QRF #1 In 250 words or less, discuss your perspectives on one major challenge in the field of humanitarian agriculture, either globally or in a specific response.

The major challenge facing agricultural sector is feeding a growing world population while providing livelihood for farmers and protecting the environment and natural resources. These three components of the challenge must be tackled together to achieve sustainable development globally and achieve the sustainable development goals. Making progress towards this challenge will need to simultaneously address the above three issues. Addressing these three interconnected issues should create complementarities while reducing trade-offs or negative effects. Raising productivity in the agricultural sector while improving resilience and an enabling environment, in developing countries, is the most important policy in the agricultural sector. The subsistence nature of farming and surplus labor in the informal sector in developing leads to low levels of productivity. Raising farm productivity can generate income growth in agriculture, make more food available for consumers at lower prices, and – in some cases – reduce pressure on the environment and natural resources.

QRF #2 In 250 words or less discuss one major technical improvement in humanitarian agriculture programming over the last decade.

Agriculture led inclusive growth focusing on small and medium farmers to help transformation of economies is one of the major improvements in over the last decade. The programming envisages transformation is inclusive through improvements in productivity of small and medium farmers, targets increase in incomes, nutritious diet year around and increase women’s’ empowerment in the agriculture sector. Such interventions have also been complemented by commitments by governments to create conducive environments into the modernization of the rural sector, improve livelihoods, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. Intensification of agricultural production systems leads to transition of small holders from subsistence to commercially oriented farm and non-farm enterprises and increasing presented of private sector and private sector investment. The private investment in turn leads to growth of agro-based industries provides opportunities to draw labor out of subsistence agriculture and through improved linkages to demand for fresh and processed food in the growing rural towns and urban centers. This economic cycle drives productivity growth and reduce poverty in rural and semi-urban areas through increased off-farm value addition, employment and income generation and lower food costs.