

SESSION SUMMARY

1. Title of the Session	Agriculture and Climate Change: Enhancing Resilience and Adaptation
2. Date and Location	March 2, 2009 , 3:00-4:30, MC-13-121
3. Chair, Speakers, Panelists, Commentators	Chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mark Cackler, Sector Manager, Agriculture and Rural Development, World Bank Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gary H. Toenniessen, Managing Director, The Rockefeller Foundation ▪ Keith Paustian, Professor of Soil Ecology, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and Senior Research Scientist, Natural Resources Ecology Laboratory (NREL), Colorado State University, Fort Collins Commentators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erick Fernandes, Advisor, Agriculture and Rural Development, World Bank
4. Topic and main message/s communicated in the presentation/s	<p>1. “Climate Change Resilience for Developing Country Agriculture, Particularly Africa” - Gary H. Toenniessen</p> <p>This presentation provided participants with insights to the Rockefeller Foundation’s (RF) Climate Change Resilience Initiative, which aims to develop the ability of communities to manage and plan for the effects of climate change and to make sure that planning includes the most vulnerable citizens. Since building resilience requires actions on multiple levels and scales, the Foundation expects to partner on the Initiative with governments, other foundations and donors, NGOs, and groups from the private sector. More specifically, the focus will be on RF’s support to assess climate threats in Africa, especially to staple food crops at country level, with the end goal of helping prioritize investments in agricultural development and food security under a changing climate.</p> <p>“Soil Organic Matter and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Can We Have Our Cake and Eat It Too?” - Keith Paustian</p> <p>The presentation focused on the significant biological/technical potential for GHG mitigation within agriculture through both emissions reductions and removals of CO₂ (with increasing storage of C in soils and biomass on agricultural land). The dominant component (about 80 percent) of this potential is associated with soil C sequestration in cropland and grazing lands and restoration of degraded lands in developing countries. There is a strong consensus based on robust empirical datasets that enhancing soil organic carbon contents of soils can improve land, water, and crop productivity as well as enhance the adaptive capacity of the land against climate-related shocks.</p>
5. Gist of the discussion (provide a brief)	Gist of the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How engaging agriculture in mitigating CO₂ through rebuilding soil organic matter would strengthen adaptation and resilience of

summary of the questions and answers)

agricultural systems to climate change;

- The transaction and opportunity costs of SLM/conservation agriculture and what could be done to better manage this issue:
 - creating niche markets to provide high value products
 - use of existing systems of farm organization to cut costs
 - use of systems that are robust and scientifically credible for better measurement; and
- The importance of having framework/policies in place (Copenhagen and post-Kyoto) that allow credits and payments for agricultural carbon as well as tools that allow objective and transparent monitoring and verification.