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FROM PLATE TO PLANET

HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE DRIVING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH FOOD

DID YOU KNOW?

Greenhouse gas emission reductions committed by local & regional governments go **35% above & beyond** those pledged by national governments.



Credit: Rikoto Indonesia

Food system actions could drive major reductions in emissions

18% by shifting to well-managed production practices

8% by transitioning to sustainable diets & halving meat production & consumption

8% by halving food loss & waste



Global action on the climate crisis is nowhere near the scale and commitment required to limit warming to 1.5°C. Urgent and far-reaching action to transform food systems is needed to reach the Paris Agreement target. Where national governments are falling short, this report shows how cities and regional governments are pioneering policies on food and climate change through dozens of inspiring examples on the ground. It finds:

- **Local governments are spearheading action to cut greenhouse gas emissions** by promoting healthy and sustainable diets, reducing food waste, shortening food supply chains, supporting a transition to organic farming, and ensuring their poorest inhabitants can access healthy and sustainable food. These policies cut greenhouse gas emissions in addition to providing a wide range of social, health, economic, and environmental benefits.
- **These holistic, emissions-cutting local policies provide a blueprint for action on food and climate** – in which social justice, participation, and accountability are put at the heart of climate action.
- Local governments are making progress despite swimming against a powerful tide of limited resources, constrained political power, and the COVID and cost of living crises. **Cities and regions need much more support and recognition for their work**, which is overlooked by national governments and in international climate negotiations.
- **Such ambitious initiatives at the local level contrast dramatically with the weak and fragmented actions of national governments on food and climate change** – as shown by their inadequate national climate plans submitted under the Paris Agreement (NDCs) where food systems are routinely overlooked. What plans do exist lack joined-up approaches that span the whole food system, lack coordination between local, regional, and national levels of government, and lack measurable commitments.

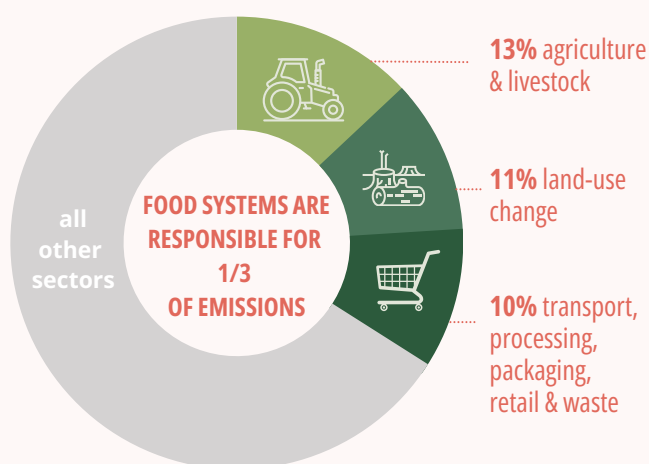
To give us a fighting chance at limiting global warming, a shift to sustainable food systems is urgent. National governments should:

- 1. Use the example of cities and regional governments as a blueprint** for food and climate action – to inspire national food and climate policies.
- 2. Act in coordination with city and regional governments**, and provide more funding to them to take action on food and climate change, scaling it out to all cities and regions.
- 3. Take the opportunity of the Paris Agreement stocktaking at COP28 to revise national climate commitments to systematically include food systems and local action.**

18 national governments & the EU have declared a climate emergency compared to 2,317 local & regional authorities.



Total global greenhouse gas emissions



Source: Crippa, M., et al. (2021).

Integrated, local food policies that slash greenhouse gas emissions

- Support sustainable farming and short supply chains (protecting farmland, training organic farmers, building out local food hubs, and increasing urban farming)
- Promote healthy, sustainable diets (increasing affordability, accessibility, desirability of organic, seasonal, and local food)
- Harness public procurement to catalyze sustainable production and consumption
- Cut food waste and improve waste management

Governance mechanisms for effective food policy development and implementation

- Create inclusive and participatory policy development processes with a broad range of food system stakeholders and civil society
- Collaborate across governmental departments and up through levels of government
- Establish robust planning, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms
- Tap into partnerships and learning networks

