



Slow Food®

SLOW FOOD'S MESSAGE TO G7 AGRICULTURE LEADERS

10 POINTS FOR GOOD, CLEAN AND FAIR FOOD FOR ALL AND EVERYONE

Slow Food, a few weeks away from Terra Madre, its most important international event dedicated to good, clean and fair food (Turin, Italy, from September 26 to 30), is launching a message to the G7 Agriculture leaders, who are meeting on the same days in Syracuse, Sicily, and asking them to focus on the value of food, biodiversity and respect for nature and ecosystems in order to overcome the multiple and interconnected global crises and head firmly towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.



1. YES TO BIODIVERSITY AND AGROECOLOGY

Over the past 70 years we have destroyed three-quarters of cultivated plant varieties. The heritage of agrobiodiversity is essential to the resilience of ecosystems and an important cultural, environmental and economic resource.

We call for subsidies to support farms that follow agroecological practices, preserving and regenerating soils and biodiversity, saving water resources, protecting ecosystems and agrarian landscapes and favoring generational change.



2. YES TO FARMERS WHO RESPECT ANIMALS AND LAND

The industrial approach has denatured animal farming, separating it from real cultivation in the fields and instead tying it to intensive monocultures of soy and corn. Animal farming has become one of the activities with the greatest negative impact on the environment, our health and animal welfare.

We call for subsidies to support farmers who respect their animals, protect fragile ecosystems and marginal areas and safeguard biodiversity and fertility.



3. YES TO FOOD EDUCATION IN ALL SCHOOLS

We urgently need **investment in food education**, to spread an awareness of the value of food, how it is produced, processed and distributed and its social, cultural, economic and environmental dynamics—and to ensure we can make conscious choices. We also need to give value back to food in school canteens, which should become sites for education.

We call for **food education to become obligatory** in all levels of school and for the promotion of **school catering based on fresh, local, quality ingredients that works to reduce food waste**.





4. YES TO HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE DIETS

The everyday context in which we live does not make sustainable choices easy. On the contrary, it exploits people's biological, psychological, social and economic weaknesses, encouraging the consumption of nutritionally poor food and leading to unhealthy, unsustainable diets. Healthy, sustainable foods, beverages and meals need to be accessible to everyone and heavily promoted.

We call for binding policies that remodel the dynamics of the food chain, guaranteeing transparent, complete information to consumers, setting minimum sustainability criteria for public food purchasing and supporting direct sales and farmers' markets.



5. YES TO FAIR PRICES FOR FARMERS

Constantly low prices hide enormous social and environmental costs in terms of health, pollution, exploitation of labor and abuse.

We call for the implementation of the policies needed to ensure fair prices for farmers who produce food with respect for the soil and consumer health.



6. YES TO RESEARCH FOR TRUE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY. NO TO GMOS AND PATENTS

Genetically modified organisms are part of a global economic and political agricultural system that is increasingly depriving farmers of their means of production while concentrating control of food in the hands of multinationals.

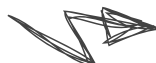
We call for the regulation of all GMOs, with proper risk evaluations, transparency and traceability for consumers all along the production chain. We are in favor of scientific research and technical innovation, but only when primarily public, accessible and directed towards the common good and the true needs of places and communities.



7. YES TO DIVERSITY AND WELCOME

Food is an element of identity affirmation and a means of cultural exchange. It is the first and easiest form of contact and mediation between different civilizations. Traditional foods are the result of countless cultural crossings and influences.

Starting from a renewed focus on food, understood not as a commodity but as nourishment and culture, we call for policies of welcome and true integration for people migrating. **We also call for the support of economic and trade policies that ensure food sovereignty for all peoples** and avoid exporting the negative externalities of the Western food system to the Global South, whether deforestation for feed and oil production, land grabbing, water grabbing or the dumping of underpriced agricultural goods.





Slow Food®



8. NO TO FOOD WASTE

A third of all the food produced ends up being thrown away. This means a waste of clean water, energy and fertile soil and the pointless release of emissions into the atmosphere and fertilizers and pesticides in the earth and water. At the same time, an enormous number of people in the world are malnourished: 800 million suffer from hunger, while over a billion are overweight or obese.

We call for policies that encourage the reduction of waste along the entire chain, from production to processing, distribution to sales, food service to individual citizens.



9. YES TO ARTISANAL FISHING AND THE PROTECTION OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Small-scale coastal fishing, if managed with respect for ecosystems, is a sustainable form of harvesting that can become an important element in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. It also constitutes an immense social and cultural heritage.

We call for support for small-scale coastal fishing, including promoting generational change. We need to encourage innovative forms of co-management of coastal ecosystems that can bring together fishers, policymakers and research institutions to find solutions adapted to local contexts.

We urge against supporting large fleets and fishing practices that deplete the seas. Bottom trawling, in particular, must be categorically banned in marine protected areas and spawning grounds. We call for taking support away from aquaculture when it contributes to the overexploitation of fish fauna and threatens the health of the marine ecosystem.



10. NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

Every day we throw away millions of tons of plastic waste, which ends up contaminating the environment, the seas and our food, in the form of microplastics.

We call for policies that force businesses to reduce packaging to a minimum and limit single-use items to strictly necessary contexts (such as healthcare), banning them everywhere else. We also ask for recycling to be facilitated; currently just 10% of all the plastic produced is recycled.