



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event Event ID: OS281

Water for Smallholder Farmers, Food For All

22nd of March, 2023, 14H00 to 15H00
UNCC, 777 UN Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Organized by: **Sikh Human Rights Group**, European Youth Parliament for Water (EYPW), Tufts University, Saving Punjab, International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Background on the event

Intensive farming and cultivation of water intensive crops particularly by small farmers to maximise their profits have led to groundwater depletion and water table going down in many parts of the world where small scale farms are a norm. This makes agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystems unsustainable in the long run. Greater awareness and diversification towards crops that are less water intensive is necessary to ensure sustainable development and farming. A coordinated policy is needed. Our speakers will include farmers from Global South, a professor in Indigenous Knowledge Systems and a representative from expert community.

Key Issues discussed

- Ground water shortages throughout the global south;
- Shortage of drinking water;
- Fertilisers and pesticides causing water pollution;
- Genetically modified seeds using up more ground water than necessary.

Key recommendations for action

- Diversification of crop;
- Crop rotation;

- Avoiding crops that require large amounts of water such as rice and wheat;
- Moving away from chemical substances to generate high produce yield;
- Moving away from genetically modified seeds.