International Farming Systems Association Global Learning Opportunity (IFSA GLO) – UPDATE –

We are pleased to confirm that the preparations for IFSA GLO are on track.

Themes: Overall challenge theme -- Farming systems and poverty: making a difference

Theme 1 -- Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Policies in a Globalizing World
Theme 2 – Trade and Market Linkages
Theme 3 -- Knowing and Learning Processes
Theme 4 -- Development Strategies, Pathways and Synergies

Date and Venue: October 31-November 4, 2005 at the Selasianum (see web site: http://www.salesianum.it/). This is located on the outskirts of Rome and easy to reach from the airport.

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Key dates:

1  **30 July** - deadline for Round table Conveners’ comments to authors on their abstracts
2  **30 August** - deadline for Early Registration
3  **15 September** - deadline for submission of full papers, poster summaries and best practices for inclusion in the Pre-Proceedings CD.

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Registration: We have partnered with the Italian based NGO, AIAB (Association International Agricultura Biologica) that will be providing logistical support including the registration and reservations for the IFSA GLO. The web site for registration and reservations will be sent in a separate announcement. Early registration will be $300 up to 30 August. Thereafter it will be $350.

Program: The provisional programme is attached.

Notification of Acceptance: The abstracts have been reviewed and
if you have not already heard from your Theme Leader, you will be hearing directly from them before the end of June.

**Submission of Full Papers:** Please be apprised that papers are optional this year. However, papers to be included in the Pre-Proceedings must be received in their final form by 15 September 2005. For those of you who wish to have your paper reviewed prior to final submission, please make a direct request to your Theme Leader or Round Table Convener by 15 August. The papers should follow the format provided at the end of this message.

**Travel Budgets:** At this time we do not have resources available to cover either registrations or travel and lodging expenses. For those of you who have not identified travel budgets, we therefore encourage you to continue to explore possibilities from your side.

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**Full Theme Descriptions:**

**Overall challenge theme -- Farming systems and poverty: making a difference**

“Farming systems and poverty: making a difference” combines the IFSA mandate with the title of the influential FAO-World Bank publication on “Farming Systems and Poverty: Farmers’ Livelihoods in a Changing World”, and reflects priority issues for major stakeholders. Some major thrusts for the Symposium could be: mainstreaming of good practices, including the differentiation of knowledge and responses by different farming systems; partnership strengthening, including opportunities for creating new partnerships during the Symposium; and mobilizing resources for sustainable agricultural and rural development (SARD), including local, national and international investments. Other key contributions of the GLO would include: improved CSO interaction with S&T community on SARD; greater contact lists for regional information exchange; enhanced local knowledge swapping, knowledge pooling and lesson learning; and local peer-to-peer communication for innovation and learning at national and local grassroots levels; and further collaboration between CSO, IGO, private sector and Governments.

The themes add value to ongoing dialogue and emerging issues on the effectiveness of development approaches and provide platforms and options for launching field-level actions.

**Theme 1 -- Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Policies in**
**a Globalizing World**

Innovations in policy are a priority concern for many stakeholders in the context of globalization, structural adjustment, decentralization and privatization processes which have contributed to the reduction or even withdrawal of Government support from the agricultural and rural sector and the collapse of services to farmers. Farming systems practitioners can report impacts on smallholders, exciting R&D work in the field, debate good practice and the ‘State-of-the-Art’, and demonstrate contributions to the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals.

**Theme 2 – Trade and Market Linkages**

From the pervasive impacts of increasing trade liberalization on farmers and consumers, lessons can be drawn and ways forward identified. One core element of this theme is farmer-market linkages within the overall context of growing concentration of agro-industry. A richer understanding is needed of the complexity of supermarkets and market chains for small producers and urban consumers; the impacts of pro-poor global trade agreements; the growth of local, organic and fair trade food systems; the effects on food safety and quality; and the markets for seeds and other farm inputs. The synthesis of field experience on impacts on smallholder farming families, the rural poor, or the landless poor (what works; what does not work) would contribute to the identification of appropriate targeted policy responses (above).

**Theme 3 -- Knowing and Learning Processes**

Understanding how rural people learn and share experiences, in what context and learning infrastructure and with which tools has replaced the paternalistic client-orientation of rural development during the 1970s-1980s. One challenge is to strengthen entrepreneurial capacity for peer-to-peer knowing and learning for better decision making in poor farm households in complex systems, based on experiences with local multi-stakeholder collaborative learning at the field level in SARD, NRM, marketing, demand-driven advisory and research services.

**Theme 4 -- Development Strategies, Pathways and Synergies**

Based on the characterization of farming systems and an understanding of their dynamics, differentiated context-specific development pathways can be identified around which multi-
stakeholder alliances and public-private partnerships (e.g., CSO, inter-
governmental organizations, governments, private sector, etc) could 
coalesce. A challenge is to foster and mainstream such targeted 
partnerships with guidelines, regulations and investment practices. 
Such alliances are required for managing ecosystems and landscapes 
from farms to catchments, intensification strategies, environmental 
services, landcare, conservation of the natural resource base and 
biodiversity, livelihoods diversification, conservation agriculture, eco-
agriculture, urban agriculture, and linking mitigation, risk and 
response for vulnerable systems and populations, including HIV-AIDS.

Format for Full Papers:

- Microsoft Word or Word Perfect
- Rich Text Format (an available "save as" option on most current word processors)
- All papers should be concise and written in grammatically correct English. If English is not your native language, you should seek the help of a colleague or professional translator.
- The title of the paper should be as concise as possible.
- The author must obtain permission to publish material and for using any other material protected by copyright where necessary.
- Abstract should be no longer than 200 words and the complete paper should be no longer than EIGHT (8) pages in length, including figures, graphs and references.
- Use Times Roman font (or other serif, proportional font) at a size of 12 points.

2 Type abstract title flush left on a line without any formatting. Type title in upper and lower case, standard title format.

- List senior author first.
- Bold presenting author.
- Group authors by affiliation. Do not include professional titles. Type affiliation below author lines. Include ONLY the affiliation name, city, state, country in abstract listing. *(Do not include full mailing address at the top of the paper.)*
- Type body single spaced without any indents or tabs. Double
space between paragraphs.

- Apply bolding, italics, underlining, superscripts and subscripts in your main text as you want to appear in your final paper.

- At the end of the paper include the following information, separated by commas:

  First name of corresponding author, Last name of corresponding author, Affiliation, Mailing address, City, State, Postal Code, Country, Phone number, FAX number, Email address (NOTE: Do not type the word email in front of your address), Indicate whether paper is submitted for oral or poster presentation, Indicate theme category*

- **Graph/Figure/Reference Instructions:**
  - Embed graphs or figures into the word processing document as independent objects; do not dynamically link from other programs.
  - Avoid the use of shading in graphs. If possible use cross-hash marks or dots, etc.
  - Additionally, you should attach separate files of all your graphs or figures in high resolution JPEG (.jpg) or TIFF (.tif) to your email -- (300 dpi or better). EPS (.eps) files may be accepted only if any fonts have first been converted to outlines.

- **References:** Sources of published work must be cited in the text, using author name and publication year. Corresponding references provided in the bibliography require author name, publication year, article title, journal title, volume and issue number and number of pages, e.g.: Smith, A.B. 1998. Making silage in the tropics. *Journal of Tropical Agriculture* 25, 123-129.

**For further information:**
For general enquiries to the organizers use: farming-systems@fao.org