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Page: 1/2

**Committee on Agriculture
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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**VOICES FROM THE FIELD: DIGITAL SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE EVENT**

SUBMISSION BY ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CANADA, ISRAEL, PARAGUAY
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following document, received on 13 February 2023, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Paraguay and the United States of America.

1. In association with the Digital Agriculture Association, several WTO Members sponsored a session, "Digital Solutions and Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture", on the margins of the November 2022 World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Agriculture. The session provided insights from award-winning farmers from the United Kingdom and Nigeria, the Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), and the Digital Agriculture Association. Speakers shared the approaches and innovations they are using to create more resilient, efficient, and sustainable farms and food systems. Perspectives shared by presenters may help WTO Members better understand how recent Ministerial Declarations¹ can be put into practice.

2. Panellists noted that there has been a significant increase in the amount of data collected on farms, as well as in the ways in which data are utilised. These advances allow farmers to make more informed decisions regarding seed, fertilizer, and pesticide use, as well as to improve the efficiency of water and energy use, all while leveraging market information. Enhanced data collection and analysis can increase harvests, efficiency and sustainability, while also enhancing profitability. Despite these advances, challenges to scaling up digitally-enabled farming tools remain. National policies on data flow and data interoperability, connectivity and enabling infrastructure, and enabling regulatory frameworks may drive the adoption of digitally-enabled farming tools.

3. One key takeaway from the session was that different farming systems allow farmers to sustainably increase production. Presenters discussed a variety of tools, including no-till practices, cover cropping, and crop rotation that help sequester carbon, retain nutrients and moisture in soil, prevent soil erosion, reduce water run-off, and better preserve ecosystem services. Presenters also stressed the need for enabling regulatory environments that support access to newly-developed technologies, as trade barriers in export markets impact farmers' decisions to adopt new technologies. Digitally-enabled farming and precision agriculture tools need to be available, affordable and secure. This event highlighted how these approaches are already helping farmers make decisions and improve the sustainability and profitability of their farming operations.

4. Our delegations will continue to work with WTO Members to bring diverse and insightful perspectives to the WTO. These voices help us understand how the availability and use of technologies and tools can help address the challenges we face today and those we will face in the future.

¹ Ministerial Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity, adopted on 17 June 2022 ([WT/MIN\(22\)/28](#); [WT/L/1139](#)); Sanitary and Phytosanitary Declaration for the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference: Responding to Modern SPS Challenges, adopted on 17 June 2022 ([WT/MIN\(22\)/27](#); [WT/L/1138](#)); and Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics, adopted on 17 June 2022 ([WT/MIN\(22\)/31](#); [WT/L/1142](#)).

5. A recording of the session is available at agrilinks.org (<https://agrilinks.org/events/voices-field-digital-solutions-and-innovations-sustainable-agriculture>) and on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc2DUjttwnE>).
