

CSD – 17 Agriculture and Rural Development

Madam Chair

Since it is our first intervention in this distinguished forum, allow me to congratulate you on your chairmanship, and wish great success to the deliberation of this commission.

In the spirit of international cooperation, Israel, wishes to join the efforts and reiterates its commitment to this global CSD- 17 endeavors.

The state of Israel assigns great importance to the work of the CSD and to the Commissions' role in leading the International community on policy formulation and Implementation of actions.

With regard to the CSD 17 agenda- Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Water, Drought , Desertification and Africa, and their interrelated policy and implementation issues, these are at the “core “ / “Hallmark “of Israel’s international development cooperation Agenda.

Agriculture as the largest consumer of global water, efficient management takes priority.

Irrigation technologies, soil conservation practices and the adoption of more friendly production systems to the environment, also referring to arid and semi arid eco systems, are only some of the methods that we are directly practicing and propose to adopt both as policy measures as well as practical ready made for application.

Improving food security thorough intensification of production practices, alternative bio fuels, investing in Research and Development of inedible new verities that are also suitable for marginal soils and water are proposed.

We wish to strengthen the notion that agriculture and rural development has a key role to play in enhancing sustainable development, improving livelihoods and stimulating economic growth in the rural areas.

We also wish to note that recently we have hold a special conference regarding – Green revolution in Africa” with special emphasis on agriculture intensification and improving “Rain feed agriculture” practices.

We recommend SCD-17 IPM, to adopt several policies and implementation measures and action oriented work plan to enable facing the impediments that this agenda calls for and have to be confront by the international community at large.

In the context of this global effort, we wish to announce that we are fully making available Israel’s, accumulated research and development (R&D) scientific experience, agro technologies and its practical implementation knowledge base.

We believe that the very critical “triangle “of – “Applied Research– Extension services - and the Farmer” as end user- are essential to overcome and enhance the rapid transfer of knowledge, technologies and their skilled application at both levels - the small scale family rural farming dwellers, as well as the large private agro business sector that together enhancing development in rural and more peripheral regions.

Madam Chair,

We thank you again, and wish to inform the forum, that a more detailed paper will be available for the CSD forthcoming deliberations.

I THANK YOU

We also wish to share our accumulated experience in rural regions development, with particular reference to the challenges of semi arid and arid conditions which necessitated an integrated and innovative development approach. Some of methods also contribute to the global effort to respond to climate change, including at the level of the small farmer.

In this context we propose to adopt some policy and practical oriented measures:

- Recognize and practically introduce policy and professional practices to improve interlinkages between poverty , agriculture, efficient utilization of production means, technologies and management.
- Share and develop innovative capacity and training methodologies with particular emphasis for the rural areas.
- Strengthen the knowledge base and proven success development and technology transfer modalities.
- Setting up of a suitable agro- based financial fund aimed particularly to support - PPP based rural - agro development aimed for both local and export agricultural productions oriented development.
- Develop On line – IT based training and consultancy services with particular aimed for the rural areas.
- Live stock development combined with semi intensive feeding practices with special emphasis on arid and semi arid regions.
- Develop special agriculture cum technology syllabuses to enhance and improve the transfer of knowledge an skills to the schooling system in the rural reigns.
- To support and utilize rural based institutions and the private sector to introduce and demonstrate appropriate agricultural technologies, inputs, improved genetic materials and management practices operated as “Centers of Excellence” in rural regions.

(It is our honor to represent the State of Israel at the CSD 17 preparatory meeting challenging Agenda.

We fully acknowledge and make reference to the comprehensive cross cutting and interlinking thematic topics of this meeting and to the in depth reports made by the W.B. FAO, the SCD secretariat and all other institutions.

We are fully supporting and wishing to follow the quote made –to address all these issues both in terms of policy as well as from the implementation point of view - “translating word into action measures.)