

Statement by the representative of the Argentine Republic

The Argentine Republic is firmly committed to the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs 1 and 2, focused on eliminating poverty and hunger.

The latest global estimates indicate that the number of people living with hunger has been growing since 2014, which calls for the redoubling of efforts to reverse this trend.

Strengthening the agriculture sector is thus critical to achieving food security and improving the livelihoods of rural populations.

In the context of growing challenges for agriculture, such as climate change, growing urbanization, population pressure, an increase in the different forms of malnutrition and the degradation of natural resources, it is essential to consider all the tools and approaches that promote agriculture and food systems that are sustainable in their three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

Given this scenario of vulnerability in agriculture, a production sector vital to developing and developed countries alike, technological innovation – including biotechnology – and business initiatives are key tools for increasing sustainability in the production of healthy foods and boosting production efficiency.

In Argentina, the agriculture sector has embraced and replicated innovative practices, enabling it to boost agricultural production from 40 to 120 million tons annually in the past 25 years through a highly specialized structural transformation process.

The revolution in agricultural technology is key to agriculture taking a major step forward through a wide variety of systems and techniques, including precision agriculture, that have enabled farmers to plan and subdivide their land to optimize the use of natural resources. These digital technologies have reduced soil damage through historical satellite imaging.

Through the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) and other specialized organizations and associations, the Government of Argentina has created digital platforms that promote innovative production practices, such as the use of a variety of plants developed through the use of biotechnology.

Another major challenge in the rural world is access to connectivity. Digital integration throughout the production sector is vital for a quantitative leap forward in productivity, sustainability, and efficiency in resource use. In this regard, Argentina has prepared a “Digital Plan for Farm Families”, designed to train them in the use of digital tools that will enable them to lower costs, sell their products, and get them to the consumer.

Connectivity is also critical for young farmers, since digital technology will help keep them in rural areas.

In its capacity as G20 President, Argentina advanced the issue of technology and rural youth employment

It should be pointed out that the key role of technology in the future of agriculture and in improving the lives of millions of people around the world was reflected in the G20 Agriculture Ministers Declaration, adopted in July 2018 under the presidency of Argentina.

Despite the progress noted and the significant efforts made, our country still faces major challenges in terms of rural development and poverty. Argentina therefore wishes to continue working closely with IFAD, primarily in the regions of the country with the most urgent needs.

IFAD should continue forging closer ties with middle- and upper middle-income countries in both lending and non-lending activities. This will make it possible to continue mutually beneficial activities and promote pilot projects for replication in other countries and regions – for example, through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Argentina is currently participating in technical cooperation activities with third countries within the framework of IFAD projects.

In conclusion, we wish to underscore the private sector's role in agricultural development and the creation and implementation of new agricultural technologies. We encourage IFAD to continue its activities to increase private sector participation at different levels to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.