

Terms of Reference

The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) is a voluntary initiative that brings participants together in support of a common *GOAL: to increase and accelerate agriculture and food systems innovation¹ in support of climate action.*

AIM for Climate was launched in 2021 at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), with the endorsement of the United Kingdom's COP26 Presidency. In the context of the Presidency's emphasis on driving science and innovation that can help to achieve Paris Agreement goals and address the biodiversity crisis while simultaneously meeting increasing food demand and securing multiple levels of food system resilience, AIM for Climate is designed to harvest multiple climate co-benefits, including for nature and biodiversity, from a mobilization of new investments to support climate-smart agriculture innovation.

To achieve the goal, AIM for Climate participants intend to catalyze greater investment in, and/or other support for, agricultural innovation to help to raise global ambition and underpin more rapid and transformative climate action in all countries, including by enabling science-based and data-driven decision and policy-making. Investments in agriculture and food systems innovation can enhance existing approaches and deliver new ways to sustainably increase agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, conserve nature and biodiversity, adapt and build resilience to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and sequester carbon. AIM for Climate acknowledges existing efforts within its scope and objectives and seeks to avoid duplication of, and complement, these efforts where and when appropriate. AIM for Climate intends to be a five-year initiative from 2021-2025.

Diversity, gender equity, and inclusion are critical to the success of AIM for Climate. AIM for Climate recognizes the wide range of participants necessary to achieve the AIM for Climate goal. Each participant adds value, and AIM for Climate draws on all knowledge, experiences, and cultures, and embraces inclusive excellence². Participation in AIM for Climate is voluntary.

SCOPE

AIM for Climate focuses on increasing and accelerating investment in, and/or other support for, climate-smart agricultural innovation in the areas of:

- 1) Scientific breakthroughs via basic agricultural research through national-level government and academic research institutions.
- 2) Public and private applied research, including through support to international research centers, institutions, and laboratory networks.
- 3) Development, demonstration, and deployment of practical, actionable, and innovative products, services, and knowledge to producers and other market participants, including through national agricultural research extension systems.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) **Increase Investment:** Demonstrate collective commitment to significantly increase investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems by its participants over five years (2021-2025).
- 2) **Enable Coordination and Collaboration:** Support frameworks and structures to enable technical discussions and the promotion of expertise, knowledge, and priorities across international and national levels of innovation to amplify the impact of participants' investments.
- 3) **Increase Cooperation:** Establish appropriate structures for exchanges between Ministers and chief scientists, and other appropriate stakeholders, as key focal points and champions for cooperation on climate-related agricultural innovation, to engender greater co-creation and cooperation on shared research priorities between countries.

¹ Innovation includes research, development, demonstration and deployment.

² Inclusive excellence is the cultivation of scientific environments that can engage and benefit from a full range of talent.

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CRITERIA TO JOIN

By joining AIM for Climate, participants intend to:

- 1) Increase and accelerate investment in agriculture and food systems innovation in support of climate action.
- 2) Acknowledge and amplify the AIM for Climate objectives.
- 3) Identify investments and/or other support that will enable AIM for Climate to achieve its objectives, thereby advancing progress toward the AIM for Climate goal. See Participation section for more details.
- 4) Acknowledge and amplify the importance of enabling science-based and data-driven decision and policy-making.
- 5) Acknowledge importance of cooperation and partnership on climate-related agricultural innovation, through identifying Chief Scientists, or equivalent position, as key focal points for AIM for Climate.
- 6) Participate in future AIM for Climate convened activities to enable a framework to discuss and promote priorities across international and national levels of innovation.
- 7) Carry out activities under AIM for Climate that support the conservation of nature and biodiversity and that are aligned with the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems³, consistent with the position(s) of the participant.

ACTIVITIES

AIM for Climate participants are encouraged to engage in the below activities:

- 1) An annual high-level/Ministerial meeting to reaffirm political commitments to agricultural innovation and highlight upcoming investments and emerging priorities.
- 2) Annual discussions of top priorities for global agricultural innovation between participating ministries and bodies across government partners.
- 3) Identification of innovation sprints for co-creation and coordinated funding initiatives between interested participants.
- 4) Coordination with other relevant initiatives to avoid duplication and to promote the objectives of AIM for Climate.
- 5) Joint communications (e.g., editorials and social media) to promote AIM for Climate and its objectives.
- 6) Independent and voluntary reporting on annual spending and resource allocation for agricultural innovation in support of the AIM for Climate goal.

