

OVERVIEW OF THE 16TH MEETING OF BRICS MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

Date: June 13, 2026

Location: Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

Theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability (BRICS)"

Chairmanship: India

1. GENERAL CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

On June 13, 2026, the Ministers of Agriculture of the BRICS member countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – gathered in the city of Indore, in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India, under the Indian presidency. The central theme of the meeting was "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability."

The main objective of the meeting was to reaffirm the collective commitment of member countries to strengthening global food and nutritional security, improving living conditions in rural areas, and building more resilient, innovative, and sustainable agricultural and food systems, with the farmer at the center of policies and actions.

2. MAIN CHALLENGES RECOGNIZED BY THE MINISTERS

The ministers acknowledged that, although significant progress has been made in improving global food security, challenges related to hunger and malnutrition

persist in some countries, reflecting localized and specific circumstances. These challenges are exacerbated by various factors, including:

- Increasing climate risks, such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events affecting agricultural production.
- Degradation of water and soil resources, compromising long-term productivity.
- Biodiversity loss, which reduces the resilience of agricultural ecosystems.
- Low agricultural productivity in certain regions and production chains.
- Market volatility, which hampers planning and income stability for farmers.
- Proliferation of unilateral protectionist measures that distort international trade.
- Disruptions in supply chains, exacerbated by geo-economic tensions and global events.

The ministers emphasized that, as major agricultural producers, exporters, and consumers endowed with vast natural resources, BRICS countries have a collective responsibility to address these challenges through enhanced cooperation and joint solutions.

3. FARMER-CENTRIC APPROACH

The ministers stressed the importance of placing farmers at the core of agricultural development efforts, supported by appropriate, accessible, and cost-effective digital innovations and technologies that are climate-resilient. It was recognized that farmers, including those involved in value chains, are central to global food production, rural livelihoods, and nutrition.

However, they continue to face significant challenges, such as:

- Limited access to quality inputs.

- Difficulties in accessing markets.
- Lack of technology and institutional and human resource capacity.
- Insufficient access to financing to invest in climate resilience measures.
- Critical infrastructure gaps.

The ministers acknowledged that one-size-fits-all approaches may not adequately reflect the diverse national and local realities and could impose disproportionate burdens on smallholder farmers, harming both their livelihoods and market access. In this context, they emphasized the need for voluntary, farmer-centric approaches tailored to national contexts, priorities, and circumstances, supported by effective policy instruments.

4. PRIORITY 1: FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION, AND LIVELIHOODS

The ministers recognized that safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers, especially smallholders and family farmers, including women and youth, is essential for achieving food security. Smallholders are particularly vulnerable to challenges related to climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, production risks, and access to markets, quality inputs, credit, and insurance.

The following commitments and actions were highlighted:

- Socioeconomic empowerment: Advancing the empowerment of smallholders, women, and youth by improving access to resources, knowledge, technology, finance, and markets.
- Policy instruments: Utilization of national strategic food reserves, soil health management, price stabilization measures, robust risk management mechanisms (including crop and livestock insurance), improved access to affordable credit, and strengthening of food-based social protection networks.

- Recognition of international initiatives: The ministers welcomed the outcome of the BRICS Agricultural Ministerial Dialogue on "Smallholders, Women, and Youth: Securing the Future of Food." They also recognized the UN General Assembly's designation of 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF), as well as the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), as key opportunities to enhance the visibility, leadership, and participation of smallholders, especially women and youth.
- Organizational models: The ministers encouraged the exchange of experiences on cluster farming, cooperatives, and other farmer organization models in crops and livestock, to increase collective bargaining power, input access, and productivity.
- Traditional knowledge and biodiversity: The role of farmers as custodians of traditional knowledge and seed heritage was acknowledged. The ministers committed to strengthening cooperation among BRICS countries to facilitate the exchange of information on legal protections and government schemes related to the protection of traditional knowledge.
- Launch of the Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems: This forum, coordinated by India through the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) in New Delhi, will operate primarily through virtual modalities. Its aim is to address shared challenges, advocate for effective policies, and encourage the documentation and sharing of traditional knowledge related to agriculture and seed systems. The forum will promote a balanced and inclusive approach, harmonizing farmers' rights with plant breeders' rights.

