- Thank you Mr Co-chair. And thank you to all the speakers who have made contributions to the workshop already.
- I would like to start by recognising the quality of the submissions that have been made by Parties ahead of these workshops.
- Noting the request for a workshop report does not reference these submissions, I would like to refer the secretariat to all of the submissions made by Parties, and request that, where applicable, information contained in these submissions is included in the workshop report.
- I think this is vitally important to ensure the important supplementary information contained in these submissions is not lost, but rather reflected in the workshop report and further considered at future sessions.
- Moving on to New Zealand experiences on this issue.

- In regards to early warning systems, a drought monitor is operated in New Zealand by our national climate monitoring and modelling agency

- This drought monitor uses soil moisture plots and a climate outlook model to develop a forecast for the soil moisture conditions and drought risk that will persist over New Zealand for the following three months.

- The climate model is reflective of current risk associated with el nino or la nina, which significantly impacts wind and rain fall patterns in New Zealand, and was also mentioned by Costa Rica on behalf of AILAC and Australia, so I suggest this is suitable to be picked up as a common theme.

- This climate forecast is available to farmers directly but also widely reported by rural media such as weekly newspapers.

- In New Zealand, a government response to an extreme weather event, such as a drought, or a flood, is centred on the key principle that the primary responsibility for risk management lies with individuals.
- This approach is obviously designed for the New Zealand context and risk profile, and will not be appropriate for every global context.
- Under this response plan, the New Zealand Government is not the insurer of first or last resort, but rather provides recovery assistance only when the scale of the event is beyond the capacity of the community to cope.
- Assistance is in the form of normal welfare assistance for farming families, recovery information and advice, or the rebuilding of community infrastructure, but does not compensate farmers for the climate event.

- The policy is designed to create appropriate community assistance without taking away the need and incentive for farmers to adequately manage the risks posed by climate change as part of regular business practice.
- Government policy in relation to extreme weather events is focussed on ensuring that farmers:
    - have access to timely information on expected climate change, and therefore farmers **recognise the need to adapt**,
    - face full natural incentives, and therefore have an **incentive to adapt**, and
    - that farmers have access to timely information on practices to manage the risk of a changing climate, and therefore an **ability to adapt**.
- In essence, the best contingency plans are developed at the farm level and allow farmers to become more resilient to an increase in extreme weather events.
- To support the ability of farmers to develop such plans,
    - Government works closely with farming organisations, including "train the trainer" programmes to ensure rural professions are informed on climate change and adaptation options;
    - A government website "climatecloud" contains over 30 case studies of farmers developing management options to adapt to climate change and mitigate the effects of extreme weather events
    - Government has developed a report detailing farm management options for different land use systems. This is available as both a technical or stakeholder report
- The stakeholder report, which has served as an educational tool for farmers, rural professionals and students, was particularly well received.
- Farmers and rural professionals found the focus on farming practice changes rather than high level detail on changes to climate risk, more meaningful and tangible for them as land managers making day to day and long term farm management decisions.
- The focus on practices that could increase productivity and efficiency in light of changing climactic conditions was particularly meaningful and useful for New Zealand land managers.
- For those who have an interest I have a copy of the stakeholder report here available for sharing, and also offer this report to the secretariat for consideration in the workshop reports.