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CENTRAL ASIA



Food and Agriculture  
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## THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE

# THE CONVERGENCE ACTION BLUEPRINT OF ARMENIA

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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The Convergence Initiative in Armenia is an initiative led by the Government of Armenia through the Ministry of Economy, with the support of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the wider UN system. It aims to strengthen alignment and foster joint programming between Armenia's Food Systems Transformation Pathway and its national climate action agenda, advancing systems-based approaches and inter-sectoral win-win solutions.

The initiative was implemented, taking into consideration the national priority to develop an action plan for 2027-2030 based on the Food Security System Development Strategy and the Agriculture Strategy for 2020-2030<sup>1</sup>.

Through this Initiative, Armenia seeks to accelerate integrated action that simultaneously contributes to the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement goals, while responding to country-specific opportunities and challenges.

Armenia is advancing the Convergence Initiative as a means to strengthen cross-sectoral and institutional capacities for scaled food-climate implementation. As part of this process, a national convergence dialogue was convened in Armenia on the 13-14th of March 2026, bringing together government institutions, UN agencies, development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector to jointly identify priorities, gaps, and opportunities for integrated action.

In preparation for the national convergence process, a background study for Armenia was developed. The analysis examined the impacts of climate change across key dimensions relevant to Armenia's food systems transformation trajectory, including: (a) food production and rural livelihoods; (b) social and food security impacts; (c) ecosystems, land, water, and infrastructure; (d) climate risks and vulnerabilities across territories and value chains; and (e) opportunities for more alignment of climate action instruments (NDC and NAP) with the Food Systems Transformation Pathway.

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<sup>1</sup> Strategy of the Main Directions Ensuring Economic Development in Agricultural Sector of the Republic of Armenia for 2020–2030

Together, these analytical streams provide a robust evidence base for prioritizing convergence actions and accelerating inclusive, climate-resilient food systems transformation in Armenia.

This Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) for Armenia aims to align Armenia's Food Systems Transformation Pathway, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and sectoral strategies into a single, actionable framework that accelerates climate-resilient, nutrition-sensitive, and inclusive food systems transformation. The blueprint consolidates evidence from the Armenia background study and national stakeholder breakout groups, translating them into prioritized convergence actions and milestones.

## 1.1 ADDED VALUE

The Armenia CAB is a living document that provides a single operational bridge between food systems and climate agendas with clear priorities and sequencing for implementation and serves as a platform for mobilizing climate and development finance.

It will be used based on national priorities, ensuring national ownership and supporting engagements in international fora, including UNFSS processes and climate finance mechanisms.



## 2. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND RATIONALE FOR CONVERGENCE

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Armenia has a strong policy foundation: the National Food Systems Transformation Pathway (2021), the Agricultural Development Strategy 2020–2030, the Food Security System Development Strategy 2023–2030, the Food Safety System Development Strategy and action plan for 2023–2028, the NDC 3.0 (2026–2035), and the evolving NAP cycle.

Agriculture remains central to rural livelihoods and food security, yet productivity and resilience are undermined by irrigation challenges, land degradation, climate change or climate risks and insufficient data and coordination systems.

Climate change is projected to reduce crop yields and pasture productivity while increasing pressure on water resources and rural incomes.

Armenia's food systems face a dual challenge: persistent structural constraints (fragmented landholdings, water stress, limited value-chain infrastructure) and escalating climate risks (droughts, hailstorms, floods, frosts, rising temperatures).

## 3. CONVERGENCE VISION AND OBJECTIVES

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### 3.1 VISION

By 2040, Armenia's food systems are human-centered, climate-resilient, competitive, nature-positive, science-based and inclusive, delivering affordable, safe, and nutritious food for all while ensuring efficient resource management, preserving soils, water, and ecosystems, strengthening rural livelihoods, and contributing to national climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

### 3.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (ALIGNED WITH SDGS AND PARIS AGREEMENT)

1. **Strengthen policy and implementation coherence** between food systems, climate action, biodiversity, and nutrition agendas.
2. **Enhance climate resilience and productivity** of agriculture through sustainable land, water, and input management.
3. **Improve food security, nutrition, and food safety** across all population groups, with a focus on vulnerable regions.

4. **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from food systems while increasing carbon sequestration through soils, forests, and landscapes.
5. **Mobilize sustainable finance and innovation** to support climate-smart and highvalue food systems transformation.
6. **Strengthen data, monitoring, and institutional coordination** for evidence-based decision-making.



