

Report summary first three days – Compiled by Karina David as Experience Report

December 2023

Hello everyone, as some of you know, I'm attending COP 28 as a farmer, representing women and young people involved in agroecology, as well as the organizations REDE ECOVIDA, INSTITUTO BRASIL ORGÂNICO and INOFO.

This is my first time at the COP.

The COP is a very big event, with many simultaneous events that are impossible to follow completely. Maybe one day I'll have the opportunity to come with a team to share this work physically and mentally (that would be incredible).

During these first few days, I was more present in the food systems pavilion.

Talking to people who have participated in other COPs and also from my experience here, it's clear that agriculture is being discussed more as one of the issues of the climate crisis, both as a cause and as a solution.

I've heard little about the causes, such as the case of Brazil, which contributes negatively (and a lot) to greenhouse gas emissions through agribusiness. We talk about fossil fuels and their consequences, but I've seen few denunciations (here in this pavilion).

With regard to solutions, the theme of agroecology has been highlighted as an indispensable path for food production in the face of the climate crisis. Many experiences from around the world have been presented over these two days and will continue over the next few. The presence of male and female farmers in this pavilion is interesting, but certainly need many more spaces. We need to be heard and we certainly have a lot to contribute with our practical experiences. It is a fact that, unfortunately, the COP is not an event designed for the participation of farmers. The urgency of the transition to agroecology, not only as a food production tool, but also as a social tool, is being highlighted a lot.

I had the honour of presenting on a panel on the second day, sharing our experience as a farmer for almost 10 years at the ProNobis farm, producing tons of food and now focusing on growing shiitake mushrooms on logs, always in agroforestry systems. As well as our experience at the organic market on the public promenade, our agroindustry, the courses and visits to our site. This presentation can be seen in full at <https://www.youtube.com/live/JIQhuA2pAP4?si=HmeMB37fbTp9aukp>.

The word transition is being bandied about a lot around here, not only in relation to food systems, but also in relation to other terms such as the energy matrix, for example. While it's encouraging to see that transition is being thought about, it's important to be careful that it's not just a "calm down, we're going to do something, we're doing it, we need time...", but with insufficient concrete actions, without government accountability, adequate public policies, etc.

Regarding the term regenerative agriculture, which we in the organic movement have been keeping an eye on for some time now (including the BRAZIL ORGANIC INSTITUTE which has a position letter on the subject), it's being talked about a lot, much more than agroecology, and it really is very confusing and difficult to distinguish which works are serious and which are not. It's necessary to do some research on

each piece of work that mentions the topic. It's clear how controversial this topic is, how much greenwash is really involved and how lay people really believe that this is serious agriculture and that it really works for the regeneration of Planet Earth. Very sad!

We also had the declaration of U\$400 million for the loss and damage fund (it sounds like a lot, but it's not much given the need and urgency we have).

We also had the Emirates declaration on agriculture, food systems and climate action.

The declaration recognizes the importance of family farmers, women and young people, but it is a lukewarm agreement, a very poor letter of actions and proposals in the face of the moment and the climate crisis we are experiencing! The letter does not hold agribusiness responsible, nor does it recognize the importance of agroecology and organic farming as a way of transforming food systems. We need much more and we don't have much time!

Report summary day three and four of COP 28 – Compiled by Karina David as Experience Report

Hello everyone,

We had a meeting of the farmers forum with the president of IFAD. There were 7 farmers from various countries at the meeting, and I was representing INOFO (we are the only 100% organic organization on the farmers forum steering committee). One of the agendas was a demand from the organizations for resources to go directly to them (currently many resources come through governments) in order to facilitate the execution of projects with more fluidity and autonomy, as well as better resource efficiency.

I took part as a listener on a panel dealing with COP30 and food, proposing food with positive carbon emissions, agroecological and preferably local (Amazon). The dialogue was very interesting and began with the COP28 experience where food has low carbon emissions and is 80% vegan, followed by a talk by the National Bioeconomy Secretariat, Carina Pimenta and Marcelo Salazar, mediated by Fabrício from the Regenerate Institute.

This is a big challenge, but it's extremely important. We then met the mayor of Belém at the Colombian pavilion, where we shared this initiative, which was very well received.

I took part in a panel on the theme: Transforming food systems: raising healthy diets and protein diversification as a climate solution, where I once again shared our work with agroecology and agroforestry at a table where I was the only farmer.

I really believe in the potential of sharing and showing with facts and photos real experiences that have a positive impact, in the face of so much bad news, lobbying and setbacks that we are experiencing at COP 28 (and others too).

I'm taking our agroforestry and organic shiitake to all the venues and showing it off with great pride.

I took part as an observer in the agriculture negotiations and I was very sad to see who Brazil's representative/negotiator is, Marcelo Augusto Boechat Morandi, from EMBRAPA, who has shamelessly been a representative of the beef industry since the Bolsonaro government. Together with Uruguay and

Argentina, he is defending the expansion of large-scale cattle farming. I tried to contact him at the end (I only identified myself as a farmer, I didn't even say I was from agroecology), but I was very badly received by him, who answered my questions in a very undiplomatic way (for a negotiator) and in the end, didn't say anything, even though it's his role to report back to the observers. At the end of the session, there was a youth intervention, which brought to the table the problems of the climate crisis related to agriculture. It was very beautiful, but unfortunately nothing concrete, after all, the negotiations all already ready from the pre-conference in Bonn, where we have the same representative.

