



REGERINGSKANSLIET

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Statement by state secretary Mr Magnus Kindbom, FAO
conference June 2013

Excellencies,
Chairperson of the Conference,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The theme of this year's conference is at the heart of FAOs field of work. It is with delight I speak here today.

Food system is indeed a complex concept. It comprises a wide range of aspects, from farming, climate, food security, health, research, trade, waste, governance just to mention a few. I will focus on one of my priorities – **productivity in the agricultural sector**.

I believe the green sectors, that is agriculture forestry and fisheries, will play key roles in the transformation to a green economy. The Swedish vision is a competitive agricultural production whose activities do not compromise the viability of future generation's farming: using without using up.

Study after study confirms that investments in agriculture in poor countries have the most **positive effect on economic growth**. There is an immediate domino effect of increased income for the farming household when these households have the means to purchase, be it services or products.

Still, **poverty in rural area persists**, especially among farmers.

The increase of yield in the world's agricultural sector is diminishing, especially so in developed countries.

Lack of access to water is one of the most important factors. To plough new land will only help to a very limited extent.

So, what is required, what could be done?

Our responsibility, representatives of ministries, governments and institutions, should **create conditions and environment** for farmers to unleash their potential as producers and entrepreneurs. Especially **women** entrepreneurs.

It is the **farmers that produce food**, not us, whereas it is their efforts need to focus on. We need to **create market opportunities** and dismantle policies that distort trade and prevent farmers to grow and develop.

I am pleased to read in the OECD-FAO agricultural outlook that agricultural sector is **increasingly market-driven**.

This opens for the much needed **investments**.

Because, we shall not overlook the most obvious – both market and farmers have a high capability of responding to new situations and challenges, if only given the **right incentives**.

For this, **rights and access to natural and production resources** are central. Some remains to be done in this respect, not least for the individual farmer. Therefore Sweden intends to **contribute financially** to both the rai and the Voluntary Guidelines on responsible governance for tenure of land.

Thank you!