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## Accelerating the transition to sustainable food systems

Marina Nahmias founded the Fondation Daniel & Nina Carasso (FDNC) in 2010 in memory of her parents, Daniel Carasso, founder of the Danone Company, and his wife Nina. From the beginning, sustainable food has been in its DNA, as well as arts, the family passion. One of the foundation's first activities was to establish the Daniel Carasso Prize, which honours outstanding multidisciplinary research on sustainable food.

In 2019, following an 18-month process to realign the foundation's strategy and programmes under a common vision of a more sustainable, just and equitable world, a new 5 years strategy has been implemented. Climate issues are addressed throughout all our programmes.

Our work on sustainable food is focused all along the value chain ("from seeds to waste") and has three main objectives:

- Spreading the vision of sustainable food systems through promoting research and shaping the global debate;
- Promoting food democracy to ensure the right to safe, nutritious food that has been justly produced and the right to participate in decisions determining access to food for all, with a specific focus on local food governance;
- Accelerating the transition to agroecological practices and systems.

An important milestone has been the creation of 'The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems' (IPES-Food) to promote sustainable food systems around the world. The group consists of about 30 international experts as well as experienced practitioners from civil society and social movements. One of IPES-Food's first reports advocates a paradigm shift from industrial agriculture to diversified agroecological systems. Today, IPES-Food is an independent organisation and an influential voice in policies on food and nutrition in Europe.

Through requests for proposals, Fondation Carasso also supports smaller initiatives. To scale their impact, this year we have decided to target more traditional farmers who would like to make the transition to sustainable practices, providing them with advice and know-how through peer exchange with farmers who have already managed the transition successfully.

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Working on climate issues also means aligning your investments with your charitable objectives. This is possibly the most powerful tool foundations have to tackle the climate crisis. Fondation Carasso joined the DivestInvest initiative in 2015. Since then we have developed an investment charter and decarbonised our investments. We have also put 15% of our capital into impact investments, with a minimum of 6% related to climate issues.

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## Recommendations for funders

- Ensure that the way your endowment is invested is aligned with your philanthropic commitment.
- Raise awareness about sustainable food systems among citizens and decision-makers. Foundations focusing on education could educate consumers on healthy and sustainable diets or advocate for better food labelling.
- Support research on solutions that will allow us to mitigate the impact of climate change and build resilience.
- Use your convening power to facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation to develop new solutions.