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'13

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



It's all about Climate Smart Agriculture

Emperors Palace, Johannesburg, Climate change adds a new challenge for agricultural and rural development. The poorest countries, and especially the least developed countries (LDCs), are often among the most impacted by the adverse physical impacts of climate change, and even more in economic terms, due to the importance of agricultural sector to their economy.

Particularly high impacts are being felt in food insecure regions such as in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. This is why in 2010, in The Hague at the first of these conferences, FAO proposed through its technical document the concept of climate smart agriculture (CSA).

This concept had evolved from previous FAO work on the need to develop synergies to produce more in a sustainable manner.

The agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors will achieve the three main objectives of CSA:

1. Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, incomes and livelihoods, especially of the most poor and vulnerable;
2. Adapting and building resilience to climate change;
3. Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gases emissions.

Delegates convened to discuss in depth issues on scientific solutions, information, policies, increased yields, productivity and sustainable development. A number of interesting and useful recommendations were made. Mr Dale Andrew, OECD, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, France, said: "Most solutions are on the shelf and we have to get them onto the field. International co-operation is essential and regional co-operation is equally as important".



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A common thread that most delegates recommended included:

Knowledge sharing is key to food nutrition and security: This is achieved through regional early warning systems, advance information on food crop yields and food supplies and mentoring.

Teaching conservation processes must take place as soon as possible. This is achieved by practical lessons and tools for supporting agricultural and food security strategies.

Better ways to enrich the soil for better and nutritious yields must be applied. Governments, donors and scientists agree there is an urgent need to revitalise soils, especially in Africa.

Using mobile technology as a tool to offer guidance to rural farmers is the fastest way to get the message across. *Mobile technology* can reach remote *farmers* with up to date weather forecasts, crop prices and *guidance* on topics such as pest control, irrigation and how to enrich the soil to produce nutritious crops.

There is need for mentorship. To address this critical issue and to grow the next generation of successful and well trained farmers, mentoring programmes need to be created. Retired farmers with the knowledge and expertise would be ideal to fill this gap.

All countries are observing changes to their freshwater systems and studies. Temperature, precipitation, wind, solar radiation, humidity, air pressure, and cloud cover – temperature, precipitation, and wind are the primary factors affecting surface water quality. These components are expected to vary substantially with climate change and need to be addressed.

Risk Management tools to designed to cover agricultural risks must be used to measure and support the sharing of agriculture, food and nutrition security knowledge

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