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## **Producers' Statement on the occasion of the Pre-Summit Synthesis Plenary\***

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### **Introduction**

Mine is the pleasure to address the Pre-Summit of the United Nations Food System Summit (UNFSS). The past 3 days have truly been an inspiration. What I have gleaned from the last eighteen months participating in and convening dialogues is a resounding cry from producers not only in Jamaica, but across the globe that **we need to be at the heart of the design and decision-making of our food systems because producers are the people in the food systems.**

The only way we will build fairer, more nutritious, and sustainable food systems is by having diversity of **production systems**...diversity of **production methods** and putting the **producer at the centre.**

The resounding cry of our producers are that they need the following:

- We want urgent action on resilience including Climate Action
- We want better finance that is tailored to the needs of farmers and all producers
- We believe the **empowerment producer organisations as the only way to reach all producers and ensure no one is left behind, especially Rural Women**, who have a critical role to play in building a strong food system.

### **Way forward**

As for the way forward, the question remains how we take meaningful actions to move these from ideation to implementation.

### **Consideration should be given to the following Five (5) Priorities:**

1. **We need to create a strong independent voice for primary producers at UN level.**  
An international primary producers' platform to enable their agency and to steer UN policy and program on food systems. This should reflect the diversity of production and also include those producers who belong to indigenous and tribal groups, women, youth, disabled and vulnerable groups to leave no one behind.

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\* *Transcription of the Producers' Statement at the Synthesis Plenary of the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit.*

**2. Improving Financing and Funding Flows.**

There is a need for flexible, tailored financial mechanism that support direct investment of our farmers and risk and shock mitigation tools to support our producers to adapt to provide ecosystems services and adapt to climate change. There is need to rethink grant requirements based on context and cultural differences. Consideration should be given to exploring non-traditional financing options as well as removing the bureaucracy and barriers in the process.

**3. Achieving resilience which means better access to Education, Research, Innovation, Technology and Partnerships.**

There is the need to change the perception of agriculture because branding, advertising and marketing doesn't reflect real farmer. Education across the food system, capacity building, integrating technology, traditional and new-age approaches.

**4. Rebalancing power across the value chain.**

Farmers are economic actors, and the market needs to work for farmer – not just survive but thrive in their efforts to build a strong food system one we all want here. We are not a commodity, we are people.

In closing we have to find ways to develop and sustain meaningful partnerships between academia, civil society, governments and the private sector in developing our food systems

It is therefore important for each stakeholder to build their part of the system. If we adopt Nehemiah's model and each of us build our part of the system then we will have a fairer, diverse, and sustainable food system that works for all. Posterity will not remember what we said here these three days, but they will remember our actions post Pre-Summit. Let us make posterity remember us kindly for our bold actions.

There is much more that can be said but this concludes my brief remarks.

**Thank you**