

CCFSA CLIMATE
CHANGE AND
FOOD
SECURITY
ASSOCIATION

Code of Ethics

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CODE OF ETHICS POLICY

Member:	• all board members/trustees, board committee members • all association employees, secondees, interns and volunteers; and • all consultants/contractors/suppliers (including internal consultants with an association email address) • all association partners
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Preamble

The Climate Change and Food Security Association (CCFSA) acknowledges the profound and intertwined global crises of climate change and food security. These challenges demand immediate and ethical action, guided by a strong moral compass and a commitment to the well-being of both humanity and the planet. This Code of Ethics serves as a comprehensive framework for ethical conduct, informing the actions of all members, staff, partners, and affiliates of CCFSA. It articulates our shared values, guiding principles, and expectations for responsible engagement in research, advocacy, and community collaboration.

I. Foundational Values

- **Integrity:** We are committed to honesty, transparency, and accountability in all our operations, fostering trust and credibility among our stakeholders. This includes accurately representing data, acknowledging limitations, and disclosing any potential biases in our research and advocacy.
- **Respect:** We recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals and communities, embracing diversity and fostering an inclusive environment free from discrimination and harassment. We value diverse perspectives and strive to understand and address the unique needs and concerns of all stakeholders.
- **Collaboration:** We believe in the power of collective action and actively seek partnerships with organizations and individuals who share our commitment to addressing climate change and food security. We promote open communication, knowledge sharing, and mutual respect in all our collaborative endeavors.
- **Sustainability:** We champion solutions that balance environmental, social, and economic considerations, promoting long-term resilience and well-being for both present and future generations. We advocate for responsible resource management, ecological conservation, and equitable access to food and resources.
- **Excellence:** We strive for the highest standards of quality and rigor in our research, analysis, advocacy, and community engagement. We are committed to continuous learning and improvement, seeking innovative approaches to address the complex challenges of climate change and food security.

II. Ethical Principles and Practices

A. Research and Advocacy

- **Scientific Rigor:** We adhere to the principles of scientific integrity, employing robust methodologies, ensuring data accuracy, and maintaining transparency in our research and analysis. We are committed to peer review and open access to our findings, promoting accountability and facilitating knowledge dissemination.
- **Evidence-Based Advocacy:** Our advocacy efforts are grounded in sound scientific evidence, rigorous analysis, and ethical considerations. We prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations and advocate for policies that promote equitable and sustainable solutions to climate change and food security challenges.
- **Intellectual Honesty:** We acknowledge and respect the intellectual contributions of others, properly citing sources and avoiding plagiarism. We promote open dialogue and constructive debate, valuing diverse perspectives and fostering intellectual growth.

B. Community Engagement

- **Participatory Approach:** We recognize the importance of community ownership and actively engage with local communities, incorporating their knowledge, perspectives, and priorities into our work. We strive to build long-term relationships based on trust, mutual respect, and shared goals.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** We approach community engagement with cultural humility, recognizing and respecting the diverse cultural values, beliefs, and practices of the communities we serve. We strive to avoid imposing external solutions and instead work collaboratively to develop culturally appropriate and context-specific interventions.
- **Empowerment and Capacity Building:** We aim to empower communities to actively participate in decision-making processes and build their capacity to address climate change and food security challenges. We provide access to information, resources, and training opportunities, fostering self-reliance and promoting sustainable development.

C. Organizational Conduct

- **Transparency and Accountability:** We maintain transparent financial practices, ensuring accountability to our members, donors, and the public. We regularly publish financial reports and undergo independent audits, demonstrating our commitment to responsible stewardship of resources.
- **Conflict of Interest Management:** We have mechanisms in place to identify, disclose, and manage potential conflicts of interest. We strive to avoid any situation that could compromise our objectivity, integrity, or reputation.
- **Non-Discrimination and Equity:** We are committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all, free from discrimination and harassment. We promote equal opportunities and strive to ensure that our programs and activities are accessible to all, regardless of background or identity.
- **Confidentiality and Data Protection:** We respect the privacy of individuals and protect confidential information. We comply with all applicable data protection laws and regulations, ensuring the secure and responsible handling of sensitive data.
- **Whistleblowing and Safe Reporting:** We encourage a culture of ethical conduct and provide safe and confidential channels for reporting any concerns or suspected violations of this Code of Ethics. We will investigate all reports promptly and thoroughly, taking appropriate action to address any confirmed violations.

III. Implementation, Monitoring, and Enforcement

- **Dissemination and Training:** This Code of Ethics will be readily accessible to all members, staff, partners, and affiliates of CCFSA. We will conduct regular training sessions to ensure that everyone understands and adheres to its principles.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** We will establish mechanisms to monitor compliance with this Code of Ethics and evaluate its effectiveness. This includes regular reviews of our policies, procedures, and practices, as well as soliciting feedback from our stakeholders.
- **Accountability and Enforcement:** We will take appropriate disciplinary action in cases of confirmed violations of this Code of Ethics. This may include, but is not limited to, warnings, reprimands, suspension, or termination of membership or employment.

IV. Continuous Improvement

- **Periodic Review and Updates:** This Code of Ethics is a living document that will be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. We will consider feedback from our stakeholders and adapt the Code to reflect evolving ethical standards and best practices.
- **Open Dialogue and Feedback:** We encourage all members, staff, partners, and affiliates to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement of this Code of Ethics. We believe that continuous dialogue and reflection are essential for maintaining high ethical standards and promoting a culture of accountability.

By upholding this Code of Ethics, we, the members and partners of the Climate Change and Food Security Association, reaffirm our commitment to ethical conduct, responsible research, and collaborative action. We believe that by embodying these principles, we can effectively contribute to a more just, sustainable, and food-secure future for all.