



## Counting the impact of industrial farming on our climate

Bonn Climate Conference side-event on 12 June at organised by World Animal Protection, Global Forest Coalition, Brighter Green, Sinergia Animal & Plant-Based Treaty.

Current systems of industrialised animal-based protein production are leading contributors to global warming and the nature and biodiversity crisis. Rearing, breeding and slaughtering animals in intensive farming systems, as well as producing the vast amounts of feed they require, is driving global deforestation and habitat loss, polluting air, exhausting precious water resources and degrading land that is urgently needed to sustain a growing human population. In addition, our animal-centric food systems fail to guarantee food security and threaten the livelihoods of farmers engaged in local production. World Animal Protection's [Scorecard](#) shows how Industrial Farming Giants are causing the worst climate change impacts.

The IPCC has singled out meat and dairy as one of the sectors requiring urgent action. In its Sixth Assessment Report on the Mitigation of Climate Change it says that a shift to diets with a higher share of plant protein and a decrease in consumption of meat and dairy "could lead to substantial decreases in GHG emissions", and that switching to plant-based diets has "the greatest shift potential" among climate-smart behaviour changes.

Urgent, ambitious and cross-cutting national and international policies are needed to address food supply and demand, production and consumption.

### Recommendations:

1. Curtailing the unsustainable and destructive animal feed industry which underpins Intensive Farming models of production and deforestation.
2. A transition towards humane, sustainable, regenerative and agroecological agricultural practices that promote soil health and biodiversity and is consistent with the needs and rights of smallholders, including the millions of women farmers and farm workers.
3. Shifting subsidies and financial incentives from industrialized livestock production to more sustainable, climate-smart, plant-based agriculture, thus supporting food producers through a just transition in the agriculture sector.
4. Reforming national dietary guidelines to incentivise and support consumers in making healthier, more sustainable and plant-rich food choices.
5. Including food system transformation in all Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to bridge the gap between science-based targets and collective action.
6. Ensuring representation in these vital climate discussions in the UNFCCC and other venues from civil society, smallholder farmers, farm and supply-chain workers, youth, Indigenous Peoples and labour groups, and experts in nutrition, public health, environment, circular economy, human and gender rights, and animal welfare.