5. PRIORITY 2: AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND COOPERATION

The ministers expressed concern over the imposition of unilateral coercive measures that are inconsistent with international law and that harm international trade, food security, sustainable development, and farmers' livelihoods. In this regard, they reiterated their support for a fair, open, transparent, inclusive, equitable, non-discriminatory, and consensus-based multilateral trading system, underpinned by the WTO and other multilateral frameworks, with special and differential treatment for its developing members, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Key points in this area include:

- WTO agricultural negotiations: Commitment to advancing agricultural negotiations at the WTO, in accordance with existing ministerial mandates and relevant WTO agreements, with a view to making progress on long-standing issues and promoting a fair, balanced, and development-oriented agricultural trading system.
- Environmental and sustainability measures: The ministers emphasized that trade-related measures, including those addressing environmental and sustainability concerns, must remain transparent, non-discriminatory, and consistent with WTO rules, avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade.
- BRICS grain trading platform (BRICS Grain Exchange): The ministers recalled the Kazan and Rio Leaders' Declarations and recognized the importance of continuing to elaborate the initiative to establish a grain trading platform within the BRICS framework. They expressed readiness to collectively discuss and elaborate the modalities for its operation in order to make progress on the effective implementation of this multidimensional initiative.
- Strengthening the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (BARP): The ministers reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen BARP as a "Knowledge-to-Action" hub, through deeper linkages with universities, research institutions, extension systems, start-ups, and the private sector

in research and development, as well as through enhanced dissemination and communication mechanisms.

- **BRICS Agricultural Basic Information Exchange System (BAIES):** The continued use of BAIES was reaffirmed as a cooperation platform for deepening information exchange in the agri-food sector, including policies, institutional frameworks, agricultural trade and investment, research outcomes, as well as laws and regulations.
- **Agricultural input supply chain:** The ministers agreed to increase cooperation across the agricultural input supply chain, on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national laws and regulations, including strengthening fertilizer manufacturing in BRICS countries.
- **BRICS AGRIN:** The BRICS AGRIN (Agro-inputs, Genetic Resources, and Information Network) was established as a collaborative, non-binding, farmer-centric framework coordinated by India, to facilitate voluntary exchange of information and experiences, technology cooperation, and capacity-building, including seeds, genetic resources, and agricultural inputs.
- **Livestock:** The ministers recognized the importance of livestock for food security, nutrition, and rural livelihoods, but also acknowledged challenges such as emerging animal diseases, low productivity per animal, poor quality and scarcity of feed. They advocated for expanding collaboration on quality feed, intensifying cover crop systems, identifying and optimizing local feed resources, advanced genetic improvement, and strengthened animal health systems with next-generation vaccines, biosensors, genomic tools, and AI-based advisory services.
- **Fisheries and aquaculture:** Recognizing the fundamental role of these sectors in food security and income and employment generation, the ministers advocated for coordinated actions to address supply chain disruptions, improve productivity and climate resilience, expand fair trade, and enhance the livelihoods of artisanal fishers.

- Food loss and waste (FLW): The ministers recognized that FLW remains a major global challenge and advocated for coordinated actions to reduce them through research collaboration, technology exchange, and sharing of best practices, including in food reserve systems, digital traceability, strengthened food processing, and cold chain infrastructure.
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6. PRIORITY 3: REGENERATIVE, CLIMATE-RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The ministers recognized that farmers, particularly smallholders and family farmers, face increasing vulnerabilities arising from climate change, land degradation, and rising input costs. This underscores the imperative to enhance the accessibility and adaptability of farmer-centric and climate-resilient practices.

Key commitments include:

- Sustainable agricultural practices: Strengthening farmers' capacities to adopt locally appropriate practices, in line with national priorities, such as agroecology, green agriculture, regenerative farming systems, organic farming, and natural farming that reduce dependence on external inputs while restoring soil health and ecosystems.
- Sustainable land management: Promoting sustainable land management and improving soil health through productive and regenerative land use, which are crucial for food security and nutrition, rural development, and combating climate change.
- Rural exodus and rural revitalization: Recognizing that rural exodus undermines the future of smallholders and family farmers, the ministers advocated for the revitalization of rural areas and the restoration of degraded lands through regenerative agriculture and agroforestry,

generating new productive opportunities for rural youth and ensuring that women have equal access to land.

- **Network of Centers of Excellence on Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture:** A collaborative, demand-driven network was established, initially coordinated by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (IIFSR) in Modipuram as a Center of Excellence on Natural Farming. Its activities will include joint research, pilots and demonstrations; toolkit development; documentation of best practices; and facilitation of capacity-building initiatives.
- **Climate finance:** The ministers highlighted the need for new, additional, and predictable sources of climate finance to enable the implementation of climate actions, noting that current levels of global climate finance are insufficient to fully meet adaptation, resilience-building, and mitigation needs in agriculture. They encouraged the exchange of experiences on agricultural finance and insurance, as well as the engagement of the New Development Bank (NDB) in providing financial support for sustainable agriculture.
- **Traditional crops and local food systems:** The ministers recognized that local agricultural and food systems based on traditional crops, locally available, lower-cost, and aligned with local food practices, offer a viable path to increase resilience, strengthen food and nutritional security, and preserve traditional knowledge. They committed to strengthening BRICS cooperation through knowledge exchange, technology sharing, and promotion of best practices across the value chain of these crops.
- **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS):** The ministers reaffirmed the positive contribution of the GIAHS initiative to enhancing the resilience of traditional agriculture and safeguarding farmers' livelihoods, encouraging actions that conserve artisanal fisheries as a cultural heritage of BRICS.
- **Changes in consumption patterns:** The ministers recognized that building resilient and future-ready agriculture requires changes not only

in production but also in consumption patterns. They emphasized the promotion of sustainable lifestyles and practices, including reducing food loss and waste, valuing local and seasonal foods, and supporting diverse, locally appropriate, affordable, and nutritious diets.

