



G8 Foreign Ministers Should Invest in 'Farm Support not Food Aid' in Africa

- Boosting Investment in Farmers Can Help Avoid Food and Water Crisis -

26 June 2009. The 'Farming First' coalition urges the G8 Foreign Ministers to prioritise agricultural investment to avoid a future food crisis. The Ministers will meet from 25-27 June, in Trieste, Italy.

Farming First's Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, a native Zimbabwean and CEO of FANRPAN, said:

"The voice of Africans needs to be heard. Food aid is not the only solution for African development. Farmers need access to resources and markets to benefit in the long-term. In short, African farmers need farm support not food aid."

Farming First's Ajay Vashee, a Zambian farmer and President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), said:

"The G8 is at a critical moment where it can impact African agriculture and global food security. The Foreign Ministers need to heed the call of other policy groups to boost agricultural investment to empower farmers, not keep them dependent."

'Farming First' offers a comprehensive framework for a more sustainable model for global agriculture. The 'Farming First' plan consists of six interlinked principles, which together aim to help farmers improve their livelihoods, manage the world's natural resources, and reliably feed a growing world population.

So far this year, other global and national policy bodies have reprioritised agriculture in their policy and funding decisions:

- The World Bank has tripled agricultural funding from \$4bn to \$12bn
- The UN Commission for Sustainable Development has "stressed that agriculture lay at the centre of sustainable development." (UNCSD press release)
- US President Barack Obama has announced \$448 million in new funding for African and Latin American agriculture with a commitment to double funding to \$1bn by 2010
- The Chinese administration has increased agriculture spending by 20% (an extra 121bn yuan or £13bn) to boost yields and raise rural incomes

In a meeting in April, the G8 Agriculture Ministers warned of the potential of a structural food crisis which could result in broader social and political instability. To address this, food production in the developing world would need to increase and price fluctuations would need to be kept under control.

Rising food demand, climate change pressures, water scarcity, and market price volatility are threatening global food security and the livelihoods of the world's 900 million smallholder farmers, particularly in the poorest and most vulnerable regions in Africa and South Asia.

- Ends -

Contact

Michael Hoevel
+44 (0)20 7079 9212
michaelh@glasshousepartnership.com

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 organisations 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 [@farmingfirst](https://twitter.com/farmingfirst).