

CSD-IPM March 3, 2011

Statement by Farmers Major Group made by Dr. Sarala Gopalan

Interlinkages

Mister Chairman,

Across all the themes there is a common interlinkage of **life cycle management**. We encourage national, regional, and multi-lateral bodies to foster techniques in sustainable SYSTEM management. For farmers, this includes **integrated water, crop and pest management and best practices in livestock production** that support an eco-system approach.

Related to this is the specific issue of **post-harvest losses** which are estimated at 40% in some countries. This figure must be reduced through better storage, transportation, and processing. As well, reducing food waste at an institutional and consumer level is in the power of everyone. This item links several themes including transportation, waste management, and sustainable production and consumption.

Mr. Chairman, the importance of **scientific information, training, and extension** services to further adoption of these sustainable system techniques cannot be overstated.

Globally, the issues of **water** supply, conservation and quality cross cuts all themes and industries and has only obliquely been mentioned in this IPM.

We are pleased to note that the role of **women** has been emphasized in the Resource Document and believe this needs to be fleshed out. The farmers' major group remains concerned about the mechanisms to improve the lives, livelihoods, and sustainable output of smallholder farmers, the majority of whom are women.

Farmers want to be partners for sustainable development. Our goal is to foster methods that encompass environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and food security.