Participants may mutually decide on additional activities.

³ Endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at its 41st Session on October 15th, 2014, available: <http://www.fao.org/3/au866e/au866e.pdf>

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PARTICIPATION

When participants join AIM for Climate⁴, they identify how they intend to support the objectives and the appropriate primary category of participation. There are three categories: (1) Government Partner, (2) Innovation Sprint Partner, and (3) Knowledge Partner. Government and Innovation Sprint Partners may additionally support and/or engage in activities as defined in the Knowledge Partner category.

Government Partner: Government participants who announce an increase in aggregate public investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems over the next five years (2021-2025). Responsibility, control, and oversight of investments will remain with the participant. They also support the objectives of AIM for Climate and intend to participate in its activities.

Innovation Sprint Partner: Non-government participants who announce an increase in aggregate self-financed investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems over the next five years (2021-2025) to enable investment for bold ideas to foster innovation in an expedited timeframe. These partners are encouraged to facilitate innovation challenges with participation by other AIM for Climate participants, including governments. Responsibility, control, and oversight of investments will remain with the participant unless the participant determines otherwise. Announced new investments should avoid double counting (e.g., double counting of the same investments by government and innovation sprint partners).

Knowledge Partner: Non-government participants, such as private research, education and extension institutions, international organizations, companies, or other NGOs who support the objectives of AIM for Climate, intend to participate in its activities, and announce an intent to amplify agricultural innovation through:

- **Insight Sharing:** Share best practices to increase the diffusion of – and positive returns to – agricultural innovation efforts focused on adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.
- **Innovation Collaboration:** Launch flexible, inclusive, and targeted innovation collaboration focused on specific innovation areas, guided by the values of openness, transparency, reciprocity and merit-based competition.
- **Institutional Capacity Building:** Collaborate to increase capacity for agricultural innovation focused on climate change, including efforts to enhance the efficacy and resourcing of existing innovation institutions.
- **Coordination:** Facilitate sharing of information and partnerships among national-level government agricultural innovation and academic research institutions; international research centers, institutions, and laboratory networks; and national agricultural research extension systems.
- **Demonstration and Deployment:** Support efforts for innovations generated or promoted through AIM for Climate activities to be effectively, efficiently, and expeditiously demonstrated and/or deployed to reach farmers, food producers, and others, particularly in climate-vulnerable countries.

Participants should identify lead contacts for their participation, as well as ideally chief scientists or equivalent position, as key focal points for international cooperation on climate-related agricultural innovation. A Chief Scientist is typically responsible for managing and/or coordinating scientific, technological, and research operations of their organization. Participants may also wish to create this type of role and provide contact details later.

⁴ Joining AIM for Climate as a Government Partner, Innovation Sprint Partner or Knowledge Partner does not imply endorsement of or partnership between the participants, rather it entails an intention to support the goal and objectives of the AIM for Climate initiative.

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DEFINITIONS

Agriculture: science or practice of farming, including growing crops and raising animals to produce food, fiber, fuel, and other products.⁵

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA): an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. CSA aims to tackle three main objectives: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, while adapting and building resilience to climate change and/or reducing/removing greenhouse gas emissions.⁶

Innovation: research, development, demonstration and deployment including creation, development and implementation of a new product, process, or service, with the aim of improving efficiency, effectiveness, or competitive advantage.

Research and development (R&D): creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge—including knowledge of humankind, culture, and society—and to devise new applications of available knowledge. R&D covers three types of activity: basic research, applied research, and experimental development. Includes basic research; applied research on sources, processes, and/or related infrastructure; research addressing specific technical barriers to progress; technology development activities such as systems integration work, pilots, prototypes, and intermediate scale-ups that prepare the technology for demonstration at or near full-scale. The primary purpose of these projects is proving the benefits and costs for end-users as opposed to the verification of engineering concepts and technologies as part of the development process.

Demonstration: Projects that are designed to prove a technology or set of technologies can operate at or near full-scale as predicted from intermediate scale results.

Deployment: Activities undertaken to support the diffusion of climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovations, including: clean energy and emissions mitigation technology and practices; voluntary partnerships; capacity building; technical assistance; permitting; development and enforcement of rules and regulations; development and enforcement of codes and standards; etc.

⁵ For purposes of AIM for Climate, inclusive of forestry and fisheries.

⁶ Adapted from UN Food and Agriculture Organization: <http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/en/>