

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.

This time last year, as farmers from around the world had done for the previous 5 years, came together at the UN climate change negotiations to ask for a work program on agriculture under SBSTA. And last year, our calls were finally heard and we welcomed the SBSTA conclusions on agriculture.

We stand before you today, representing a diverse range of farmers— from small holder subsistence farmers to large scale farmers, those planting crops, raising livestock, growing export crops, practicing aquaculture - in the same spirit as we have always done. A spirit of collaboration, of encouragement to involve farmers in dialogue and with a thirst for the knowledge that SBSTA can provide. Agriculture stakeholders from all over the world need access to the latest available science to provide scientific and technological advice to the COP and other subsidiary bodies.

We are encouraged to have witnessed Parties' hard work and can ensure you that the farmers' constituency remains dedicated to provide input to this process and will continue to support work under SBSTA covering food security, as well as both adaptation and mitigation as critical input to ensuring that agriculture in a future agreement is on a strong scientific footing and becomes an effective vehicle for mobilizing appropriate and effective international action on agriculture.

Thank you, Chair