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Update for paragraph 4.3.1

AGRICULTURE: THE NEED FOR CHANGE

A report of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) - the result of the combined efforts of over 400 scientists - has stressed that the ways in which food is currently grown on a global scale must change radically to more effectively serve the needs of the poor and hungry in a world faced by increased population and the threat of environmental breakdown. The Director of IAASTD, Professor Robert Watson (who has now become Chief Scientific Advisor at DEFRA in the UK) stated that “The incentives for science to address the issues that matter to the poor are weak (so that) the poorest developing countries are net losers under most trade liberalisation scenarios.”

The report argued that the way to meet the challenges lies in putting in place institutional, economic, and legal frameworks that combine productivity with the protection and conservation of natural resources like soils, water, forests, and biodiversity while meeting production needs. Assessing the evidence across a wide range of knowledge that is rarely considered collectively, the reports’ authors concluded that there is little time to lose if we are to change course: continuing with current trends, they said, is likely to exhaust key resources and place our children’s future in jeopardy.

Website reference:

www.agassessment.org