

World Farmer

IFAP Newsletter, October-November-December 2007

International
Federation of
Agricultural
Producers



RETROSPECTIVE 2007

By Jack Wilkinson, President, and
David King, Secretary General

The year 2007 was a year that governments and the general public 'rediscovered' the real value of agriculture. After years of low farm prices and neglect by policy-makers, stocks of food crops have fallen dramatically, and agriculture suddenly finds itself back at the top of the international agenda.

Food security is no longer being taken for granted. A dramatic rise in world oil prices also gave a big push to biofuel programs. Also, there is more awareness that many developing countries are not benefiting from global economic development, and since these are agricultural countries, agriculture is being given more attention.

This is good news for farmers. However, farmers' organisations, have to mobilise have to take advantage of this new 'window of opportunity'.

2007 was a year of significant lobbying gains for IFAP internationally. Doors have been opened and new opportunities created for farmers, and now these need to be followed up by member organisations at the national level, as well as by IFAP at the international level.

Last week, IFAP President Jack Wilkinson was in Bali, Indonesia for the Climate Change Conference. He told the Conference that agriculture is at the heart of climate change issues, and needs to be a priority in the work of the Convention. The U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change is not yet addressing these issues adequately and the positive contribution of farmers is being poorly recognised.

This message that "agriculture is a key part of the global sustainability agenda" is being promoted actively by IFAP. IFAP has been lobbying strategic countries at international summits to lift agriculture higher up the agenda not only the Climate Change Convention.

Continued on page 14

IFAP Events

March 18: OIE-IFAP Consultation, Paris.

May 30-June 7, 2008: 38th IFAP World Farmers' Congress, Warsaw, Poland.

IFAP participation in International Events

January 2-5: Oxford Farming Conference, Oxford, UK on the theme: "Agriculture the solution not the problem". *IFAP President to speak on 3 January.*

January 23-27: World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland. *IFAP invited to contribute to session on 'Water governance'*

January 28-29: Agriterria Gender Workshop, Arnhem, Netherlands

January 28-29: ILO International Agricultural Partnership meeting on Child Labour in Agriculture, Geneva.

January 30-31: 67th COPAC Board Meeting (Cooperatives), Geneva.

February 11-12: Global meeting of IFAD Farmers Forum, Rome. *IFAP President to lead an IFAP delegation.*

February 13-14: IFAD Governing Council, Rome.

February 18-22: Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Rome.

February 25-28: Second International Conference on Health and Biodiversity, Galway, Ireland.

To read on the IFAP website www.ifap.org

- [IFAP Calendar 2008](#)

- IFAP Trade and Development Letter [September-October](#)

- [Farmers welcome World Bank Development Report 2008.](#)
IFAP Press release, 22 October

- [Farmers' Contribution, by IFAP President, Conference of the UN Convention on Climate Change, Bali, 14 December 2007.](#)

- [Climate change and agriculture: farmers' point of view.](#) IFAP Policy Brief. December 2007.

- UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, 3-14 December 2007: [Global warming is a threat to food security and farmers' livelihoods.](#) IFAP Press release. 5 December.

- IFAP Commodities Quarterly - [July-October 2007](#)

Message from the Editor

Good bye from the Editor

By Julie Emond, IFAP Communications Coordinator

After five years of work within the IFAP Secretariat, building and organizing the communications services, I decided it was time for me to move on. It has been a fantastic adventure and a privilege to be part of the IFAP team.

The publication

The concept of *World Farmer* was created five years ago, in October 2002. My mission was to create a new publication to inform member organisations about what IFAP was doing for them in order to present it to the Executive Committee Meeting, a month later! It was the first “miracle” I was asked to make for IFAP, the second one being to build a communications strategy at the same time, with the same deadline! It was a challenging moment ... that never ended.

I have to admit that I like this publication, and I know I'm not the only one. With time, we received many demands to join the distribution's list from member organisations' staff, agricultural experts, journalists, international partners such as FAO and the World Bank, and civil society organisations.

For this my last issue as Editor, I would like also to pay tribute to member organisations and my colleagues in the IFAP Secretariat that contributed to the content of *World Farmer*. This publication would have never been possible without their work and collaboration. They write articles, accepted to learn the journalistic style, and follow as much as they can all the deadlines, which is not always an easy thing. This publication deserves hard work and commitment because its readers deserve it.

