

February 2009

**REPORT FROM IFAP TO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

**I. IFAP'S "WARSAW DECLARATION"**

The business of IFAP is linking farmers from different continents to share experiences and jointly lobby international decision-making forums and institutions on issues which affect farmers' livelihoods. As IFAP grows its developing country membership, its credibility and effectiveness is growing too. Member organisations of IFAP continue to be actively engaged in setting the IFAP policy agenda and lobbying for IFAP policy positions. Leaders from member organisations are represented on IFAP's Executive Committee and are involved in IFAP's commodity groups, specialized committees and Expert Policy Working Groups.

IFAP held its 38<sup>th</sup> World Farmers' Congress in Warsaw, Poland, 31 May-6 June 2008. Three hundred farmer leaders from 80 countries were present, with 120 farmer leaders from developing countries – the highest level ever. The Congress elected new leadership and welcomed into membership 23 new national farmers' organizations (from 23 different countries). For the first time in its 62-year history a farmer leader from a developing country was elected as IFAP President, Mr. Ajay Vashee from Zambia.

The Warsaw Congress adopted five policy statements, on the following subjects: Agricultural Biodiversity; Bioenergy; Animal Welfare; Food Safety and Quality; Aid-for trade. At the previous World Farmers Congress in 2006, IFAP had adopted a policy paper on "Mitigation and adaptation to climate change effects: the role of farmers". This paper is being updated.

When IFAP met for its Congress in Warsaw, world attention was focused on a 'global food crisis'. In response, the Congress issued an 'IFAP Warsaw declaration' that was sent to FAO urging governments to strengthen programs in six main areas. These six areas form the basis for the draft IFAP work plan for 2008-2010. They are:

1. Promoting investment in agriculture
2. Building commodity supply chains
3. Managing risks
4. Mitigation and adaptation to Climate change
5. Conserve biodiversity through eco-system services
6. Ensuring that WTO trade rules give space for farmers to contribute to national food security and stimulate the development of agriculture.

## **II. POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2010**

### **▪ AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ISSUES**

#### **1. Increasing investment in agriculture**

IFAP is lobbying for significant increases in investment in agriculture in order to attain global poverty and hunger reduction targets. This is being done through a new agreement to set up an IFAP-World Bank Consultation Mechanism. Consultations would take place globally, regionally and nationally. IFAP is also seeking to develop a similar relationship with FAO.

IFAP was also involved in a series of meetings and side events in New York linked to the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. The events included: UN General Assembly on Africa's Development needs; FAO-IFAD side event at the UN on "A Response to the World Food Crisis: Smallholder Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development"; USAID event on "Investing in Agriculture Partnerships to Combat Hunger"; UN Private Sector Forum organized by the Global Compact.

More recently, IFAP's President participated in the World Economic Forum Conference in Davos, 29-31 January. He addressed the session on "Managing our Future Water Needs", the dinner on "A New Vision for Agriculture", and was a panellist in the session entitled "Unlocking the Food Chain".

#### **2. Promoting rural employment and decent work**

For the first time in 20 years, "Promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction" was one of the key items on the agenda of the ILO's International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June 2008. Since half of the world's population and three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas, the promotion of decent employment in rural areas is therefore a key prerequisite for advancing the global Decent Work Agenda, and for moving towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). IFAP has set up a new Expert Working Group on Rural Employment to work with ILO and help develop an IFAP policy view on rural employment. IFAP is also engaged with ILO in a global partnership of rural institutions to eliminate hazardous child labour in agriculture.

### **▪ ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

#### **3. Recognizing the role of agriculture in combating climate change**

For the first time in 10 years, the UN CSD is discussing agriculture and rural development in this 2-year work cycle. IFAP has produced a document called "Farmers' priorities for action" for CSD-17 and will participate in the CSD Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting in February 2009 and the CSD-17 proper in May 2009.

IFAP is lobbying to have a special agreement on agriculture and climate change included in the Post Kyoto Protocol negotiations being held in the framework of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) through an active participation in the Bali Action Plan and through showcasing good examples of farmers' actions on adaptation and mitigation. IFAP has set up an Expert Group on Climate Change and Bioenergy to support policy formulation and to ensure IFAP's contribution in UNFCCC meetings requiring technical expertise.

IFAP will sign a MoU with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). Member organisations will be able to benefit from regional workshops organised by the WMO to help farmers better understand meteorological information and thus better manage their production strategy and crop selection. IFAP and WMO are working to produce two joint publications. One is an 'Issue brief' on the impacts of climate change on farmers; the other is a joint publication on 'Adaptation to climate change (including farmers' experiences)'. The first draft should be ready in June 2009 and the final version published in October 2009.