7. PRIORITY 4: INNOVATION, INVESTMENTS, AND DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

The ministers recognized that rural economies continue to face systemic barriers, including limited digital connectivity, fragmented data systems, and unequal digital access for smallholders, family farmers, and artisanal fishers, which can undermine climate resilience, market transparency, and overall competitiveness.

Key commitments include:

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture: Advancing farmer-centric, accessible, inclusive, and interoperable digital systems to support farmers' planning and decision-making, as well as demonstration, documentation, capacity-building, joint research, and related initiatives.
- Integrated agricultural data platforms: Collaboration on integrated agricultural data platforms, including digital farming platforms, satellite-based crop monitoring, and digital extension services, to empower farmers with real-time data, in compliance with each country's laws and policies.
- Network on Digital Agriculture: Deepening cooperation through a Network on Digital Agriculture, including agroforestry, fisheries, and aquaculture, initially coordinated by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Delhi. This network will be developed through inclusive, consensus-based, and member-driven governance arrangements,

grounded in data sovereignty, secure and transparent data governance, and interoperable systems aligned with national frameworks.

- Affordable mechanization: Expanding inclusive access to affordable and farmer-friendly technologies and mechanization to address climate risks, reduce drudgery, and improve productivity and resource efficiency, particularly for smallholders, including small-scale fishers and aquaculturists.
 - Business partnerships: Encouraging business partnerships to drive intra-BRICS investment in locally produced machinery and equipment tailored to smallholders and family farmers, promoting cluster farming in both cropping and livestock systems.
 - South-South cooperation: Recognizing the irreplaceable importance of South-South cooperation in the agricultural sector to ensure food security, nutrition, and livelihoods for smallholders and family farmers in developing countries. The ministers acknowledged the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and the Global Partnership for Poverty Reduction and Development (GPPAD) as key initiatives for advancing international cooperation.
 - Exchange of personnel and skills: The ministers advocated for increased support for the exchange and cooperation of agricultural personnel and skills, improving the BRICS mechanism for such exchanges and leveraging existing multilateral and bilateral mechanisms.
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8. BRICS AGRIN

- Objective: To strengthen food security and agricultural resilience in BRICS countries by enabling collaborative, farmer-centric cooperation for access to quality seeds and planting materials, plant genetic resources (germplasm), fertilizers, bio-inputs, crop protection inputs, and other relevant agricultural inputs.
- Guiding principles:

- Respect for national sovereignty and collaborative participation.
 - Voluntary and non-binding nature.
 - Farmer-centric and climate-sensitive approach.
 - Flexibility and mutual benefit.
 - Compliance with applicable legal frameworks.
 - Fair and equitable benefit-sharing.
 - Areas of cooperation:
 - Access to seeds and planting materials.
 - Access to germplasm (plant genetic resources).
 - Agricultural inputs (fertilizers, bio-inputs, crop protection products).
 - Knowledge and information exchange (via BARP and BAIES).
 - Implementation: The Agricultural Working Group (AWG) will serve as the facilitating platform for coordination and progress review. India will coordinate the operation of the AGRIN framework through national focal points, which will report to the AWG. Participating countries may voluntarily share indicative offers and requests.
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9. OTHER SECTORAL DIALOGUES AND INITIATIVES

The ministers welcomed the outcomes of the engagement of BRICS members in three specific dialogues and encouraged their continued integration into joint cooperation initiatives and platforms:

- Dialogue on Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in BRICS
 - Dialogue on Advanced Livestock Technologies and Food Systems in BRICS
 - Dialogue on Food Loss and Waste (FLW) Reduction in BRICS
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10. IMPLEMENTATION, FOLLOW-UP, AND NEXT STEPS

The ministers agreed that all outcomes and initiatives under this Declaration will be implemented collaboratively, using existing platforms such as BARP, whenever appropriate.

Progress under the BRICS AGRIN framework will be periodically reported by the AWG based on information voluntarily shared by participating countries. The first interaction of the National Focal Points will take place within six months of adoption.

The ministers expressed deep gratitude to the Indian presidency for its leadership in advancing the agricultural agenda for the 16th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture.

Next meeting: The ministers looked forward to the next BRICS Ministers of Agriculture Meeting, to be hosted by China as the incoming BRICS president in 2027.

Report date: June 15, 2026

Reference document: Joint Declaration of the 16th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture (June 13, 2026, Indore, India)

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