

Private Sector Side Event

Why Food Must Move to Feed a Hungry World
<p>HOSTED BY: Cargill, FAO, IFAD</p>
<p>DATE, LOCATION : October 14, 2015 – UN FAO, Rome, Italy</p>
<p>SPEAKERS : Steven Were Omamo, Director, Global Engagement and Research Division, IFAD Siobhan Kelly, Agribusiness Officer, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division, FAO H.E. Peter McGovern, Ambassador of Canada to Italy, FAO Harold Poelma, Business Unit Leader, Cargill</p> <p>MODERATOR: H.E. Peter McGovern, Ambassador of Canada to Italy, FAO</p>
<p>MEETING SUMMARY (250 WORDS) Cargill held a side-event discussing how the public and private sectors can work together to address honoring comparative trust-based trade to support food security and nutrition. With 71 people in attendance, discussions were held on how collaboration between stakeholders is key to finding solutions to hunger; ensuring safe, nutritious and affordable food for all. The panelists provided insight into how farmers can be better supported to plant the best crops for their growing conditions and then trade the surpluses whilst ensuring their own household food security and nutrition.</p>
<p>KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS, INCLUDING NEW PROJECTS OR PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>Harold Poelma, Business Unit Leader, Cargill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to think about efficient ways to move food around the globe. - Only 16 percent of food crosses borders, but that will have to increase as global population growth is skewing toward areas that are not blessed with the natural resources required to produce food. - Global agriculture and international trade play a vital role in ensuring areas blessed with good soil and climate use their potential to become a supplier to places of demand where they are most needed. <p>Steven Were Omamo, Director, Global Engagement and Research Division, IFAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food must move, but it must do so most importantly between the farm gate and the nearest market, and it must do so on terms that are favourable to productivity growth on small farms.

- There are three high-priority areas for policy action: (1) addressing imperfect competition that limits market opportunities for smallholders; (2) high transaction costs, especially transport and handling costs; and (3) lack of finance for smallholders considered to be too high-risk for most financial institutions.
- There is a role for partnerships spanning private, public, and civil society sectors to help smallholders and other marginalized groups overcome these challenges and thereby be better able to exploit emerging opportunities in rapidly transforming agrifood value chains driven by rapid urbanization and technological change, and thereby enter into the mainstream of growth processes.

Siobhan Kelly, Agribusiness Officer, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division, FAO

- Local food systems are critical for poverty reduction, food security, and nutrition.
- Urbanization and population growth in developing countries is increasing the demand for locally produced and processed food.
- This provides small poor actors (farmers, processors, traders etc) with income generating opportunities by adding nutritional value locally and catering to local tastes and eating habits.
- Local actors create rural employment, generate income, and contribute to the growth of a domestic and inclusive agribusiness sector.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- We need farmers to be successful. That requires creating a market for their product and supporting farmers in developing countries through training, farm inputs and financing.
- Corporate social responsibility needs to be based on sustainable business models
- Partnerships need to be leveraged more so they can benefit farmers by helping to raise their education and training, provide access to technology and help reduce costs that farmers have to incur.