

Review of SDG implementation and interrelations among goals
Discussion on SDG 13 – Climate action
Friday, 12 July 2019, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM, Conference Room 4
To be Presented by Dimakatso (Nono) Sekhoto

In the 8 years being a farmer, the agricultural sector in South Africa has experienced drought, drastic field fires, floods and decreasing government spending allocation towards the sector. As the South Africa's Agri-sector is still racially segregated into the established commercial farmers and emerging smallholder farmers, these disasters affected the smallholders farmers the most.

Feedback revealed how unorganised and unprepared the government was to assist those needing the most help, post/during the disasters, especially farmers. This is considering the fact that South Africa has policies that are targeted at supporting the smallholder farmers but implementation on climate change support is still very poor. So how prepared are other developing countries with most of their communities relying on agriculture for their livelihood?

Across the world farmers have been forces to find strategies that ensure their survival as food producers to derive their income or to feed their communities, by mitigating and adapting to the climate change. As farmers, at global level, we would like to be granted an opportunity so that no farmer is left behind. For example, through the Climakers initiative, dubbed "Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda", we intend apply an authentic bottom-up approach, where farmers gain a leading role in the global political processes on climate change and agriculture. This renewed agenda is based on the best practices that farmers are already implementing as practical solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation and is intended to be farmers-driven, science-based and result oriented. Given the central role that we, farmers play, we deserve to be at the centre of the decision-making process on agriculture at local, national and international levels, when it comes to climate change solutions. However, we require cooperation and support from private and public stakeholders in order for all farmers to scale up and replicate sustainable farming practices.

Adequate and predictable grant-based public funds must be made available to help countries adapt their agriculture, and new and additional contributions in this area can help to unlock progress in agriculture negotiations. At the international level, it can't be done without the scaling-up of climate finance and addressing the particularly large gap in adaptation finance.

Should our governments continue in this manner, what will become of the human race if young farmers already in the sector are not incentivised or supported to continue with this enormous challenge that climate change presents in agriculture.

This is a call to governments and all relevant stakeholders, to finally realise that if agriculture is continuously associated with disastrous and unsolvable disasters, supported by inadequate planning then good luck securing the future of the survival of the human race. We all worry about perfecting existing policies in meeting rooms, while a lot remains to be done to incentivise and attract young bright minds to look at agriculture as an opportunity to save the human race.