Apart from the individual program, there were some global and Brazilian events, such as:

- Brazil's accession to OPEC +, with an unconvincing speech that it joined to influence. Faced with a climate crisis scenario, It's a step backwards;
- MANY REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE initiatives, an open greenwash, mainly (but not only) in the USA.
- Many countries have committed to increasing renewable energies by 2030;
- President of COP28 (leading the UAE oil agenda), claimed that there is no scientific evidence linking the adoption of "zero fossil fuels" and the 1.5°C warming limit. No comment.
- There is a great deal of work going on to include the word agriculture in the Global Stocktake, which only mentions the word food;
- Although they are not at the centre of discussions, we still hear the word agroecology a lot, organic farming not so much!

Links:

https://www.youtube.com/live/v7D_vBjHt_8?si=o5j1EI9b-m7-UNW

<https://unfccc.int/event/farmers-and-traditional-producers-at-the-heart-of-food-systems-transformation>

Report summary day five to ten of COP 28 – Compiled by Karina David as Experience Report

I was present as a listener at an event called "financing for the transition to regenerative agriculture" something like that, I was interested in being there to understand the conversation, when I saw that the panellists represented organizations such as: GIZ, WORLD BANK, etc... and bore the name FINANCING AND REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE.

To sum up, I'd like to point out once again that the conversation about regenerative agriculture is on the table, it's not new, but the term really is camouflaged with Greenwash as well as incredible start-ups!

It's confusing society, it's purposeful and more than a positioning letter, we need to think about something!

This panel talked a lot about scale and productivity, and the only organization that mentioned the words agroforestry and agroecology was GIZ.

Once again I'd like to point out that I don't see any emphasis on the term organic farming.

I know it's a dispute over words and terms, but we can't ignore this situation. How are we in organic and agroecological farming going to react? Are we going to take any action? Or not, it's not up to us...

Anyway, these are questions I ask myself, but honestly, it's a situation that bothers me!

Still on the subject, I was present at a panel that launched the sustainable territories platform - a public-private partnership for the state of Amazonas. I was also there to listen and try to understand what was going on.

This panel included the governor of the state of Pará, Vale, Cargill, Jbs, etc... also talking about regenerative agriculture!

It was more of a political act to establish partnerships and sign agreements than anything else!

Look at the presence of the companies!

Speaking of the presence of large corporations at the COP, GREENWASH AND LOBBY, I had the honor of participating in an article for The Guardian, which dealt with the subject:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/dec/09/big-meat-dairy-lobbyists-turn-out-record-numbers-cop28>

I started with the bad news, because unfortunately that's how we value the good news!

But in terms of good news, we had the day of indigenous peoples and traditional communities at COP 28, where the Brazilian delegation made history with the largest indigenous delegation, what pride!

After all, you can't talk about climate issues without directly involving traditional peoples and communities!

We also had the honour of launching the Caucus for the Planet, a political act that I was proud to take part in, find out more: <https://instagram.com/celia.xakriaba?igshid=OGQ5ZDc2ODk2ZA==>

I took part in 3 more panels as a guest, where I shared more about our work with agroforestry, and here I am continuing with this very strong mission of presenting solutions, concrete actions and asking people to look at the urgent need to finance, support and put traditional peoples and communities at the center of discussions. food systems and TRUE ways of producing real food without pesticides, highlighting the urgency of finding ways to mitigate the climate crisis and promote food and nutrition sovereignty and security.

In addition, I came with the mission of connecting with people who are also taking action, working and looking for ways to face our climate moment responsibly and with due urgency. And yes, I'm connecting with a lot of incredible people, farmers, organizations, governments and so on.

I'm still planting seeds for COP 28, and I'm sure we'll still have harvests for REDE ECOVIDA, INSTITUTO BRASIL ORGÂNICO and INOFO, which are the organizations I represent here in addition to our work as PRONOBIS, with great pride!

Report summary of last days of COP 28 – Compiled by Karina David as Experience Report

We were invited to do the opening ceremony in the main theatre of COP 28, next to the GLOBAL FARMERS FORUM (where INOFO is part of the steering committee, as the only 100% organic organization). We went up into the main space of COP 28, occupied this space as farmers, told our stories, presented our organizations and, of course, took our message to the leaders of COP 28, asking them to consider food systems as the central point of discussions and recommendations.

It was very powerful, a vibrant, striking experience and a political act!

Afterwards, the global farmers' forum also organized three more panels with organizations that support family farming, ministers, FAO, IFAD, world bank, among others, subjects and people of extreme relevance! I'm so proud to have taken part in this official COP28 event.

It's still very little, but this is the first COP in which food systems are gaining ground at the conference, but there's still a lot more to do. Responsibility and action need to be included in the final official documents of the COP, which will be the documents where countries will commit themselves and must take concrete action.

There is also a lack of transparency in relation to the financial resources earmarked for effective action.

Link to the recording: <https://unfccc.int/event/farmers-and-traditional-producers-at-the-heart-of-food-systems-transformation>

Regarding the final text of the GST, on the subject of agriculture, negotiations are continuing on the inclusion of food systems. Unfortunately, Brazil is not well represented at the negotiating table, but we have the president of IFOAN, Karen Mapusua, on our side defending food systems, as well as other countries that are working together with civil society, among other people I haven't met in person, who are still fighting for us to move forward!

Let's wait!

I'm done here, tired but very happy to be living this experience!

Karina David

Doha December 2024.