

Small-scale farmers are globally the largest farmer group and of key importance to local and national food security in developing countries. Promoting action to safely integrate, intensify and increase food and energy production for this large group of producers holds the best prospect to improve both local (rural) and national food and energy security and reduce poverty and environmental impact at the same time.

Energy also plays a central role in improving food supply chain efficiency, and linking producers to markets cost-effectively. At the same time, the linking agricultural markets to larger energy markets provide an important opportunity for smallholders to diversify into higher value products, especially in areas where food cannot be grown economically. The safe integration of food and energy production can, therefore be an efficient way to improve national food and energy security and simultaneously reduce poverty in a climate-smart way.

A number of initiatives are already underway by the UN system to address the issues of food and energy security and energy efficiency.

Questions to guide the discussion

With a view towards advancing understanding about the linkage of food and energy security, the following questions are intended to guide the discussion:

What are successful examples of an approach that combines the use of traditional and scientific knowledge to maintain healthy eco-systems that integrate food and energy production and respect natural resource constraints?

How can agricultural productivity be increased through energy efficient technologies and agricultural farming techniques?

How can biofuel production be an important component of a broader strategy to increase the income of poor agricultural producers and labourers and enhance food security?

What safeguards need to be in place to ensure that the poor benefit from the integration of food and energy production?

What next steps are required to move towards greater integration of the energy and food sectors?

Expected Outcome

The special event on food and energy security is expected to contribute the analysis and policy debate regarding food and energy security that is taking place under the Second Committee. In this respect, the special event seeks to contribute 1.5 ki28 0 TD

Committee resolutions regarding these issues. In addition, it will contribute to the Rio+20 preparatory process by identifying policy options and recommendations concerning food and energy security which are environmentally sustainable in the long run. A summary report will be