

## Press Release

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### **New roadmap proposes how to address the hidden costs of Valle del Cauca's food systems**



36 Plazas de mercado Cali Alianza Bioversity-CIAT, 2020

*Poor land management, unsustainable agricultural practices, unhealthy diets, environmental externalities, and food loss and waste generate costs of more than USD \$3 billion per year in the Colombian department of Valle del Cauca. If these costs are not addressed now, they could increase to almost USD \$5 billion by 2050. Launched in Cali today, "The Roadmap for the Transformation of Food Systems in Valle del Cauca" lays out priority actions to reverse this trend.*

Historically, Valle del Cauca's food and land use systems have been among the most agriculturally productive in Colombia, generating high volumes of food commodity exports, and contributing to malnutrition rates below the national average.

However, despite delivering gains for regional trade and food security in recent decades, these systems are also associated with more than USD \$3 billion in hidden health, environmental and economic costs per year, due to poor land management, unsustainable practices, unhealthy diets, environmental externalities, and other inefficiencies, such as food loss and waste. If these costs are not addressed now, they could rise to as much as USD \$5 billion by 2050.

The "Roadmap for the Transformation of Food Systems in Valle del Cauca", which was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January at Icesi University, Cali, outlines priority actions for reversing this trend between now and 2032.

The Roadmap was based on a recent assessment of Valle del Cauca's food systems, which sparked dialogue and momentum among more than 300 public, private and civil society actors in the department's sub-regions. Through a series of multistakeholder workshops held by The Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) Colombia and Bioversity-CIAT Alliance, these actors contributed to the development of shared vision of change, which looks towards scaling regenerative and inclusive food systems through the recovery and recognition of local knowledge; the diversification of production; the restoration of marine and terrestrial landscapes; the development of fair and transparent markets; and the promotion of purposeful enterprises that drive access to sustainable, healthy and nutritious food for all.

Speaking at the Roadmap's launch, José Antonio Ocampo, Minister of Finance and Public Credit and FOLU Colombia Ambassador, said: "It is essential that the territories embark on a deep transformation of their food systems, understanding the relationship between the environment, agriculture, rural development, health and nutrition, markets and the economy".

Mark Lundy, leader of the Bioversity-CIAT Alliance's Food Environment and Consumer Behavior research program, added: "The food systems crisis is not waiting, and even less so with the risks imposed by climate change. Rapid and transformative change is required in the next 10 years for food systems, engaging governments and the various private and civil society actors to accelerate the transition".

Claudia Martinez, Director of FOLU Colombia, said: "We need to move from degenerative food systems to regenerative ones, building an inclusive vision that includes education processes, access to sustainable livelihoods and development of value chains with fair trade".

The Bioversity-CIAT Alliance and FOLU Colombia joined forces to lead this initiative, with support from management group that has guided the work and is committed to the implementation of the Roadmap.

This group is made up of the Government of Valle del Cauca, the Mayor's Office of Santiago de Cali, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, PMA, WWF, Corporación Biotec, RAP Pacífico, Arroz Blanquita, Hacienda El Hatico, Universidad ICESI, Corporación Autónoma del Valle del Cauca - CVC, Universidad Nacional, Universidad del Valle, ProPacífico, Corporación Vallenpaz, Bancolombia and Federación Nacional de Cafeteros.