



Open letter addressed to:

But Sánchez Pérez-Castejon. Office of the President. Moncloa Complex, Avda. 28071, Madrid.

Teresa Ribera Rodríguez. Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. Plaza de San Juan de la Cruz, 28003, Madrid.

Alberto Carlos Garzón Espinosa. Ministry of Consumer Affairs. Paseo del Prado, 18-20. 28014. Madrid.

Luis Planas Cuchades. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Palace of Public Works. Pº de la Infanta Isabel, 1. 28014. Madrid.

Sergio Antonio García Torres. Directorate General for Animal Rights. Ministry of Social Affairs and the 2030 Agenda. Paseo del Prado, 18-20. 28014. Madrid.

We hereby express to Your Honor the urgent need for the executive branch to immediately commit to our demand: **to end livestock subsidies and use them to promote environmentally and socially responsible plant-based alternatives.** Plant Future is a civil disobedience movement aiming to drive a transition toward a fair and sustainable plant-based food system. This transition aims to halt the climate crisis, mitigate its worst effects, and guarantee animal and social justice.

Livestock farming is neither environmentally nor economically sustainable. This activity is destroying the planet and needlessly cruelly treating millions of animals every day. In Spain alone, 2,300,000 land animals are slaughtered every day, of which approximately 2,000,000 are poultry.

We are grounded in science, which has proven that livestock and fishing are a leading cause of the climate crisis. Greenhouse gas emissions from the animal industry(1) exceed the direct emissions of all global transportation. For this and other reasons, the climate emergency cannot be addressed without addressing the animal emergency. We demand that the self-proclaimed "most progressive government in history" tell the truth and act now to ensure a prosperous future for future generations, the planet, and animals.

In recent years, we've seen a rise in interest in veganism and a reduction in meat consumption. Today, it's easy to find plant-based sections at affordable prices in local chains and supermarkets, and 100% plant-based options in restaurants. Furthermore, there's a constant increase in concern(2) regarding climate change. Concepts such as "climate anxiety" or "eco-anxiety" (3), coined 10 years ago, are already evident realities in the new

generations. It is worth highlighting the scientific evidence that the production of plant foods can provide all the nutrients to sustain the world's human population in a healthy manner with significantly less resource use(4) .

Google Trends, Google's keyword research tool, confirms the above. Searches related to the words "veganism," "vegan," and "vegetarian" have skyrocketed since 2014. (5)

. Studies also confirm these trends, reaching the media that increasingly echoes them. We find, for example, that 75% of Gen Z (6) want to reduce meat consumption and 60% want to switch to a plant-based diet; that university cafeterias in Berlin (7) reduce their meat supply to a minimum and that meat substitutes grow by more than 30% (8) . This September, the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly (9) in favor of tax reforms to send signals to consumers that lead to a more plant-based food model, being important for Spain to adapt to this trend and, ideally, lead it.

The production of animal-based foods in our country creates dependence on plant-based products to produce animal feed on other continents, and an aberrant amount of soy is currently imported from countries in the Global South. This makes food sovereignty, a model based on proximity, and the bioeconomy unviable.

Circular economy and resilience to international supply chains. This system also brings problems of economic instability and job insecurity in our country, as it causes the profits derived from the food industry to be concentrated in a few hands, leaving women workers in precarious situations.

In addition, livestock farming entails other major problems such as:

- Aquifer contamination with slurry. Thousands of Spanish citizens cannot drink tap water due to nitrate contamination.
- Deforestation of tropical rainforests (e.g., the Amazon) for plant production for livestock feed; and the resulting impact on habitat and biodiversity loss. Land use in an animal-based system is much greater than with a plant-based food system.
- Massive use of antibiotics. 80% of antibiotics are used in food production. animal; having serious consequences by creating superbacteria.
- Zoonotic diseases and the risk of pandemics. This is clearly explained in the joint report of the OIE, WHO and FAO in 2004(10). , already defined the factors that lead to the emergence of zoonotic diseases. This report details that the anthropogenic factors include:
 - o Globalized travel
 - o the Urbanization
 - o Expansion of agriculture (this factor is directly related to livestock farming, since a large amount of plants are needed to make feed for animals. See *Charts 1 and 2*),
 - o Habitat destruction (closely related to the previous point)
 - o Deforestation (caused mainly by the production of beef and foods such as soy (*Chart 3*). The main current use of

Soybeans are the production of feed for poultry and the pig sector (Chart 4).
 o Trade in domestic and exotic animals, o Intensification of animal protein production.

