

**Statement on Post 2015 Goals
For Food and Agriculture
by the International Agri-Food Network on behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism
February 11, 2013**

The MDGs placed poverty and hunger at the top of the list. As we discuss the Post 2015 agenda, we must not forget the primacy of those goals. They are not met and part of that is due to the failure to focus adequately on agriculture and rural development in the early years of the MDGs. Unfortunately it took a food crisis to remind the world that agricultural productivity and food availability need to be high priorities.

Quite simply, agriculture is the primary driver to abate hunger and reduce poverty. Throughout history, agricultural prosperity has led to successful economies. And food security has a direct impact on national and political security. It also addresses inequalities. For instance, we know rural women lag behind urban women and all men in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Rural development and farming is a key mechanism to address this devastating gap.

We applaud the zero-hunger challenge and the focus on nutrition as well as food security. To achieve these ambitious goals we must encourage increased agricultural productivity by all, by ensuring that food flows freely across borders and around the globe to places where it is needed, and by ensuring that economic development supports both local production and the purchase of imports.

There is no “one-size-fits-all” solution in agriculture, and we would like to emphasize that the Post 2015 process must reflect a **broad diversity** of farming systems: from livestock to crop; horticulture to agro-forestry; modern to traditional; co-operatives to businesses; smallholders to large.

We offer three messages that we in the private sector mechanism believe should be part of the post 2015 process.

1. **First, agriculture is central to addressing hunger and poverty.** Supportive policies are needed to encourage investments in local agriculture and innovation that lead to food security, economic development, stability and national security. Returning agriculture and rural development to at least 10% of overseas development assistance is equally as important as countries meeting their national commitments under programs like CAADP.
2. **Second, sustainable agriculture is knowledge-based and requires a holistic view.** Just as people-centred approaches are at the core of the development

aspirations of the UN, agriculture programs are needed that are 'farmer-centred and knowledge-based' so that the full potential of farmers, both men and women, including small-holder and commercial farmers, can be harnessed in making food security and sustainable development a reality. Farmers need access to land, water, knowledge, inputs, and credit to grow a crop and functioning markets to sell their products. Rural infrastructure needs to be in place including a revitalisation of extension services.

- 3. Third, achieving zero hunger means a focus on food and nutrition.** The intersection of food security with development is not only an immediate measure of hungry mouths, but also the long term implications on a country's well being. If children are stunted in their first 1000 days the challenges remain for their health and education for their life time. The capacity of people to be part of building their nation and shaping their future can be irrevokably harmed. The new agenda must include nourishment as well as hunger in its agenda.