

# 2019 - LUXEMBOURG

WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# THE FARMERS' ROUTE DECLARATION

**We, farmers of the world** – women, men and youth – taking care of small, medium and large-scale farms and cooperatives, recognize that the broad agricultural sector, including crops, horticulture, feedstock, livestock, breeding, fisheries and forestry, has a key role in the achievement of sustainable development, globally. Farmers and rural communities play essential roles in the achievement of global food security and safety, nutrition, in soil protection and biodiversity conservation.

Farmers feed the planet, produce energy and clothes and ensure the survival of humankind.

We, farmers, stand ready to take up this responsibility and hereby propose a new way of perceiving the agricultural sector, where we, the farmers, have a central role.

Farmers are critical stakeholders in the rural and global economy. Any policy-making process that has an impact on the farming sector at local, national and international level should involve the farmers, through their organized structures, in the policy preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and should be aimed at creating favourable policy environment for us, the farmers, in order to allow us to work in a clear and supportive political framework.

Representatives of farmers' organisations and cooperatives must therefore be partners in the decisions to enhance sustainable food production, while contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This principle applies to all sectors of agriculture and at all geographical and political levels. Particular attention should be given to facilitating generational renewal in agriculture, overcoming obstacles in the access to land and credit, training, as well as promoting a sustainable ethical and entrepreneurial culture.

In developing countries, clear policies, as well as, funding mechanisms to support farmers and their organizations in their daily activities are necessary. It is also vital to involve farmers' organizations in development programmes at national level, to gain access to markets; to enable access to grants from public and private organisations and to facilitate access to favorable credit terms.

Building the capacity of farmers and farmers' organizations, especially in developing countries, in business management, leadership, and world class farming practices are measures that enhance farmers' constituencies worldwide.



WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION



As farmers, we are already taking proactive actions in prioritized areas of global policy:

- Reversing the current paradigm of the global political process on climate change, farmers call on National Governments to base their National Determined Contributions (NDC) for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on the best practices that the farmers are already implementing to mitigate and adapt to the climate change. In order to achieve these ambitious goals, WFO intends to establish and develop a series of partnerships that will make the agenda global in scope by involving the main stakeholders in a Global Climate Change Alliance. We, farmers, are part of the solution to climate change and we will lead our own agriculture specific agenda that is farmer driven, science based and result oriented.
- As part of our drive to enhance animal welfare, human and plant health, we endorse the use of strategies to combat anti-microbial resistance (AMR). It is important that the farm and food sectors are engaged as partners in both developing and implementing strategies for reducing AMR. Because the use of antimicrobials in animal production has an impact on AMR, farmers driven solutions are crucial. We must raise awareness among citizens about those farmers' commitments, in order to reinforce trust in the livestock sector.
- Farmers need a fair return for the vital part they play in the value chain. Food value chains must be shortened and organized in an open and balanced manner, creating trust amongst the various partners in the chain. In this framework, farmers must receive a fair share of the added value generated by the global food and agriculture systems, marketing their products at a fair price.
- In a world where research and innovation in agriculture are currently led by Governments, Research Institutions and Corporations, farmers ask to be involved in the research process from its inception, in order to narrow the gap between farmers' needs and research results.

The world has lived on the farmers' work and commitment for centuries, policy-makers nationally or through multilateral institutions, have made decisions that have an impact on our daily work and life. It is now time for us, farmers, to have our say and propose our way towards sustainable development!

**We, farmers, will lead the Farmers' Route!**

*Approved by the WFO 2019 General Assembly*

