

Statement by Farmers' Major Group

On Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

CSD-18

Mister Chairman,

The Farmer's Major Group appreciates the opportunity to have this type of dialogue on partnerships. We would like to offer some specific points under each thematic cluster which we believe, along with our Farming First colleagues in other major groups, will further the goals of this thematic cluster and can be achieved through partnership.

In each case, we believe there are examples of partnerships working in these areas, whether UN or by others.

In the area of Sustainable production and consumption

- Promote access to improved tools to optimize resources use (e.g. drip irrigation) and access to recycling schemes (e.g. container recycling)
- Build local storage, including cold storage, and transport facilities to help reduce post-harvest crop losses
- Improve supply chain efficiency and provide remote access to market information, to help farmers grow crops that are in demand, thus ensuring profitability and minimising the amount of crops that go to waste.
- Educate the public on the impact of food waste and improve access to composting facilities

In the area of Waste Management

- Provide incentives for adoption of best practices to encourage recycling and better land and water management.
- Improve delivery systems for key resources, such as water, to limit waste
- Increase the level of education on agricultural waste through training programmes for farmers and local communities, including practices to minimize waste, as well as treat and dispose of waste properly With appropriate systems of recycling

- Build storage facilities, including cold storage, and improve transportation networks to minimise losses in storage, transformation and transportation.
- Develop uses and markets for parts of plants that may be underutilised or discarded – for example using stems or leaves to produce bio-energy.

In the area of Chemical management

- Improve and promote access to best practice and sound chemical management, such as through Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Fertilizer Best Management Practices (FBMP), and container management best practices.
- Improve access to appropriately packaged inputs (e.g. small or one use packaging)
- Promote capacity building with farmers to meet trade standards
- Improve supply chain management of chemicals through training of distributors and local suppliers

In the area of Transportation

- Invest in and build infrastructure – particularly roads and ports – to make supplies available to farmers and for farmers to access markets and to use a corridors approach
- Build transportation facilities in developing regions to reduce the amount of food lost during production and transformation phases of the food chain.

We encourage you to visit the web site farmingfirst.org and the ifap.org for more information and some excellent examples of these principles in action. We are very proud of the partnerships we have created with a wide array of stakeholders, including national and regional governments, NGOs, the private sector, the science community, and others. Thus we find the Director's proposition to look at partnerships as a means to further implementation of CSD policies has great merit.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.