

## Farmers' Major Group

### Statement on Chemicals and Waste Management Roundtable, May 13, 2010

#### CSD - 18

Madam Chairwoman,

We, the farmers, have repeatedly **called for attention on food security issues**. In some countries, as much as 40% of crops are lost after harvest. Figures for losses among consumers are similarly high. **We must reduce food waste and find ways to recycle it into compost, energy, and other valuable byproducts**. This issue is among the most pressing before us and we encourage a larger discussion of the issue.

As well, in the area of waste management we encourage:

- Improving delivery systems for key resources, such as water, to limit waste.
- Increasing the level of education on agricultural waste through training programmes for farmers and local communities, including practices to minimize waste, as well as treat and dispose of waste properly with appropriate systems of recycling.
- Develop uses and markets for parts of plants that may be underutilised or discarded – for example using stems, leaves or manure to produce bio-energy.
- Build storage facilities, including cold storage, and improve transportation networks to minimise losses in storage, transformation and transportation.

During this session we have also heard the discussion of the need for chemicals in our lives with the goal of using them safely and only when needed. The use of crop protection products has generated an **abundant supply of food** and lowered food prices. Fertilizer has helped to increase yields and sustains soils. Farming needs access to both, but as with all technologies, proper use is essential.

**First and foremost, we would like to see support for integrated crop management and best practices that ensure application of the right amount of chemicals at the right time and in the right manner.** We believe training on these techniques will help to reduce the use of

chemicals in agriculture. Therefore we hope it will receive consideration in the summary flowing from this meeting.

As well, we encourage:

- Improving access to appropriately packaged inputs (e.g. small or one use packaging)
- Promoting capacity building with farmers to meet trade standards
- Improving supply chain management of chemicals through training of distributors and local suppliers

Thank you Madame Chairwoman