



UN-OHRRLLS



UN LDC-IV

### Parallel Special Event

## Responsible Agricultural Investment in LDCs

**Date, time and venue:** 8-10am, 11 May 2011, Topkapi B, Lutfi Kirdar Convention Centre

**Organizers:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

#### **Brief description of the event (theme, objectives/purpose, format):**

International investment will play an important role to help LDCs raise agricultural productivity and production. It could benefit them in many ways, such as technology transfer, job creation and the development of infrastructure. However, international investment *per se* does not guarantee that these benefits will arise. In the absence of appropriate policies, laws and institutions, it may even entail risks for the host country, such as the expropriation of farmers from the land they use as a result of the “land grab”. To help maximize the benefits of international investment while minimizing its risks, FAO, UNCTAD, IFAD and the World Bank have jointly led a reflection on **principles for responsible agricultural investment (RAI) that respect rights, livelihoods and resources**. The main objective of the side event is to solicit the views of participants on the proposed principles.

The meeting will start with an overview of the benefits, risks and issues raised by international investment in agriculture. The FAO experts will then introduce the RAI principles and their possible implications for LDCs. They will explain how these principles were developed building on existing international commitments and research. The presentation will be followed by an open discussion with the public. Participants will share their views and suggestions concerning the proposed principles and their suitability to governments, civil society and private sector operators in LDCs. They will discuss the possible next steps, including further elaboration of the principles and their implementation.

#### **List of speakers/lead discussants, moderator and/or chair**

The list of speakers will be prepared shortly. However, the event will bring together LDC policy makers and other government representatives, leaders of farmer organizations, investors, including national and regional financial institutions, technical experts, service providers, academics and researchers’, leaders of civil-society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders actively interested in the investment in agriculture.

#### **Synopsis of the expected outcome:**

The event will provide a forum for discussing responsible agricultural investment and the proposed RAI principles. Participants will share their views and suggestions on the principles and their suitability to LDC governments, civil society and private sector operators. The main output will be a report documenting the debate and recommendations made by participants.