Press Release

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Ethiopia joins the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, signalling greater action on food systems in run up to COP32

Antalya, 11 November 2026 ~ Ethiopia, which will host COP32 next year, today joins the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, paving the way for greater action on food systems at COP32.

The African leader and climate pioneer joins Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Italy, Norway, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Viet Nam, expanding this group of high-ambition governments committed to transforming how food is produced and consumed, to deliver for people, nature and the climate.

Ethiopia's ACF membership signals the increasing importance of food, land restoration and resilience to the international climate agenda. Compounding shocks from extreme weather, droughts, floods, rising food prices and fertiliser bottlenecks are affecting farmers and communities across the Horn of Africa and around the world.

As COP32 President, Ethiopia has indicated its ambition to make the 2027 summit a turning point for climate adaptation, land restoration, finance and practical solutions. Its decision to join the ACF creates new momentum to put food systems transformation at the heart of that agenda, drawing on its experience in regenerative agriculture, land restoration and strengthening food security.

H.E. Addisu Arega, Minister of Agriculture of Ethiopia said: "Healthy land and resilient farming are the first line of defence against climate shocks, and the foundation of food security for millions of people across Africa and beyond. Ethiopia's experience shows that when social protection and land restoration go together, vulnerable families can withstand shocks. Climate finance must now be aligned with food systems transformation and reach the farmers and pastoralists who need it most. Ethiopia is proud to join the Alliance of Champions, and we look forward to working with fellow members to raise ambition and accelerate food systems transformation on the road to Addis."

Ethiopia brings a strong food systems track record to ACF, demonstrating global, regional and domestic leadership on Food System Transformation. It co-hosted the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake with Italy, a fellow ACF member, in Addis Ababa in July 2025, and hosted the second Africa Climate Summit in September 2025.

Regionally, Ethiopia is helping lead Africa's shift from agriculture-led growth to an agrifood systems approach, covering the whole value chain, environmental sustainability, malnutrition, and resilience to climate, conflict, pandemic and economic shocks. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is the African Union's champion for its agriculture programme, CAADP. Ethiopia is one of only four countries, with fellow ACF member Rwanda, to score above five out of ten in every CAADP review, underlining its commitment to accountability. Ethiopia's National Regenerative Agriculture Strategy, among the first of its kind, launched in May 2026, aims to help 12 to 15 million smallholders restore their soils and build resilience to climate shocks, putting healthy land at the heart of food security.

H.E. Fernanda Machiaveli, Minister of Agrarian Development and Family Farming, Brazil, co-chair of the ACF, said: "Brazil warmly welcomes Ethiopia to the Alliance of Champions. As the incoming COP32 host, Ethiopia can help place food systems transformation at the heart of climate action. Brazil's experience shows that integrated policies supporting family farming — from public procurement and rural credit to agroecology and agroforestry — can strengthen food security and climate resilience. In this International Year of the Woman Farmer, we must also recognize women's essential role in this transformation. Through South-South cooperation and initiatives such as PAS TERRA, we stand ready to share experiences and accelerate concrete policies and programmes for family farmers and rural communities."

H.E. Dr Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sierra Leone, co-chair of the ACF, said: "As shocks multiply, the world needs more resolve and more action on resilience, with food systems as central. Ethiopia's membership of the ACF brings fresh ambition, and as host of COP32, the power to carry this agenda from Antalya to Addis. In Sierra Leone, Feed Salone has shown that when a government backs its farmers, food security can change fast. Working together, we can show how to build food systems that withstand the next shock."

H.E. Dr. Eang Sophalleth, Minister of Environment, Cambodia, said: "Cambodia extends its warmest welcome to Ethiopia as it joins the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation and prepares to lead COP32. Ethiopia's leadership and commitment to advancing resilient and sustainable food systems will be invaluable to our collective efforts. We look forward to partnering closely with Ethiopia to elevate food systems as a cornerstone of climate action and sustainable development."

H.E. Paul Gulleik Larsen, Ambassador at Large and Special Envoy for Climate and Food Initiatives, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and founding co-chair of the ACF, said: "With the COP31 Presidency placing food security on its Action Agenda, and Ethiopia set to carry the agenda forward as host of COP32, food security has a strong voice on the climate agenda. And, as shocks multiply, keeping it at the centre of development and climate finance has never been more important. Norway warmly welcomes Ethiopia to the Alliance."

Emma Williams, Head of the ACF Secretariat, said: "Welcoming the COP32 President into the ACF is a powerful signal that food systems belong at the heart of climate action. Ethiopia brings real experience of transforming its food system, and ACF members stand ready to support it on the road to Addis Ababa next November."

