

Statement by Farmers' Major Group by Sarala Gopalan

At Opening Session

CSD-IPM February 28, 2011

Mister Chairman,

Farmers want to be partners for sustainable development. Our goal is to foster methods that encompass environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and food security. The neglect of natural resources, rural areas, and consequently farmers, women and indigenous people on the one side - and wasteful ways of lifestyles and harmful ways of production on the other, continue to be barriers for quenching hunger, thirst and a decent quality of life for all people of the world.

A policy framework is necessary to foster a more sustainable approach in the key thematic areas and the overarching issue of sustainable consumption and production. During this IPM we hope to see the following key themes included in the negotiating text :

- The role for farmers in achieving sustainability goals
- A systems approach to sustainability
- Integrated production management, including integrated pest management
- Supporting scientific research and the sharing of that information through extension services
- Harnessing science and technology for sustainable use of resources, including water
- Reducing waste of harvests and food
- Proper management of waste from farming operations
- Use of a corridors approach to transportation
- Establishing risk management and marketing tools for farmers
- Supporting women farmers, including land rights
- The opportunity to use farm organizations to further sustainability goals.

Please see our Priorities for Action document on the CSD web-site for further details. We look forward to working with governments, IGOs and our fellow major groups during the coming week.

