



CONCEPT NOTE

Partnerships among Amazon countries: Food systems transformation and climate action

25-28 May 2026

1. Background

The Amazon is a strategic biome for tackling food insecurity in a way that generates co-benefits for addressing climate change and promoting sustainable food systems rooted in the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Despite this potential, many Amazonian populations face food insecurity and malnutrition, highlighting the need to strengthen local food systems in integrated and sustainable ways. Regional cooperation – particularly through the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) – is essential to align national policies related to food security and nutrition with international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and national food systems pathways, while protecting sociobiodiversity and supporting family farming and traditional communities.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub's Convergence Initiative supports countries in aligning food systems transformation with climate action. In Brazil, the 2024 Convergence Workshop brought together government, civil society, academia, and UN agencies to identify pathways for strengthening sustainable food systems (SFS), drawing on Brazil's experience in food security, nutrition, and climate action. The active participation of Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, women, youth, and civil society has been central to shaping inclusive food security and nutrition (FSN) policies, including successful programs such as the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the National School Feeding Program (PNAE), which offer valuable lessons.

Building on the momentum of COP30 in Belém do Pará in 2025, Brazil aims to intensify regional dialogue – particularly with ACTO members – on joint actions to advance food security, climate resilience, and sustainable food systems in the Amazon. Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Food Systems Convenors play a key role in coordinating these efforts internationally. Building on Brazil's convergence experience, a broader regional convergence process is being advanced across the Amazon Basin and OTCA countries, fostering shared learning and diplomatic collaboration among countries facing similar challenges. By strengthening the capacities of diplomats and government officers from the region, the event contributes to exchanging on how to operationalize convergence between food systems transformation and climate action at national and regional levels.

The convergence between food system transformation policies and climate action implies, among other policies and according to the national priorities of each country, adapting food production to the impacts of climate change, ensuring resilience to extreme weather events and shifting climate patterns. In parallel, and in certain cases, sustainable solutions may



generate mitigation co-benefits, reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with food systems. Such initiatives require urgently scaling up the provision of means of implementation, and fostering cooperation in that direction.

2. Partners

The training activities will be conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), who will jointly develop the methodology and pedagogical content. Additional partners and agencies will be invited to contribute to the training, ensuring diverse expertise and perspectives.

Potential partner organizations: IFAD, FAO, The Nature Conservancy, CGIAR, ILO

3. Regional context

Food systems in the Amazon Basin are best understood as forest–river–farm systems in which nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience depend on ecosystems as much as on agricultural production. Across the Amazon Basin, food systems are inseparable from the sustainable use of forest: forests and rivers provide direct foods (e.g., fish, fruits, nuts, wild meat and other non-wood forest products), regulate water and rainfall critical for agriculture, and underpin livelihoods and diets – especially in rural and remote territories. Most importantly, Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities are essential custodians of Amazonian landscapes, playing a critical role in safeguarding the forest and river systems that underpin food security, cultural livelihoods, and climate resilience. Their knowledge and territorial practices support biodiversity-based food systems and help maintain ecological integrity. Recent UN assessments highlight a central tension in Amazonian food systems: while the region is characterized by high biological productivity and diverse livelihood practices, it also faces entrenched challenges related to poverty, geographic isolation, and limited access to essential services, particularly in remote areas. These contributions underscore the importance of inclusive governance and the recognition of Indigenous leadership in food systems and climate policies. This strengthens the rationale for regional cooperation and diplomacy, since the Amazon's hydrology, trade corridors, and climate risks are transboundary.

At the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the 2023 Belém Declaration – serving as a political mandate for its eight member countries – established food security as a core pillar of sustainable development in the Amazon, recognizing that eradicating hunger and poverty is inseparable from environmental protection, respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights, and regional cooperation. Building on this vision, the 2025 Bogotá Declaration reaffirmed these commitments and, importantly, endorsed a regional food security strategy approved by the Presidents of ACTO member states. The strategy promotes sustainable and resilient food systems across Amazonian territories, with a focus on sustainable agricultural production, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, the sustainable use of biodiversity, and the integration of traditional knowledge with technical innovation. It reflects a shared political commitment to strengthening food security and food sovereignty through coordinated regional action.



In this context, maintaining a sustainable use of forest is essential for the long-term sustainability of Amazonian food systems. The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land highlights that changes in land cover, especially deforestation, impact food security through multiple pathways by affecting soil, water cycles, and crop conditions, which in turn influence the food security. As a result, land-use changes that may generate short-term benefits at the local level can, at broader scales, undermine productivity, resilience, and food security across the region.

These mechanisms outlined above must support territorial practices and Indigenous leadership.

