



THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE

THE FOOD SYSTEMS CLIMATE

ACTION CONVERGENCE BLUEPRINT

OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM

OF JORDAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Convergence Initiative aims to align food systems transformation with climate action to create synergies between national policies, governance, and financial mechanisms. This initiative integrates Jordan's commitments to the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), ensuring a structured approach to addressing food security and climate resilience.

Jordan's food systems are highly vulnerable to climate change, particularly due to water scarcity, draughts, soil degradation, and temperature fluctuations. The convergence of food systems transformations and climate action is essential to mitigating these impacts while ensuring sustainable food production, supply chains, and nutrition security. The country faces multiple environmental and socio-economic challenges, including increased desertification, food insecurity, governance gaps, and funding constraints. Addressing these issues requires integrated policy frameworks, innovative financial solutions, and collaborative and inclusive governance.

Under the patronage of the Chairman of the Food Security Council, Minister of Agriculture Eng. Khaled AlHnaifat, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub Food Systems-Climate Action Convergence Initiative workshop was held from 2-4 February 2025 with the participation of officials from the different Ministries, civil society, private sector, farmers, and UN agencies.



1.1 CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE BACKGROUND

The Convergence Initiative emerged as a response to two pivotal global calls: the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for accelerated food systems transformation during the UNFSS+2 and the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action,

There is a need to align the implementation of national food systems transformation pathways with the continuous updates of NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for climate action. There is a need to establish a multi-dimensional framework to ensure that the trajectories of food systems and climate action are compatible with a sustainable future.

Food systems and climate action must adapt, align and transform to achieve the Paris Agreement's long-term goals and the SDGs. Consequently, the Jordan food system transformation and climate action must converge in a structured and systematic manner to achieve their goals.

The Convergence Initiative aims to establish mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration in three areas, namely, governance, policy integration, and inclusive implementation:

- **Governance:** Through establishing and strengthening cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.
- **Policy Integration:** The Convergence Action Blueprints are developed based on Jordan's policy mechanisms and tools. The Convergence Action Blueprints will be a multi-dimensional framework to coordinate action towards improved outcomes. The national pathways, NDCs, NAPs, and other relevant national plans will provide the main dimensions to be considered for the CABs.
- **Inclusive Implementation:** Programs, projects, and initiatives are implemented that reflect convergence and collaboration between multiple stakeholders across different sectors, including agriculture, environment, climate, health, and others. The implementation is based on Jordan's priorities and targeted sectors. This requires defining a country-level voluntary monitoring framework in Jordan.

The Convergence Action Blueprints have four pillars:

1. Convergence vision and objectives
2. Key convergence interventions
3. Convergence milestones
4. Monitoring, evaluation, and accountability

1.2 OVERVIEW OF FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AND CLIMATE ACTION IN JORDAN

Jordan faces multiple environmental, institutional, and socio-economic challenges, including:

- **Climate Vulnerability:** Increased desertification, water scarcity, draughts, and temperature rise.
- **Food Insecurity:** Resulting from rising import dependency and high food costs.
- **Governance Gaps:** Fragmented policies between agriculture, water, and climate sectors.
- **Funding Constraints:** Limited climate finance and investment in sustainable agriculture.

1.3 VISION AND OBJECTIVES:

Achieve a sustainable, climate-resilient food system ensuring food security and better nutrition for all through strengthening the convergence between climate and food systems policies, enhancing social equity, and empowering local communities and cooperatives to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

1.3.1 Objectives:

- Adopt a systems approach to food systems transformation, recognizing the interconnectedness of different components of the food system and the need for integrated solutions.
- Enhance policy coherence between food systems and climate action, as well as other sectors, to support the transition towards sustainable, resilient, equitable, and healthy food systems.
- Upgrade existing government structures to align the convergence between food systems and climate action and engage all relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing food systems policies, including the private sector.
- Empower smallholder farmers, promote gender equality, and engage youth.
- Expand access to green finance and other finance sources.
- Improve the health and nutrition of the population by promoting healthy diets, reducing malnutrition, and improving food safety.
- Develop national regulations that foster innovation, strengthen research, and develop and promote technology and entrepreneurship in food systems.
- Provide needed capacity building to farmers, officials, and other stakeholders involved in the food systems.

1.4 PILLAR II: KEY CONVERGENCE INTERVENTIONS:

1.4.1 Governance and policies:

Jordan has taken important steps to establish robust food systems and governance mechanisms. The following recommendation can enhance the efficiency of its governance structures.

- Review the National Food Security Strategy (2021-2030), the National Nutrition Strategy (2023-2030), and the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2022) to ensure their alignment.
- Upgrade institutional coordination and policy integration by ensuring proper placement and efficient functioning of a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism that integrates food systems, climate action strategies, and policies.
- Strengthen the technical expertise of the Food Security Council committees and the officials contributing to work areas related to the interlinkages between food systems and climate action.
- Provide technical experts to the Food Security Council and the National Climate Change Committee.
- Establish a 5th committee under the Food Security Council responsible for the convergence between food systems transformations and climate action, with a strong inclusion of the Ministry of Environment.
- Integrate food system transformation objectives into Jordan's NDCs 3.0 to prioritize agricultural emissions and adaptation strategies.
- Enhance Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus (WEFE Nexus) implementation.
- Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and increase monitoring and accountability of food system actors.
- Establish disaster emergency plans for food systems. Establish a decision-supported data system or institution.



