

SBSTA adaptation workshop

Intervention by the Farmers Constituency, Bonn, May 2016

Thank you co-chair for the opportunity to address this workshop directly.

Our Constituency represents millions of farmers from all corners of the world, from smallholder subsistence farmers to large scale farmers, those planting crops, raising livestock, fisher folk and those practising silviculture. Farmers, especially those in developing countries, are already dealing with climate change risks and threats so have identified five key elements to help identify and deliver successful adaptation.

We have to empower farmers by putting them at the centre of discussions and action to enable rapid access to and exchange of information and knowledge. For example, the development of better risk management skills and new tools such as weather and pest and disease forecasting at farm-appropriate temporal and spatial scales. But we also know that local and indigenous farmer knowledge is invaluable and farmers are inherently adaptive so we have to retain, utilise, and build on this.

Investment, investment, investment: in research and development and extension services; in securing access to water and land; to stimulate and encourage innovation and technology transfer; and in the development of robust rural infrastructure. Securing crop and livestock genetic diversity, research and access to sustainable technologies, and ensuring ecological integrity are some of the components to increasing farming's future independence and resilience. Farmers can be incredibly innovative so practice can change quickly - this creativity needs to be harnessed and encouraged.

Profitability and a positive facilitative approach are integral to give farmers the confidence to invest for a sustainable but uncertain longer-term future. This includes the need for a fair and ambitious financing framework, particularly for farmers in developing countries and access to affordable credit, recognising the benefit of multiple sources of income for farming families.

A one-size fits all approach is not appropriate for the diversity of farming systems across the world and the combination of economic, environmental and social drivers, pressures and goals unique to each farm and farmer, recognising the particular importance of considering women and farmers of the future.

Good work is already underway so let's build on what's already been achieved. There is a need to avoid duplication of effort and use the (financial and human) resources available to fill in the gaps in knowledge and activity.

Thank you