

CSM Intervention on “Sustainable Agriculture Development including Livestock”

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Acknowledgment of Protecting Workers’ Rights and Livelihoods

We would first like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the recognition in the document of the importance of food and agricultural workers in livestock systems, as well as the need to better protect their health, safety and livelihoods.

However, we must also express our disappointment that language acknowledging the need to protect *migrant* agricultural workers was left out. Consequently, millions of agricultural workers around the world remain invisible, susceptible to exploitation, and provide an enormous, unacknowledged and unfair subsidy of cheap labor to global agribusinesses.

Protecting Agricultural and Food Workers from Antibiotic Resistant Pathogens

Another recommendation left out of the document was a call to support research to identify the points of exposure of livestock workers to antimicrobial resistant pathogens, and to develop best management practices to protect workers from this growing threat.

The General Assembly has recently agreed to a strong a mandate to stop the proliferation of antibiotic resistance. So the omission of this language is a major shortcoming of this document. Workers are on the frontlines of this battle, and therefore *must* be included in the development of any effective solutions to this growing threat.

Curtailing Buyer Power Abuse in Food Supply Chains

Yet another recommendation omitted from the document called for governments to develop new antitrust measures to curtail buyer power abuse in food supply chains.

In 2010, the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food released a special report that made the case for curtailing buyer power abuse. This report warns that if we fail to curtail buyer abuse, it will become impossible to ensure the Right to Food of all stakeholders whose livelihoods are derived from food supply chains.

Therefore, we invite you to consider this report’s recommendations, and to pursue antitrust reforms that can effectively curtail buyer power abuses.

Thank you.