



## Membership Modalities

**Summary:** This document provides a summary of the membership modalities within CoFSA, unpacking different levels of engagement, criteria, benefits and commitments for individuals or organizations seeking membership. Additionally, it offers guidance on the usage of logos and offer a repository of foundational documents to enhance understanding of this initiative.

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## Overview of CoFSA: Goal, Vision & Approach

The **Conscious Food Systems Alliance (CoFSA)**, convened by UNDP, is a movement of food, agriculture and consciousness practitioners and united around a common goal: to support people from across food and agriculture systems to cultivate the inner capacities<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup>.

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 organizations can connect, learn and exchange knowledge, support and inspire each other, shape the work of the Alliance, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> **Inner capacities:** Individual and collective awareness, mindsets, beliefs, values, worldviews, and associated transformative cognitive, emotional and relational qualities and skills. The cultivation of inner capacities can enable a deepening or expansion of individual and collective consciousness that can support regenerative food systems. CoFSA Rationale for Action Report, 2022, UNDP.

<sup>2</sup> **Regenerative Food Systems:** Regenerative Food Systems go beyond sustainability to actively restore, revitalize and replenish the soil, the water, the flora, the fauna, livelihoods, cultures and planetary health (Regenerosity, 2022; Wahl, 2017). Rather than focusing on doing less harm, it works in alignment with living systems to create systems which are healthy, resilient and adaptable, to ensure we're able to feed many generations to come (TNC, 2022).

**Regenerative Agriculture:** While there is no single definition of regenerative agriculture, the set of practices commonly associated with regenerative agriculture includes:

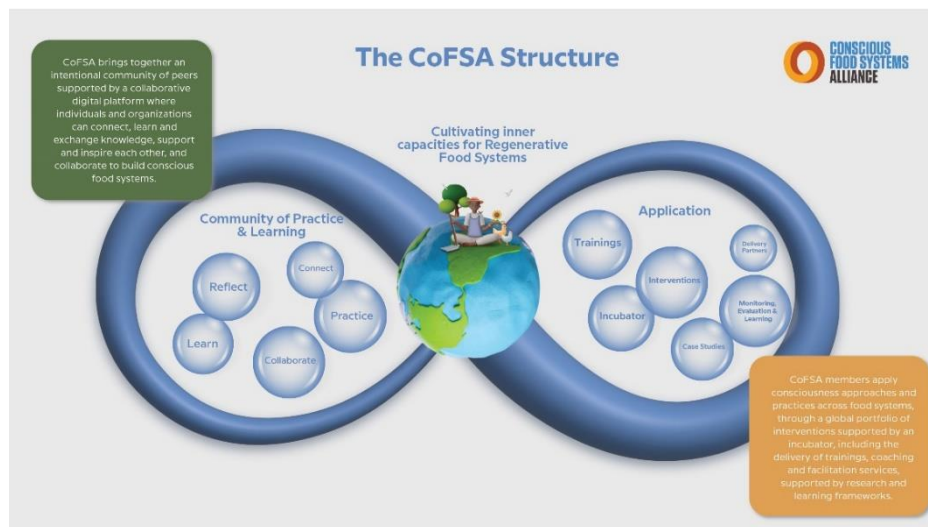
- minimizing soil disturbance by abandoning tillage,
- maintaining living roots in the soil year-round by using cover crops and rotating different types of crops,
- encouraging plant diversity, through mixed cropping and intercropping,
- integrating trees, through agroforestry and other means,
- rotational grazing of livestock,
- using inputs made from organic matter, which can either dramatically reduce or entirely remove the need for synthetic agricultural inputs.

These positive characteristics are found in abundance in farming systems such as biodynamic, organic, permaculture, silvopasture, agroforestry and agroecology (Burgess et al., 2019; Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2022; Marina O'Connell, 2022). CoFSA Rationale for Action Report, 2022, UNDP.

The **Secretariat**, hosted by UNDP, manages the day-to-day operations of the Alliance and its workplan. This includes coordination and management of varieties of activities: organization of online and in person events, development of trainings, management of call for proposals, participation to conferences, etc.

Further information about the Alliance can be found on the CoFSA [website](#).

**Fig. 1: Alliance Structure**



## How to engage

There are different ways to engage within CoFSA:

- **As a follower (“CoFSA friend”):** simply [sign up to our newsletter](#) and follow us in social media ([LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)) to receive news and updates from the Alliance and join open access [events](#).
- **As an individual member:** take an active part in creating and implementing the Alliance’s activities (or “bringing the Alliance to life”) and participate in events and trainings reserved for members (or “receive priority access to selected events and trainings”). You will also have the possibility to be part of and access the CoFSA members directory to grow your network. (to be established in 2024)
- **As an institutional member:** by becoming a CoFSA member, your organisation can play an active role in the work of the Alliance. The organisation’s representatives have access to events and trainings reserved for members and access the Members’ directory. The organisation’s logo and contact details can be displayed on the CoFSA webpage.

