



Agriculture Work Plan Must Be Adopted at COP15, Says Global Coalition

- Accelerated Scientific Research and Uptake Incentives Needed for Farmers -

Copenhagen, 14 December 2009 – With the conclusion of the Copenhagen climate negotiations in sight, Farming First calls on delegates to establish a targeted agricultural work plan to help farmers adapt and mitigate climate change.

Farming First, a global coalition of 125 organisations representing the world's farmers, scientists, engineers, and industry, urges the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15 UNFCCC) to embrace agriculture's potential contribution and the need for further development and diffusion of agricultural technologies and knowledge.

The World Bank currently estimates that 70% of the required increases in food output must come from innovations as yet undiscovered. Further efforts should include better harmonised regulatory frameworks for helping farmers access markets and two-way information exchanges.

Thomas Rosswall, Chairman of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) Challenge Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) says:

"The development of approaches to adaptation and mitigation in the farming sector must be based on scientific knowledge if we are to ensure that we can feed the global population. The future development of post-Kyoto agreements must also be guided by the best available scientific understanding."

Ajay Vashee, President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), says:

"Climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security and poverty reduction are inextricably interlinked with agriculture. We need to build institutional capacity to take on climate change, especially in supporting strong, self-determined farmers' organizations in countries throughout the world."

Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International, says:

"To mitigate climate change, we will need to increase natural carbon storage, reduce the emissions levels of our farm production and protect the earth's natural carbon sinks. To achieve all this will require science to deliver ever greater productivity, ever more sustainably."

Luc Maene, Director General of the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA), says:

"Input industries have an important role to play in promoting good agricultural

practices to achieve the dual challenge of increasing food production and reducing emissions."

- ENDS -

For photos from Agriculture Day or further questions, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

Farming First' (www.farmingfirst.org) is a global campaign to put agriculture back at the centre of the international development agenda. The supporters are a group of global organisations, representing a cross-section of the agricultural production chain. These organizations include the world's farmers (IFAP), the world's scientists (ICSU, FANRPAN, IFDC) and business and industry (CropLife, IFA).

'Farming First' aims to have its 6 principles incorporated into global agriculture policy in order to avoid future food crises and to help avoid the social unrest which may come from 3bn people being in food poverty.

See www.farmingfirst.org or www.youtube.com/user/FarmingFirst or follow us on Twitter on www.twitter.com/farmingfirst.

Agriculture Day

www.agricultureday.org

Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2009 (ARDD) is held on 12 December in Copenhagen, coinciding with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 15th Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP-15). The event will develop a workplan with strategies and actions to fully incorporate agriculture into the post-Copenhagen agenda.