Climate smart Agriculture: Overview of Presentation

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Farming in India is a highly complex socio-economic phenomenon. Climate justice is therefore part of a much broader issue of justice for farmers, the rural poor and indigenous peoples in India. This presentation is intended to provide insights into emerging international policies and their implications for farmers in India. It outlines opportunities provided by the new Sustainable Development Goals, the Green Economy, Low Emission Development Strategies and various initiatives connected with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the FAO Committee on World Food Security. But it also questions the suitability of the predominating economic paradigm of market-led trade liberalization that underpins many UN policies for providing India’s most vulnerable people – farmers, rural poor and indigenous peoples with justice and a fair deal.

For a nation that has perhaps more farmers than any other country and which is home to a quarter of the world’s under-nourished it is absolutely essential that agriculture initiatives primarily engage and empower India’s farmers and rural poor. It also looks at the types of agriculture that can deliver gains for Indian farmers and tribal people in terms of resilience, justice, profitability and sustainable development. Finally the presentation looks at the important leadership that NCCSD is providing and makes some suggestions for how it could leverage the networks and expertise it is rapidly assembling for considerable impact at the national and international levels.