

## Key messages

### FOLU Report

#### ***Tapping the emissions reduction potential of China's food and land use systems to achieve carbon neutrality***

**24<sup>th</sup> of May 2023**

- China's plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 largely overlook the potential for reducing emissions from food and land use systems. This is because there is limited scientific evidence available, and a lack of a holistic policy framework addressing these areas.
- To tackle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in China's food and land use systems, it is essential to start by clearly defining the limits and scope of the system to ensure all emissions are properly accounted for.
- A new analysis by FOLU shows that China's food and land use systems, released an average of 1,164 million metric tons of GHGs (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) each year between 2005 and 2015.
  - This takes into account the removal of emissions by forests and is equivalent to 10% of China's total emissions.
  - Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) account for 52% of the total emissions generated by the food and land use sector.
- By 2050, agriculture in China is expected to have the highest remaining GHG emissions compared to any other sector.
- To reduce these emissions fast and at scale, a systemic approach is needed. This approach should address the drivers of GHG emissions in food production, such as unhealthy diets and wasteful food consumption. It must also explore solutions to reduce emissions on farms and increase carbon absorption in the environment.
- Appropriate policies are urgently needed for China to accelerate food and land use emissions reductions in a holistic manner without compromising food security, human and planetary health, social equity and rural development. This will require participation of all stakeholders in the sector.