1.4.2 Finance:

Finance remains a main prerequisite for the convergence of food systems and climate action. The following actions are suggested to enhance access to finance.

- Increase the public budget allocation for food systems transformation.
- Increase public investment in research and development, infrastructure, and support programs for farmers and other food system actors.
- Conduct an exercise to identify the financing priorities based on the national needs, not the donor's objectives.
- Present the Convergence Action Blueprints to donors and explore and enhance access to innovative solutions to finance the interlinkages between food systems and climate action through vertical funds such as the Global Climate Finance (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Adaptation Fund.
- Develop innovative financing mechanisms, such as microfinance and agricultural insurance, to support small-scale producers and businesses.
- Develop agricultural green bonds under the Jordan Green Bond Guidelines (2023) to support climate-resilient food production and establish carbon credit.
- Strengthen financial incentives for farmers adopting carbon-smart farming practices through subsidies, low-interest loans, and tax relief for large-scale farms (agribusiness).
- Secure GCF grants for climate adaptation projects in food systems, including regenerative agriculture and carbon sequestration.
- Provide tailored training on proposal writing to access funds.

1.4.3 Nutrition and health:

- Implement awareness campaigns about the interlinkages between nutrition, climate and healthy diets, especially in schools, rural areas and among vulnerable populations.
- Encourage the consumption of diverse and nutritious foods, including fruits, pulses, vegetables, protein, and whole grains.
- A focus on food safety through ensuring safe food during the production cycle, including import, storage, and retail.
- Strengthening the linkages between food security, nutrition, and health.

1.4.4 Inclusivity

- Ensure that all stakeholders, including women, youth, and vulnerable groups, have equal access to resources and opportunities in food systems through policies.
- Promote participatory approaches to policy development and program implementation and ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are heard, with a focus on women and youth and specific attention to poverty pockets.
- Support smallholder farmers in adopting sustainable practices and accessing markets.

1.5 PILLAR III: MILESTONES

1.5.1 Short-term milestones (in 2025):

- Establish the Convergence Group as a 5th committee under the Food Security Council responsible for the convergence between the food systems transformations and climate action, which has a strong role for the Ministry of Environment and the membership of relevant stakeholders.
- Present the Convergence Action Blueprints in the UNFSS+4 July 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Propose to the competent legislative authorities to review the legislation related to food systems and climate action to amend them as necessary to support the transition towards sustainable food systems.
- Develop a detailed action plan for the Convergence Group from the blueprint.
- Develop an action plan to train and qualify the Climate and Food Systems Convergence Committee staff on the requirements of green and sustainable finance.
- Ensure the full inclusion of food system transformation in NDC 3.0.
- Establish a monitoring, evaluation, and accountability system to track the progress of convergence building on upgraded data systems.
- Promote adopting climate-smart agricultural practices that increase productivity, enhance resilience to climate change, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increase the number of sorting and grading facilities for food and vegetables.

1.5.2 Long-term milestones (3-5 years):

Reduce the environmental footprint of food systems by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing food waste, and minimizing the use of resources such as water and energy.

- Decrease emissions and enhance food security by implementing strategies to reduce food waste and loss; this includes post-harvest handling, storage, and transportation of food and raising awareness among consumers.
- Increase the resilience and the adaptive capacity of the food systems.
- Diversify food systems to reduce reliance on single crops or markets and promote local and regional food production.
- Encourage nature-based and sustainable agricultural solutions and practices (biodiversity, biological control, reduced tillage, conservation systems, water-saving practices, and using waste as compost).
- Shift consumer behaviour towards more sustainable and healthy diets, with increased consumption of diverse and locally produced foods.
- Develop data on food resilience to be used for monitoring purposes.

1.6 PILLAR IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A robust monitoring, evaluation, and accountability (MEA) system is essential for tracking progress, ensuring policy coherence, and fostering adaptive management in Jordan's efforts to align food systems transformation with climate action. This system will ensure that Jordan meets national and international commitments, such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The MEA framework also enables evidence-based decision-making and policy adjustments to strengthen convergence.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) are essential for assessing progress, gaps, and impact. In Jordan, these indicators are designed to track integration between food systems and climate policies, ensuring alignment with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and the Food Security Strategy (2021-2030).

There is a need to invest in data collection and analysis systems to track key indicators of food production, consumption, and environmental impacts.

Proposed national KPIs according to availability of data:

- Institutional KPIs
- Available KPIs from national sources in Jordan
- Important but not available KPIs that can be added at a later stage

The Convergence Group will discuss and decide on the KPIs.

