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IPM/CSD-17 on [Agriculture](#), [Rural development](#), [Land](#), [Drought](#), [Desertification](#), and [Africa](#).

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**Responsible Person:** Hanspeter Wyss

Madam Chair

Women play a key role and should be enabled to take more leadership in advancing rural development. As the Chair of the CSD17 you are a good example for all of them. Thank you for that.

Or as Tim Hanstad said at the beginning of this session: When women own land, we all benefit.

CSD should highlight solutions in the following areas:

1. In the area of “*sustainability*” long term commitment for promoting enhanced agricultural and pastoral productivity in an ecologically and economically sustainable way is needed. This includes integrated crop livestock systems, sustainable pasture management, agro forestry, locally affordable and manageable technologies to fight soil erosion as well as watershed management.
2. In the area of “*capacity building*” we need to strengthen and widen rural peoples’ access to relevant basic education, skills development and professional training in agriculture and cattle raising. The huge disparities which often exist between the capacities in the rural and urban areas have to be reduced. The chances for the children, particularly for the girls, in rural areas to have access to basic education have to be increased. If this inequity between urban and rural areas is reduced, fewer young women and men would migrate to urban centres to find possibilities for income generation. Such a “brain drain” deprives the rural areas from an important innovation potential. The same as better access to basic education applies also to the access for rural populations to modern knowledge in agriculture.
3. In the area of “*institution building*” it is important to promote legitimate and representative rural organisations, to strengthen their ability to participate actively in the policy dialogue at all levels to defend their constituencies interests.

4. Targeted investments are required to *bridge the bottleneck between agricultural research and technology transfer* to ensure that know-how and technologies are transferred faster and good practices are scaled up.
5. *More infrastructure in the rural area* is needed to facilitate mobility and access to markets: through labour intensive income generating practices, through the development of local construction and maintenance skills and through enhanced transport.
6. *Smallholder farms* – which are managed primarily by women as we heard in Mrs. De La Rosa’s key note statement - have a tremendous potential for growth and they can contribute to greater food supply in the world. However, they need secure access to land, to water and to rural financial services to pay for seed, and they need better access to technologies which allow them to receive and share the latest market information on prices.

Finally, I like to conclude with a recommendation concerning climate change mitigation. Poor rural people can play a more active role in climate change mitigation. It is, however, essential that they are compensated or rewarded – through Payments for Environmental Services - for their sustainable management of natural resources which help avoid emissions from deforestation and degradation, activities that contribute to mitigation. This is a win-win situation for their families and for the planet as a whole.