

**PSM Plenary Session – CFS Agroecological and Other Innovative
Approaches Endorsement**

June 4th, 2021

Rick White

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism, we support the adoption of these Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches. Following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in February this represents a further important contribution to improving the sustainability of agriculture and food systems and attaining the SDGs.

While the process to arrive here has been long and difficult, we should appreciate the process that got us here. We recognize and appreciate the leadership of the Rapporteur of this CFS policy convergence process, His Excellency Yaya Olaniran, the work and commitment shown by all CFS members and participants and the support and guidance of the CFS Secretariat.

Thank you all for your patience and fortitude.

It is now our job to turn to the uptake and implementation of these Policy Recommendations. The many parts of the private sector are already implementing a variety of approaches for sustainable production, which includes everything that well managed farms, ranches and forests produce- food, feed, fiber, clean energy that can support ecosystem services and biodiversity.

These approaches include (but are not limited to) climate smart agriculture, precision agriculture and optimized nutrient use efficiency that uses a variety of strategies and tools such as digitalization and improved seeds to support the adaptive capacity of agriculture.

These represent some of the many important interlocking and mutually supporting approaches, techniques and strategies designed to sustainably improve production, enhance resilience, and reduce/sequester GHGs. As we have discussed, there is no one size fits all and we believe it remains a priority to allow farmers to choose the best approach, and to provide all the options for sustainable agriculture and let farmers be free to decide.

Mr Chairman, we all recognise that there needs to be continued work and research that develop options that respect the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable agriculture. The Policy Recommendations provide important guidance in this respect and our PSM members have pledged to continue to develop a wide range of actions towards improved nutrition and food systems. At the same time, we will be highlighting this second CFS product in the discussions for the Food Systems Summit and other fora to shine a spotlight on the good work of CFS.

Mr. Chairman, it has been a long and arduous road, but we have arrived, and we stand ready to get to the real work of improving food systems and nutrition.

Thank you.