

VIRTUAL WTO AGRICULTURE SYMPOSIUM 2020 - AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND
FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

*"Big Take-Aways – Session Seven - AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN 2050,
LET'S HEAR IT FROM THE FARMERS"*

- The multilateral trading system is extremely relevant to the life of farmers, small and big. The impact of trade policies on the daily operations of farmers, on their decision-making processes, and on their marketing strategies is undeniable. A strong and concrete link exists between the world of international policymaking and the real world of farmers.
 - WTO enforcement mechanisms are extremely important for farmers, who wish to see a faster and more accessible dispute settlement mechanism within the WTO.
 - Agricultural trade policies must be framed in a broader food systems framework. Policy coherence at the national and international level is crucial for farmers to remain competitive. Sustainability (in all of its dimensions) must be a key driver of new trade policy developments.
 - The collective ambition of the international community should be to achieve trade rules that promote sustainable land and natural resource use. One possibility would be for traded products to be accompanied by certificates from their country of origin attesting to product and production method sustainability. Certified products could then benefit from lower import tariffs, when certification is truthful and accurate.
 - However, sustainability is not a "one-fits-all", and a variety of different approaches should be encouraged. If all the actors of the food system are committed to sustainability, and the policy framework promotes and enables sustainability, farmers would be incentivized and rewarded for their stewardship of local natural resources.
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