



Context

Colombia is the world's second-most biodiverse country, and home to a striking variety of landscapes, climates and soil types. With a population of 50 million people, the country is also characterised by great disparities of wealth between urban and rural populations. Some 27 percent of its land mass (almost 32 million hectares) is devoted to extensive cattle ranching, while only seven percent is used by other forms of agriculture (when the ideal use of its soil types would suggest the reverse). Agriculture accounted for 6.3 percent of GDP and 19 percent of the country's exports in 2017. The value produced per hectare of cultivated land is less than one-third of that produced by OECD countries. High rates of informality and inequality persist: smallholders represent 65 percent of the population and hold less than two percent of the land, while large landowners own 65 percent of the land and represent just 1 percent of the population.

Productivity rates among farmers and forestry workers are the lowest among all national industries. Colombia also has one of the highest rates of agrochemical use in Latin America, although this has not led to overall increases in agricultural production. While deforestation has risen significantly – nearly 198,000 hectares of forest were lost in 2018 – national plans to reduce deforestation and promote restoration are in place. Meanwhile, 50 percent of Colombia's national territory is marine, and the national government has declared its ambition to improve marine governance, ensure better fisheries management and raise the consumption of marine protein.

Approximately one-third of all food intended for human consumption in Colombia is lost or wasted between the farm and the fork each year. This equates to nearly \$5.4 billion in economic losses, at a time when more than half of Colombian households do not have enough food to live a healthy and active life. At the same time, rates of malnutrition and obesity cost the state at least \$1.5 billion a year in lost economic activity.

Critical transitions

Colombia's National Development Plan (2018 to 2022) addresses each of the ten critical transitions in different ways. FOLU Colombia has also developed a comprehensive Roadmap for a New Food and Land Use Economy for Colombia which speaks to the transitions, including priority actions on the following four:

1

Healthy diets. The national government has approved a new food loss and waste law that will be delivered with the support of FOLU Colombia members. An equivalent law on nutrition and food security, which proposed regulation on labelling ultra-processed food and sugar beverages to address unhealthy diets, did not pass through Congress. The FOLU Coalition is supporting the governments of Antioquia and Bogota to promote healthy diets among schoolchildren, with the aim of these approaches being adopted nationwide.

2

Productive and regenerative agriculture. The FOLU Coalition is working in partnership with regional governments, including those of Quindio and Urabá, to deliver a new vision to increase agricultural competitiveness while ensuring the adoption of more regenerative agricultural practices. It also supports public and private actors to deliver on their commitments to reduce fertiliser and pesticide use, and to expand investment in agroforestry systems including cocoa and coffee growing and silvopastoral livestock. A shift from extensive cattle-grazing systems to more productive, silvopastoral systems, using less land, would be a major contribution to transforming food and land use systems.

3

Protecting and restoring nature. Colombia has an ambitious national anti-deforestation strategy, which it is working hard to implement. The strategy includes strengthened policing and governance in deforestation hotspots and increased flows of finance (including from the national carbon tax) to efforts to support conservation and sustainable use of forest resources in particular territories.

4

A protected and productive ocean. Colombia has sought to broker a "regional pact for the ocean", focused on enhancing ocean governance, improving the extent and management of marine-protected areas, and supporting the transition to more sustainable fisheries models.