

FA 16/10
(x) FA 13/2
AE 21/1(3)

OFFICE OF ADG/ES

13 DEC 2005

November 22, 2005

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE
5223
07 DEC 2005
FOR ACTION TO: *de Haan*
 Draft Reply for DG sign by
 Reply at Dept/Div. level by
With Copy to ODG
 Draft to be cleared by ODG
INFO COPIES TO: *W. H. ...*
Clayton
Carlyle
ODG COMMENTS

ACTION:

Mr. Jacques Diouf
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
ITALY

INFO: *P. ... / ...*

ESD Rep

REF NO: *4/12* DEADLINE

Dear Mr. Diouf,

World Food Summit (WFS) November 1996

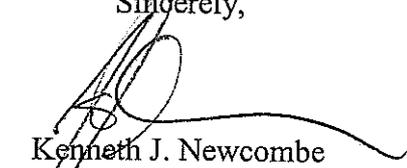
Thank you for your letter to Mr. Wolfowitz, of November 9, 2005 regarding the mid-term review of the World Food Summit (WFS) Plan of Action. Since the WFS, which was held in November 1996, the World Bank has strengthened its commitment to Agriculture and Rural Development. In 1997 the World Bank developed an agriculture and rural development strategy, "**Rural Development: From Vision to Action.**" The strategy called for a revitalization of the World Bank's agriculture and rural lending program that is broad-based with emphasis on creating an enabling policy environment, improving agricultural productivity, food security, natural resource management and rural employment. After five years of implementation, the World Bank updated its strategy in 2002 ("**Reaching the Rural Poor**") which included specific regional rural strategies that placed emphasis on the differentiated needs of each region.

In the three years of implementation of the "Reaching the Rural Poor", World Bank lending to rural development has increased dramatically and the decline in lending for the agriculture sector has been arrested -- the 2005 fiscal year saw an upturn to \$2.1 billion in new commitments to the sector.

The World Bank has also engaged in several global programs and partnerships, in many cases collaborating with the FAO, to promote increased investment in agriculture and the reduction of hunger. For instance, the World Bank has continued its support of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), helped establish the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development and participated in the United Nations Hunger Task Force.

Several World Bank documents contain details of World Bank activities in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially reduction of poverty and hunger. In Chapter 13 of the "**Global Monitoring Report 2004: Policies and Actions for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Related Outcomes**" on "**Monitoring the IFIs Contribution**" the World Bank provides a detailed report on all its activities toward achieving the MDGs. It provides further analysis in "**Global Monitoring Report 2005: Millennium Development Goals: From Consensus to Momentum.**" In light of the wealth of information available, the World Bank does not plan to prepare any additional reports at this time.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Newcombe
Acting Vice President
Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Network