

Farmers ADP Closing Plenary Statement – November 22nd 2013

Our food and farming systems are now facing multiple threats and the ecosystem functions that underpin them are increasingly degraded, unstable and unpredictable. It's not only the food security and livelihoods of 1.5 billion small producers in the developing world that are under threat - it is agriculture everywhere. The climate has changed and agriculture must change. Agriculture is at the heart of this convention and must therefore be at the heart of the 2015 agreement.

The agreement must include the necessary means of implementation, including capacity building, appropriate knowledge and technology transfer, and the finance required to enable the world's farmers to manage our ecosystems in a way that helps to ensure food security, sustainable development and poverty alleviation including utilizing the huge potential that biodiversity rich forms of agriculture can have in stabilizing our ecosystems – including climate. Furthermore the agreement must put us on an emissions reduction pathway that realizes one of the ultimate objectives of this Convention - ensuring that food production is not threatened.

The agreement must respect the rights of farmers and local communities and ensure they are at the heart of decision-making on issues related to climate change and their livelihoods. The agreement must be aligned with the work of the Committee on World Food Security including its role in facilitating country-lead multi-stakeholder assessments on sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition. The agreement must also take into account negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda as well as the important work of UNCCD in addressing land degradation, desertification and drought.

To this end the Farmers constituency is united in its call for the urgent establishment of a SBSTA work programme on agriculture as a critical step towards embedding effective and appropriate action on agriculture in the framework of the 2015 agreement.