

TERRA

Together for the Expansion of Resilient and Restorative Agroecology and Agroforestry

Plan to Accelerate Solutions (PAS) for Axis 3,
Key Objective 9 of the COP30 Action Agenda



INTRODUCTION

The current agrifood system accounts for about one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, drives 80% of biodiversity loss, and consumes up to 70% of the planet's freshwater. It exacerbates climate change, soil degradation, and ecosystem collapse, which could become the chief driver of species loss, if global warming exceeds 1.5°C.

Against this background, 550 million family farms – out of 608 million worldwide – produce about 80% of the world's food in value terms. Although smallholders are among the most vulnerable to both slow onset and extreme weather events, they receive less than 1% of global climate finance. Globally, food and nutrition insecurity are higher in rural and peri-urban areas.

This presents a dual challenge: how to transform agrifood systems to strengthen the resilience of those most exposed to climate impacts, while reducing emissions.

OBJECTIVES

With family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, traditional and local communities as key protagonists – and having women and youth at its core – **TERRA** aims to scale up agroecology and agroforestry (AE/AF) systems to restore biodiversity, enhance climate resilience and mitigation potential, strengthen food and nutrition security, and generate decent rural incomes.

WHY BELIEVE, INVEST IN, AND TRANSITION TO AE/AF?

Research shows that, when implemented at scale, AE/AF can play a crucial role in addressing the climate crisis, significantly reducing emissions while sequestering carbon in the soil, improving soil health, water retention, and biodiversity. Diversified systems can also buffer climate shocks, reduce crop losses, and enhance adaptive capacity across rural and peri-urban areas, while supporting diverse and nutritious food production.

TERRA's Granary of Solutions will showcase multiple innovative and scalable AE/AF approaches from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, demonstrating their potential to become the new mainstream in land-use practices.

LEVERS OF ACCELERATION

Despite strong evidence of their benefits, the widespread adoption of AE/AF systems still faces significant barriers,

such as limited access to adequate technology, markets, enabling policies and finance, including resources needed to transition from conventional practices to AE/AF systems. There is also a persistent disbelief in the potential of AE/AF to transform agrifood systems, largely due to limited awareness of their proven results. For many farmers, transitioning to AE/AF can be challenging without first seeing, in practice, the tangible benefits of these systems compared to the established models rooted in their daily routines.

To address these challenges, and drawing on the collective knowledge and extensive experience of this PAS's founding partners, **TERRA** focuses on five levers of acceleration:

1. **Farmer organizations** – Working with and strengthening cooperatives and producer networks to coordinate AE/AF implementation and amplify impact.
2. **Capacity building and co-Innovation** – Establishing regional AE/AF training centers and horizontal learning networks for farmer-to-farmer exchanges and adaptive innovation.
3. **Blended finance** – Channeling finance through multi-donor trust funds (e.g., IFAD ASAP+, FFF) to crowd in private and public investment and support farmer-led AE/AF initiatives.
4. **Seeds, bioinputs and technology** – Supporting climate-resilient and native seed systems, bioinputs production and trade, and access to adapted machinery and technologies for family farmers and across the value chains to boost AE/AF productivity, biodiversity, soil health, and farmers' income.
5. **Value addition and market access** – Promoting inclusive value chains, public procurement policies, labels and certifications, and digital markets to increase farmer income and incentivize AE/AF transitions.

Interested partners may support governments looking to expand their existing AE/AF policies and initiatives through these levers in the spirit of *mutirão* – the collective community-based effort that guides Brazil's COP30 Presidency and Action Agenda. Together, the levers serve as integrated enablers of adaptation and mitigation, advancing the objectives of the UNFCCC while promoting equitable rural development and food and nutrition security.

HOW TERRA WILL WORK IN PRACTICE

Phase 1. Selection and partner matching – Identifying promising national Agroecology and Agroforestry National Strategies (ANTS) and connecting with “pollinators” (potential technical and financial partners).

Phase 2. Implementation design – Deploying the TERRA task force to establish formal cooperation frameworks, conducting technical workshops, and co-designing implementation plans under national coordination.

Phase 3. Implementation and monitoring – Task force to implement projects using participatory monitoring tools (TAPE, CAET, My Farm Trees), in alignment with the UNFCCC enhanced transparency framework (ETF).

Monitoring indicators envisaged

- AE/AF systems and hectares scaled or restored;
- producers reporting increased use of agroecological and sustainable agroforestry practices;
- producers reporting increased product value;
- cooperatives and family farming organizations supported through exchanges and training;
- bioinput production units and adapted machinery installed;
- volume of financing mobilized for AE/AF.

This phased approach ensures strategic selection, coordinated scaling, and robust monitoring. It helps to build the critical mass of combined interventions for farmers to gradually transition towards sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient AE/AF systems.

PRODUCTIVE FORESTS

On the occasion of a COP held in the Amazon, TERRA will also launch the **Global Productive Forests Initiative (GPFI)** to **value standing trees** by expanding sustainable harvester/gatherer reserves, productive agroforestry territories, and restoration as an integrated pathway to food and nutrition security, land restoration, and climate action. This initiative seeks to redefine and integrate the relationship of farmers and agriculture with forests and trees, transforming them into “productive forests”.

Building on Brazil’s **National Productive Forests Program (NPFP)**, the direct financing models pioneered by the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF/FAO), and digital technologies developed by the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT (CGIAR), such as the My Farm Trees platform, TERRA will focus on mobilizing innovative financing for family farmers and forest communities, facilitating farmer-to-farmer cooperation, and building the capacity of producer organizations as agents of agroecological transformation.

The global initiative supports the production of biodiverse food and other forest products, such as cacao, açai, rubber, nuts, and medicinal plants, for household consumption, market sales, and their inclusive integration into sustainable value chains.

BENEFITS OF AGROECOLOGY AND AGROFORESTRY

Climate resilience and ecosystem restoration: AE/AF restore soils, conserve water and biodiversity, and strengthen adaptation to climate shocks through diversified, locally adapted systems.

Economic and social justice: They diversify production, stabilize income, support women and youth, and expand access to sustainable markets.

Food and nutrition security: They integrate trees and crops to boost healthy food supply and income through local and institutional markets.

CONCLUSION

Anchored in Axis 3, Key Objective 9 of the COP30 Action Agenda, the **PAS TERRA** will strengthen collaboration between governments, producer organizations, and research institutions to accelerate the agroecological transition and promote productive forest landscapes in a bid to integrate family farming, agroecology and forests into systems that protect **soil, land, and planet** – all embodied in the name **TERRA**.

TERRA aligns with the **three Rio Conventions**, COP30’s **Belém Declaration on Hunger, Poverty, and People-Centered Climate Action** and the **Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty**.

By framing AE/AF as joint adaptation–mitigation strategies, PAS TERRA reinforces resilient rural territories and improves food and nutrition security, while recognizing family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and traditional and local communities as key stewards of natural resources.

PAS TERRA’S STEERING COMMITTEE

The Ministry of Agrarian Development and Family Farming (MDA) of Brazil, the FAO/Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), NOW Partners Foundation (NOW), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Agroecology Coalition, the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT (CGIAR).

Want to Join TERRA?

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