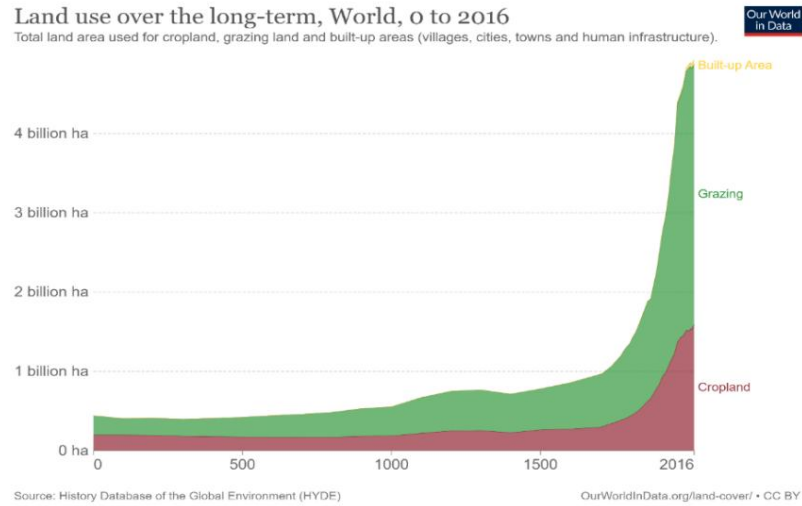


Chart 1: Number of hectares used in agriculture. History Database of The Global Environment.

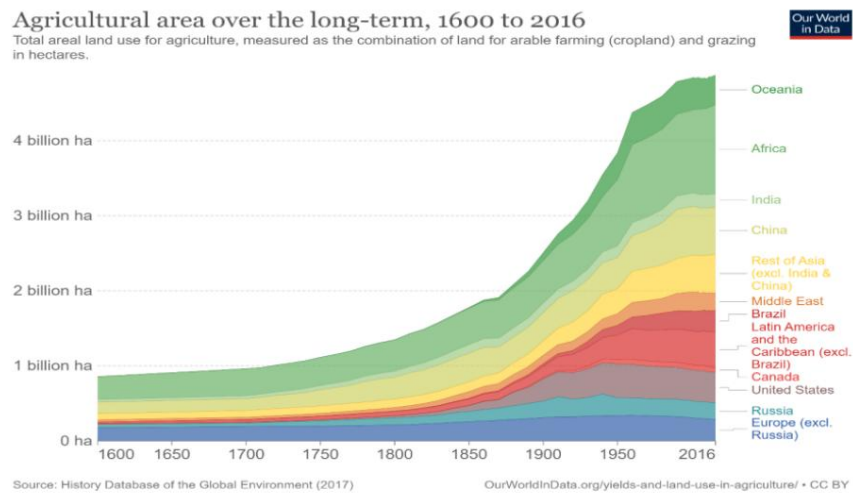


Chart 2: Number of hectares used for agriculture by continent. History Database of the Global Environment.

What are the drivers of tropical deforestation?

Nearly all of global deforestation occurs in tropical and subtropical countries. 70% to 80% is driven by conversion of primary forest to agriculture or tree plantations. Shown is the breakdown of these drivers averaged over the years 2005 to 2013. Further observations since 2013 suggest that drivers have not changed substantially over this period.

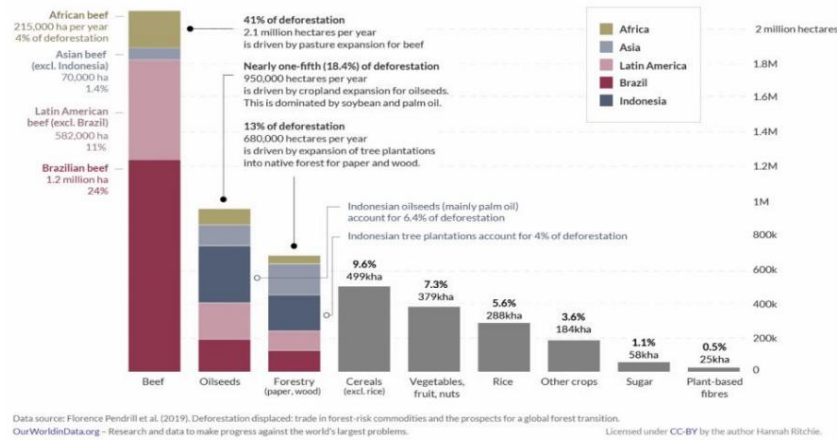


Chart 3: Deforestation by product. Florence Pendrill 2019

The World's Soy: is it used for Food, Fuel, or Animal Feed?

Shown is the allocation of global soy production to its end uses by weight. This is based on data from 2017 to 2019.