IFAP Communications

The agricultural world needs strategic communications. The issue is not about communicating more; it is about communicating better and being more efficient. In a world surrounded by global media and a huge range of information, we have to focus on quality and efficiency, and not quantity. Too much information kills the information.

IFAP is a strong proponent of the necessity for farmers to organize themselves into strong unions and federations to advocate their interests to decision makers. This involves organising communications as well, with a plan, goals and tools that include but also go further than media relations. The biggest problem

for farmers' organisations is generally the lack of resources (financial and human). However, IFAP has proven that it could build good communications services without lots of resources. Of course, there is a cost, but it should be considered as an investment and not as an expense.

IFAP is now in the second phase of its communications strategy and working plan. It has a regular publication, a good website, some valuable documents such as issue briefs, policy briefs and fact sheets, a promotional brochure, a membership kit, some good examples of lobby campaigns, media relations with regular press releases and open letters, as well as better expertise on how to communicate effectively.

Publications, website and press releases are the visible part of communications services. But there is much more. Strategic communications must address essential questions: “What is the target audience, the objective, the message? What do we want to achieve and how?” It was a strategic decision from IFAP to build a communications plan that responds to these questions. IFAP's communications policy targeted its member organisations from developed and developing countries as well as key international institutions and partners.

Much has been achieved, but there is much more to come from the organisation that is the farmers' voice at the world level. I wish my successor every success.

Announcement

Good Bye

The Secretariat wishes well to three departing staff colleagues:

- Mercy Karanja, Development Policy Coordinator
- Isabelle Mamaty, Commodity Analyst
- Julie Emond, Communications Coordinator

Welcome

The Secretariat welcomes the arrival of six new staff:

- Christian Gouët, Development Program Manager
- Regional Coordinators:*
- Bader Mahaman Dioula, Africa
 - Beatriz Del Rosario, Asia
 - Gabriela Quiroga, Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Hiba El Dahr, Mediterrean
-
- Valérie Delavenne, Administrative Assistant

IFAP Activities

Meeting of the IFAP Latin America and the Caribbean's Committee and DCC, Lima, Peru, 24-27 September

Hosted by Junta Nacional del Café this meeting was in three parts (with the participation of 17 representatives from farmer's organisations, of whom 29% were women). They were: 1) a workshop to define the regional strategy in the context of IFAP's global strategy, 2) the regional meeting to discuss policy issues, and 3) the Latin American session of IFAP's Development Cooperation Committee (DCC).

During the workshop, participants came up with specific conclusions about what needed to be done in the region to participate more actively in the IFAP platform. They identified the following policy issues as being priorities for the region: 1) strengthening of farmers in the value chain; 2) trade negotiations and reform of agricultural policy; 3) boosting the participation of women and youth; 4) natural and environmental resources (with particular stress on access to land). Sustainability of member organizations is an important issue.

The Committee wanted to encourage new organizations to join IFAP and proposed to start by "mapping" farmers' organisations in MERCOSUR – especially Brazil, México, Chile, Bolivia, Venezuela and the Caribbean sub-region. Workshop participants wanted to strengthen the voice of the region in all specialized IFAP committees, particularly the commodities committees where its presence remains weak.

During the regional meeting, there was opportunity to discuss further about policy issues like: strengthening the role of farmers in the value chain, bioenergies, trade negotiations and regional and global cooperation. It was highlighted as critical, the relevance for this region to have more opportunities to discuss those issues to contribute better and more actively to IFAP policy at the global level.

The DCC meeting allowed members to learn more and discuss about "DCC's new terms of reference" but also about the role of liaison persons or focal points between the region and the DCC. The importance of complementarities and some coordination between this role and that of the new IFAP regional coordinators was highlighted. Participants agreed on the importance of encouraging farmers' organizations to get involved in the design and presentation of projects so as to build their capacities. AgriCord presented the "Farmers Fighting Poverty (FFP)" Program noting that for Latin America there is a total of 41 projects: 10 at the execution stage involving IFAP members, 1 at the definition stage and 6 that have been rejected. The strategy under the FFP Program would be to transition

the national organisations from 'project executors' to 'service deliverers' to their members.

