

**Statement by the Scientific and Technological Community
at the opening session of CSD-17,
New York, Monday, 4 May 2009**

(Presented by Gisbert Glaser, International Council for Science-ICSU)

The advancement, sharing and application of *knowledge, science, engineering and technology* must be central to efforts of addressing the sustainable development challenges on the agenda of CSD-17. The long trend of declining investments in agricultural research, S&T, research, education, extension services and related capacity building, by many governments, notably in developing countries, and by international donors must be reversed. Knowledge and technology must be better targeted to the needs of small-scale farmers in developing countries, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa, who are among the poorest in the world.

In order to be able to address the real needs of these farmers, much enhanced farm level data collection and systems research, with full involvement of social scientists, are required.

Climate change has already major impacts on food systems. *Critical gaps of knowledge* in this area must be addressed through interdisciplinary research. Climate-informed early drought warning and response systems must be established.

We need to multiply efforts towards enhanced N-S and S-S knowledge sharing and technology transfer. Successful applications of currently available appropriate technologies and of existing knowledge must be widely communicated. As you said this morning, Madam Chair, realizing a sustainable green revolution calls for a new, creative and innovative thinking as how to combine best science with farmers' local knowledge.

Thank you.

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Thank you.