

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD)

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AGRICULTURE

Key points

- Increase agricultural production in a sustainable and climate-resilient way and ensure a better distribution and access to food.
- Encourage strengthened cooperation between relevant existing institutions, conventions and mechanisms to forge the necessary global partnership for food security and agriculture. To optimize the impact of new and needed initiatives and financial mechanisms we should aim to avoid additional transaction costs by establishing new structures..
- Supporting locally based in-situ use and preservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as research at all levels to support and develop environmentally sustainable management of natural resources.

Agriculture is a central sector in our efforts to reduce hunger and poverty through sustainable development. World population is increasing and more people are food insecure. An increase in global agricultural production and better distribution and access to food is vital to realize the first Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. The Voluntary Guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food could serve as a useful tool. It is important that all countries, including countries with challenging conditions for agricultural production, must contribute to global food production.

Climate change adds to the challenge of food security, and the agricultural sector is central in achieving adaptations to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Agricultural production must be based upon environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient methods towards carbon-neutral agriculture. To this end research in the agricultural field should be expanded.

Agriculture is founded on the diversity of plant and animal genetic resources, and on their ability to adapt to change. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture establishes common global rules for access to crop diversity and equitable sharing of the benefits of such resources. It is of particular importance to the development of agriculture in developing countries to support locally based in-situ preservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Development of the agricultural sector must be a central part of the development agenda. We must build upon already existing institutions and structures to forge the necessary global partnership for food security. The UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis is key here, as well as the three Rome based institutions (FAO, WFP and IFAD). It is equally important to encourage regionally based structures like NEPAD to ensure, in this case, African ownership to development and food security in Africa.