

The Challenge

The CASH (Climate Action for Smallholders) Coalition comprises thirteen leading social enterprises with trusted relationships in smallholder communities and track records of scaling impact in the service of smallholder livelihoods. We share a vision for regenerative- and nature-based smallholder solutions, inclusive climate finance, and sustainable land management.

We work to make regenerative agriculture and climate action profitable for smallholder farmers and local communities in the Global South.

Five hundred million smallholder households support the livelihoods of more than two billion people, predominantly in low- and middle-income countries. These smallholder farmers produce most of the Global South's food¹, steward a quarter of global agricultural land², and are uniquely positioned to advance solutions to address biodiversity loss, ecosystem damage, poverty, food insecurity, development, and climate change.

The actions of smallholders and their communities are essential to achieving the 2030 and 2050 climate goals. We must catalyze and amplify the regenerative and mitigation impacts of farming families and their communities, they must benefit from this work, and their voices must be heard in charting new solutions.



¹ World Bank (2016) A Year in the Lives of Smallholder Farmers. February 25, 2016.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/02/25/a-year-in-the-lives-of-smallholder-farming-families>

² Smallholders with land \leq 2ha Ricciardi, V., Ramankutty, N., Mehrabi, Z., Jarvis, L., & Chookolingo, B. (2018). How much of the world's food do smallholders produce? *Global Food Security*, 17, 64-72. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2018.05.002>

Why Regenerative Agriculture and Climate Action, and Why Smallholder Farmers?

By realizing and aligning rights, resources, and support for regenerative land- and forest-based livelihoods, communities can become transformative leaders for climate change mitigation and resilience. Smallholder farmers and local communities provide valuable ecosystem services such as water quality maintenance, soil carbon management, and the promotion of biodiversity, but they are rarely rewarded for these actions. Carbon markets, payments for ecosystem services (PES) systems, and other emerging sources of finance for regenerative action can be harnessed to benefit smallholders and their communities.

The Solution

We are collaborating to dramatically scale socially just climate action by sharing knowledge, generating learning, coordinating and agglomerating actions and joint projects across member organizations, and collaborating to raise and influence supportive financing. The thirteen members of the CASH Coalition work directly with 9 million land managers in smallholder, indigenous, and local communities who steward 16 million hectares of land in the Global South.³ Our members have a strong record of scaling innovations and promoting behavior change to increase agricultural productivity, leading to more resilient livelihoods. We are well-positioned to work with local partners to shape and deliver meaningful and rewarding climate solutions for marginal and vulnerable communities.

Specific Scope, Aspirations, and Priority Actions

Our scope is our goal: **“To make regenerative agriculture and climate action profitable for smallholder farmers and local communities in the Global South.”⁴**

Our aspirations and priority actions:

1. **CASH identifies and shares knowledge and best practices** regarding existing technologies, practices, financing arrangements, incentive structures, behavior change and adoption, costs and benefits, and scaling strategies to accelerate a smallholder regenerative transition. We are actively developing a repository of regenerative content focused on smallholder agriculture to i) accelerate awareness and uptake across the Coalition; ii) support members, the Coalition, and eventually the field-at-large to leverage generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools as a strategy to scale smallholder farmer access to quality, locally relevant, regenerative advice.
2. **We provide technical assistance, information, and education** to our members and local partners to amplify the voices of smallholder farmers and increase their ability to derive benefits from climate finance and PES.
3. **We expand existing avenues for participation, create new entry points to climate financing arrangements, and transform climate finance** by – advocating for reforms to existing carbon markets, standards, and relevant regulatory instruments to ensure that markets and instruments work for smallholders and recognize and value smallholder nature-based solutions and ecosystem services. We identify ways for smallholders to tap into non-carbon climate finance.

³ Members are active in Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, Central and South America, The Caribbean, and South and South East Asia.

⁴ Regenerative agriculture includes practices and technologies with the potential to contribute to climate resiliency, climate change mitigation, and improve smallholder farmer incomes and well-being. Smallholder farmers include farmers and their communities in low- and middle-income countries, typically working family farms with fewer than 10 hectares of land, pastoralists, indigenous communities, and forest keepers. This includes smallholder farmers who live and work in forests but does not include non-farming forest communities. We also serve cooperatives and other farmer-facing organizations that service smallholder farmers and farming communities. (Directly and indirectly through cooperatives)



We are developing a portfolio of projects to advance these objectives, identify and overcome practical barriers inhibiting smallholder projects from accessing carbon and other climate finance, and inform learning and advocacy to promote systems change.

4. **We catalyze the development and execution of ground-up research** to build business models and use cases demonstrating the viability of smallholder regenerative and climate actions. We leverage this learning to inform advocacy, project development, and further research.

These actions will recast smallholder farmers and their communities, transforming them from passive and increasingly impoverished victims of climate change to active mitigation and land restoration partners exercising agency to realize opportunities.

CASH Principles, Membership, and Coalition Design

CASH member organizations are committed to upholding the following set of principles:

WORKING INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, MEMBERS WILL:

- Positively impact the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and local communities;
- Have demonstrated ecosystems and climate benefits;
- Promote doable and achievable solutions for smallholder farmers;
- Have workable distribution models; and
- Increase the resilience of smallholder farmers and local communities to climate change.

WORKING WITH EACH OTHER AND EXTERNALLY:

- We are a team with a shared vision and goal and will proactively coordinate action;
- Coordination will be structured to maximize efficiency and efficacy, identify and proactively address organizational frictions, maximize our potential for success, and advance the interests of the communities we serve;
- Our collaboration is focused on what can more effectively be achieved together;
- We are committed to being transparent about what, why, and how we operate; and
- Members will represent and act on behalf of the CASH Coalition at external events.

CASH Governance and Leadership

The CASH Coalition's leadership group consists of the senior leader of each core member organization and meets monthly. An Executive Committee (EC) meets weekly, comprising:

☒ **Chris Jochnick** - [Landesa](#)

☒ **Debbie Aung Din** - [Proximity Designs](#)

☒ **Jim Taylor** - [Proximity Designs](#)

☒ **Michael Jenkins** - [Forest Trends](#)

☒ **Willy Foote** - [Root Capital](#)

☒ **Heiner Baumann** - [CASH, Executive Director](#)

Climate Action for Smallholders CASH Coalition Inc. is registered as a 501(3)(c) not-for-profit organization in the United States of America.

