

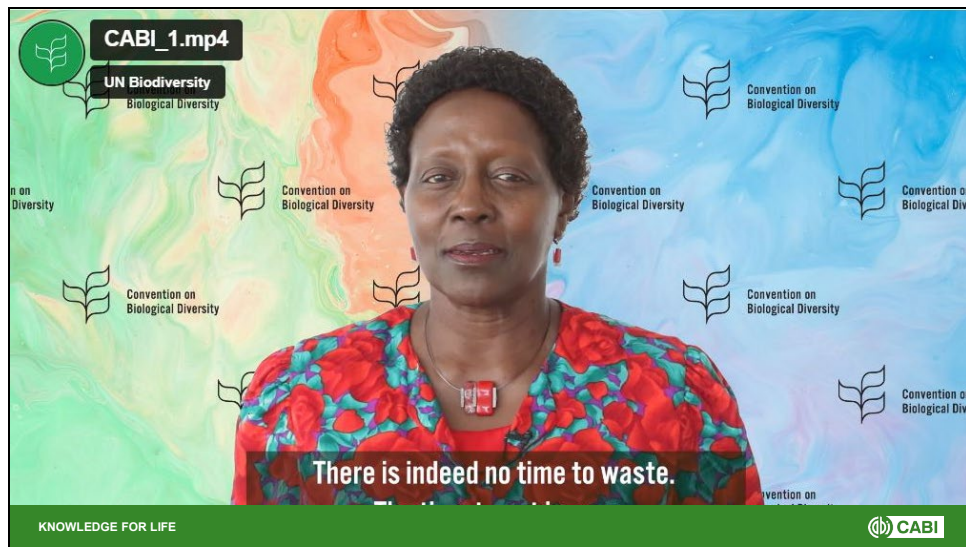
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Summary:

- Great levels of energy and engagement
- We've brought plans here that take in all of your previous input
- But the idea is to pressure test those plans further and make sure we are really aligned with your priorities and ready to work with you to deliver our next phase of work
- So, thank you for the very active participation and I have really enjoyed this, my first RC
- Let's reflect briefly on the last 2 days...

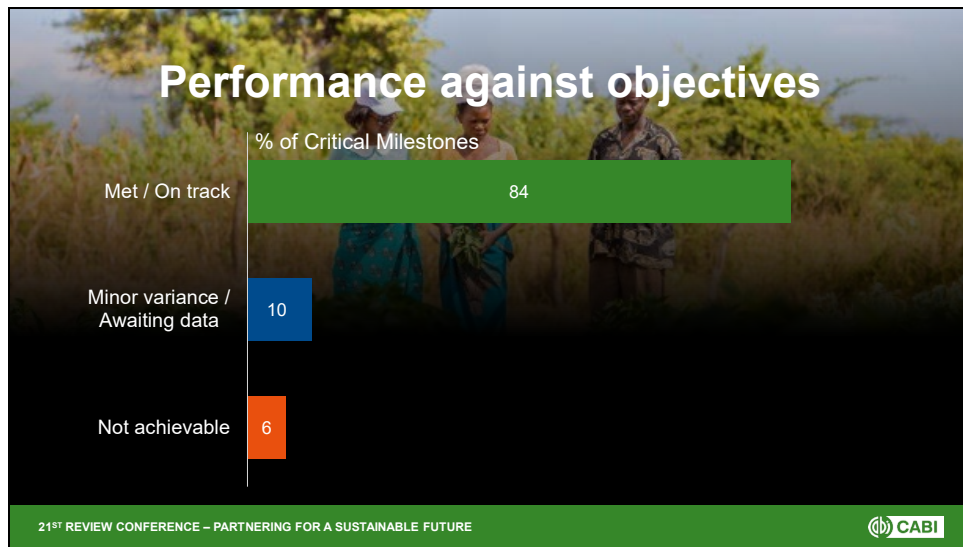
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We had an inspiring first keynote address from Dr Elizabeth Maruma Mrema. She stressed the crucial importance of biodiversity for sustainable food systems plus the value of a OneHealth approach.

Dr. Mrema commended our MTS's focus on biodiversity, food and nutrition security and sustainable value chains.

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I talked about the impact we had achieved under our past MTS – with the great majority of the specific objectives being met.

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The first interesting panel session was on innovation to respond to climate change risks to plant health. We heard about:

- Both the direct impacts of climate change and how this exacerbates other existing risks
- How most funding for climate is focused on mitigation but how a bigger focus on adaptation is key – and why it is appropriate that this is a key priority for us under the new MTS
- The range of approaches we can take to improve the resilience of farmers and businesses as part of the adaptation agenda

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Then we got a great synthesis of the different ways CABI is making knowledge useful – putting research into policy and practice, and how we are joining up our different expertise to increase the reach, application and impact of science in the agriculture and environmental fields.

