FOOD



# Decreasing the Food sector's negative climate and nature impact

31% of global emissions caused by humans can be linked to activities in the food and agriculture sector.<sup>1</sup> Decarbonising the sector is urgent and challenging because agricultural production is expected to grow by 50% by 2050 to meet increased food demand.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the business processes related to the food industry are identified as the biggest direct drivers of nature and biodiversity loss, primarily because of land use change.<sup>3</sup>

### **Key climate-related requests**

Category	Requests
Targets	<ul> <li>Near-term (2030-2035) and long-term (2050) emission reduction targets covering all material scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions, in line with the Paris Agreement's goal. Externally verified, if possible.</li> <li>Adopt a no-deforestation target that encompasses all relevant commodities.</li> <li>Set targets outlining expectations and requirements for suppliers to decarbonise.</li> </ul>
Strategy	<ul> <li>Disclose the levers for reaching emission reduction targets, including an estimated contribution of each lever.</li> <li>Disclose a capital and operating expenses plan that supports decarbonisation targets.</li> <li>Disclose the strategies related to waste management and packaging.</li> <li>Disclose how the company traces and labels its key commodities, such as through certification, satellite data, and third-party partnerships.</li> <li>Disclose the reliance on offsets to meet emission reduction targets and provide a report on the quality assessment of such offsets.</li> </ul>
Risk analysis	<ul> <li>Disclose an assessment of the company's resilience to transition and physical climate and nature risks using a scenario analysis. Provide information on how this risk assessment is incorporated into the company's targets and strategy.</li> </ul>
Engagement	<ul> <li>Align climate policy engagement with the company's decarbonisation and deforestation goals.</li> <li>Have a clear mechanism in place to deal with any incidents of deforestation in its supply chain, including a transparent process to deal with the requirements of the company and stopping business with non-compliant suppliers.</li> <li>Demonstrate that the company is helping its customers and suppliers decarbonise.</li> </ul>

(unep.org)

https://research.wri.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/WRR Food Full Report 0.pdf <sup>3</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme. (2021). Our global food system is the prior driver of biodiversity loss. Available at: Our global food system is the primary driver of biodiversity loss



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United Nations. (2021). New FAO analysis reveals carbon footprint of agri-food supply chain. Available at: <u>https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1105172</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> WRI (2019). Creating a Sustainable Food Future. Available at:

#### **Emissions sources for food retail**



- Precision farming, soil management practices, and nature-inclusive agriculture.
- Adoption of food waste and loss reduction strategies.
- Reduce the amount of packaging used and favour recycled materials and circular design.
- Adopting a 'no-deforestation' target for relevant commodities.
- Decreasing emissions from company-owned food processing and manufacturing locations by increasing efficiency in energy use and operations.



## Threats <sup>A</sup>

- Increasing demand for agricultural products.
- Complex supply chains, making it difficult to trace products.
- Geopolitical tensions leading to disruptions in business and supply chains.
- Climate change impacts on agricultural productivity.

## **Opportunities**

- Regenerative agricultural practices.
- Increased preparedness for tightening regulation.
- Increased resilience to the impacts of climate change on agricultural productivity.
- Public and private incentives for using low-carbon solutions (e.g. government subsidies for regenerative agriculture practices adoption).

#### **Supporting factors**

- Regulatory developments (e.g., the EU Regulation on Deforestation Free Products, and nature restoration law).
- International cooperation.



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## **Companies under engagement**

Companies can be selected for several reasons (e.g., size, emissions, geography, etc.). Therefore, selected companies should not necessarily be seen as laggards compared to peers.

- Bunge Limited
- Costco Wholesale Corporation
- Danone SA
- Kerry Group plc
- Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize N.V.
- McDonald's Corporation

