



BUSINESSatOECD

Business at OECD (BIAC)

Food and Agriculture Committee

Annual Activity Report 2024

Message

from the Committee Chair

Dear Colleagues,

In 2024, we continued to make significant progress in fostering partnerships between the private and public sectors, emphasizing business initiatives as key drivers of innovative solutions to global challenges. By bringing together leaders, businesses, and policymakers, we provided a platform for dialogue highlighting main challenges in food and agriculture. Our discussions addressed challenges arising from climate change, innovation, and digitalization. These actions show the transformative potential of collaboration in creating sustainable solutions.

As part of our *Field of the Future* campaign, we organized an official side-event to the B20 Summit in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Building on this momentum, we are working closely with South Africa's B20 presidency in preparation for next year B20 Summit in South Africa. In November, for the third year in a row we partnered with AgriFood Lithuania in organizing the largest agrifood conference in the Baltic States – this year, under the *Field of the Future* title. With these initiatives, we aim to deepen our impact on food supply chains-from farm to fork-while contributing to a more sustainable global future.

This year also saw the successful launch of our inaugural *Agriculture and China* Forum. This event established a dynamic platform for constructive dialogue among industry leaders and key stakeholders, including OECD Ambassadors, senior OECD officials from many directorates, academia, and private sector representatives.

These events showcased innovative and sustainable solutions contributing to enhancing the food and agricultural sector, reinforcing our commitment to driving green growth across regions. These initiatives also marked another year of successfully integrating OECD and private sector perspectives into regional contexts.

As we look ahead to 2025, our Committee is poised to intensify its engagement with the OECD, advocating for policies that address the needs and priorities of our businesses. Our flagship campaigns, *Peace for Food* and *Field of the Future*, will remain central to our efforts. These initiatives underscore our commitment to enhancing global food security and building resilience across food and agricultural supply chains. I want to thank all our members, partners, and stakeholders for their active participation and unwavering commitment to our shared goals. Together, I look forward to pursuing impactful change and laying the groundwork for a more secure and sustainable future.



Metin Akman

Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Chair

Context

The OECD is a global leader of statistics, forecasts, and evidence-based policy recommendations in the area of food and agriculture. Its annual publications, such as *Monitoring and Evaluating Agricultural Policies* and the *OECD–FAO Agricultural Outlook*, are closely followed by policymakers and industry.

The OECD's policy work contributes to bettering food systems in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The OECD contributes actively to the G20, including through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

Business at OECD (BIAC) is the officially recognized business advisory group to the OECD and represents the leading business and employers' organizations in OECD countries. The work of our Food and Agriculture Committee enables private sector representatives to participate in high-level OECD sessions and regular policy meetings, exchange and network with governments and OECD leadership, access information and contribute to OECD policy recommendations, and build momentum with private sector peers to impact policy-making at all stages.

This activity report provides selected year highlights of the *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee in 2024, and includes a list of Committee releases and sessions. In line with the OECD's priorities and the efforts of many others in our Committees, our activities in 2024 focused on advancing discussions on sustainable productivity growth and the triple challenge through our Peace for Food campaign, as well as bringing discussions on innovation through our Field of the Future campaign on digitalization of agriculture and food sector.

Our activity highlights

February

In February, members of *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee participated in the B20 Brasil Sustainable Food Systems Task Force inception meeting. Our committee Chair Metin Akman led our delegation in series of meetings throughout the year reinforcing our role as a network partner for the B20.



(Our committee chair, Metin Akman, speaking at the B20 Sustainable Food Systems Task Force meeting, February 2024)

April

In April, our *Business at OECD* delegation participated in the session of the **OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Environment**, to discuss the OECD work on climate change mitigation in agriculture including agricultural resilience to natural disasters and environmental impacts in food systems, among other issues.



(OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Environment, April 2024)

May

In May, a *Business at OECD* delegation participated in the session of the **OECD and Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Environment Workshop** and the **Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade**, and convened business messages on aligning agricultural, trade and environmental policies, assessing the transmission of production shocks across the global value chain and other issues.

Our *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee convened in Paris and virtually to exchange members' agriculture priorities and discuss with Ms. Lee Ann Jackson, Head of OECD Agro-food Trade and Markets Division, the key priorities and an overview of future OECD work on agriculture.



(Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Members in Paris, May 2024)

Our delegation also attended the **OECD Committee for Agriculture**, where we reemphasized our business priorities in the context of the first discussion of the OECD proposed Programme of Work and Budget 2025-2026 and suggestions for the Global Forum on Agriculture for 2025.

Our activity highlights

Also in May, a large *Business at OECD* delegation participated in the meeting of the **OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets**, discussing issues such as measuring the impacts of agricultural policies, productivity-sustainability-resilience work and food systems work, among others.

June

In June, *Business at OECD* organized the first **Forum on Agriculture Sustainability and Green Growth in China**, which aimed to establish a meaningful platform for constructive dialogue and collaboration among industry leaders and key stakeholders, showcasing innovation and sustainable solutions contributing towards China's Green Development. Participants included OECD Ambassadors, OECD leadership from 4 different directorates, academia and private sector representatives.



(*Business at OECD Forum on Agriculture Sustainability and Green Growth in China, June 2024 – From the left: Alejandra Castro, Bayer, Jochem Wiers, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the OECD, Jo Tyndall, OECD Environment Director, Davide Cucino, Chair of Business at OECD China Expert Group and Colleen King, Eurasia Group, June 2024*)

This Forum included discussions on China and global climate governance, boosting green growth and the climate neutrality agenda, advancing China's green agenda through mitigation and adaptation, enhancing innovation infrastructure for sustainable input use via government-industry collaboration, and public-private collaboration for agricultural innovation and sustainable growth.

October

On 23 October, we organized a [B20 Summit side-event](#) titled '**Digital Farming: Enhancing Sustainability and Regenerative Agriculture**' in São Paulo, Brazil. As part of our *Field of the Future* campaign and back-to-back with the B20, our members actively participated in the campaign, leading up to the event to facilitated dialogue among global business leaders, and policy makers. Our members discussed sustainable agricultural practices and value chains, resilient food systems, biodiversity conservation, and equitable access to nutritious food.



(*Food and Agriculture Committee members convening in Sao-Paulo for the B20 Summit side-event on Digital Farming, with OECD Trade and Agriculture Director Ms. Marion Jansen, October 2024*)

Our activity highlights

Also in October, a delegation from our committee participated to the OECD Food Chain Analysis Network, which focused on measuring and communicating environmental impacts of food products. Through this participation we cemented our engagement with FCAN and are now regularly invited to these discussions.

A large *Business at OECD* delegation attended the **OECD Agriculture Week**, featuring key events aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The week kicked off with the International Conference on “**Sustainable Agricultural Productivity to Address Food Systems Challenges**,” where members participated and presented data-driven solutions for enhancing productivity in agricultural sector.

This event was followed by the **Global Forum on Agriculture 2024**, focusing on “Steering Policies towards Sustainable Agricultural Productivity,” where our Vice-Chair, Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė, emphasized the importance of aligning policies with sustainability goals.



(Our Food and Agriculture Committee Vice-Chair, Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė, speaking at the Global Forum on Agriculture 2024, October 2024)

The OECD Agriculture Week concluded with the **OECD Committee for Agriculture**, where our delegation emphasized the need of collaboration between policy makers and the private sector, reinforcing both *Business at OECD* and OECD's commitment to addressing the challenges within the agriculture sector.

At the margins of the latter, our *Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee* convened in Paris and virtually to exchange members' agriculture priorities and discuss with Ms. Lee Ann Jackson, Head of OECD Agro-food Trade and Markets Division, the key priorities and an overview of future OECD work on agriculture for the year 2025.



(Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting, October 2024)

Our activity highlights

November

In November, our members participated in both the **OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment** and the **OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade**, discussing issues such as measuring the impacts of agricultural policies, productivity-sustainability-resilience work and food systems work, among others.

On November 26, *Business at OECD* contributed to the **OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade**. The session included updates on ongoing and future work on agricultural trade, featuring topics such as trade-related measures linked to the environmental sustainability of agriculture. Our Food and our Agriculture Committee Vice-Chair, Benjamin Rivoire, participated in discussions aimed at advancing a stock take and typology of sustainability-linked trade measures.

In partnership with AgriFood Lithuania in November 2024 we again co-organized the Vilnius AgriFood Forum 2024 this year bringing it under the umbrella of our Field of the Future campaign.



