

# **SUBMISSION ON THE ROAD MAP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION: MESSAGE TO PARTIES AND NON-PARTY STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS**

## **Farmers Constituency, July 2016**

The Farmers' Constituency represents millions of farmers from all corners of the world, from small scale subsistence farmers to large scale farmers, those planting crops, raising livestock, fisher folk and those practising silviculture.

The Paris Agreement accepted “the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change”. Article 2.1b set out the aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by “increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production”.

As key stakeholders in the global agriculture community, we thank you for this opportunity to submit our views on the roadmap for global climate action in order to step up to the challenges put in place in Paris and drive action.

With reference to your specific questions, we think the following aspects are particularly important:

- It is farmers who will be responsible for trying to feed a growing global population as the climate changes and agriculture is on the frontline of climate impacts. We therefore urge you to put farmers at the centre of discussions and action. There is a window of opportunity to build on the levels of engagement of farmers in Paris. For example, at Bonn in May this year members of our constituency were able to make a short submission at the end of the SBSTA workshops. However we would have welcomed the opportunity to give a more detailed presentation in order to share the expertise in our constituency, creating that ‘interface with the real world and solutions’ as you set out in your communication. In addition farmers can be incredibly innovative which coupled with their real-life experiences means we could have an important role to play in ensuring that the Technical Expert Meetings are more solution-oriented.
- As you have identified, good work is already underway so let’s build on what’s already been achieved. However there is a need to avoid duplication of effort and use the (financial and human) resources available to fill in the gaps in knowledge and activity because the range of initiatives even at the UN level is, at times, bewildering. Focussing High Level Champion activity on integration of effort and streamlining initiatives would facilitate success.
- We believe that where new initiatives are required that you, as High Level Champions, should encourage work on both adaptation and mitigation. This is particularly important in agriculture as a number of practices *e.g.* improving soil organic matter level, tackling animal diseases *etc*, deliver improvements in both resilience (adaptation) and productivity (mitigation).
- We believe there is much more to be done in unlocking access to funding *e.g.* Green Climate Fund, and encouraging investment in agriculture across the world - for research and development and extension services; in securing access to water and land; to stimulate and encourage innovation and technology transfer; and in the development of robust rural infrastructure. These are areas where the High Level Champions could really be the “interface between action on the ground and the UNFCCC negotiation process”.