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'13

3-5 December
Johannesburg | South Africa
The 3rd Global Conference
ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



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The great balancing act

How can the world feed more than 9 billion people by 2050 in a manner that reduces the pressure on the environment? Experts from around the world gathered at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg to discuss how to close the gap between food production today, and to find ways to meet the demand needed by 2050 without causing more pressure on the climate but ensuring food and nutrition security for all.

The 3rd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change, was opened today by the honourable Ms Tina Joemat- Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at Emperors Palace, Johannesburg.

The issues to be discussed at the three day conference include poverty alleviation, inequities, women's disproportionate role in combating poverty and reducing food insecurity. There are other important issues that will also be considered including protecting ecosystems, climate and water supplies. However, one of the most important themes that all speakers spoke of was the fact that there is great urgency actioning as much as possible to ensure that the 870 million of the world's poorest people do *not remain* undernourished.

"This journey started three years ago and today we gather here to action it, said Vice Minister for Agriculture, Dr Hans Hoogeveen of the Ministry of the Netherlands." He added, "I am proud to say that the time for Climate Smart Agriculture has arrived and enormous progress has been made." The Netherlands Government has invested \$12 million in African countries. "At this Congress we will be taking stock of what has worked and what hasn't worked."

Other speakers such as Dr Xiangjun Yeo, Director of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation said that climate change is hitting the most vulnerable people and global organisations, research institutions and Governments have to find ways to increase food production by 60% by 2050.





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Mr Patrick Verkooijen, Special Representative for Climate Change for the World Bank, said agriculture is the solution in dealing with climate change but it is a very complex situation. More often than not the world is turning to Africa because research has shown that 60% of the Earth's uncultivated arable land is on this continent – yet only 10% of the world's agricultural products are cultivated in Africa.

Ends

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