

**Climate Dialogues: Koronivia workshop on socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector**

**BINGO SUBMISSION**

The panel is part of a session to highlight perspectives and expectations from stakeholders in the workshop session of 1st December (12.00-15.00 CET). Your statement shall be guided by the following questions:

1. What are the key challenges and barriers in achieving a transformation in agriculture which leads to addressing socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector?
2. How can the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and UNFCCC constituted dies or other actors help to address these challenges

**STATEMENT**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, Madam Co-chairs, on behalf of the UNFCCC Business and Industry Constituency, I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector. I would also like to thank my fellow panelists for sharing their views here today. My name is Robert Hunter and I am the Chief Operating Officer for CropLife International – the global federation representing the plant science R&D industry. I am providing the following remarks based on my professional and personal experiences in the agriculture sector.

Today's farmers face significant challenges – they are asked to produce food for a growing global population, with fewer resources, and with less impact on the environment. They must also do this while mitigating against and managing the effects of climate change. The future for farmers lies in an ever-evolving landscape of systems that must be tailored to local conditions. There is a need for bottom up approaches, “learning by doing” training and focusing on the needs and preferences of different farmers, and particularly women farmers, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific practices, and taking landscape-level approaches. These are all key elements in ensuring that agriculture supports food security and quality, market access, sustainability and rural livelihoods according to the Sustainable Development Goals.

**The key challenge and barrier in order to make progress and deliver positive transformation in agriculture, is to ensure that farmers have access to the widest range of tools and technologies that can help them adopt practices to address climate change while maintaining food security.** The global variety of crops, soils, farming methods, climatic conditions, pests, diseases and other factors means there is no single simple set of tools to achieve climate resilience in every corner of the world. This points to a systems-based approach driven by science and evidence, with respect and understanding for local needs and conditions as well as the global whole.

The following are just 3 suggestions on how governments, business and civil society can work together to address these challenges.

**First – we must develop and support the adoption of technology, innovations and best practices that enable farmers to mitigate and adapt to climate change.**

For centuries we have seen that adopting technology in agriculture and improving cultivation practices increases food production, lowers the carbon footprint of farmers, lowers food prices, and improves global food security. However, there is no single technology that will systematically increase food security globally - farmers need access to a wide range of tools to increase yields, giving them the choice to use tools tailored to their local conditions. Technologies can also have beneficial impacts on key areas of the sustainability agenda. For example, precision agriculture - which bundles field, soil, weather, and product data - offers an integrated, smart, on-field strategy to farmers. Incorporation of objective real-time advice across the crop cycle helps growers make smart choices on what, when and where to plant, as well as what to apply.

**Second - we must support enabling regulatory environments and harmonization to unlock the full potential new technologies.**

Adopting new innovations and best practices in agriculture can be natural climate solutions. They can support governments in delivering their nationally determined contributions that are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of countries' long-term goals. But all farmers do not have access to the widest range of tools and technologies available. Regulatory systems based on sound science support sustainable agriculture by offering farmers 'more tools in the toolbox' while managing possible risks to the environment and human health. Enabling regulatory

environments for new innovations and technology can positively affect the adoption of beneficial innovations. Leveraging the extensive regulatory experience of developed countries can also provide a framework for emerging regulatory systems, and act as a knowledge resource, allowing for capacity-building assistance, knowledge sharing and collaborations.

**And finally - farmers and the agricultural sector should be incentivized and rewarded for their contributions towards managing climate positive change.**

We know that farmer livelihoods depend on the weather and they are the first to be affected by extreme weather conditions. But while today's farmers are rewarded solely for their agricultural production, those contributing to climate change solutions should have the opportunity to also be rewarded for their sustainability efforts. To support farmers in implementing sustainable practices, new incentive schemes are being launched that will reward them for their contributions towards managing climate change. Business and industry is working in collaboration with governments and key stakeholders to develop various mechanisms and incentive programs to stimulate the adoption and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.

In closing - it is important that governments work effectively with farmers, businesses, NGOs, civil society, international institutions, and other stakeholders to truly address the global impacts of climate change in the nexus of food insecurity. As such we are working to build many multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships that are inclusive, science-based and solution oriented. We look forward to the ongoing climate dialogues and appreciate this opportunity to present our perspective.