Netherlands  
 Community Development Association (CDA), Bangladesh  
 Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), South Sudan  
 CONCEPT ONG, Sénégal  
 EcoFrut, Colombia  
 EcoNexus, UK  
 Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD).  
 Family Farmers' Association, UK  
 Farm & Garden Trust, South Africa  
 Farms Not Factories, UK  
 Fédération des Eglises Evangéliques des Ferres (FEEF), the Central African Republic  
 Federacion Nacional de Cooperativas Agropecuarias y Agroindustriales de Nicaragua (FENACOOOP)  
 Find Your Feet, UK  
 Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) Nepal  
 Forum des Femmes Africaines pour l'Education (FAWECOM), Comoros  
 Friends of Siberian Forests, Russia  
 Friends of the Earth – England, Wales & Northern Ireland  
 Friends of the Earth – Latvia  
 Fundacion Caminos de Indentidad (FUCAI) Colombia  
 Fundacion Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible, Spain  
 Fundacion Solidaridad, Bolivia  
 Harvest of Hope, South Africa  
 Gramya Resource Centre for Women, India  
 Groupe d'Action de Paix et de Formation pour la Transformation (GAPAFOT), Central African Republic  
 Human Rights (HR) Alliance, Nepal  
 Human Rights Organisation of Bhutan (HUROB)  
 INHURED International, Nepal  
 Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), USA  
 Instituto de Cultura Popular, Argentina  
 Jagaran Nepal  
 Jubilee South Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD), Philippines  
 Karnataka State Red Gram Growers Association, India  
 Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre, Nigeria  
 L'Association des Jeunes Filles Pour la Promotion de l'Espace Francophone (Membre du CNOSCG),  
 Republic of Guinea  
 MADGE Australia  
 MASIPAG, Philippines  
 National Civic Forum, Sudan  
 National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh  
 National Network on Right to Food, Nepal (RtFN)  
 Organizacion Casa de Semillas Criollas Atenas, Costa Rica  
 Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum (PFF), Pakistan  
 Partners for the Land & Agricultural Needs of Traditional Peoples (PLANT), USA  
 People's Alliance of Central-East India (PACE-India)  
 PHE Ethiopia Consortium  
 Plateforme Haitienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA), Haiti  
 Plateforme pour le Commerce Equitable, France  
 Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI)  
 Red Ecologista Autonoma de la Cuenca de México  
 Red Nicaraguense de Comercio Comunitario (RENICC)  
 Red Peruana de Comercio Justo y Consumo Etico, Peru  
 Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)

SADF ONG, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Sanayee Development Organisation, Afghanistan  
Secours Catholique (Caritas), France  
SOCDA (Somali Organization for Community Development Activities)  
Sudan Peace and Education Development Program (SPEDP), South Sudan  
Texas Drought Project, USA  
Unión Nacional de Agricultores y Ganaderos de Nicaragua (UNAG)  
Unión Latinoamericana de Técnicos Rurales y Agrarios, Argentina  
UK Food Group, UK  
Vicaria del Sur, Diócesis de Florencia, Colombia  
Voluntary Action for the fight against climate change and the adverse effects of Sulfur Diesel,  
(AVOCHACLISD), Burundi  
World Development Movement, UK  
Youth Network for MDGs, Madagascar