

IAFN

2013 activity report

Much of the IAFN's work in 2013 was dedicated to coordinating the 'Private Sector Mechanism' (PSM) which provides private sector input at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). 2013 saw the election of a new IAFN Chairperson, Hakan Bahceci, CEO of Dubai-headquartered Hakan Agro Group. Bahceci was elected at the IAFN Annual General Meeting in June in Rome and will hold the post for two years.

There was ongoing work with policy makers throughout the year, as well as the formation of PSM committees to respond to CFS work streams such as Responsible Agricultural Investment, Biofuels and Nutrition. Many of those committees met almost monthly. Position papers were created regarding talent development, small scale farming, and nutrition.

Among the many accomplishments of the year, the private sector mechanism was able to successfully propose that CFS should focus on talent development in the agriculture sector in its 2015-2017 programme of work. An International Year of Pulses was declared for 2016 with the support of farmers and pulse companies all over the world. IAFN was also able to work with the Global Ag Investing conference to hold two consultations on responsible agricultural investment principles.

Members of IAFN and the private sector were also very active in the discussion regarding Post 2015 Development Goals at the UN. Representatives were included during meetings in Rome, Madrid and New York in the effort to ensure agriculture, food and nutrition remain at the top of the development agenda. Until the Zero Hunger Challenge is met, we must all work together to achieve food security.

At CFS plenary, October 7-13, a 60-person delegation of business leaders was present at the 40th plenary session of CFS in Rome, in order to share expertise and experiences in the fight against hunger. The goal is to better reach the UN's Strategic Objectives on food and agriculture.

Among the many highlights of the week was the first meeting between the private sector delegation and the Director General of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Jose Graziano da Silva.



Exploration of private sector partnerships is of increasing importance at global level and was discussed at the meeting. More information can be found on FAO's website <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/202170/icode/>

With support from members, the IAFN was able to provide a platform and visibility at the CFS plenary for its most pressing issues at the uppermost UN level. This included hosting an annual High Level Dinner on October 8 - a well-respected forum for senior leadership from the private sector to exchange views with ambassadors on the ways to further responsible agricultural investment.

The private sector mechanism co-ordinated four high profile side events attaining in excess of 225 attendees, on the topics of:

- Micronutrients and nutrition
- Biofuels
- Responsible Agricultural Investing
- Talent Development

The delegation also engaged in bilateral meetings with regions, countries, and all three Rome-based UN agencies.

IAFN received positive feedback from its many contacts at CFS and the private sector was repeatedly referenced on the plenary floor by CFS Chairman Olaniran and others. The increased profile for the PSM has given way to a pivotal moment for the role of its constituency at CFS.

Among the other key achievements at CFS plenary were four plenary speaking spots for private sector delegates, including delegate Barrie Bain of Informa, as a panellist at Friday's 'Special Event' with BBC Anchor Zeinab Badawi. In addition there were 16 interventions made by a full range of delegation members on a broad range of topics in the CFS agenda.

The CFS plenary is an important part of the annual engagement, and additionally the IAFN was able to help facilitate private sector voices at many meetings including consultations on responsible agricultural investment, FAO Conference, workshops on sustainable consumption and production, as well as the technical meeting in preparation for the International Conference on Nutrition.

The IAFN has a virtual Secretariat that maintains its website (www.agrifood.net), provides monthly updates on CFS activities, builds relationships, co-ordinates the IAFN committees and liaises with FAO and other multilateral bodies. Many members find it a useful place to learn about policies that may concern its membership.