WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION

Statement of the World Farmers' Organisation on the Impact of Trade Disruption and Geopolitical Uncertainty on World Farmers and Global Food Security

The World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), a member-based association representing 88 national farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives across 59 Countries, urges world leaders to recognize and address the severe consequences of escalating trade disputes and geopolitical turmoil on farmers and agricultural markets.

Sustained trade restrictions and ongoing conflicts are already disrupting agricultural supply chains, driving price volatility, and undermining food security worldwide. With the threat and imposition of new trade-restrictive measures that undermine multilateral rules and established agreements, farmers are facing increased uncertainty, financial strain, and operational challenges.

These disruptions come at a time when farmers are already navigating structural challenges such as climate change, decreasing profit margins, and demographic shifts. Increased input costs for energy and other critical inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, and machinery add to the economic burden, while market uncertainty limits farmers' ability to plan and invest in their operations.

Farmers who previously relied on stable export markets and input supplies now face the difficult, costly and time-consuming task of diversifying their supply chains and customer bases, while working with governments to secure access to capital, loan protection, and liquidity support.

In response to these challenges, the WFO calls for immediate and coordinated global action. A fair, transparent and predictable trading environment is critical to ensure equitable opportunities for all farmers, foster sustainability across global supply chains, and enhance high quality and affordable food and nutrition security at all levels. In this context, we have confidence in the World Trade Organization (WTO) to adopt a pragmatic and principles approach by:

- **Reducing the risk of further escalation** of trade disputes by proactively communicating the benefits of implementing WTO agreements and establishing an early warning system for critical supply chain risks.
- **Mitigating the impact of trade tensions** by enhancing data sharing, supporting market diversification efforts, and assisting Members in implementing effective risk management strategies.
- **Strengthening the enforcement of trade rules** by restoring and reforming the WTO dispute settlement system to ensure fair and efficient resolution of conflicts.

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In line with the mandate of our Members, WFO is committed to the reinforcement of the rule-based global agricultural trading system and the pursuit of ambitious trade policy objectives, as defined by the farmers themselves in their policy consensus on international trade.

With the world at a critical juncture, the WFO calls for decisive leadership and cooperation to safeguard the future of farming, sustain rural livelihoods and promote food security worldwide.

**WFO endorses WTO DG statement on "Escalating Trade Tensions": WTO | 2025 News items - Statement by the Director-General on escalating trade tensions*

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