

UN CSD-17  
CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY  
(May 15<sup>th</sup> 2009)

Madam Chair,

The Scientific and Technological Community acknowledges that measures agreed upon at this CSD meeting, aimed at increasing agricultural productivity while safeguarding natural resources and ecosystems, call for massive public and private sector investments to enable all actors, governments, donors, scientists, engineers and the other major groups to meet all arising challenges.

The advancement and application of agricultural knowledge, science, engineering and technology must be at the center when addressing these challenges.

We have identified some important issues that call for special attention:

1. Education of Farmers, who are often the least educated and of whom a majority are women -having farming techniques extremely rudimentary and minimally effective- needs to be thoroughly addressed by providing available farming technologies to boost food production and capacity building to apply such technologies; women must be consulted on capacity building programs in places where women are key implementers of familiar farming processes;
2. Government must introduce policies in support of farmers to cope with rural-urban migration by establishing jobs for farmers and their families for them to remain in rural communities;
3. Introducing biofuel agriculture requires specific scientific and engineering analysis of the conditions of feasibility that govern this type of operation in terms of suitability of existing arid or semi-arid lands, soil characteristics and crop efficiency;
4. The contribution of agriculture to fix carbon and thus mitigate effects of greenhouse gas emissions needs recognition.

The Scientific and Technological Community is able and willing to contribute its expertise and experience by providing capacity building services to farmers, particularly to small scale farmers, through the dissemination of existing knowledge and engineering techniques that in general do not require leading edge technologies.

Thank you Madam Chair

Jorge Spitalnik  
WFEO