*See details on membership below...*

## What are the criteria for becoming a member?

The Alliance welcomes all those who are interested in making food systems more sustainable, equitable, and healthy, and are interested in the application of consciousness-based approaches to reach these goals.

CoFSA members should be aligned with CoFSA's vision as described in the CoFSA [Manifesto](#) and its values.

### *Our 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*

## What does becoming a member entail?

Becoming a member implies you or your organization endorse CoFSA's vision as described in the CoFSA [Manifesto](#) and its [values](#) and feel committed to implement actions to help realize it, or at least to learn about it to eventually move towards implementation in a second stage.

When an **organisation** applies to be a member, it **nominates one or more representatives** who engage in the Alliance according to the modalities described below.

## Benefits of membership

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:

- Connect with other members (coffee chats, sharing circles, case clinics, research group, etc.)
- Be included in the Members' directory as a key networking resource.
- Use CoFSA's Newsletter, [Website](#) and social media platforms ([LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)) to showcase your work related to CoFSA and amplify its reach.
- Receive priority access to trainings and workshops organised by CoFSA where spaces are limited.
- Participate in Alliance Gatherings: convened twice a year, the Alliance Gatherings Members (1.5 hrs) are an opportunity to share updates on CoFSA activities, present your work to the Alliance, connect, and share inspiring initiatives.
- *For organisations*: gain visibility by having your logo displayed on the CoFSA website under [Members' Page](#).

## Commitments of membership

By becoming a Member of CoFSA you – or your organisation - also commits to contribute actively to CoFSA.

This can be through any of the following means:

- Contributing to CoFSA's outreach, visibility, and partnerships.
  - Actively promoting CoFSA initiative and information (e.g. newsletters, events, announcements) on social media platforms and within professional networks.
  - Collaborating with other organizations or individuals to expand CoFSA's reach and impact.
  - Being CoFSA Ambassador and participating in events, seminars, or conferences relevant to CoFSA's mission and enhance CoFSA visibility on those occasions.

Members are encouraged to regularly share with the CoFSA Secretariat how they are communicating about the Alliance, in which networks and on which occasions.

- Taking leadership or actively participating in CoFSA workstreams.
  - Leading a specific project or initiative within CoFSA, like organizing a campaign, event, or research project.
  - Actively contributing to CoFSA workstreams, offering insights, and contributing expertise to achieve shared goals.
- Engage and collaborate with other CoFSA Members including through:
  - Taking part of community activities (coffee chats, sharing circles, case clinics, research group, etc.)
  - Willingness to be included in the Members Directory or Database:
    - Consenting to have personal/ or professional details included in a directory accessible to other CoFSA members for networking and collaboration purposes.
    - Offering information such as expertise, contact details, and areas of interest for ease of connection within the CoFSA community.

*NB – in view of data protection laws, inclusion in the Members' Directory is advised but not obligatory.*

*Organisations who wish to be included in the Directory are encouraged to nominate a specific focal point(s). Access to the directory will be through the focal point.*

- Engaging in the development of narratives surrounding "Conscious Food".
  - Contributing to the creation of content (articles, blog posts, videos, etc.) around the topic.
  - Contributing to online sessions as speaker, note keeper, facilitator, participants.
  - Sharing case studies to contribute to community learning.

## For institutional members

### 1. General expectations

In all application, in particular in the case of private sector organizations, CoFSA will consider carefully the reputational risk.

When an organisation becomes a CoFSA member, they designate a focal point whose role will be to:

- Share their contact details for inclusion in the Members Directory
- Relay information about CoFSA in their organisation and the organisation's network(s)
- Represent their organisation in CoFSA events or nominate colleagues to participate in CoFSA events that are relevant to the organisation
- Work with the CoFSA Secretariat when involved in joint activities, or connect the CoFSA Secretariat to the relevant colleagues for a given activity or workstream

### 2. Use of logos

The CoFSA logo should always be displayed separately from the UNDP logo. The usage of the CoFSA logo on members' websites and communication products will be handled on a case-by-case by contacting the CoFSA Secretariat. Likewise, CoFSA will use the logos of its members only upon formal approval.

## Application Process

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. If your application is not approved, a member of the CoFSA Secretariat will contact you.

## Membership exclusion policy

If members do not adhere to the commitments stated in the CoFSA Membership Modalities, for example do not act in accordance with the CoFSA Values, the Secretariat reserves the right to remove members from the Alliance.

## Annex

### On-boarding process

- **Induction call for new members:** every month, the CoFSA Secretariat 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 with other members. New members are strongly encouraged to attend an induction call to make the most out of your membership.
- **Introductory materials:** Concept Note, Rationale for Action Report, Case Study Report, Manifesto, Website, etc.

### CoFSA communication Channels

- [CoFSA Newsletter](#)
- [CoFSA Website](#)
- [Follow us on LinkedIn](#)
- [Follow us on Instagram](#)
- [Follow us on YouTube](#)

### Contacts

**Noemi Altobelli**, CoFSA Community Manager: [noemi.altobelli@undp.org](mailto:noemi.altobelli@undp.org)