

Farmers' Major Group

Statement on Transportation

CSD-18

Mister Chairman,

In many developing countries, sustainable practices are difficult to implement due to the lack of financial resources, infrastructure and services. This represents a major constraint on the competitiveness and profitability of the agricultural sector.

Investment must be focused on infrastructure, especially roads, as well as on-farm storage and processing facilities that reduce post-harvest losses. Reducing production losses and food wastage are key elements for sustainable development. Some estimates of post harvest losses are as high as 40%. It is time FAO studied that question and updated those figures.

Farmers need to have adequate transportation infrastructure, local storage facilities including cold chain storage for food preservation to reduce losses. We encourage projects like the corridors' approach being taken in Africa.

Farmers also need access to food processing facilities and scientific post harvest management.

A related issue concerns food wastage during the processing and consumption phases. This includes products that do not meet trade quality standards. Information and training on food quality standards is needed in order to change the food chain actors' behaviours, including the behaviour of consumers.

Finally, significant financial resources and political will are needed to **strengthen farmers' organizations** to better address food security and sustainable patterns in production and consumption. These resources must be accessible to all stakeholders who are essential for underpinning the needed advances in the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of agriculture approaches, especially to farmers and their associations.