



## **FARMING FIRST Governance Document**

### **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 is founded on six interlinked principles for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture:

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

Farming First also strongly supports the Zero Hunger Challenge of the UN Secretary General.

### **Who are we?**

Farming First is a coalition of multi-stakeholder organisations, not an organisation unto itself. The coalition exists to articulate, endorse and promote practical, actionable programs and activities to further 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 mission.

Participation in all projects and events is strictly voluntary.

### **Supporters**

Farming First welcomes new supporters of the Farming First principles. Supporters are generally organisations/networks working on agricultural and food issues.

Supporters are invited and can join on a voluntary basis. No financial commitment is required, though support financially and in-kind is welcome.

The Co-Chairs invite new supporters and the Steering Committee approves new supporters according to the selection criteria below. Your endorsement means you agree with the principles of Farming First.

The criteria for participation are:

- a) alignment with the Farming First principles
- b) interest in furthering agricultural development
- c) willingness to support publicly Farming First messages
- d) ability to assist on Farming First efforts
- e) be a legitimate organization with a strong supporters' base with a mandate relevant to the Farming First mission

Once accepted, supporters 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 supporters and interested parties are kept in a confidential mailing list. There is no obligation to undertake any specific activity.

To enquire about being a supporter, please e-mail a contact on the Steering Committee or send a note via the contact info on the Farming First website. The Steering Committee will reply to understand your availability to be an active participant in the group. Farming First also proactively reaches out to potential supporters.

## **Funding**

All activities of Farming First have been funded by "sweat equity" of existing supporters, 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 supporters on a voluntary basis per project. All supporters are welcome to contribute resources to Farming First initiatives.

## **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee shall include representatives of the major sectors of the coalition (farmers, civil society, scientists, business) and shall not exceed 10 members. Members of the steering committee shall dedicate time and enthusiasm to the coalition as a key actor responsible for the successful implementation of the annual strategic plan.

The Steering Committee will be renewed every two years. A call for nominations and indications of interest in sitting on the Steering Committee shall be made every two years to all supporters. Interested supporters are welcome to indicate their interest by the relevant deadline. The co-chairs shall review applications and prepare a list of nominees as representative as possible of the major sectors in the coalition. The nominees shall be reviewed and agreed by the Steering Committee by consensus.

During the period between Steering Committee renewals, active supporters may be added to the Steering Committee up to the maximum limit.

The Steering Committee is currently comprised of:

- ICSU (International Council for Science)

- WFO World Farmers Organisation
- IFA (International Fertilizer Association)
- CLI (CropLife International)
- WFEO (World Federation of Engineering Organisations)
- FANRPAN

Major funders shall be renewed to the Steering Committee.

The group works by consensus. Most of the work is done virtually (emails and conference calls). The Steering Committee holds regular conference calls (every quarter) and meets regularly in person (at least twice a year).

### **Supporters Conference Call**

The Steering Committee shall arrange a conference call with supporters once a year. This is an opportunity to share upcoming Farming First plans and to discuss ways to implement and further the work of the coalition.