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The 3rd Global Conference
ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



The time for action is now

Emperors Palace, Johannesburg, 04 December 2013. "New programmes to help farmers by teaching climate responsive farming practices are badly needed and must be supported by farmers, agricultural organisations, scientists and other partners," advises Dr Sonja Vermeulen, Head of Research for the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, (CCAFS).

Speaking at the 3rd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change, opened by the honourable Ms Tina Joemat- Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Dr Vermeulen said that agro-ecological approaches to agriculture and conservation practices are in place, but we need to find a unified approach at this conference.

"In the last two years farmers have suffered through draught, storms and floods. In the USA climate changes have forced farmers to adapt and we have to do the same," explains Dr Vermeulen. She said that we need to create platforms for workers and farmers to assist them to improve their skills such as teaching them how to better manage the land so that there are larger yields. We need to help farmers become more resilient in the face of current and future changes in weather patterns and extreme weather events.

Through proper scientific training we can increase food availability, reduce food loss, provide gender benefits and reduce pressure on ecosystems, climate and water. However we must act now or it will be too late.

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