



DECLARATION OF THE FARMERS OF THE WORLD ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Fifty years ago, on the 31st May 1946, thirteen countries signed the Church House Agreement in London, England to establish the World Farmers' Organisation, the IFAP

In the course of the last fifty years, many changes have taken place in the world, on the political, economical and social levels. Today farmers feed more people with better food and higher levels of nutrition than ever before.

At the dawn of the third Millennium, and on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of IFAP, we the farmers of the world, coming from every continent, of every creed or colour, working under very different conditions, reaffirm the mission of IFAP as laid down in the 1946 Constitution: "to improve the economic and social status of all who live by land and on the land". In particular, we affirm our attachment to the family farm as the basis of a sustainable system of agriculture, today and in the future.

Societies the world over are seeking new paths toward more equitable and sustainable development. Farmers and farmers' organisations proudly take up this challenge. We pledge ourselves:

- * to feed a steadily increasing world population with quality food products in sufficient quantity
- * to use the best farming methods resulting from technological and scientific progress;
- * to manage our farms in a sustainable manner in order to conserve the agricultural resource base;
- * to work to maintain and enhance the vitality of the rural communities.

Farmers of the world declare their determination to continue their cooperation within IFAP in order:

- to promote mutual understanding and dialogue among farmers of different countries, thus contributing to world peace and progress;
- to highlight common interests and to jointly promote these interests, in order to ensure that the farmer's voice is heard and the farmer's contribution recognized;
- to strengthen operational links between farmers' organizations and others working in the field of agriculture, thus placing the farmer at the centre of any strategy for sustainable development;
- to affirm the fundamental principles of free enterprise;

- to promote the creation and strengthening of independent farmers' organisations in every country.

Farmers' representatives solemnly make this commitment to society.

In order to achieve the realization of these commitments, we ask from local, national and international political authorities a policy framework providing :

- the equal opportunity to earn a fair and reasonable income from farming;
- recognition of farming as a profession and recognition of farmers' contribution to the wellbeing of mankind;
- the right to associate freely ;
- the expansion of training and services meeting farmers' needs;
- the right to participate in decision-making and implementation of programs affecting farmers.

IFAP will make particular efforts to promote cooperation between organizations of developed and developing countries. It will continue to discharge its democratic mandate as the officially recognized voice of the world farmers.

It will remain the unique forum for dialogue, understanding and consensus from farmers' organisations of different countries of the world, in order to play a leadership role in world agriculture.