

UNCCD CSO in CRIC15

Statement on **Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the** **Convention session**

Mr. Chair, Madame Secretary, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

My name is Bhawani Shanker Kusum from India. I am speaking on behalf of the CSOs. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity.

We are honoured to be able to use this opportunity to express our views on the UNCCD's Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal on behalf of CSOs engaged in the implementation of the convention. There may be no doubt that many of the solutions to the challenges of sustainable land use lie in the knowledge economy, from the high-level decision makers to the farmers in the fields.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for its initiative in this regard, the Parties for requesting and supporting the development of the SKBP, WOCAT for offering access to its invaluable knowledge management tools and the Swiss Government for funding their development.

Whereas the draft portal available on the website provides access to the knowledge products of a number of networks and organisations via hyperlinks, it is best suited to the researchers and professionals, rather than the farmers and practitioners. We propose that the portal should be designed in a more intuitive manner to easily direct the users to appropriate knowledge products. Specifically, we would like to see that:

1. Access to information via the portal must be more users friendly, and there should be a direct link to the WOCAT site, but currently the site simply offers links to a range of knowledge sites, without providing any guidance as to what they offer. There needs to be a simple path to guide users to different sorts of information designed for different audiences. The WOCAT video series is a good example of the sort of material that farmers can easily relate to and learn from.
2. More of the many success stories on best practices implemented by CBOs/CSOs and the individuals should be made accessible through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub.
3. Programs/plans for training for the community people/land users should be disseminated in such a manner that the members of marginalised groups such as youth, women and particularly land users could get benefit from it. Direct links to relevant training materials are needed here.
4. Adequate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and training materials related to these themes should be accessible via the CBMP site in UN languages so as to be useful for land users. The site could also facilitate translation into local/national languages to make it more useful for the community people at grassroots level.
5. Contact details of the Universities hosting UNCCD courses, organizing competitions, exhibitions etc. should be made available for the users on different forums/networks, websites etc. so that the students or the people from any segments of the society could get full advantage of them.