IFAP is building a relationship with the UNFCCC. In December 2008, IFAP spoke at the annual Ministerial Conference of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC COP 14, MOP 4) in Poznan, Poland, and hopes to again address this conference in December 2009 when it meets in Copenhagen to adopt a new Post-2012 Kyoto Protocol. In order to influence the outcome of this Conference, IFAP will hold its own conference on: "Climate Change: farmers' solutions" on 27 May 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The event will show UNFCCC representatives that agriculture can provide meaningful contributions to addressing climate change challenges.

A summary of IFAP's policy document on: "Facing climate and energy challenges through sustainable bioenergy" was published as an article in FAO's State of Food and Agriculture report, 2008 under the title: "Biofuels: a new opportunity for family agriculture". IFAP's Expert Group on Climate Change and Bioenergy has proposed to develop a Frequently Asked Questions type of document in order to address the issue of bioenergies in relation to agriculture and the food and energy crises.

#### **4. Maintaining water resources for agriculture to meet world food needs**

Too often, attention in international policy discussions is focused on water for urban areas to the detriment of rural areas. In order to promote increased investments in water for agriculture IFAP is leading the Farmers' Group in a multi-stakeholder process to prepare the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum that will take place in Istanbul, 16-22 March 2009. IFAP will form a new Expert Working Group on Water.

In 2008, IFAP participated in CRIC 7 and CST meetings to advocate better involvement of farmers in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). In 2009, IFAP will participate in the UNCCD Conference (COP 9) to lobby for the agricultural sector as a partner in rural development and the fight against desertification and land degradation.

#### **5. Rewarding farmers for environmental stewardship**

IFAP is working with the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in preparation of the agricultural aspect of the International Year on Biodiversity in 2010. The main objectives is to advocate the positive contribution of agriculture to biodiversity, and to promote the development of payment schemes for ecosystem services provided by farmers. IFAP is also strengthening collaboration with FAO, which is in charge of coordinating the program of work on agricultural biodiversity with the CBD Secretariat. A joint publication agricultural biodiversity and the role of farmers is being written in collaboration with the CBD and FAO. It will be disseminated at the CBD COP 10 in Japan in 2010. IFAP will also collect case studies to publish on the CBD website.

### **▪ TRADE AND MARKETING ISSUES**

#### **6. Assuring gains for farmers from the Doha Round**

There is increasing interest within the IFAP membership to revisit its IFAP statement on the

WTO Doha trade negotiations that was adopted in November 1992, in the light of recent global changes, including the global food and energy crises, and concerns over climate change and biodiversity. IFAP started exploring a possible new trade agenda at the WTO Public Forum in Geneva on 25 September 2008, where it hosted a session entitled “Should the Doha Agenda on Agriculture be revised in light of new challenges facing farmers?” Ambassadors from the G-4 nations – Brazil, EU, India, USA – and the Chair of the Agricultural Negotiations in the WTO were asked to respond to this question about the continuing relevance of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Even though there was no agreement over the content of the current DDA, a general consensus was reached that the current round should be concluded before another agenda is considered. The Executive Committee supports this view.

## **7. Empowering farmers in markets; managing risk**

IFAP is involved in a \$4 million research and policy program in partnership with ECART<sup>1</sup> called ESFIM (Empowering Small-holder Farmers in Markets). Funding has been approved by AgriCord and IFAD for Phase 1 covering 2009-2012. National platforms currently are being set up with researchers in 11 countries (Benin, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda; Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay; India, Philippines).

For the future, IFAP has been asked to expand activities in this work area to include:

- More activities of its Committee on Agricultural Cooperatives
- Examination of appropriate policy and economic measures to help strengthen the competitiveness of family agriculture in a more open global economy
- Increasing transparency of agricultural markets, and reducing speculation

Risk management is a key concern of farmers in IFAP in the light of increasing volatility of agricultural markets and weather patterns. To progress work in this area, IFAP has set up an Expert Working Group on Risk Management. This Group has put together a pamphlet on “Existing practice – Risk management in agriculture”. A research and policy programme on risk management in agriculture in Africa is planned in partnership with ECART in 2009-2010 within the framework of the European Commission’s Food Security Thematic Programme for Africa.

## **8. Promoting good farming practises**

IFAP adopted a policy statement on Food safety and quality at the World Farmers’ Conference on Warsaw. A ‘Policy Brief’ has been elaborated on the basis of this statement. An ‘Issue brief’ was also published on Certification of agricultural products. In order to follow up on its policy statement, IFAP met with senior official of the Food Safety Division of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and is now working to obtain the status of a collaborating organisation with the WHO.

IFAP adopted basic policy statements on Animal Welfare in general and on animal welfare and global trade and on animal welfare and biotechnology. IFAP is mainly engaging on animal welfare issues through the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health, Paris) and participated in the OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Cairo, October 20-22, 2008. IFAP currently holds the permanent seat for ‘industry groups’ in the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group. IFAP is now working on a policy statement on animal identification and traceability to be completed by March 2009.

