



Climate Leaders Fail to Include Agricultural Work Programme in Cancun Deal

Food security, farmers' livelihoods and agricultural mitigation still largely unaddressed in global climate planning

11 December 2010, CANCUN, MEXICO – Climate negotiators have failed to endorse a beneficial and widely supported agricultural work programme at this year's climate negotiations in Cancun.

"An agricultural work programme was supposed to be one of the low-hanging fruits of this year's climate negotiations," said Isabelle Coche, Farming First spokesperson from CropLife International. "Getting this passed would have been a welcome sign from countries that they were taking agriculture's potential contribution to the climate challenge seriously."

Without such a work programme, the climate solutions and challenges which agriculture presents will not have a formal mechanism for being collected and organised by experts from across the sector. These include research, investments and spending to help farmers to adapt to changing weather conditions as well as to reduce the carbon emissions they release during food production.

Throughout the negotiations, Farming First filmed exclusive interviews with leaders from the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the private sector, all of whom highlighted the important role which agriculture can play in tackling climate change.

These videos can be viewed here:

www.farmingfirst.org/videos

"So much good work is being done in agriculture, yet the farming sector still has no formal entry point within the negotiations for influencing policy or funding decisions," Coche continued.

Agriculture is a necessary yet significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 14-31 per cent of total emissions. The world's 1.5 billion members of farm families also manage the planet's water, soil and carbon systems. Better understanding its potential for mitigation and adaptation is essential to a comprehensive response to climate change.

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About Farming First:

Farming First is a global coalition representing the world's scientists, engineers and industry as well as more than 100 farmers' associations and agricultural development organisations. Farming First calls for a broad-based, knowledge-centred approach to increase agricultural output in a sustainable and socially responsible manner. To learn more, visit:
www.farmingfirst.org

To view Farming First's position on climate change, visit:
www.farmingfirst.org/climate