



***We, the undersigned, join with the ICCA to advocate for the transition away from industrial food systems toward ecological, just food systems in national and international fora and policies.***

The International Coalition on Climate and Agriculture (ICCA) is an alliance of civil society leaders and activists representing agriculture, the environment, indigenous peoples, farmers, and other movements around the globe to promote and advance ecological farming as central to addressing the climate crisis. The ICCA primary goals are to:

- 1) advocate that agricultural production practices based on ecological and environmental justice principles need to be an integral element in international and national efforts addressing the climate crisis, and be incorporated within climate agreements, institutions, and agriculture policies
  - 2) organize international opposition to the continuation of industrial agriculture practices, with an emphasis on counteracting the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM) initiative sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, the United Arab Emirates, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Syngenta, Bayer, and others.
- 

## **I. Promoting Agricultural Practices Based in Ecological and Environmental Justice Principles to Address the Climate Crisis and Food Security**

The ICCA is building a coalition in support of the BROAD approach to create a food future that reduces negative impacts to the climate crisis while also better ensuring food security, equity, and protecting landscapes, soil, water, wildlife and other critical natural resources.

The BROAD approach (an acronym) includes promotion of agriculture and food production that is:

**BIODIVERSE**- Agriculture production and practices that protect seed, plant, and animal biodiversity and genomic integrity—all vital for food security in a climate crisis world. This includes agriculture production and practices that protect and promote both biodiversity and cultural diversity of the entire Earth community.

**REGENERATIVE**- Agriculture and food production practices that restore and regenerate soil, water, forests, and wildlife versus our current industrial system that extracts or exhausts natural resources at a rate greater than their capacity for regeneration.

**ORGANIC** - Agriculture production system that sustains the health of soils (a vital element in carbon sequestration), ecosystems, and people. Organic excludes the use of adverse inputs including, but not limited to, synthetic herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, synthetic fertilizers, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Organic also supports human and socially just food production practices.

**AGROECOLOGICAL** – Local agricultural production that is at an appropriate scale, diversified, and flexible at adapting to the local landscapes and changes in local conditions. This mainly involves smallholder production which requires considerably fewer external inputs and can contribute to enhancing the environment. It also creates more farm ownership and employment leading to more equitable distribution of land and food.

**DEMOCRATIC** – Agricultural systems based on cooperative and bioregional communities, in contrast to the dominant corporate-driven model. ICCA promotes practices that include social and cultural diversity, economic and food equity, food sovereignty and security, and appropriate small-scale technology, among other equitable and ecological values. ICCA rejects patenting of seeds, animals, or other life forms.

The ICCA advocates converting to ecological agriculture systems and ending industrial agriculture practices by 2050 as an urgent necessity toward mitigating and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and providing other fundamental co-benefits such as biological diversity protection. Activities toward that end include, but are not limited to, actively promoting the BROAD approach to addressing the climate crisis at forthcoming United Nations Climate Change conferences including the upcoming COP 27 in Egypt; advancing ecological food systems and BROAD principles within the media, other NGOs and civil society groups, opinion and political leaders, and national and regional policies. Future goals include

obtaining the COP President's Endorsement of the ICCA approach in future conferences and ultimately having the UNFCCC endorse the ICCA's BROAD initiative and eventual agreement by the conference of parties to include BROAD in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

## II. Organizing to Oppose the AIM for Climate

The AIM for Climate is an initiative initially announced by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and the United Arab Emirates in 2021. Since then, it has gained support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and numerous corporations involved in industrial agriculture as well as 41 countries. It has also received the COP President's Endorsement for COP 26 and for COP 27.

Currently AIM has raised more than \$8 billion to fund its "innovation" approach to "climate-smart" agriculture. This involves massive funding for research and development of unproven, expensive, and harmful agricultural technology solutions, many of which are already contributing to the climate crisis, while promoting industrial agriculture and suppressing the needed transformation to ecological and environmental justice-based models. Earlier this year, Tom Vilsack reaffirmed that the primary allocation of the many billions that AIM is raising will be to fund **"cutting edge areas of 'agritech' such as nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, robotics, and AI."**

ICCA sees promotion of agritech to expand industrial agriculture as an existential threat to humanity and the planet as it accelerates the climate crisis and decimates farm communities and food security. The technologies that AIM will spend billions developing will result in what the ICCA calls the DANGER (acronym) paradigm for farmers and the planet:

**Disempowerment** of small and medium landholders who will become mere pass-through users for technologies and inputs.

**Artificial intelligence** substituting and replacing invaluable indigenous and vernacular agronomic and cultural knowledge developed over millennia.

**Nanotechnology** creating ever more toxic and invasive pesticides/biocides and antibacterials that threaten the health of farmers, their communities and plant and animal species.

**Genetic engineering** that undermines the genomic integrity of plants and animals decreasing biodiversity and food security and increasing both biological and chemical pollution.

**Enclosure** of land especially in the Global South away from small landholders who grow 80 percent of the world's food and into the ownership of major multi-national corporations that use that land to grow and profit from non-food, commodity crops such as GMO maize and soy. This results in countless millions losing their food independence and their livelihoods and increases food insecurity and starvation.

**Robotics** ultimately replaces many of the world's farmers and destroys farm communities.

AIM's agritech solutions are not a strategy for 21st Century ecological change that benefits all of humanity and the web of life. Rather, AIM for Climate is more business as usual and yet another attempt of greenwashing by BigAg by attempting to appear part of the sustainable agriculture movement.

**Despite the existential threat that AIM and agritech presents, there has been no major, unified, organized international effort to oppose it either at the COPs or more generally.** ICCA is set to be a powerful international counter to the AIM initiative and exposing its agenda and devastating impact on farmers, food security, and the planet. Our activities will include outreach to civil society around the world so there is an understanding about the irreparable damage AIM is doing; consult with nation-states within the UNFCCC, notably at the upcoming COP 27 but also at other national and international fora, about the harms of AIM and promote the benefits of ecological agriculture and BROAD principles; education and outreach to media about AIM versus BROAD; and form a visible movement to oppose practices of industrial agriculture as outlined in AIM and to advocate proven practices that are demonstrably environmentally and socially just.

The ICCA is providing vision, strategy, and actions to transition away from the industrial agriculture model that greatly contributes to climate change and build toward a more sustainable, equitable, and just food system for all creatures on our planet.