

**Statement by Cem Özdemir,  
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Member of the German Bundestag**

**Occasion:** UN Food Systems Summit +2, Stocktaking Moment,  
Food Systems and Climate Action

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be able to address you in this important session on the nexus between food systems and climate.

- We are discussing conflicting demands here, consisting of three dimensions: food, agriculture and climate.
- All three dimensions must always be considered as interdependent because they greatly affect one another.
- At the same time, each of these three areas offers specific opportunities for improving, becoming more sustainable, and thereby generating positive effects for all three dimensions.

The climate crisis is partly the result of an agricultural sector that, for decades, was chiefly designed to maximise yields, especially in Europe.

- At the same time, agriculture is directly affected by the impact of an increasing number of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.
- Our agricultural sector must therefore become more sustainable and climate-friendly – and this is also what farmers want.
- And at the same time, tackling the global challenge of climate action is a precondition for good harvests in 10, in 20 and in 50 years.

Within the framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy, Germany is supporting greater financial rewards for farmers providing voluntary additional environmental and climate services.

- We believe the labelling of sustainable products to inform consumers to be promising.
- Let us also not forget research and innovation; my ministry launched a new research programme on climate action in agriculture in March this year.
- Within the scope of our international research collaborations, the issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation play a central role.

We must make use of many other opportunities to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- When managed sustainably, our soils harbour huge potential for storing carbon.

- In Germany, we are therefore increasingly investing in the protection and rewetting of our peatland, and pursue the expansion of organic farming.
- We are strengthening the expansion of renewable energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy and the sustainable use of biomass.
- New digital and technical systems are crucially important for improving resource efficiency.

We must also scrutinise our own patterns of consumption, especially in industrial nations.

- In this context, reducing food waste and strengthening a plant-based diet are powerful levers.
- We are also strengthening regional value chains because they offer opportunities for climate action as well as the potential for generating higher producer prices and maintaining economic strength in rural areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I consider today's event to be a great example of our trusting cooperation.
- It complements our joint activities within the scope of the international climate negotiations and paves the way for COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.
- Thank you!