

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY INTERVENTION  
CSD  
LATIN AMERICA THEMATIC SESSION  
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Thank you Madame Chairperson,

Certainly the substantial growth of agricultural production in Latin America continues to highlight the importance of strong training and stewardship programs for sustainability. Training remains essential at the farm level, focusing on responsible use of inputs and sound agronomic practices for the environment. Government and other institutional support for such training programs - which industry is actively working to help implement - is important.

Governments also have an important role to play in regulatory processes to facilitate access to legitimate products. Illegal products undermine farm viabilities, consumer confidence, and sustainability programs. It is our hope to see Latin American farmers with access to quality products, the training to use them well, and the capacity to successfully work within Latin America's vibrant eco-systems.

In closing, while we are discussing the centre of origin of potatoes, in this the International Year of the Potato, it is noteworthy that there are significant resources needed in potato breeding to address disease pressure and the vital role potatoes can play in food security given their short, efficient growing cycle.

Thank you.