### **III. COMMUNICATIONS**

A new communications team in IFAP has been working together to expand communications activities - amplifying the work of

<sup>1</sup> ECART – European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics

the organization, enhancing the effectiveness of programs and increasing IFAP's visibility in the world. Also a new IFAP website is being developed. The main elements of the program are:

1. **Increasing the visibility of IFAP** - media contacts at international events; distribution of IFAP statements; organisation of side-events. IFAP has created some new communications tools, including "Issue briefs" to raise awareness of policy issues from a farmer's point of view, and "Policy briefs" to give IFAP's key messages on an issue in a compact form. These are in addition to the IFAP newsletter "World Farmer" which has been redesigned
2. **Real-time reporting** - reports and statements from IFAP meetings, and those where IFAP is represented, are uploaded to the IFAP website and sent out in a new electronic "News Flash" within the week; video and audio of IFAP interventions has been streamed in 'real time' to the IFAP website; photos of events are systematically included in reporting.
3. **Organised lobbying** - IFAP is releasing press statements in advance of major meetings on what it expects governments to deliver for farmers as a meeting outcome; members of IFAP delegations are lobbying their national government representatives before and during such meetings in order to get farmers' views included in the meeting decisions.
4. **Building IFAP media networks** - contacts with journalists in the form of interviews, articles and press information, focusing in particular on Paris, Rome, Geneva and New York which are the cities where IFAP's intergovernmental organisation partners are mainly located.

#### **IV. REGIONAL COORDINATION**

Largely as a result of IFAP's expanded efforts in the area of regional coordination, the participation of farmer leaders from developing countries in the work of IFAP is increasing substantially. This work includes:

- **Missions to strengthen the regional networks** - mobilising farmers at the grass roots to sustain membership in each region and to increase it. .
- **Workshops/seminars to build capacity** - women leadership seminars in Asia and in Africa in 2008 and in the Mediterranean Region in 2009. In December 2008, IFAP held a Communications Workshop in South America. Workshops in 2009 will be focused on policy issues and processes.
- **Building linkages with regional organisations and networks** – with regional research networks and policy organisations.

#### **V. COMMODITY ACTIVITIES**

Most of the work of IFAP's commodity groups between conferences has been mainstreamed into the policy work e.g. animal welfare with the Meats and Feeds Group and the Dairy Group, bioenergy with the Grains and Oilseeds Group. However the Tropical Commodities Group has been active in involving farmers in international commodity platforms, especially on cotton, bananas, horticulture and coffee. In addition, IFAP is helping to set up a national cocoa farmers' platform in Cote d'Ivoire. The work on cotton is being done through a MoU with the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). For bananas, IFAP took part in the preparatory workshop to set up a multi-stakeholder banana Forum (MSF). For horticulture, IFAP is a Board member of the Global Horticulture Initiative. For coffee, IFAP is setting up a coffee-forum to facilitate exchange of information and experiences, build capacity and represent small coffee producers in relevant international coffee forums.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

Coming out of a successful World Farmers' Congress in Warsaw in June 2008, IFAP has organised itself with the new Presidency to pursue an ambitious work program for 2008-2010. The program seeks to promote farmers views on 10 specific policy agendas, working with new IFAP expert working groups and the relevant intergovernmental bodies to change outcomes. The program also seeks to raise the visibility and impact of IFAP through an expanded and concerted communications program, including through new tools like newsflashes, issue briefs and policy briefs, 'real-time' reporting, and stronger media relations. Further, IFAP is working to strengthen its regional networks of farmers' organisations and working relations with regional organisations, through missions and workshops.

## APPENDIX 1: MAIN IFAP EVENTS 2009

### a. Global

#### IFAP sessions in Copenhagen, Denmark 26-29 May 2009

- May 26: Cooperative Committee
- May 27: Conference on "Climate Change: Farmers' Solutions"
- May 28-29: Executive Committee

#### IFAP sessions in Dublin, Ireland 28-31 July 2009

- July 28: Committee on Women in Agriculture; Committee on Young Farmers (parallel sessions)
- July 29: Commodity group meetings (4 parallel sessions)
- July 30: Commodity Conference Plenary session
- July 31: Farm Visit

#### IFAP sessions in Niagara, Ontario, Canada

- October 21: Joint Farm visit of NA-EU Conference and IFAP Executive Committee
- October 22-23: IFAP Executive Committee

### b. Regional

- March 29-31: Asian Farmers' Committee, Cambodia
- April 22-25: Africa Farmers' Committee, Nairobi, Kenya.
- June 22-25: Latin American and Caribbean Farmers' Committee, San José, Costa Rica
- September 24-26: Mediterranean Farmers' Committee, Catania, Italy

### c. Thematic

- April 6: IFAP Working Group on Risk Management, Paris
- April 7: IFAP Working Group on Rural Employment, Paris
- Unscheduled: IFAP Working Group on Water, Paris