

WWF DK consultation response to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Framework programme on food and agriculture under strategic sector cooperation"

September 2026

WWF welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Framework Programme on Food and Agriculture under Strategic Sector Cooperation, and have the following comments and suggestions for further strengthening the program and its long-term development impacts

1. Align with 'green synergies' in Denmark's Strategy for Development

WWF welcomes the framework's strong focus on food safety, animal health and regulatory cooperation in the food sector. To further align with Denmark's strategy for development cooperation, we encourage a stronger focus on creating 'green synergies' (page 26 in A Changing World – Partnerships in Development) through integration of biodiversity, ecosystem health and nature-positive approaches throughout the framework, recognizing that long-term food security, climate resilience, agricultural productivity and human wellbeing depend on healthy and resilient ecosystems.

2. Recognize biodiversity and ecosystem integrity as foundations of sustainable food systems

The framework frequently refers to sustainable food systems and sustainable value chains, but could more explicitly acknowledge the role of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in sustaining agricultural productivity, pollination, soil fertility, water availability and climate resilience. Recognizing biodiversity and healthy ecosystems as a foundation of sustainable food systems would strengthen the programme's sustainability rationale and align it with emerging international approaches to food-system transformation. Nature Positive Agriculture is a farming approach that actively improves and regenerates natural ecosystems rather than just reducing environmental harm. It is emerging as a broad framework for sustainable farming practices, combining elements of organic farming, regenerative farming, agro-ecology, agro-forestry, with integrated ecosystem and landscape management and restoration.

3. Strengthen food-system transformation framing

The framework rightly focuses on strengthening food safety, animal health and regulatory systems. However, these should be framed as enablers of broader food-system transformation, recognising that long-term food security, livelihoods and economic development depend on food systems that operate within environmental limits and are resilient to climate and nature-related shocks. A stronger food-systems framing would help connect individual interventions to wider sustainability outcomes.

4. Consider Planetary Health approach

The framework places welcome emphasis on One Health, particularly through links between human health, animal health and antimicrobial resistance. WWF encourages explicitly recognising ecosystem health as fundamental pillar in an integrated approach to Health, reflecting the growing international understanding that healthy ecosystems underpin both human and animal wellbeing and reduce risks associated with disease emergence, environmental degradation and food-system instability. The program could benefit from adapting a broader Planetary Health approach, reflecting the synergies between human health, healthy production systems, resilient ecosystems and planetary boundaries, including climate, biodiversity and pollution.

5. Strengthen the engagement of civil society partners in the program

WWF recommends systematic and meaningful civil society engagement throughout project design, implementation, monitoring and learning. The current governance model only provides that civil society organisations may be invited as observers. This is too limited to make effective use of their local knowledge, technical expertise, networks and ability to build public support, accountability and long-term ownership.

6. Strengthen Strategic Goal 4 by linking regulation to sustainability outcomes

Strategic Goal 4 highlights the importance of enabling regulatory conditions for sustainable food and agricultural value chains. WWF suggests strengthening the narrative by clarifying how improved regulation of the food sector combined with sustainable ecosystem and natural resource management contribute to broader outcomes such as resilient food systems, landscape immunity to diseases, climate adaptation, and long-term environmental sustainability. This would help articulate not only what regulatory systems achieve institutionally, but also why they matter for sustainable development.

7. Include environmental and climate-related risks in the risk framework

The framework identifies a range of political, institutional and operational risks that could affect implementation. WWF recommends also recognising environmental degradation, climate change and increasing pressure on natural resources as systemic risks to food and agricultural systems in many partner countries. Accounting for and managing these risks would strengthen the programme's resilience and allow for more adaptive planning over the programme period.