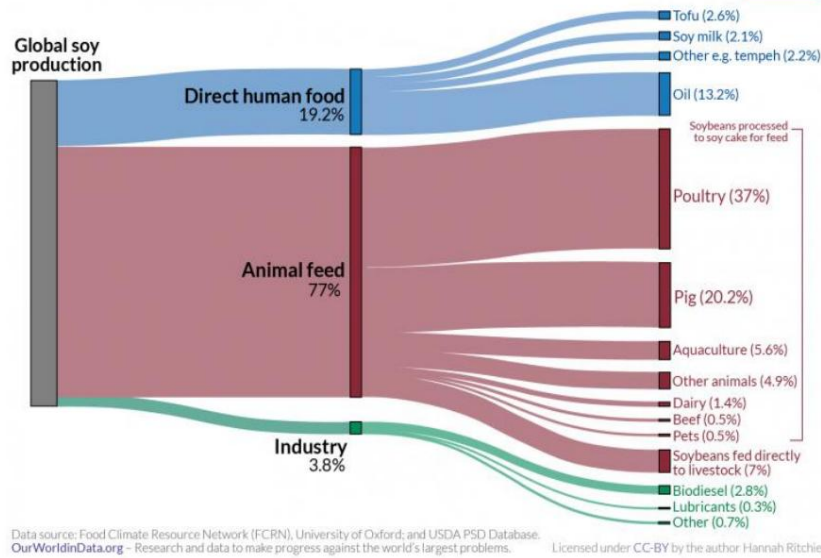


Chart 4: Current soy use by product. Food Climate Resource Network

To stop climate change, we must change the food system. This statement can be based on recent studies (11) and FAO reports (12).

and the IPCC(13) . The reports of the IPCC (the working group The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the foundation of knowledge in the field of global climate action. These reports are published on the website of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. According to the IPCC, the most effective diet for curbing climate change is a plant-based diet (14).

This is also evidenced by other studies, such as the study by the University of California, which estimates that a transition to a 100% plant-based food system would allow a 42% reduction in emissions that must be reduced to limit the increase

of global average temperature to 1.5°C relative to pre-industrial levels or 52% to avoid exceeding 2°C. This would bring us closer to the greenhouse gas reduction targets; avoiding huge economic sacrifices in other industries and saving resources through a more efficient food system (15)

We demand immediate action to end the ecocide of livestock farming.

It is possible to transform the industry into plant-based food production, creating new jobs. **It is necessary to help the animal production industry escape this unsustainable, toxic system. We demand that they be helped with technical advice and financial aid.** Current subsidies currently sustain this system, which is not viable in the long term. These same subsidies can be used to accelerate a transition to 100% plant-based, decentralized, and local production, which will generate jobs throughout the country—especially in the so-called "Empty Spain"—as well as promote food sovereignty and mitigate the impact of climate change.

If this demand is ignored, we will be forced to break the law through nonviolent civil disobedience to force them to explain to the public why they, as a government, are failing to act. This is not something we want, but we are left with no options.

Sincerely,

Future Vegetable Activities.

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Sources:

- (1) *Livestock's Long Shadow, environmental issues and options* . FAO, 2006.
- (2) *A climate of anxiety. The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*. February, 2021
- (3) www.newtral.es/ansiedad-climatica-salud-mental-emergencia-climatica/20210818/
- (4) <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27886704/>
- (5) <https://trends.google.es/trends/explore?geo=ES&q=vegano,vegan,vegetariano>
- (6) www.forbes.com/sites/bernhardschoeder/2019/09/13/how-generation-z-is-creating-the-opportunity-of-a-lifetime-pay-attention-as-this-is-not-a-fad-but-a-deep-long-lasting-trend/?sh=445231c92bf8

(7) <https://www.dw.com/es/los-comedores-universitarios-de-berl%C3%ADn-reduce-their-meat-supply-to-a-minimum-to-protect-the-climate/a-59043662>

(8) <https://www.lavanguardia.com/economia/20210906/7701461/sustitutos-vegetales-meat-grow-more-30.html#:~:text=The%20market%20for%20substitutes,data%20from%20the%20coconsultant%20Nielsen.>

(9) <https://tappcoalition.eu/nieuws/16969/eu-parliament-majority-asks-for--true-pricing-food-products--and-highest-vat-tariff-for-products-like-meat>

(10) https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/68899/WHO_CDS_CPE_ZFK_2004.9.pdf

(11) <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aag0216>

(12) <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/197623/icode/>

(13) www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_Chapter2_Low_Res.pdf, page 95.

(14) www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2021/02/08_Chapter-5_3.pdf, page 488.

(15) *Rapid global phaseout of animal agricultura has the potential to stabilize greenhouse gas levels for 30 years and offset 68% of CO2 emissions this century. Eisen and Brown. 2022.*