

High level agriculture meeting in Windhoek to guide path toward a sustainable green revolution in Africa

Namibian Prime Minister Nahas Angulato to Open Talks

New York, 5 February—Revitalizing African agriculture at a time when the continent is feeling the impacts global financial crisis, volatile food prices, and climate change will be the aim of ministerial-level meeting that will take place in Windhoek, Namibia, on 9-10 February. The high-level meeting will provide a major contribution to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which will consider these issues in New York this May.

Namibian Prime Minister Nahas Angulato will address the meeting, which will be attended by African agriculture ministers and experts. The meeting is expected to engage high-level decision makers in a discussion of the key challenges related to agriculture by identifying problems and offering possible solutions.

The meeting, co-organized by Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Government of Namibia and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development, will consider how African governments and other stakeholders can meet the challenges faced throughout the continent and take forceful policy and practical measures, in co-operation with the international community and development partners, to revitalize African agriculture and the broader rural economies in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

“African countries will need nothing short of a green revolution will be sufficient for Africa to ensure an affordable and dependable food supply,” says Sha Zukang, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

Mr. Sha added, “As Africa is already feeling the impacts of more severe weather events caused by climate change, as well as increased land degradation, a lack of farm technology and fertilizer, new policies are urgently needed to accelerate agricultural development. This meeting is intended to supply ideas for those new policies.”

The meeting will discuss the elements needed to make a green revolution happen in Africa, such as how to incorporate sustainable land management and agricultural practices into African agriculture, increasing agricultural productivity, moving African agriculture up the value chain and integration of small farmers into global supply chains.

The outcome of the meeting will be presented to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development which will meet from 4-15 May in New York to considering issues concerning agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. The Commission helps guide countries, international organizations and local community civil society groups in implementing sustainable development solutions.

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