4. Objectives

Promote the implementation of the national pathways and the Convergence Initiative among the Amazon countries by strengthening Brazilian and ACTO members' competency and expertise on the themes of food security and nutrition, food systems transformation, resilience and climate action.

SPECIFIC

1. Promote capacity building, systems thinking, and diplomatic training in food security and nutrition, and food systems transformation with focus on resilience-building, through a methodology developed in partnership with the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger, the Hub, ACTO, and Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This will strengthen the capacities of diplomatic corps and public servants across Brazil and Amazonian countries, in line with the respective mandates of each partner.
2. Facilitate the exchange of best practices and successful experiences from Brazil and across the region, including in multilateral spaces and within ACTO, encouraging their adaptation and replication in partner countries, particularly in the Global South.
3. Promote dialogue and the exchange of experiences and best practices among participating delegations from ACTO member countries, as well as with other partner organizations.

5. Target audience

Two officials/diplomats from each of the eight Amazon countries involved in monitoring the implementation of the national pathways and Convergence Initiatives, nominated by their respective National Convenors and/or Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

6. Expected outcomes

- An outcome document summarizing the discussions .
- A document systematizing good practices and proposals for regional cooperation linked to food systems and climate.
- Establishment of a regional network of focal points for food-climate convergence.

7. Structure and programme overview



The course adopts a learning-by-doing and peer exchange methodology, combining:

- Technical sessions on the Convergence Initiative, global policy frameworks (SDGs, Paris Agreement, national pathways, and COP30 outcomes, among others).
- Case studies on public policies from Brazil and other countries (e.g. PAA, PNAE, CONSEA), and their relevance for adaptation and replication across the region.
- Interactive group work to prepare a set of “Voluntary Guidelines and technical recommendations in converging food systems and climate action”, outlining opportunities for inter-ministerial and cross-border collaboration, and providing recommendations to strengthen alignment between food systems transformation and climate action in the region, in line with the Amazon Strategy for Food Sovereignty and Security and Nutrition . The voluntary guidelines are meant to provide recommended actions to countries that should be implemented in accordance with national priorities and applicable laws.
- Facilitated dialogue sessions for participants to exchange challenges and experiences in advancing integrated food systems-climate action policies.
- Field visit or experiential learning component (if feasible) to connect policy with practice. For example, visiting institutions or projects implementing sustainable food systems in the Federal District.

8. Draft program overview

Time	Session Title
DAY 1 – 25 May 2026	
08:30–09:00	REGISTRATION
09:30–09:30	High-level opening remarks featuring key partners
09:30 – 10:00	Participants Introduction and ground rules
10:00 – 10:15	Introduction and context setting: Training agenda, objectives, and expected output
10:15 – 10:30	OFFICIAL PICTURE & COFFEE BREAK
10:30–11:30	High-level roundtable: Policy landscapes for the Amazon food systems
11:30 -12:00	The centrality of food systems transformation for climate action
12:00 -13:00	LUNCH BREAK
13:00 – 14:00	Connecting the dots: Systems thinking for coherent food systems policy



14:00–15:00	From forests to forums: The role of diplomacy in amazon food systems
15:00–15:15	COFFEE BREAK
15:15–16:30	From local voices to global action: Amazon food systems and climate resilience
16:30–17:00	Day 1 Wrap-Up
DAY 2 – 26 May 2026	
09:00–09:15	Opening & brief recap of key messages from Day 1
09:15–10:15	Status of regional cooperation: Presentations on the Amazon Strategy for Food Sovereignty and Security and Nutrition Presentation on PLACA - Latin American Platform for Climate Action
10:15–10:30	COFFEE BREAK
10:30–12:00	Who's at the table? Governing food systems through coordination, inclusion and social participation
12:30–13:30	
13:30–14:30	From commitments to capital: Financing sustainable food systems
14:30 – 15:00	Financing and implementing food systems transformation
15:00–15:15	
15:15–16:30	Breakout group exercise: Turning priorities into bankable projects
16:30–17:00	Day 2 wrap-up
Day 3 - 27 May 2026	
09:00–09:15	Opening & brief recap of key messages from Day 2
09:15 – 10:15	Vision and objectives:



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	CAB presentation – UNFS Hub
	Examples from the region: Brazil, Peru, and Dominican Republic
10:15 – 10:30	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 – 12:00	Designing regional interventions and milestones
12:00 – 12:30	Joint presentation on monitoring and evaluation
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30 – 15:15	Development of the set of “Voluntary Guidelines and technical recommendations in converging food systems and climate action”
15:15 – 15:30	COFFEE BREAK
15:30 – 16:00	Final discussion on and adoption of the “Amazon Convergence Diplomacy Framework”
16:00 – 16:30	Wrap up and closing remarks

Fourth Day: Field visit focusing on forestry and food systems (TBC – Brazil to propose)