CoFSA Membership Framework Agreement
Overview of CoFSA: Vision & Approach

The Conscious Food Systems Alliance (CoFSA), convened by UNDP, is a movement of food, agriculture and consciousness practitioners united around a common goal: to support people from across food and agriculture systems to cultivate the inner capacities that activate systemic change and regeneration.

The vision of the Alliance is anchored in the realisation that we have the science, technical capacity and technological tools needed to transform food systems. However, we are lacking the collaborative capacities and the transformative qualities and skills required to leverage necessary change. To transform food systems, we must work not only on policy, research and project implementation, but also on the inner drivers of
individual, collective and institutional behaviours. We must reconnect with ourselves, each other and nature to activate the transformative qualities and skills needed to support the transition to regenerative food systems.

The Alliance aims to establish the cultivation of inner capacities as a key evidence-based approach to envision and create regenerative food systems, and to build legitimacy for this agenda by:

- Establishing a Community of Practice and Learning, within which individuals and organisations can connect, learn and exchange knowledge, support and inspire each other, and collaborate to build conscious food systems;
- Pioneering the application of consciousness approaches and practices across food systems, through a global portfolio of interventions, including the delivery of trainings, coaching and facilitation services, supported by research and learning frameworks.

CoFSA approaches food systems transformation by working with all relevant stakeholder groups across food systems, including consumers, companies, governments, development agencies, academia, global and local NGOs, local communities, and farmers and food producers.

The Alliance offers a bold vision on the role of consciousness for food systems transformation, around which a diverse set of stakeholders, committed to adapting it to their particular contexts, can unite.

Further information about the Alliance can be found on the CoFSA website.

**Governance Structure**
The CoFSA governance is structured as follows: **The Alliance Members, the Inner Council, and the Secretariat.**

The **Alliance Members** convene in the bi-annual Alliance Gatherings (1.5 hrs), to share updates on CoFSA activities, present newcomers to the Alliance, connect, and share inspiring work and initiatives. They have access to tools, resources and partnerships through the digital platform, as well as the opportunity to participate in **community activities** such as dialogues, webinars, action groups or practice sessions. The Alliance Members have a consultative role (for example through polls to assess their views that will be considered) and validate the Terms of Reference for the Inner Council (from 2023 onwards).

The **Inner Council** defines and steers the implementation of the CoFSA strategy by the Secretariat. It is responsible for decision-making on key aspects of the Alliance including: the annual workplan, community activities, service offer and products, interventions, fundraising strategy, resource allocation, communications, membership, and Inner Council TOR. An interim Inner Council will be appointed by the Secretariat for a period of one year November 2022 – December 2023. The interim Inner Council will co-create the Terms of Reference for future Inner Council that will be endorsed by the Alliance Members.

The **Secretariat**, hosted by UNDP, manages the day-to-day operations of the Alliance. This includes coordinating and supporting the Inner Council and the Alliance Members, including the management of the digital platform and membership activities. The Secretariat reports to the Inner Council and the Alliance Members.

**CoFSA Community Activities**

The CoFSA is a **vibrant global community**, supported by a **collaborative digital platform**, where practitioners interested in conscious food systems can **connect, learn, inspire and support each other, and collaborate** toward regenerative food systems.

**Connect & Practice**

CoFSA brings together an intentional community of peers supporting one another and journeying together toward conscious food systems.

Members have the opportunity to connect with peers and discover like-minded people through our gatherings and monthly coffee chats. Also, they can join collective practices such as deep listening, mindful eating, and meditations.

*Activities: joining Monthly Coffee Chats, Alliance meetings, Annual Summit, and all other sessions will be offered and facilitated in the platforms for members (e.g., Deep listening circles, mindful eating practices, meditation practices, etc.).*
Collaborate
CoFSA enables members to form deep partnerships for collaboration. CoFSA members draw on each other’s experience and expertise to collaborate on specific issues and initiatives through dedicated action groups hosted in the digital community platform.

- **Action groups**: self-organized groups around specific themes (research, M&E, etc.) or interventions. Members can set-up an action group by contacting the Secretariat, who will create a group on the digital platform and support members to convene around their idea.
- **Network of Local Hubs**: an action group is currently developing CoFSA’s Network of Local Hubs. The network aims to facilitate an equitable exchange of knowledge and experience across local centers offering conscious food learning programs and retreats and to empower members to co-create and provide programmes for a broad range of stakeholders.

*Activities: joining Action Groups, Learning Sessions from the Network of Local Hubs hosted by the Digital Platform; partnerships and collaboration, etc.*

Reflect & Learn

- **Webinars & Events**: CoFSA holds regular events, including webinars and dialogues, to inquire into key issues for conscious food systems, harnessing collective intelligence to generate insights.
- **Sharing learnings and best practices**: CoFSA gathers and shares lessons learnt and best practices from the experience of its members in implementing relevant interventions, including through the development of case studies.

*Activities: webinars, dialogues and events, case studies, etc.*

Apply
CoFSA members pioneer the application of consciousness approaches and practices into food systems, through a global **Portfolio of Interventions**, including the delivery of trainings, coaching and facilitation services, supported by research and learning frameworks.

- Interventions are led by members, who collaborate to develop and implement pilots and prototypes, with a commitment to share learning with the Alliance. The role of the Secretariat is to advise on the design and support members to form partnerships, access tools and expertise, and share lessons learnt through the community.
- The Alliance does not yet provide funding for implementation of CoFSA interventions, but it is seeking to raise funds for an **Incubator to support the design, implementation and funding of CoFSA Interventions**. Members can submit ideas to the Secretariat for including their interventions in the incubator.

