

**ABSTRACT**  
**PARALLEL WORKING SESSION**

**ELIMINATION OF HUNGER**

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**Sustainable agricultural development:  
Conflicting issues and policy responses**

The agricultural sector will continue to face the growing and changing demand for food, energy and agricultural raw materials. The major issue is how to do so and leave the shrinking natural resource base intact for future generations. Meeting these challenges require the agriculture sector to continually search and adopt more productive and sustainable policy framework and technologies.

Investment in agricultural research to generate a range of adaptable technologies is thus a compelling public policy priority, along with the development of supporting institutions. Market solutions could be a means of giving proper signals to farmers in making choices about sustainable resource management. Border prices could be used to remove biases against sustainable farming practices. Decentralization and community participation in resource conservation would be crucial in encouraging and fostering sustainable agriculture. However, agricultural policy, for the development of the agricultural sector, and environmental protection policy are sometimes conflicting rather than reinforcing each other. Thus sustainable agricultural development calls for industrial ecology approach that integrates the agricultural sector development with environmental ecology. The key is to modify behaviour so that agricultural growth and environmental protection can become reinforcing rather than competing goals. Although the needed changes will take time to orchestrate, several initiatives being developed in nations around the world are moving public and private efforts in this direction.