At the same time as Ethiopia joining, ACF members share 'snapshots' of their progress, as part of their commitment to yearly reporting on their food systems transformation. From Cambodia's food systems-led climate plan to Sierra Leone's rapid fall in food insecurity, members are backing their ambition with budgets, joined-up government and measurable results. Taken together, this progress underlines how food systems transformation is becoming a central priority across ministries, agendas, climate plans, budgets and public programmes, delivering gains in food security, resilience, public health and climate action at the same time.

Highlights from this year's reporting include:

- BRAZIL
  Brazil is demonstrating how integrated public policies can tackle hunger while strengthening family farming and building more resilient food systems. Having exited the FAO Hunger Map in 2025, the country is expanding rural credit, public food procurement and support for agroecology and agroforestry. Its school feeding programme serves around 40 million students, with at least 45% of federal funding earmarked for purchases from family farmers. The 2026/27 Family Farming Harvest Plan makes approximately USD 15.5 billion available in rural credit, including preferential rates for food production and agroecology. As the world marks the International Year of the Woman Farmer, Brazil is also advancing women's economic autonomy through initiatives such as the Productive Backyards Programme, which has supported 130,000 productive backyards for rural women since 2023.

- CAMBODIA
  The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub describes Cambodia's NDC 3.0 as the most advanced example of integrating food systems into national

climate commitments in the Asia-Pacific region. By 2035, it aims to restore more than 96,000 hectares of aquatic ecosystems and expand climate-smart agricultural practices to cover 20% of agricultural land. The NDC estimates that implementing its adaptation measures will cost USD 45 million for food systems and USD 960 million for agriculture.

- ITALY
  Italy is a driving force for global food systems transformation: it hosts the UN food systems architecture in Rome, has hosted the UN Food Systems Summit process, and launched the Apulia Food Systems Initiative during its 2024 G7 Presidency. It has built one of Europe's strongest organic-food production bases, and is embedding biodiversity in agricultural policy and law.

- NORWAY
  Norway is protecting the foundations of future food security on two fronts, as a long-standing international funder of tropical forest protection, and as host of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, which safeguards more than 1.4 million seed samples from genebanks in over 100 countries.

- RWANDA
  Rwanda's finance, agriculture and environment ministries have developed a US$335.4 million climate-smart agriculture investment plan, and have committed to restore 600,000 hectares of degraded land and inland waters by 2029, building on more than 1.17 million hectares already terraced.

- SIERRA LEONE
  Sierra Leone is proving that food security can be transformed in just a few years: by quadrupling agriculture's share of its national budget and mobilising over USD 1 billion for Feed Salone. It has more than halved severe food insecurity since 2023, cut rice imports by over USD 18 million and is protecting its farmers against future shocks with the country's first weather insurance that automatically pays out when agreed weather thresholds are reached.

- VIETNAM
  Viet Nam is showing the world that food systems transformation works in practice. Its national action plan puts the whole food system at the heart of policy, its low-emission rice programme already covers more than 354,000 hectares while raising yields and cutting costs, emissions and chemical use. It is now sharing that experience with 12 African countries.

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Notes to editors

About food systems, resilience and mitigation

Countries face multiple, compounding threats, not least to food security. The UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2026 warns that conflict, weather extremes and aid cuts threaten recent progress against hunger. This, in turn, is a trigger for conflict. The IPCC finds that proven measures, from restoring land and watersheds to resilient crops, agroforestry, early warning and social protection, can protect food security. But adaptation for this remains fragmented and underfunded. UNEP estimates developing countries need around US $305 billion a year by 2035, against just USD$28-32 billion currently available in international public finance as of 2024.

Food systems account for roughly 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions globally, according to research by the EAT-Lancet Commission (2025). Transforming these systems could cut related emissions by more than half.

About ACF

Launched at COP28 in Dubai, signatories to the Alliance are committing to driving bold, coordinated action, taking a 'whole of government' approach to transforming their food systems to deliver better outcomes across five key areas: food security and nutrition; adaptation and resilience; equity and livelihoods; nature and biodiversity; and climate mitigation.

Modelled on similar high ambition, sector-specific coalitions, the Alliance sits outside of the formal multilateral process – but acts as a complement to it. ACF countries are working to improve their national food systems in ways that become attractive blueprints for others to follow, showcasing national leadership, facilitating learning, disseminating knowledge and accelerating innovation.

By taking a coordinated approach to reorienting policies, practices and investment priorities, members are aiming to make significant progress this decade, raising the ceiling of ambition and shifting perceptions of what is possible.

ACF at COP31

ACF countries will be present at the Food and Agriculture Pavilion at COP31 on Wednesday 11 November 14:00-15:00 to announce Ethiopia's membership and showcase the latest national progress on food systems transformation.

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Interviews with ministers available on request.