

Prof R Mohee, Vice Chancellor, CSK
Speech

CSA Policy Dialogue
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Hon Mahen Kumar Seeruttun, Minister of Agroindustry and Food Security

Professor Chitamun, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Council of the University of Mauritius

Prof S Facknath, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture

Mr Ndongenhle Nyoni, FANRPAN Secretariat Representative

Dr Asha Dookun-Saumtally, Chairperson, FANRPAN Mauritius Node

Mr Shane Hardowar, Node Coordinator, FANRPAN

Mauritius FANRPAN Node Executive Members

Dear Colleagues/University staff, Representatives of Institutions, Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me congratulate the **Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Secretariat** and the **Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius, the Node Hosting Institution** for this very laudable initiative in the conduction of this **Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Policy Dialogue** for stakeholders involved in climate change and agriculture.

Today, climate change is an undeniable reality. The consequences of climate change are already being felt through heatwaves, droughts and emergence of new pathogens. Climate change has become a major cause of concern not only to the farming community but also to the scientific community, the public and private sector organisations and Universities trying to find solutions. It is in this

context that in December 2015, Paris hosted the 21st session of the **Conference of Parties (COP 21)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** with the aim of establishing the first binding global agreement on climate change. The Paris Agreement bestowed the responsibility to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to all countries.

Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices program proposes the transformation of agricultural policies and agricultural systems to increase food productivity and enhance food security while preserving the environment and ensuring resilience to a changing climate.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations acknowledges the importance of agriculture with the concept of Climate-smart agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Climate Smart Agriculture also contributes to the achievement of the new **sustainable development goals**. Technological solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation must be supported by enabling policies and institutional and financial arrangements and be based on an understanding of the socio-cultural-economic contexts that provides insights about barriers to adoption.

Climate-smart agriculture already features in several international fora and development agenda. CSA is central to the development plans of international bodies such as FAO, IFAD, World Bank and is endorsed as the sustainable and food secure pathway in various United Nations fora on sustainable development and on agriculture and food security.

Capacity Building is important to address policy challenges which are hindering sustainable food security and effective management of natural resources and the environment. At the University of Mauritius, we are leaving no stone unturned. Academic staff across all six Faculties are carrying out research and engaging with the farming community and civil service society on issues pertaining to climate change.

The FOA has embarked on research work on this new concept of climate smart agriculture since 2011. FANRPAN together with the University of Mauritius are implementing a number of projects pertaining to Climate Smart Agriculture. Consultants from the FOA, UOM under the leadership of Prof Facknath were engaged to conduct baseline studies in 2014 on what is on the ground in Mauritius in respect to relevant policies, the level of knowledge, practice and impact of CSA. This was meant to inform all players on what is available and thereby assist in crafting what needs to be done in-order to achieve desired objectives. The specific objective of today's Dialogue is to get inputs from all stakeholders in light of new development such as **Mauritius Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)**.

The challenge of diminishing food waste with scientific research (**Prof Mohee work on Waste management**) to be elaborated.....

As Vice Chancellor of the UOM, I am extremely delighted to see representatives of all stakeholders working in the agricultural sector, the farmers, Government, private sector representatives, research organizations, the youth, Academia, NGOs sitting together and working together to look for innovative solutions for a Climate-Smart agriculture. The composition of this hall clearly shows that if we want to have a real impact on making this world sustainable, we cannot work in isolation, we rather have to join forces and make sure that we do our job at the best of our capacities. We need a holistic

approach, where all stakeholders are equally important and can share their knowledge and expertise to direct this planet on the path of sustainable development, making sure that no one is left behind.

I would like to thank the FANRPAN for promoting appropriate agricultural policies regionally and globally in order to reduce poverty, increase food security and promote sustainable agricultural development. I thank you for your attention and we look forward to working with you all to transform the agricultural sector in a climate-smart one, locally, regionally and globally.