

**Contribution of the UNEP Farmers Major Group on the  
UNCSD 2012 (Rio+20) Zero Draft of the Outcome Document to  
the 12th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council /  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF)**

**Nairobi - Kenya, 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012**

**SECTION III - Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication**

- We call for a set of shared principles to guide the Rio Outcome, its implementation, and its ongoing impact assessment.

**SECTION V - Framework for Action and follow-up**

**Priority Theme: Food security**

- The “Food Security” priority must be broadened to; “Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture”.
- In reflecting upon the role of agriculture in the Rio+20 discussions, we call for the international community and governments to honor the agriculture related commitments made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). This is inline with the call for honoring of commitments on the Water priority theme as is done under paragraph 67 on the Water priority theme in the Zero Draft document.
- A global coordinating mechanism led by FAO, inter alia, must be mandated to propose actions to implement sustainable and humane agriculture in order to make the Rio Agreements actionable.
- Recognizing that there are approximately 1 billion hungry people, the majority of them being in developing countries, we call for much greater support of small holder farmers in order to fulfill their potential in; contributing towards food and nutrition security, addressing poverty eradication and providing ecosystem services through enabling public investment in public goods and institutions for sustainable agriculture.
- With more than 1.3 billion people in the global south relying on livestock for their livelihoods the livestock sector must be recognized as an important sub-sector of agriculture and in particular the critical importance of good animal welfare and humane livestock production systems in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in the global south must be considered.
- The scientific basis for political action on sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security must be strengthened by inviting the CFS/HLPE to explore options to conduct a regular, intergovernmental, participatory, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder assessment of agricultural knowledge, science, and technology.
- We call for Governments to develop a clear intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder process for examining the impact of intellectual-property regimes on living materials and processes.
- Governments must be encouraged to support in situ conservation and breeding strategies of peasant, communities and other small-scale producers.

- States must guarantee the rights of small-scale farmers and food producers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, peasants and local communities and protect them from ill practices such as land-grabbing, empower them to exercise the right to; utilize their knowledge, resources, practices and innovations, and pro-actively facilitate their participation in decision making processes in all aspects of agriculture including production, distribution, pricing, marketing, standard setting, policy making and regulation of the agricultural commodities market.

### **Cities**

- Currently there is no mention in the Zero Draft of food and nutrition security, sustainable urban agriculture and the necessary urban - rural linkages in the context of cities. These must be included if cities are to be sustainable.

### **Green jobs-social inclusion**

- In addition to business and industry, the roles of other actors, such as Local Authorities, in creating and strengthening green jobs and livelihoods must be recognized and encouraged.
- The role of farms as enterprises offering employment, entrepreneurial and innovation opportunities must be included within the context of green job creation.
- Governments must incorporate the concept of local and regional economic development, recognizing the need for partnerships between farmers, communities, businesses and governments in spurring green jobs and livelihoods, as well as the critical role that policy and investments by local authorities play.
- We call for greater use and leverage of public investments and procurements to support sustainable agricultural development especially smallholder farmers, including the expansion of initiatives such as the WFP's Purchase for Progress.
- Agriculture must be 're-branded' to make it more interesting and attractive to young people through a number of complimentary incentive measures and facilitative mechanisms that enables them to lead green growth, sustainable agriculture and secure quality food and nutrition for current and future generations.

### **Gender Equality**

- Enhancing the role of women at all levels and in all aspects of rural development, agriculture, agribusiness and entrepreneurship, nutrition and food security is imperative as set out in Para 40 of Section IV (Protecting and Managing the Natural Resource Base of Economic and Social Development) of the JPOI.

### **Mountains, Oceans and Seas - Vulnerable Ecosystems and Communities:**

- Much greater emphasis on supporting the special needs of vulnerable regions and ecosystems, such as mountain regions and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is urgently required. We call on member states to endorse and strengthen the language on fishing and mountains in paragraphs 83 to 85 & 94 respectively of the Zero Draft.

### **Sustainable Consumption and Production**

- We call for greater use of Public Procurement as a tool for catalyzing the transition to sustainable and humane agriculture aimed at supporting smallholders in the context of sustainable development, poverty eradication and food and nutrition security.
- Sustainable consumption and production patterns in food and beverage must look at the entire supply chain and consider mechanisms to better adapt packaging and transportation to be more sustainable.