

Statement By Dr.Sarala Gopalan on behalf of Farmers- Major Groups at CSD15

Session on Climate Change

Thank you Chairman for recognizing the farmers' representative.

We have looked at the draft Chairman's negotiating document. We are disappointed to find no reference to agriculture either in the impact of climate change or as a sector that can influence reduction of impact. Farmers are the most effected by climate change- they loose their livelihoods.

I need hardly emphasize that farmers are becoming scarce and quitting farming in the developed countries, while they are getting impoverished and even taking their lives when farming becomes unsustainable for them as a way of their livelihoods in the developing countries. In the interest of food security for humanity everywhere and livelihoods protection for the majority in the developing world all aspects of agriculture needs to be given priority in the issues relating to climate change.

I find 28 bullet points relating to various actions required in the Chairman's draft negotiating document. While there is specific reference to "implement climate policies and actions that yield co-benefits.....in the area of energy efficiency, air pollution and industrial development" there is no mention of agriculture.

There is reference to fuel efficiency in transport sector but no reference to fuel efficiency in agriculture, which can contribute clean bio-fuels.

As mentioned already 'agriculture needs to be mentioned specifically both because it is the most effected by climate change and also because it can mitigate climate change in several ways including producing bio-fuels and changing the way of farming.

Agriculture Policies need to be integrated in climate policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies, with respect to both adaptation and mitigation.

Sarala Gopalan