



Consultation on Responsible Agricultural Investment for the private sector

The objective of the consultation is to exchange views on how to promote responsible international investment in the agricultural sector of developing countries. FAO, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are preparing draft Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources¹.

Companies that invest in developing countries want their investment to be profitable and also to benefit the host country and local community as much as possible. However, they often lack the tools to ensure that these benefits materialize. The proposed RAI principles can provide such a tool. FAO experts will introduce the RAI principles and their potential benefits. Participants will share their views and suggestions concerning the principles and their suitability to private sector operators. They will discuss how the principles can be useful to companies and the possible next steps, including further elaboration of the principles and their implementation in a way that can concretely help investors.

Topics

The consultation meeting will focus on responsible agricultural investment under the following themes:

- Benefits and risks related to international investment in agriculture in developing countries
- What are the responsibilities of foreign investors
- What guidance tools are available to investors
- Principles for responsible agricultural investment
- Corporate social responsibility in FDI
- The legal and institutional framework in host countries
- How to build effective public-private partnership

Output

The consultation meeting will contribute to the on-going work on the RAI principles identifying priorities and recommending further work with the private sector under the topic of responsible investment in agriculture.

Participants

The consultation meeting will bring together national and international companies from the fields of food, agricultural and biofuel production, forest and paper industries, investment funds, financial services and related service sectors. The meeting is open on invitation only.

Date and venue:

The consultation will be held in the German Room at FAO's Headquarters in Rome in the morning of 2 March 2011, from 9:15 to 12:30 hours, following the workshop on private sector and responsible governance of land tenure, to be held from 28 February to 1 March.

¹ (www.responsibleagroinvestment.org)



Programme

The meeting will start with an overview of the main issues raised by foreign direct investment in the agricultural sector of developing countries. It will be followed by a presentation of the principles for responsible international investment in agriculture (RAI). Representatives from companies with experience in foreign investment in developing countries will present their perspective on responsible agricultural investment. The plenary discussion will review private sector's positions and expectations on the RAI principles. A wrap up session will take place in the late morning to discuss on the desired follow up.

A preliminary programme is provided as follows:

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| 9.15 | Welcome and introduction to the objectives of the side-event
David Hallam, Director of Trade and Markets Division, FAO |
| 9.20 | Key issues in FDI and the principles for responsible agricultural investment (RAI)
Pascal Liu, Team Leader, International Investment in Agriculture, FAO |
| 9.45 | Plenary discussion |
| 10.30 | Coffee break |
| 10.45 | The perspectives of companies on responsible agricultural investment
- Neil Spooner, CEO, Maxwell-Stamp KSA, Saudi Arabia
- Ard Lengkeek, Director, Mali Biocarburant SA, Mali/Netherlands
- Justin Ourso, Director, Global Private Markets, TIAA-CREF |
| 11.15 | Plenary discussion |
| 12.15 | Conclusions – issues and recommendations on the principles and their operationalization, and priorities for follow-up
David Hallam |
| 12.30 | Close |

Language: Due to budgetary constraints the workshop will be held in English only

Contact person

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