

SBSTA Opening Plenary

Intervention by the Farmers' Constituency

Thank you, Chair,

The farmers' constituency, which represents millions of farmers from all corners of the world, is highly active in the UNFCCC process and brings a joined-up and multi-disciplinary approach to global agriculture policy processes.

It is clear that the risks posed by climate change have a direct bearing on food security and the development of the economies of our rural areas. Farmers face the twin challenge of producing enough food for the world's growing population while ensuring the livelihoods of those whose subsistence depends on agricultural production.

For the past 5 years, farmers from around the world have come together at the UN climate change negotiations asking for the same thing over and over again: a work program on agriculture under SBSTA that covers food security, adaptation and mitigation; but we have only seen limited progress. However it is crucial that the efficiency of land cultivation and livestock farming is increased even further, especially in developing countries. This means farming both in an environmentally-friendly and highly productive way.

Last year in November in Warsaw talks on agriculture were stalled, to our great disappointment. We hope that discussions can be reinvigorated this year here in Bonn. We hope that Parties will be able to engage in substantive discussions so that we can see clear progress towards a SBSTA work program that is so urgently needed.

Why is it that farmers as diverse as our members – from small holder subsistence farmers to large scale farmers, those planting crops, raising livestock, growing export crops, doing aquaculture – can come together year after year and ask for the same thing, propose a clear way forward for agriculture in the climate change negotiations, and parties cannot? Across much of the world, we farmers represent the majority of people in your countries, in some as much as 55 percent of your population. Today we are feeding the world and caring for the earth! The world's rapidly growing

population is relying on us to guarantee a steady supply of food, feed and renewable materials in the future. Agriculture has to be part of a 2015 climate agreement. So we call for parties to further consider a work program on agriculture under SBSTA, in order to advance scientific and technical understanding and inform decision-making on agriculture's role in addressing future food security and climate change challenges.

This is urgently needed in order to be able to inform the work of the ADP moving forward into Paris next year. We hope that you will spend your time here in Bonn moving towards this goal.

Thank you, Chair