

**Resilience building for sustainable food security and nutrition
October 15 2015 - Private Sector Mechanism
Rajeev Chauhan**

Thank you Madam Chair for this opportunity to take the floor on behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism. My name is Rajeev Chauhan, I am an apple farmer and the Chairman of Himalayan Apple Growers Society, which brings together over 1.2 million apple farmers in India.

In the past few years we have been at the forefront of the impact of climate change on agriculture, raising the issue of resilience in our communities and country. Severe weather disruptions have had dramatic effects on farmers in India.

A recent report by the World Bank stated that a global temperature increase of 4C by the year 2040, will cause India to see a significant reduction in crop yields because of extreme heat. This will be accompanied by a reduction in the availability of water resources. These resources are already at a critical level and about 15% of the country's groundwater tables are overexploited.

Indian farmers are highly sensitive to changes in weather patterns. More than 60% of crops in India are rain-fed. It is estimated that by the year 2050, with a temperature increase of 2°C to 2.5°C, reduction in water availability may impact the food security of approximately 63 million people.

Strengthening farmers' ability to continue producing under severe resource constraints, with increased risks, requires concerted efforts from governments, the private sector, farmers and civil society. It needs country-specific strategies to ensure that measures in place are adapted to the challenges faced. This is particularly true in situations where the vast majority of farmers are marginal and small-holders as they are more vulnerable to long term and short term shocks.

The developed world needs to look into climate change issues faced by the developing world, so that they can be in-corporated while framing policies to deal with changing weather patterns in relation to nutrition and food security.

Climate change has resulted in freak weather patterns, which destroy the existing road infrastructure and also hamper development of new projects. Building resilience requires investment in infrastructure, technology, information sharing and training, as well as specialised service provision, such as crop insurance. This can help farmers adapt and reduce the impact of these shocks.

We will need new crops and varieties that fit into new cropping systems and seasons. Crops will also need to adapt to higher temperatures, increased salinity, or draught. Public-private partnerships will be key to addressing these challenges. Strong national programs to ensure that research is informed by farmers' needs and that farmers can

access innovations are needed. These innovations will be necessary to support climate change resilience and ensure food and nutrition security.

Farmers are constantly adapting but the scale of change happening requires a level of effort that is unprecedented. We need to build resilience from the ground up, placing farmers at the center of national and global efforts.

Thank you Madam Chair.