

Farmers

Thank you chair.

During the past two weeks, farmers, civil society and international organizations have come together in meetings, side events and individually to discuss solutions to the serious issues facing farmers and rural communities in Africa and the world.

We have had open and frank discussions on ideas and agricultural systems such as climate smart agriculture, agro-ecology and organic farming.

It is clear to everyone that if appropriately assisted, the world's farmers are in a unique position to simultaneously combat global warming and increase food and water security.

In doing so, millions will be lifted out of poverty through the growth in rural livelihoods and economies in which farmers are at the centre.

Farmers are ready to tackle these challenges and fulfil the enormous potential of agriculture.

It was believed that this year, the COP would also be ready to make a positive decision to help farmers achieve this potential.

Farmers urge you to make a SBSTA work program on agriculture part of the agreement in Durban.

Agriculture is the only industry that can give the planet adaptation; mitigation and food security benefits and a SBSTA work programme is an important first step to ensuring these benefits can be achieved.

A SBSTA work program can give farmers, scientists, policy makers and civil society a mechanism to assess and understand all the agricultural systems, tools and concepts available for adaptation and mitigation. A work program can provide farmers and their countries the opportunity to decide the appropriate development path of their agriculture sector, and the resources they need to achieve this.

It is essential that you find the political will to initiate this work program.

The world is facing tremendous challenges as a result of climate change and farmers will continue to be on the very front line and constantly vulnerable to all the impacts a more variable climate brings.

Whether it is in this UN process or others, we implore every nation here to work with their farmers and dedicate resources and funding to help them grow and flourish. We can all help strengthen our nations and the world.

Thank-you