

CAN Intervention for Agriculture Workshop
Practices and Technologies to Increase Productivity, Food Security and Resilience
To be delivered 23 May 2016

Thank you Co-Chairs. My name is Tonya Rawe, and I'm speaking on behalf of Climate Action Network.

We all recognize the challenge of tackling hunger in the face of climate change – a top priority for developing countries - and the need to ensure food systems meet socio-economic *and* environmental imperatives. The latter is and should be a particular priority for countries with high non-CO2 emissions from the agriculture sector.

After Paris and under the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing only on productivity -- higher yields – is not enough and never has been. Approaches must go further to address poverty, social justice, environmental sustainability, and governance, critical elements to address all aspects of food security and increase climate resilience. A growing scientific consensus and SDG12 also show that we must address sustainable consumption. Parties would do well to begin this discussion.

Examining practices and technologies through a justice and equality lens is vital to ensure all food producers -- including small-scale food producers and women - have the capacity, information, resources, and power to access and use appropriate techniques.

Climate policies encompassing agriculture must reflect, protect and promote the principles of food security and the right to food, biodiversity preservation, animal welfare, equitable access to resources, gender equality, and the rights of indigenous peoples and local populations. These social and environmental principles underpin agroecological approaches.

FAO's 2014 Agroecology Symposium confirmed the increasing recognition that agroecology is a key strategy for ensuring food security in a changing climate. Agroecological practices improve soils' health and water carrying capacity *and* empower food producers to access decision-making. Agroecology prioritizes local knowledge and resources over reliance on external inputs. It promotes cultivating a diversity of locally-adapted crops, enabling farmers to spread risk and ensure a harvest, despite unpredictable weather patterns, and to diversify diets.

Agroecology thus increases resilience *and* productivity, as well as reliability of production while addressing justice issues neglected in other agriculture paradigms.

Going forward, SBSTA can support vulnerable communities, small-scale food producers, and women by promoting a transition to effective agro-ecological strategies and helping address learning gaps in how climate change impacts all four aspects of food security and different food producer populations.