



Tuesday, 06 June, Bonn

16.15 - 17.30 CEST followed by reception 17.30 - 18.00

Room Berlin

Unlocking the Potential of Alternative Proteins for Food Systems Transformation

Food systems account for around $\frac{1}{3}$ of total GHG emissions. Achieving the Paris Agreement's 1.5 degree target will be impossible without drastically changing the way we produce and consume food, especially animal agriculture. More than half of all diet-related emissions can be traced back to the production of animal products whose GHG footprint is twice as large as that of plant-based foods. Animal agriculture also counts among the main drivers of deforestation and biodiversity loss, and contributes significantly to water eutrophication around the world.

Alternative proteins (plant-based, fermentation-made and cultivated foods) have been widely recognised for their potential to mitigate food's environmental footprint and accelerate the shift to more sustainable food systems. Compared to conventional protein, their production requires significantly fewer natural resources such as land and water, results in lower GHG emission levels, and contributes much less to air and water pollution. Because plant-based and cultivated meat require up to 95 percent less land, they can notably reduce pressure on biodiversity. Expanding forests, restoring ecosystems, and farming sustainably will be essential for limiting and adapting to climate change. Due to their low resource costs, alternative proteins are also a promising solution to ensure food security for a growing world population whilst keeping within planetary boundaries.

In addition to these environmental benefits, protein diversification offers important market opportunities. The Boston Consulting Group estimates that by 2035, alternative proteins will account for 11% of global protein consumption and represent a global market of around \$290 billion. Despite volatile market conditions, investment in alternative proteins remains strong, with more than half of the 60 largest meat, dairy, and seafood companies investing in diversifying their protein production. In Latin America, native ingredients are driving the interest in plant-based foods. Research on the use of local crops for alternative protein products in native biomes has the potential to boost economic development and improve the livelihood of producing communities.

The manifold potential of alternative proteins has been acknowledged by the IPCC in its 2022 WG III Mitigation Report, and has been highlighted in several recent



publications, including UNEP's Emissions Gap Report (2022) and the UNCD's Global Land Outlook (2022). It is therefore imperative that the UNFCCC integrate protein diversification as an impactful mitigation and adaptation strategy in its climate action framework, notably the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work, to ensure we can collectively get on track to meet the targets set under the Paris Agreement in this year's global stocktake.

This event will explore concrete opportunities for government action to leverage the potential of alternative proteins for food systems transformation, including the role of protein diversification in the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work and the planned FAO-led Global Roadmap to 2050 for Food and Agriculture. The speakers will also discuss: the reasons why investors are diversifying their portfolios to include alternative proteins and the need for robust ESG assessment of companies in this emerging sector to quantify sustainability outcomes; how the use of native ingredients for alternative protein production can contribute to biodiversity; existing initiatives in the alternative protein space led by civil society, public-private partnerships, and start-up enterprises across the world.

Attendees are invited to stay for a short reception after the event to continue discussions.

Speakers:

Raphael Podselver, ProVeg International (Moderation)

- Liva Kaugure, FAO
- Keenya Hofmaier, FAIRR Initiative
- Mariana Bernal, The Good Food Institute Brazil (GFI)
- Malte Clausen, Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
- Lucas du Pré, Netherlands, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
- Mumukshu Patel, Climate Advisers
- Helen Harwatt, Chatham House
- Helen Monica Regina, Bayreuth-Kulmbach Alt Protein Project, ProVeg Youth Board
- Yeonjoo La, Tissen BioFarm