



G20 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

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Session 3: Research as a driving force behind sustainability

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Formal Statement

Minister Stefano Patuanelli, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

I am honored to be here today representing CGIAR, the largest publicly funded global agriculture research organization delivering science-based solutions for complex food, land and water system challenges. With a footprint in over 100 countries and with more than 8,000 scientists, we work on the ground in partnership with farmers, NGOs, local enterprise, and governments.

Agriculture, as a sector, plays an important role in safeguarding the sustainability of our planet. The way we grow and eat our food is degrading our environment, eroding our biodiversity and fueling the climate crisis. Under the strain of a global pandemic, decades of progress on addressing hunger and nutrition are unravelling at unprecedented pace. To recover we need to tap into the power of Research and innovation and make sure that solutions are accessible to all.

We at CGIAR see three closely related ingredients that are needed to reach our shared global goals:

1) Research & Innovation as the engine that underpins development interventions.

Nourishing a growing population with a healthy diet supply within planetary boundaries while generating new shared value requires the development and deployment of science-based innovations and the policy and institutional arrangements

that create the enabling environment that allow its uptake at scale, all of which is much needed for impact.



2) **Effective partnerships, from local to global, are needed to effectively scale agricultural research and innovation.**

We don't want to do research for research sake. That's why CGIAR is changing to link more effectively the public and private sector, civil society and academia to ensure cutting-edge research generates knowledge, develops innovations and technologies and adoption takes place. These partnerships are prone to fail if they don't align strongly with demand from the ground and prioritize the needs of small-scale farmers, women, youth and improve the livelihoods of their communities.

3) **Finally, investment in agriculture research and innovation needs to dramatically increase to bend the curve on the food and climate crisis.** Recent data from the Commission on Sustainable Agriculture Intensification, CoSAI, undertaken by CGIAR reveals an investment gap of \$15.3 billion from current levels, this is only a fraction of the estimated \$700 billion spent annually in agricultural subsidies globally. Of this, \$4 billion is urgently needed to address hunger and malnutrition around the world; another \$6.5 billion is required for agriculture to fulfill its contribution to the Paris Agreement – keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius; and a further \$4.7 billion to lower water withdrawal for agriculture by 10% in less than a decade and dramatically reducing nitrogen and phosphorous pollution. As every dollar invested in research generate returns over \$10 in benefits, filling the investment gap should be a collective priority.

Honorable Ministers, we at CGIAR stand ready to support G20 in helping people and planet to meet the challenges of sustainable food system transformation. Let me close by acknowledging and thanking the Government of Italy for the organization of this session as well as coordinating the process leading to the communique, which we strongly support.

Thank you.