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Another fantastic keynote from Dr Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist of FAO, spelt out the current pressures on food systems and the fact we are failing on the SDGs.

On a more optimistic note Dr Elouafi highlighted how Science and Innovation has tremendous and transformational potential to address these deficits and meet the FAO agenda of the Four Betters. And again, we saw that the goals and priorities CABI has mapped out are highly relevant.

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Dr Elouafi's talk set the scene for a good panel discussion. We looked at some of the fundamental challenges in producing more, safer, higher quality AND nutritious food, while improving smallholder farmer livelihoods and protecting the environment. We considered the ways in which CABI's PlantwisePlus programme is addressing some of the challenges identified as needing more attention in our earlier major programmes. We discussed:

- Importance of prevention of threats to plant health – with better early warning and surveillance
- Importance of better digital approaches and mobilising different routes to reach farmers with good information plus tools to support sustainable production
- Ensuring that farmers have access to safer nature-based solutions to reduce reliance on toxic chemical pesticides
- Ambitious plans for scaling...

We also covered the importance of opening up new opportunities to access markets with safer and higher quality produce. There was a big focus here on enabling farmers benefit rising local demand for healthy, nutritious, often indigenous food. Also discussed were international trade opportunities, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacities and agribusiness partners.

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We had a very lively panel discussion about gender and youth. The crucial importance of disaggregated data and intentionally targeted approaches to programmes – and very interestingly how lasting change requires on the one hand shared accountability, changes to institutional budgeting and reporting and also approaches that shift established social norms that perpetuate inequality.

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Prof. Christian Borgemeister from Bonn University, Germany provided an insightful introduction to the threats to global biodiversity – and highlighted that invasive species is one of the most important of these threats.

We heard about the ongoing challenges around the impacts of toxic pesticides on people and biodiversity and how we can better manage invasive pest problems with preventative and nature-positive approaches. This was including how CABI has collaborated with countries to help the registration of new safer approaches.

We also heard about some of the ways we could work to rehabilitate degraded lands and restore biodiversity, including CABI's potential new major programme concept taking an Integrated Landscape Management to resolve land-use conflicts in landscapes degraded by invasive weeds – as well as the broad range of approaches that CABI takes to monitor and combat invasive species

We heard about the ongoing challenge of pesticide misuse and how to reduce it, how industry can help to stop biodiversity loss, ongoing biocontrol work for papaya mealybug, invasive species management in the Caribbean and CABI's work in controlling invasive species, from a very experienced panel of experts:

- Dr. Lusike Wasilwa, Director Crop Systems, KALRO; and Liaison Officer for Kenya
- Dr Imtiaz Hussain, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Member Plant Sciences Division and new Liaison Officer for Pakistan
- Gina Swart, Head: Global Product Biology Disease Control at Syngenta
- Dr Hariet Hinz, CABI Global Director Invasives
- Marina Young, Principal Director Technical Services, Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)

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We also explored with a panel of member countries, development partners and private sector partners how we can – and indeed MUST – work collaboratively to drive change effectively and efficiently.

One important insight from this session stemmed from the shared view that these partnerships can't be empty expressions of co-operation, but they must generate action. And we need to work together to make this happen. Together we must make connections, encouraging donor desks in your countries to fund the projects we have agreed are essential to global progress. Together we should be forging links between private and public sector organizations, building networks with local CABI staff.

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I was pleased that in the Governance session we got approval to finalise the MTS subject to final amends from this meeting. We will circulate this and get in place by end of year.

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During our governance session all our resolutions and papers put before you, were approved.

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Along the way we discussed how we put together our strategy, starting from the needs of our MCs. I explained how input from MCs and other stakeholders had been brought together to inform our draft MTS,

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- We mapped out 5 key goals to help us address some of the biggest challenges facing the world and advance the agenda of the SDGs
- We talked about how we would use robust and objective metrics to assess our success on these goals

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We're confident that doing this will take us a step closer to our vision of a world where the sharing of agricultural and environmental knowledge empowers people and protects the planet. I firmly believe that the planning we have done over the past months, and in particular, over the past two days, has moved us closer to achieving this vision.

But we must now take the next steps and implement those plans. Your partnership will be crucial for this – as it has been for developing the plans.

On that note, thank you for all your input and support, and will now leave you with a short video...