



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Minister's speech

H.E Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia;

Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations;

Distinguish Heads of International Organizations;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Afternoon

I would like to extend a word of appreciation to the G20 for organising this important meeting. My thanks go to His Excellency, Mr. Abdulrahman AlFadley, and the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for your excellent coordination of the G20 Agriculture and Water meetings. The meeting has made it possible for us to meet and deliberate on issues that impact on Agriculture and Water. In these past few months, you led the G20 member states in discussions that revolved around responsible agricultural investment, food loss and waste, as well as fostering sustainable and resilient water management globally.

Post the April G20, ministers of agriculture meeting, the African Union ministers of agriculture, trade and finance converged to discuss the impact of COVID-19, including its socio-economic impact on Africa's population. The pandemic added another stress, particularly to those countries which are still battling the locust invasion such as the Horn of Africa. The ministers agreed on short and medium term interventions needed to ensure food availability and access, including mobilisation of financial resources.

We therefore encourage the G20 members to continue to increase awareness and understanding of the potential of technologies, to promote sustainable agricultural productivity. Socio-economic impact of climate change on the poor and developing countries, particularly in Africa, remains a serious concern. Again, we urge the G20

to continue to support initiatives by countries to combat climate change, by taking appropriate measures to prioritise and safeguard food security. It is critical that the G20 nations step up climate action and commitments towards a zero-carbon future.

South Africa reaffirms the importance of working together to realise a free, fair, transparent, trade and investment environment to strengthen resiliency and sustainability of global supply chains.

I wish to close by extending South Africa's appreciation to the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the commendable work you have done in hosting the Agriculture and Water meetings of 2020 under extremely difficult conditions. We are looking forward to continuing the good work we have started here, in Italy next year. We wish all the best to Italy as they take over the reins of G20 Presidency.

I thank you