



No. 0

GPFS – AT WORK: GREEN ECONOMY – SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

These messages have been prepared to guide SDC's input in the context of the negotiation in Rio+20

By 2050 the world's population will reach 9.1 billion, 34% higher than today. Nearly all this population increase will occur in developing countries. Urbanisation will continue at an accelerated pace from today 50% to likely 70%. Responding to the Nations' obligation to ensure the right to food, net food production will have to increase, waste and loss to be reduced while preserving the natural resource base and stopping the main drivers for climate change to assure food security and balanced nutrition. Rio+20 needs to respond to the increasing need for adequate investments in agricultural R&D (next generation technologies and foresight), policies (e.g. safety nets or resources governance) and regulation (e.g. trade) to maintain global stability and peace. Further, Rio should focus on:

- **Sustainable smallholder agriculture, with a special focus on women and youth, as it is the economic driver of most developing countries, providing the majority of the food and employment.** Sustainable agriculture defined as a "production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems, and people. The term is not limited to organic agriculture but includes cultivation systems that conserve the natural resources for coming generations, are economically viable and socially balanced." Rio should therefore advocate for the creation of a global multi-stakeholder partnership for the implementation of sustainable agriculture and global food chains including governments, civil society organizations, businesses and farmers' organizations.
- **Investments in rural areas: Infrastructure and of particular importance skills development, training and rural services to keep the productive part of the population in rural areas.** The increasing urbanization and the concentration of economic development in developing countries bears the risk that the rural areas are increasingly unpopular by the young generation and that the farmer communities are ageing. The future of food security is at stake.
- **Frameworks for governance of land and natural resources that respects rights and livelihoods as guidance for governments and investors.** The implementation of guidelines and standards for responsible governance and investment in land with a particular focus on gender. Biofuel production may not compete with food production
- **Promotion of incentives to reduce post harvest losses and waste in food value chains.** Post harvest losses and waste are as high as 20-50% of the total agricultural production can be prevented, thus increasing food availability without intensification of production.
- **Sustainable agricultural production that is the key to feed the still growing global population while preserving the natural resource assets (land and water).** Industrialized agriculture is leading to a fast degradation of the agro-ecosystem which consequently is becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate change.
- **Green economic development embracing climate change, biodiversity and land degradation simultaneously and include the sustainable use of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, with a particular focus on vulnerable ecosystems.** The current tendency of keeping the UN Environmental Conventions separated is reducing the potential to address the key determinants of a sustainable use of natural resources.

This series is meant to give guidance and reflects the position of the GPFS.

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