



Farming First Governance Guidelines

October 1, 2009

Mission

Returning farmers to the centre of policy decisions is fundamental to sustainable development. Governments, businesses, scientists and civil society groups must focus attention on the source of our food security. All these groups must work together to enable the many millions of farm families, especially smallholders, to grow more crops sustainably through effective markets, more collaborative research and committed knowledge sharing.

The Farming First framework proposes six interlinked imperatives for sustainable development:

1. Safeguard natural resources
2. Share knowledge
3. Build local access and capacity
4. Protect harvests
5. Enable access to markets
6. Prioritise research imperatives

Who are we?

Farming First is a coalition of multi-stakeholder organisations, not an organisation. The coalition exists to articulate, endorse and promote practical, actionable programs and activities to further sustainable agricultural development worldwide.

There is no secretariat and it is not intended that one will be created.

The coalition exists to strengthen the voice of groups with shared views on the importance of improving farming and farmers' livelihoods. It also aims at building synergies in promoting Farming First's mission.

Participation in all projects and events is strictly voluntary.

Endorsers

Farming First eagerly welcomes new endorsers of the Farming First principles. The Steering Committee approves new endorsers according to the selection criteria below. Your endorsement means you agree with the principles of Farming First. Endorsers are generally organisations/associations which are related to agriculture and food or promote science and technology in this area. Endorsers can join on a voluntary basis. No financial commitment is required.

The only criteria for participation are:

- a) official status as a recognised organisation/association
- b) agreement with the Farming First principles
- c) interest in furthering sustainable agricultural development

Once accepted, endorsers will be listed on the Farming First website (Supporters page). They will receive updates on the activities of the coalition and will be invited to participate in events/activities as they choose. E-mails of endorsers and interested parties are kept in a mailing list. There is no obligation to undertake any specific activity.

To become an endorser, please e-mail a contact on the Steering Committee or send a note via the contact info on the Farming First website.

Funding

All activities of Farming First have been funded by "sweat equity" of existing endorsers provided as they are able and willing to do so. Projects such as the creation of the website or events are paid for with funds supplied by endorsers on a voluntary basis per project.

How can endorsers assist?

Endorsers are welcome and encouraged to:

- Submit case studies on sustainable agricultural development projects for the website. To be approved and reformatted by the appointed person to the website management.
- Post and forward links to the website www.farmingfirst.org and the Farming First channel on YouTube to people who may be interested, such as friends, colleagues and family. Set up an RSS feed to get the latest updates from the site and participate in the blog.
- Sign up for our quarterly newsletter.
- Blog on other websites about the issues of sustainable agricultural development and link back to www.farmingfirst.org.
- Give speeches or presentations on using the Farming First principles and relating them to your professional or community life. E-mail us to receive the Farming First PowerPoint and/or other tools.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is currently comprised of:

ICSU	(International Council for Science)
IFAP	(International Federation of Agricultural Producers)
IFA	(International Fertilizer Association)
CLI	(CropLife International)
WFEO	(World Federation of Engineering Organizations)

The group works by consensus. The Steering Committee holds regular conference calls and meets regularly in person.

Annual Meeting

The Steering Committee may organise a conference call of all endorsing organisations once a year.