## 4. PILLAR I – KEY CONVERGENCE AREAS AND INTERVENTIONS

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### 4.1 GOVERNANCE, POLICY COHERENCE, AND DATA SYSTEMS

**Objective:** Enable system-wide coordination and evidence-based action.

- Develop a Food Security and Agriculture action plan that is multi-sectoral and aligned with national priorities and objectives.
- Establish a working group on Food Systems–Climate Convergence Coordination linking institutions and stakeholders working on agriculture, environment, water, health, food safety, finance, and territorial administration, under the Economic transformation and sustainable growth pillar under the Ministry of Economy.

- Align monitoring frameworks of the Food Systems Pathway, NDC, and NAP, with a shared indicator set.
- Strengthen national data systems (digital agriculture, climate risk mapping, land and water monitoring) using GIS and remote sensing, and leverage decision-support tools to guide evidence-based policymaking.
- Establish a consolidated agriculture registry system.

## 4.2 CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE AND LAND SYSTEMS

**Objective:** Increase productivity while protecting natural resources.

- Scale climate-smart agriculture (drought-resistant seeds and planting materials, conservation tillage, integrated pest management and early warning systems).
- Promote land consolidation in cooperation with farmers to overcome fragmentation and enable mechanization. Decrease the area of non-cultivated arable land using efficient, climate-smart and climate-resilience practices.
- Restore degraded soils and pastures through agroecological practices, crop rotation, and sustainable grazing.

## 4.3 WATER SECURITY AND IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION

**Objective:** Reduce water stress and climate vulnerability.

- Modernize irrigation infrastructure, prioritize water-saving technologies especially in traditional plantings.
- Strengthen local and regional water user associations and basin-level water governance.
- Integrate climate risk considerations into irrigation planning and reservoir management.

## 4.4 FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION, AND FOOD SAFETY

**Objective:** Ensure stable, healthy and affordable diets for all including in vulnerable context.

- Mobilize new technologies and innovation to increase productivity and enhance self-sufficiency.
- Integrate nutrition objectives into climate and agricultural policies.
- Strengthen food safety systems, traceability, and standards aligned with international markets.

- Promote behavior change and awareness on healthy, climate-friendly diets and consumer protection.

## 4.5 BIODIVERSITY, FORESTS, AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

**Objective:** Leverage nature-based solutions for resilience.

- Update legislation on soil fertility.
- Restore forests and watersheds critical for agriculture and water regulation.
- Promote agroforestry, sustainable pasture management and biodiversity-friendly farming systems with a special focus on agrobiodiversity.
- Develop efficient payment systems for ecosystem services and biodiversity incentives.

## 4.6 ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND VALUE CHAINS

**Objective:** Reduce Food loss, waste and emissions while improving competitiveness.

- Integrate renewable energy (solar, energy-efficient systems) into irrigation, processing, and cold storage.
- Strengthen logistics, storage, and cold-chain infrastructure with circularity and resource-efficiency models to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Present behavioral change campaigns for consumers and producers for FLW prevention and minimization, as well as sustainable management.
- Promote high-value and export-oriented value chains.

## 4.7 FINANCE, INNOVATION, AND JUST TRANSITIONS

**Objective:** Mobilize sustainable national and resource partners investment and ensure inclusiveness.

- Expand climate finance for agriculture (blended finance, insurance, risk-sharing mechanisms, green, biodiversity, carbon, nutrition bonds).
- Support innovation, digitalization, and extension services.
- Ensure just transition measures for smallholders, women, and vulnerable rural communities.



## 5. PILLAR II – CONVERGENCE MILESTONES

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### Short Term (by 2027)

- Establish the national Food Systems, Climate Action and Biodiversity convergence coordination mechanism.
- Update Food Systems Pathway with NDC 3.0 and NAP, NBSAPs.
- Launch pilot convergence actions in irrigation modernization, land management, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

### Medium Term (by 2030)

- Achieve self-sufficiency of staple crops in line with national priorities.
- Scale climate-smart agriculture and water efficiency nationwide.
- Operationalize integrated food-climate data platforms.
- Strengthen legal and policy frameworks supporting convergence.
- Develop an action plan to upgrade the labor force using technology and innovation.

### **Long Term (by 2040)**

- Armenia's food standards aligned with major international standards and trading partners.
- Achieve resilient, competitive, and low-emission food systems.
- Mainstream convergence across all sectoral strategies and budgets.
- Demonstrate measurable reductions in climate vulnerability and food insecurity.