

**Building knowledge, skills and talent development of youth
15 October 2015 - Private sector mechanism
Laura Grubb**

Good Afternoon Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Laura Grubb. I wish to build on the points raised by my colleague Samba before me. It is essential that private, public and civil sectors work with youth and allow us to contribute and have a seat at the table so that we can become leaders in supporting food security. I want to note a few key actions which we believe could help advance talent development in agriculture.

First we need to emphasize education and skills building for young people. At the youth ag conference, we suggested establishing an open sourced network to make information on modern agriculture more readily accessible across the world to then provide practical skills to young farmers.

Secondly, it is important to communicate the value of agriculture and farming to make farming an attractive career and life choice. One of the suggestion at the youth ag summit was around creating a unified online social platform to share, promote and grow awareness of the value of agriculture and the numerous career pathways available.

Fostering personal and organisational leadership is also key so young farmers can be successful. Encouraging the establishment of Ag mentorship programs and the creation of youth ambassador roles at all levels: locally, nationally, and globally, would support this.

We should leverage the creativity of youth by encouraging them to engage in science, innovation and R&D. Creating a network to connect young innovators to promote knowledge and skills sharing, and establishing a “solutions portal” to solve common issues faced in agriculture could potentially help attract seed funding to support small scale innovation projects.

Finally, it is important to promote socially acceptable and responsible consumption - not only for youth interested in agriculture but for all youth. Our consumption patterns will shape demand and the future of agriculture for decades to come. Establishing media platforms to improve consumer understanding and behaviour towards responsible consumption and why it is essential for global food security can help advance sustainable food systems.

The areas for action proposed below form part of a youth-proposed framework for empowering and connecting youth. By embracing this, public, private and civil sectors can boost global efforts aimed at growing talent in agriculture. We need your support to secure our future.

Thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.