

2019 - LUXEMBOURG

THE FARMERS' ROUTE

WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Innovation Working Group technical session:
“Mainstreaming the farmers driven approach
into agricultural innovation”

20 May, from 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM
Vianden Room

Prepared by the WFO working group on Innovation

Introduction

Innovation is a broad subject which cuts across all aspects of Agriculture and Farming. Some aspects of Innovation have been emphasised in the global discussion on agriculture, such as inputs, technologies and new farming systems, other aspects have not been given enough prominence. Several innovations however are not demanded nor are relevant to farmers' circumstances and therefore are not adopted nor accepted by farmers as expected. It is necessary to explore some aspects of Farmers driven innovations.

For the purposes of this session it is proposed to analyse the following aspects of Innovations:

1. Farmers Driven Research and Innovation;
2. Innovating ways of involving the farmers in global debate on agriculture-related matters.

There are growing research streams to foster innovations in agriculture, with the aim to improve farmers' efforts and outcomes. Digitalisation is an example of innovative technology that in most of the cases lacks the farmers' perspective in its applications. The challenge is that which of these many digital innovations were demanded, initiated or involved farmers in developing them? There is the need to explore farmers driven digitalisation of farming. Besides this, there is a need to close the gap between farmers and researchers in general so to make it effective for the farmers.

Farmers are usually forgotten or only added on a late stage in global debates or decision-making processes concerning agriculture, instead of the farmers initiating, owning and sitting in the driver's seat to drive the issues, processes and outcomes. To change this paradigm there is the need to assess examples and best practices of farmer's driven global issues of local applicability, or bottom-up efforts with global appeal.

20 May 2019

02:00 PM – 03:45 PM Farmers Driven Research and Innovation

- *Patrick Blankers, Program Manager Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility, Ericsson, the Netherlands*
- *Katrina Sarah Milne, WFO Board Member and President of Federated Farmers of New Zealand*
- *Ruediger Suelmann, Head Weed Management, Global Regulatory Affairs, Bayer Crop Science*

Moderator: *Katerina Vrublova, Policy Advisor, COPA-COGECA*

03:45 PM – 04:15 PM: Tea/coffee break

04:15 PM – 05:45 PM Innovating ways of involving farmers in global debates on agriculture-related matters

- *Giovanni Frajese, M.D., University of Rome "Foro Italico", WFO Scientific Advisor*
- *Katungisa Kenneth, Ag. Chief Executive Officer, Uganda National Farmers Federation*

- *Peter Button, Vice Secretary General, International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, UPOV*

Moderator: *Katerina Vrublova, Policy Advisor, COPA-COGECA*

05:45 PM – 06:00 PM Closing remarks

- *Katerina Vrublova, Policy Advisor, COPA-COGECA*