

**SBSTA productivity workshop
Intervention by the Farmers Constituency, Bonn, May 2016**

Thank you co-chairs for responding to our request 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 already aim to improve productivity in a sustainable manner alongside food security and resilience, so have identified five key elements to help deliver further enhancements.

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 and build capacity. But we also know that local and indigenous farmer knowledge is invaluable so we have to retain, utilise, and build on this.

What we need is investment: in research and development and extension services; in securing access to water and land; to stimulate and encourage innovation and technology transfer. Programmes to incentivise energy efficiency and renewables are needed to both ensure access to sustainable energy and to enable farmers to add value to their products through processing.

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.

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. Better management of soil, water, nutrients, and livestock health and nutrition are important priorities in delivering productivity improvements alongside realistic reductions in GHG emission intensity. Agriculture is also unique in its ability to manage existing carbon stores and in its aims to sequester additional carbon.

Good work is already underway so let's build on what's already been achieved. We can provide you with specific examples if required. 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 towards global food security.

Thank you