

Statement by Sue Carlson
On behalf of the Farming First coalition www.farmingfirst.org
Joint session on FfD and post-2015 processes
Thursday April 23rd, 2015

Good morning Mr. co-chairs,

I am Sue Carlson, a farmer from North Dakota. World Farmers Organisation is one of hundreds involved in Farming First's coalition calling for agriculture to be central to the sustainable development agenda.

Looking at Goal 2 and the related targets, we are very pleased with the work of member states to focus on agriculture, nutrition and food security.

The challenge becomes ensuring agriculture's role in implementation. In addition to ensuring women's land tenure, infrastructure and functioning markets, farmers need access to science and innovation.

We are pleased to see the draft document on financing for development includes this concept; more emphasis should be placed here.

We are extremely concerned to note there is no mention of access to inputs or extension in the zero draft on Financing for Development. Rural advisory services, also known as extension services, allow farmers to access knowledge of science and agronomy to productively and sustainably grow crops and livestock.

Reference to farm input access and knowledge sharing are included in the targets for the proposed post-2015 SDGs. We encourage their addition to clause 12, Financing for Development, as areas where investment be substantially increased.

Farming is the first way to achieve Goal 2 on hunger and malnutrition but also contributes to many SDG goals, i.e. poverty alleviation, access to water, gender equality, climate change and ecosystem management. Knowledge and science is essential to improving the development of agriculture. Agriculture is essential to the success of the SDGs as a whole.

Thank you.