

Statement by Farmers' Major Group (undelivered)

On Sustainable Consumption Practices

CSD-IPM March 3, 2011

Mister Chairman,

The three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic, and environmental remain the cornerstone of Sustainable Consumption and Production. The **SOCIAL** implications in the 10 Year Framework on SCP are frequently under-represented. We encourage members to consider the implications of changes on livelihoods and well being, particularly of women, indigenous people, and farmers.

In many developing countries, sustainable practices are difficult to implement due to the lack of financial resources, infrastructure, services, and access to science and appropriate technology. This represents a major constraint on the competitiveness, profitability, and sustainability of the agriculture sector. **The key mechanism to deliver best practices is the extension system which has been virtually-gutted by withdrawing of resources. Training, education and extension programs are essential to transfer information from the scientific community.** Promote access to improved tools to minimize resources use (such as drip irrigation) and access to recycling schemes (such as composting and biogas).

We would encourage members to ensure that the **relevant UN agencies** with expertise in target areas are engaged in the process. As well, farmers' organizations engage farmers directly. As donors consider agriculture programs, we believe farmer organizations are better placed than many governmental and other bodies to directly impact the lives and work of farmers.

Farmers want to be partners for sustainable development. Our goal is to foster methods that encompass environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and food security. We echo the call in the panel for the the need to do more with less.