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Written statement for Session 2: Effective paths towards the SDGs: STI for ending poverty and hunger, enhancing human well-being and building resilience, which will be held on 4 May, from 15:00-16:00PM (EDT)

Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen!

INTRODUCTION

My name is Costantine Edward I am a co-founder and managing director of AgriLife, a waste-to-nutrient company that unleashing the potential of insect technology using black soldier fly larvae to up-cycle organic waste into organic fertilizer for crops and sustainable eco-friendly animal feed.

CHALLENGES

The global population is growing at unprecedented rates and is estimated to reach 9.1 billion by 2050. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has stated that to sustain such a population, world food production will need to rise by 70%. On the other hand, about 2 billion people worldwide still suffer from malnutrition to this day. In Tanzania, our target region, malnourished people amount to 34.6% of the general population (URT, 2019). This is due to the lack of affordable sources of protein and essential vitamins. Malnutrition is especially dangerous to children: 43% of child deaths in Tanzania are caused by malnutrition (URT, 2018). And even if the child survives, it can have severe consequences for his or her life, both of physical and of mental nature. About 2.7 millions of Tanzania children suffer from stunting (UNICEF, 2019). Stunting can manifest itself in various forms. Many malnourished children have a weakened immune system resulting in a lower life expectancy. Their mental development can be impaired as well, malnourished children can suffer from underdevelopment of the brain and even brain damage, compromising their capability to thrive in their adult life.

ACTION

In contribution to attaining Sustainable development goal 1 and 2 that is Ending poverty and Hunger at AgriLife we produce alternative eco-friendly animal feed using nature's most efficient agents, insects. We are pioneering a waste-to-nutrient insect technology using black soldier fly

larvae to up-cycle organic waste into organic fertilizer for crops and sustainable protein ingredients for the poultry and aqua-feeds industry. This is an alternatives novel solution for the waste problem and eco-friendly animal feed which are a potentially rich source of nutrient for animal feed. Additionally, we aim to provide a cheaper and more practical solution to the food crisis by elevating nutrition through the use of cricket insects. Our cricket's powder is designed for the general market and will work to make insect consumption widely accepted. Cricket powder can be added to anything from cookies to baby formula food. We want cricket consumption to be accessible, available, affordable, and appealing for everyone.

On the other hand, we combat malnutrition problem in Tanzania with this problem with spirulina algae. Spirulina has an extremely high nutritional value in both protein content and vitamins. It can be easily consumed in powder form by mixing it with daily meals. Just three grams per day are sufficient to effectively fight malnutrition. Spirulina consists of over 70% of proteins and contains 11 different vitamins, which makes it the perfect cure for malnutrition. Merely one teaspoon per day is enough to provide all essential nutrients and to save a child from malnutrition. In its powder form, spirulina can be easily mixed with meals or drinks, without changing the taste. We developed our own innovative sustainable low-tech solution for spirulina cultivation that includes all key elements from traditional high-tech models but operates at much lower costs and requires much less maintenance cost.

CLOSING

AgriLife looks forward to a future where nutritious, affordable, and sustainable food is accessible to all communities' members. The team also envisions less environmental pollution and diseases linked to organic waste disposal and malnutrition.