

# The Dutch Diamond approach: Advancing Global Food & Nutrition Security

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Last year, 95 Dutch organizations - knowledge institutes, agri-food companies, civil society, and farmers' organizations - called for increased Dutch ambitions in global food and nutrition security.<sup>1</sup> They emphasized that food insecurity leads to hunger, malnutrition, poverty, inequality, and conflict, which can fuel irregular migration and instability. Strengthening local agricultural sectors is vital for peace and security, especially in unstable regions<sup>2</sup>. Together, the organisations identified two priorities: climate resilience in food security policies and enhancing Dutch food diplomacy<sup>3</sup>. This paper outlines the contribution The Netherlands can make to worldwide food and nutrition security and provides actionable recommendations for effective policy and implementation.

## 1. Continue the effective and equal cooperation with multiple stakeholders

The Dutch food sector is globally recognized for its expertise, innovation, and commitment to collaboration. Tackling food security requires addressing diverse factors - such as climate, trade, and infrastructure. These factors cannot be addressed by single stakeholders alone. By adopting a multi-stakeholder partner approach (the 'Dutch Diamond'), involving governments, businesses, researchers, and civil society, we pool knowledge and resources to contribute to sustainable, context-specific solutions. This model empowers farmers, boosts food availability and access, strengthens local economies and communities and creates business opportunities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Successful examples, like the [SeedNL](#) partnership, the [Mekong Delta Plan](#) and the longstanding cooperation between The Netherlands and Ethiopia demonstrate how equitable partnerships<sup>4</sup> can result in meaningful, long-term (over 10 years) impact on local food and nutrition security, climate resilience and, more broadly, mutual learning and socio-economic development. The key action for the Dutch Cabinet is to:

- Arrange long-term programming and partnering around **country specific food security action plans**, instead of short term projects.

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<sup>1</sup> [Kabinet AanZet](#): Nederlandse aanpak voor wereldwijde voedselzekerheid werkt! 95 partijen, May 2024

<sup>2</sup> [NATO](#): addressing food insecurity is not only a moral imperative but also essential for national and collective resilience.

<sup>3</sup> [Aanbevelingen oproep](#): Samenwerking, klimaat-weerbaar voedselbeleid en voedsel diplomatie, Oktober 2024

<sup>4</sup> The Dutch [Africa Strategy 2023-2032](#): Equality requires understanding each other's positions, prioritizing the relationship, and seeking collaboration based on mutual interests.



## 2. Support to make food systems more resilient to shocks

Agri-food systems globally contribute to over 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, food systems are heavily impacted by climate change. It is estimated that floods, droughts, wildfires, and extreme temperatures cause € 117 billion in damage to agriculture each year<sup>5</sup>, which accounts for about 5% of global agricultural production. Yet, only 4.3% of global climate funding is allocated to agrifood systems<sup>6</sup>. The Dutch agri-food sector is already contributing to climate resilience in food systems<sup>7</sup> by promoting sustainable agricultural practices that improve soil and water management ([Soil Values](#)), developing seeds and crop varieties more resistant to climate stress, and improving biodiversity and resilience ([Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration](#)). The Dutch Cabinet can further support by:

- Develop a **global food strategy** that aligns with the national and European food strategies, integrating climate adaptation and mitigation into programs and policies.
- Advocate globally for increasing **climate finance for agri-food systems** in Global Funds (to 8.6%) and direct Dutch climate investments towards supporting sustainable food systems, including soil health, water management, and biodiversity.
- Focus on **climate-resilient production methods** tailored to local contexts. Involve local farmers (especially women), SMEs, experts and community organisations in the development and decision-making process to ensure that technical and social innovations are integrated and mutually agreed upon.

## 3. Strengthen Dutch Food Diplomacy

The Netherlands has a strong reputation as a reliable leader in food and nutrition security. To maintain this influence, the country needs to deepen its commitment to international food diplomacy and play a more prominent role in tackling global food security challenges, ensuring these issues are prioritized internationally. By leveraging this leadership globally, the Netherlands can build (new) strategic alliances with a diverse range of countries and strengthen equal partnerships. Diplomacy opens doors for Dutch companies in developing markets, creates platforms for multistakeholder dialogues, promotes the exchange of knowledge and expertise, innovation, and increased funding. The Dutch Cabinet can support by:

- Advocate for **Dutch leadership** in global food security by promoting the Dutch partnership approach internationally. This will strengthen the position of Dutch stakeholders and their partners, ensuring equal benefits and securing robust financing for food and nutrition programs.

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<sup>5</sup> [FAO assessment](#) of losses caused by disasters in agricultural production over the past three decades.

<sup>6</sup> Climate Policy Initiative: [The Climate finance gap for agrifood systems](#).

<sup>7</sup> Food system climate resilience refers to the ability of all components of a food system (from production and processing to distribution and consumption) to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change while ensuring food security.



- Strengthen the **enabling environment** by promoting long-term, reciprocal relationships with partner countries. Focus on improving local food and nutrition security, enhancing socio-economic prosperity, increasing environmental sustainability through fair trade, and promoting mutual learning.
- Increase **embassy capacity for food security** by ensuring dedicated expertise and resources at Dutch embassies in LMIC partner countries. This will enhance position and influence, build stronger partnerships, and empower embassies to integrate agrifood, aid, trade, and climate efforts, ensuring greater **coherence** and impact on food and nutrition security.

**In conclusion**, while Dutch agrifood stakeholders already play a meaningful role in advancing global food security through collaboration for climate-resilient food systems, the increasing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, instability and climate change highlight the need for even greater efforts. To tackle these urgent issues, we call on Members of Parliament to emphasize the recommendations above in their debates with the relevant ministers, ensuring an effective and ambitious long-term Dutch policy for global food security and healthy and affordable food for all.

**Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP)** brings together Dutch and international organizations to strengthen agri-food initiatives, making food systems more sustainable, inclusive and environmentally viable. By working closely with businesses, governments, civil society, and knowledge institutions, we promote sustainable, healthy, and fair access to food. We connect partners, encourage innovation, share expertise and develop practical solutions to tackle food security challenges in low- and middle-income countries - creating partnerships that benefit everyone involved. See more on website: [www.nlfoodpartnership.com](http://www.nlfoodpartnership.com) and on the interactive online community platform: [www.NFPConnects.com](http://www.NFPConnects.com)