

**IAFN STATEMENT –30th SESSION OF COAG**  
(30 Sept-4 Oct)

**Item 3.1: FAO's work on the use and management of plastics in agriculture and the Voluntary Code of Conduct on the Sustainable Use and Management of Plastics in Agriculture**

Thank you Madam Chair.

My name is Rose Souza Richards, and I am here representing the International Seed Federation, a member of the International Agri-Food Network, IAFN.

The IAFN is an informal coalition of trade associations involved in the agri-food sector at the global level, representing tens of thousands of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), thousands of co-operatives, and millions of farmers.

I appreciate the opportunity to take the floor and share the private sector's **SUPPORT** of a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the Sustainable Use and Management of Plastics in Agriculture.

IAFN members participated in the multistakeholder process and consultations offered by FAO to examine existing best practices, empirical data, and science-based evidence for the management of agricultural practices.

So, distinguished Representatives and Stakeholders, let me stress the following:

*We strongly support the **present version** of the Draft Voluntary Code on Conduct (VCOG) on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture as shared by FAO. If and when endorsed, we would like to echo members' calls for a periodic review of the code to reflect developments on this process.*

We understand that FAO and its member states have been closely following and aligning the Code process with that of the INC negotiations.

We would prefer for Member States to approve the Code before the INC process is finalized.

We believe this would contribute to inform the future INC deliberations and strengthen FAO's important role as the expert in agriculture in the UN system.

Lastly, we would stress what Member States and FAO have made clear: that the CODE is a living document which should be updated to address the latest developments, learnings, and be monitored and reported back on at future COAG sessions.

We look forward to contributing to this ongoing work, as deemed appropriate.

Thank you Madam Chair