

HIGH LEVEL DINNER:

Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and Partnerships for Implementation

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Westin Excelsior, Rome

SPEAKERS:

Master of Ceremonies:

Jaine Chisholm Caunt (UK)

Chair of the International Agri-Food Network

Greetings:

Her Excellency Gerda Verburg (The Netherlands)

Chair of the UN Committee on Food Security

Key Note:

Rajeev Chauhan (India)

President of the Himalayan Apple Growers Society

Closing:

David Nabarro (UK)

UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting brought together over 140 delegates, including Ambassadors, CEOs, NGO representatives, and leaders from the Rome-based agencies and the World Bank. The theme of the dinner was “**Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and Partnerships for Implementation**”.

Discussions focused on

- How the private sector can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs
- Key agricultural challenges to implementing the SDG agenda

- Ways in which business can drive meaningful poverty alleviation
- Ways in which the private sector can contribute to achieving progress on climate change mitigation
- Measures needed to unlock the full potential of the private sector to contribute to achieving the SDGs
- First steps the private sector should take to implement the SDG agenda

Each table was guided by a facilitator and rapporteur. Discussion was lively, and delegates came up with many concrete recommendations for promoting the engagement of private sector actors in the SDG implementation process.

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS

Private sector contributions to achieving the SDGs:

- Business can create wealth, while improving productivity.
- Business can champion sustainability, and incorporate it into their long-term workplans.
- Business can communicate best practices in areas such as production, food safety, and input usage to other stakeholders.
- Private sector actors can drive responsible and sustainable agricultural investment (including using and promoting CFS products such as RAI).
- New and more effective technologies will be needed; research and development is an area where public-private partnerships will be particularly valuable.
- The private sector is able to incorporate smallholder farmers into regional, national & global supply chains, and to provide them with extension services and financial resources.

Unlocking the potential of the private sector:

- Policymakers must create a science-based, sound and coherent policy environment.
- Legislators must create an enabling regulatory environment to foster innovation and partnerships.
- Innovative financing mechanisms are needed.
- Science-based information about the role of technology and the private sector in sustainable development must be more widely disseminated.

- More investment in basic infrastructure is needed.
- Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks will be needed, as well as transparent business practices.
- Farmers must be included in the development and dissemination of new technologies.

First steps towards implementation of the SDG agenda:

- All stakeholders must share experiences and best practices, and should identify areas of common interest and mutual benefit.
- Awareness of the SDGs must be raised in all sectors.
- Greater resources should be dedicated to research and data collection.
- Relationships of trust must be developed with civil society and the public sector.
- Policymakers should provide incentives for corporate actors to work towards the SDGs.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

The Sustainable Development Goals will shape the global development policy agenda for the next 15 years, and their achievement will depend on the effective mobilization of all stakeholders including private sector actors. New and innovative partnerships models will be needed, as well as ever-greater trust and cooperation between stakeholders. Over the course of this event, participants were able to outline and begin to converge on several broad recommendations and approaches to ensure that the private sector is fully engaged in achieving the SDGs, and is able to fulfill its potential for reducing poverty and hunger.