

## **CABI Statement**

**UNFCCC COP 29 High Level Segment**

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**Dennis Rangi, Director-General, Development**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Established under a UN treaty, CABI is an intergovernmental, non-profit organization owned and guided by its 48-member countries, and dedicated to tackling agricultural and environmental challenges.

For over 100 years, CABI has developed and applied nature-based solutions to combat plant pests, diseases, and invasive species. These pose a major threat to farmers, especially smallholders, and the wider environment, and are becoming an even bigger problem because of climate change.

We are working across the world at all levels, including with international bodies, national policy makers and farmers, to support an inclusive transition to sustainable food systems. In particular we are working to ensure sufficient safe and nutritious food can be produced under the new realities of climate change while also reducing inequality through better opportunities for rural women and youth.

To deal more sustainably with pests, we have promoted the approach of integrated pest management which enables more judicious use of chemical inputs. We've introduced nature-based solutions against major pests and notable successes have been achieved tackling invasive pests and weeds using classical biological control.

We recognise that a range of skills, including digital tools, are needed to combat the changing threats. For example, the CABI-led PlantwisePlus global programme aims to strengthen national extension and plant health systems, and to help smallholder farmers build resilience to climate change.

Key to this is the ability to predict, prepare and prevent crop pests and diseases using climate-smart digital technologies such as those used by the CABI-led Pest Risk Information Service in sub-Saharan Africa.

Overall, CABI's work ensures relevant information, knowledge and expertise is made available to those who need it to grow food in the most sustainable way possible.

Ensuring that agricultural support systems, particularly in developing countries, work well, is a critical step in enabling adaptation to on-going and future changes in climate. The ability of farming systems to sustainably grow more and lose less to pests will be a major contribution to addressing this greatest of global challenges.

Thank you.