

SOUTH AFRICA INPUTS ON THE AGRIC AND LAND SESSION: 7 MAY 2008

We fully support the inputs made by the panelists on this theme.

1. In South Africa we have established that the mono-approach to agriculture does not work with the traditional rural-communities. We are therefore calling for an intergrated approach to agricultural development. This should include rural livelihoods, which optimizes the use of natural resources such as grass products, soil and rock products, as well as fish farming etc. This is critical for our traditional communities who depend largely on dry land farming. Rural livelihoods are complimentary to agriculture and play a significant role towards sustainable development and optimal employment.
2. We are renewing the call for increased investment in agriculture. We note with concern that most of our governments are not implementing the Maputo declaration, of committing 10% of their national budgets in agriculture. It is not possible for activities and agribusiness to take off without a significant capital injection to facilitate the take off of rural agro-industries.

I thank you.