(Rokas Morkunas, Policy Manager, *Business at OECD* speaking at the AgriFood Forum in Vilnius, Lithuania, November 2024)

The Forum gathered digital innovation hubs, government representatives, as well as OECD and EU high-level officials to discuss some of the most pressing challenges for the agriculture sector in the Baltic region.

Our members also participated in the meeting of the **OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets**, discussing among others agriculture policies to build system-wide resilience in agrifood value chains and climate change adaptation policies to foster resilience in agriculture.

December

In December, our committee chair Metin Akman was invited to speak at a Seminar on China, Global Food Resilience, and the OECD, organized by the delegation of Netherlands to the OECD. During the seminar, Metin provided business perspective for OECD's cooperation with China and exchanged on potential next steps.



(From the left: Jochem Wiers, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the OECD, Erik Smidt, Agricultural Counsellor at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Beijing, Marion Jansen, OECD Trade and Agriculture Director and Metin Akman, December 2024)

Sessions

Our Meetings with the OECD and Governments

Business at OECD Sessions

20 May

Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting

25 June

Business at OECD Forum on Agricultural Sustainability and Green Growth in China

23 October

Business at OECD Field of the Future Roundtable / B20 Side event in Brazil

30 October

Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting

Engagement in OECD Fora

28 October

OECD Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Productivity to Address Food Systems Challenges: Measurement, Data, Drivers and Policies

29 October

OECD Global Forum on Agriculture

Engagement in OECD Committee Sessions

21-23 May

OECD Committee for Agriculture (COAG)

30-31 May

OECD Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

29-30 October

OECD Committee for Agriculture (COAG)

28 November

OECD Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

Engagement in OECD Working Party Sessions

OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE)	8-9 April
OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPAT)	14 May
OECD Joint JWPAT and JWPAE workshop	15 May
OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)	16-17 May
OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)	27-28 September
OECD Food Chain Analysis Network (FCAN)	10-11 October
OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE)	7-8 November
OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPAT)	26 November
OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)	27-28 November

Our **key releases**



[Key Highlights of the Agriculture and China Forum](#) (June 2024)

Agriculture Sustainability and Green Growth in China

The key messages from the four panels from the Forum highlighted on the critical role of supporting smallholder farmers in transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices, the importance of global efforts in food system transformation and methane reduction, the necessity of regulatory clarity for advancements in genome editing, and the challenges and opportunities in transforming the food system at the farm level. These discussions highlight a collective commitment to environmental sustainability, technological innovation, and the economic well-being of smallholder farmers.



[Field of the Future Roundtable Statement](#) (January 2024)

Global policies to enable the digital transformation of agriculture and contribute to addressing climate change challenges

The *Business at OECD (BIAC) Field of the Future* campaign was launched on 27 November 2023 at a high-level roundtable bringing together stakeholders from the public and private sector. The statement report is a summary of the roundtable discussions, highlighting the role of digital farming and innovations in the field.

Committee Leadership

Chair

Metin Akman

Trouw Nutrition Turkey (Türkiye)

Vice Chair

Gabriela Wurcel

FMC Corporation (US)

Vice Chair

Martin Schäfer

BASF SE (Germany)

Vice Chair

**Kristina Šermukšnytė -
Alešiūnienė**

AgriFood Lithuania DIH (Lithuania)

Vice Chair

Paul Kelly

Ibec (Ireland)

Vice Chair

Natasha Santos

Bayer (Germany)

Vice Chair

Mark Ball

Syngenta (Switzerland)

Vice Chair

Benjamin Rivoire

International Seeds Federation
(International)

Vice Chair

Verónica Puente

FIAB (Spain)



Selected highlights from our Forum on Agriculture Sustainability and Green Growth in China, June 2024



BUSINESSatOECD

Contact



Rokas Morkunas

Policy Manager and Member Engagement
morkunas@biac.org

13-15 Chaussée De La Muette - 75016 Paris - France
contact@biac.org | [@BusinessatOECD](https://twitter.com/BusinessatOECD) | www.businessatoecd.org

Established in 1962, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) stands for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and societal prosperity. Through *Business at OECD*, national businesses and employers' federations representing over 10 million companies provide and receive expertise via our participation with the OECD and governments promoting competitive economies and better business.