In 2011, the coalition is launching some new initiatives—At the beginning of the year we are focusing on the linkages between agriculture and nutrition. Green economy and food security will remain the other key issues for 2011 with new activities coming up in the months to come. The disappointing result in Cancun with regards to the agriculture work programme under UNFCCC was a setback for all those who had supported greater inclusion of agriculture in the negotiations. Climate change will nonetheless remain a cross-cutting issue for the coalition.

The linkages between agriculture, nutrition and health have gained significant prominence as part of the rise of agriculture in the international policy agenda. The UN is currently promoting its Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) program that aims at mobilizing support for increased investment in a set of nutrition interventions across different sectors worldwide. The International Food Policy Research Institute, through its 2020 initiative, is organizing on February 10-12 2011, an international food policy consultation in New Delhi, India entitled "Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health". The conference wishes to demonstrate the important and often overlooked linkages between the agricultural and nutrition fields. Farming First will be participating in the conference with a booth and launch of a video on the topic of agriculture and nutrition, showcasing examples from the coalition’s supporters.

Stay tuned!

Farming First TV upcoming launch
Farming First interviewed leading experts in 2010. Building on the video library, the coalition will be launching a web TV portal called Farming First TV in the first quarter of 2010. More interviews will be made.

In December, 11,000 videos were downloaded, including those of:

- Sir John Beddington, Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government
- Sam Bickersteth, Senior Policy Advisor on Climate Change and Agriculture at DFID
- Bruce Campbell, Director of CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
- Charles Mushizi, Coordinator of CERJI, based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Farming First was an official media partner of the Agriculture and Rural Development Day that took place on 4 December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico. The event, held parallel to COP16, brought agriculture sector adaptation and mitigation strategies to the forefront of global climate treaty negotiations. Following the event, the Farming First coalition called for an agricultural work programme to be adopted within the climate negotiations. By the end of COP16 in Cancun, climate negotiators had still failed to endorse such a work programme, despite an announcement from the World Bank of a new initiative calling for agriculture to play a bigger role in climate change solutions.

Farming First interview with the World Bank’s Special Envoy on Climate Change, Dr. Andrew Steer:
• http://vimeo.com/17942407

We also filmed a 4-part interview series with Jerry Nelson of the International Food Policy Research Institute:
• http://vimeo.com/16701775
• http://vimeo.com/16701549
• http://vimeo.com/16701361
• http://vimeo.com/16701202

For more information:
• Conference website
• Farming First press release: Agricultural work programme under threat amidst uncertain COP16 climate talks in Cancun, Mexico

**New case-studies**

Leaf Colour Charts Help Asian Farmers Manage Nitrogen Fertilizers

Transferring Knowledge to Farmers in Taiwan

Fighting Poor Nutrition with Biofortified Sorghum

Cocoa Offers New Hope for Nicaraguan Farmers

Credit for Fertilizer Helps Peruvian Coffee Growers Improve Livelihoods

Thank you for your support
Farming First hosted a side-event on November 3 entitled "Best practices in agricultural value chains: Improving productivity, reliability, and minimising risk to improve resilience to climate change". The event presented concrete initiatives from three Farming First supporters that aim to increase resilience and productivity at different points in the agricultural value chain. The event demonstrated that such projects can be scaled up.

Presentations:

- Christian Rouxel, European Irrigation Association
  Drip Irrigation Kits in the Sahel

- Thom Achterbosch, International Food and Agricultural Policy Council
  Carbon Standards in Agriculture and Food Trade

- Clyde Graham, Canadian Fertilizer Institute
  Nitrous Oxide Emission Reduction Protocol

At the end of the conference the coalition issued a statement on its outcomes. Farming First welcomed the commitment expressed by participants to achieving the ‘triple win’ of improving food security, addressing climate change and improving the lives and livelihoods of rural populations.

For more information:
- Conference website Down 2 Earth
- Farming First Statement on the outcomes from the conference
- Review of FAO report on "Climate-smart agriculture: policies, practices and financing for food security"
- IFA Press Release on international launch of NERP