For further information on Interventions, including the criteria, process, and key resources (Idea note, etc.), see the CoFSA Interventions Framework.
Trainings

- CoFSA members deliver a wide range of trainings in a variety of consciousness approaches and practices, including compassion, nature connection, somatic bodywork, emotional awareness, non-violent communication, mindfulness and self-reflection. Practices are tailored to specific audiences in the context of food systems transformation.
- The Alliance is also developing global trainings such as a ‘Conscious Food Curriculum’ to introduce food systems stakeholders to consciousness approaches and practices and create the foundation for cultivating the inner capacities needed for food systems transformation.

Activities: partnerships and collaborations, develop and implement CoFSA interventions, delivery of trainings.

CoFSA Membership

Benefits

By joining CoFSA, members become part of a unique and pioneering global movement of practitioners dedicated to envisioning and creating conscious food systems. Benefits include the opportunity to:

- Foster connections and be part of a diverse, global intentional community of practitioners supporting one another and journeying together toward conscious food systems,
- Exchange knowledge and learnings and access collective intelligence with a pioneering group of members on cultivating inner capacities for food systems transformation,
- Form partnerships, develop collaborations and access peer support to design and implement interventions and other initiatives,
- Access resources and tools, as well as peer support, to design and implement interventions and other initiatives,
- Access transformative trainings and practices to cultivate the inner capacities that activate conscious food systems,
- Raise the visibility and legitimacy of your work through CoFSA events and communications.

Commitments

Members are expected to actively participate in, and contribute to, the thriving of the Alliance. This entails:

- Respect the CoFSA Vision, as outlined in the CoFSA Manifesto and Rationale for Action report,
- Respect and embody the CoFSA Values & Principles,
- Attend bi-annually Alliance gatherings,
- Actively contribute to the community goals through participating in action groups, webinars, or other activities,
Beyond this, engagement is on a voluntary basis and members should contribute as much time and energy as serves them.

There is no fee for participation in the Alliance or digital platform.

CoFSA Values

- Bringing our whole selves to this work: emotional, embodied, and authentic
- Willingness to undertake inner work
- Equity, inclusivity and acknowledgement of power dynamics
- Deep listening
- Valuing diverse points of view
- Embracing complexity and working with emergence

Membership Criteria

CoFSA approaches food systems transformation by working with all relevant stakeholder groups who are committed to supporting conscious food systems. Membership is selective to ensure a diverse, balanced and relevant composition, and due to resource limitations in relation to cost per-user on the digital platform. Members will be selected based on (i) alignment to CoFSA Vision and Approach; and (ii) diversity and balance of stakeholders.

(I) Alignment and relevance to CoFSA Vision and Approach

- Alignment to the CoFSA Vision and Approach,
- Relevance for CoFSA, including the ability or potential to contribute to the growth of the Alliance,
- Commitment to building legitimacy of the role of inner capacities for food systems transformation and driving this agenda in your organisation or work,

(ii) Diversity - the Alliance aims to be as balanced and representative as possible in terms of:

- Key stakeholders in the food system (including consumers, companies, governments, development agencies, academia, global and local NGOs, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and farmers and food producers),
- Geographies (across LATAM, Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, Oceania, etc.),
- Scale (global, national, regional, and local stakeholders),
- Background in agri-food systems and in consciousness or inner development.

The Alliance does not require a certain level of seniority, practitioners of any level are welcome to apply. Multiple people from the same organisation can join the Alliance, however if capacity in the digital platform is limited, preference will be given to candidates from different organisations.

Institutional Endorsement - not required

Members join CoFSA as individuals; institutional or organisational endorsement is welcome but not required. If permission is granted (see application form), members will be featured on the CoFSA website and communications as: “CoFSA Members”
include individuals from the following organisations: [organisation name and/or logo].”
This is in order to present the diversity of backgrounds CoFSA members come from.

Membership Application
To join the Alliance and become an official member, please submit an application form here.

This form will be reviewed by the CoFSA Secretariat, based on the membership criteria. If your application is approved, you will be notified by email with instructions on how to join the digital community platform. If your application is not approved, a member of the CoFSA Secretariat will be in touch by email to clarify this.

If you do not wish to become a member but would like to receive news and updates from the Alliance, you can join the mailing list for the CoFSA Newsletter (sign up on the website).

Annex
I. On-boarding process
- **Introductory call for new members:** at the end of every month, we hold a one-hour introductory call for new members. In this call, led by the CoFSA Secretariat, we will provide an overview of the CoFSA Vision and Purpose, and explain how the Alliance works, ways to engage, membership commitments & benefits etc. There will also be time to clarify any questions and meet other new members. We will also guide you on how to use the Digital Platform. New members are strongly encouraged to attend an introductory call to make the most out of your membership.
- **Introductory materials:** Concept Note, Rationale for Action Report, Case Study Report, Manifesto, Website, etc.
- **Service Offer:** If you are interested in being included in the CoFSA service offer of delivery partners (e.g., offering coaching, facilitation, etc.), please submit the Service Offer Form.

II. Membership exclusion policy
If members do not adhere to the commitments stated in the CoFSA Membership Framework Agreement, for example if they do not actively contribute to the community or do not act in accordance with the CoFSA Values, the Secretariat reserves the right to remove members from the platform. If a member does not engage in the community for 4 months, they will be removed.
Contacts

**Andrew Bovarnick**, Head Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems: andrew.bovarnick@undp.org

**Thomas Legrand**, CoFSA Lead Technical Advisor: thomas.legrand@undp.org

**Alice Jervoise**, CoFSA Coordinator: alice.jervoise@undp.org

**Noemi Altobelli**, CoFSA Community Manager: noemi.altobelli@undp.org

Find out more at: [https://www.consciousfoodsystems.org/](https://www.consciousfoodsystems.org/)