

Overview of CABI projects worldwide – Dannie

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you we have already heard from Daniel and distinguished guests, together we are presented with the biggest challenges facing humanity. These include hunger, poverty, gender inequality, climate change and biodiversity loss.

According to a 2023 report, nearly 282 million people in Africa (appx 20% of the population) are undernourished. More than a billion were unable to afford a healthy diet. The purpose of coming together today is to work together to find ways in which we can collectively contribute to finding solutions leading towards agrifood systems transformation.

CABI, works with donors, partners and government within our 48 Member Countries of which 17 are in Africa, and we all know very well the challenges smallholder farmers face to increase their yields, livelihoods and food security. Extreme weather events, pests and diseases lack of resources, poor access to markets and disruptions in the food chain caused by conflict and global pandemics.

Working with our Member Countries, we are delivering on over 100 live projects to empower smallholder farmers – including our women and youth – to grow more and lose less to crop pests and diseases and to generate income through domestic regional and international markets.

We are working with partners to integrate global knowledge and expertise with understanding of local context to improve crop health and incomes, tackle invasive species; support value chains and access to markets. We look to capitalising on the potential for digital solutions, while recognising that there are no silver bullets and the need to manage the digital divide. Our work is underpinned by support to agricultural advisory services and development communication including social and behavioural change. Where relevant we recognise that crop health and ecosystem health are interconnected with human and livestock health and embrace One Health approaches that work with representatives across sectors.

I now leave my colleagues Ulli, Andy and Phyllis to talk about three major global programmes in more detail.

Thank you.