

**G20 MACS – Varanasi, India**  
**19 April 2023**  
**Session 5 - “Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural R&D”**

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***Statement by CGIAR***

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

From what we have seen in the presentations and practical examples shared today, **technological innovation and Public-Private Partnership is a vital pathway to make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.**

At CGIAR we are applying the latest breakthroughs in machine learning, artificial intelligence, and perception technology to accelerate scientific innovations for more sustainable agriculture. Many solutions, and the potential for more, already exist. Innovations harnessing the power of automation and robotics, and big data are being developed to provide solutions for farming communities. CGIAR is also acting as an ecosystem innovation enabler supporting talented entrepreneurs and agri-tech ventures through initiatives such as the Accelerate for Impact Platform. Ultimately, these technologies have the potential to optimize productivity and nutrition and minimize waste, while addressing the challenges of biodiversity loss and deforestation.

However, there is a need for **more coordinated action** between **public and private** sectors for these solutions to achieve their greatest impact: **G20 support for innovative agricultural R&D could strengthen the enabling environment for agricultural technologies globally in several ways**, of which I will emphasize two:

- ❖ Private sector involvement is essential for the large-scale adoption of any innovation. However, there may not be a willingness to bear the risk of investing in agriculture solutions in the pre-commercial and conceptual stages. On the other hand, only a few public resources are available to scientists to de-risk technology development, market- testing, and iteration of their innovations. More public resources and incentive-based mechanisms would allow **scientists to test the market-readiness of innovations and practically apply research outputs.**
- ❖ Second, marginalized groups are the most vulnerable to a lack of access to new technologies as well as insufficient involvement in the innovation development and scaling process. Where private capital alone may focus on the easiest pathway to scale with the highest possible profit; public funding could **provide a backbone for a more equitable and democratic innovation process** for agricultural technologies.

I would like to acknowledge the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare for their work to define how the agricultural sector can build on the “India Stack” through its “AgriStack” initiative.

**In brief**, we must urgently coordinate public and private efforts to innovate agriculture technology solutions. **Leadership of the G20 needs to increase public funding to de-risk the technology development pipeline and encourage the equitable deployment of agriculture innovations through the private sector.**

CGIAR will continue to produce catalytic research and innovation to support the G20 and Agricultural Chief Scientists in **our shared ambition to strengthen the development and application of science, technology, and innovation.**

Thank you.