More:<http://www.ifap.org/en/regions/documents/ReportefinalLima2007en.pdf>

IFAP session at WTO Public Forum on "An Agreement on Agriculture that Promotes Global Development", Geneva, 5 October

For the third consecutive year, IFAP organized a session on agriculture during the WTO Public Forum held in Geneva 4-5 October 2007. Under the theme "An Agreement on Agriculture that Promotes Global Development", the session brought together leaders from national farmers' organisations with ambassadors from the G-4 countries: Brazil, European Communities, India and the USA. The objective was to explore whether the development ambitions of the Doha Round are being achieved in the WTO negotiations on agriculture, and how these impact on farmers in different regions.

"The benefits of trade must turn into real income growth for farmers, especially those in developing countries" said the President of IFAP, Jack Wilkinson during his opening remarks. Following these remarks, the four WTO ambassadors presented their views on "what needs to be done to ensure that the Doha trade negotiations promote global economic development that is inclusive of developing countries". Closing remarks were delivered by the Deputy Director General of WTO, Mr. Harsha Singh who said that nearly all the concerns raised at the session are very much part of the substantive negotiations. They include: special arrangements for the least-developed countries, special access for tropical products, consideration of preference erosion, livelihood security, food security, and rural development which are embodied in Special Products, and many more.

This was a very substantive panel discussion in which the 200 participants agreed that agriculture is very important for development. It was also agreed that the Doha Development Agenda could play a significant role in promoting trade for development if the negotiators keep this as a primary focus. There were intensive discussions among negotiators during the session, showing that progress is being made. However, interventions from the floor showed the high expectations of farmers, members of parliament and others from developing countries for the outcome of the Doha Round negotiations. More: Full report at http://www.ifap.org/en/issues/er_wtopublicforum2007.html and more at http://www.ifap.org/en/issues/trade_ifap-wto_05-10-07.html

IFAP Women Farmer's Committee Meeting, Bangkok, 1 November

Hosted by the Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT), the IFAP Women Farmer's Committee Meeting was chaired by Ms. Karen Serres (France), President of the Committee, who noted with satisfaction the presence of more than 30 % of men at the meeting. Participants discussed the cases of women farmers in Latin America on best practices to empower women for leadership positions and economic activities. They also recommended replicating in Asia and Africa the experience of Latin America on empowering women. Credit and financing for women were discussed as well. Delegates also addressed issues such as HIV/AIDS and farmers' involvement in information dissemination. Delegates recommended IFAP to link with Handicap International (HI) for policy formulation and information dissemination on HIV/AIDS. Women farmers also discussed how they could increase their incomes and have a better control of the sale of their products on local markets. Several presentations were made and the Chair noted with satisfaction that very wide discussions took place during the meeting.

IFAP Executive Committee, Bangkok, 3-4 November 2007

The Executive Committee noted that over the last six months, IFAP has been particularly active in restructuring and expanding the Secretariat and its working procedures in order to deliver improved services to its member organisations, especially those in developing countries. The Secretariat was commended on implementation of the Strategic plan and on the management of its finances. Seven new staff appointments or promotions were approved. In 2008, a system for having more feedback from member organizations on IFAP activities will be introduced.

Two new member organizations were admitted: the Confédération Paysanne of Burkina Faso and Unicafe of Brazil.

The Committee discussed new drafts of IFAP policy papers in the areas of aid-for-trade, food safety, animal welfare, bioenergy, and agricultural biodiversity. It was agreed to circulate case studies on 'market instruments', and to start new research work on 'risk management'. Increased priority was given to Climate change issues; IFAP would attend the U.N. Conference on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007 and hold a farmers' event at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009 when a new Kyoto Protocol was expected to be agreed. The Committee decided to ask OIE for a special consultation on a broad range of animal health and welfare issues in March 2008, and decided to work with the ILO on

rural employment questions. The Managing Director of AgriCord gave a full report on the 200 producer organization projects that were received this year and the Chairs of IFAP's Committees and Commodity Groups made reports on their respective activities.

IFAP Agricultural Cooperatives Committee session, Bangkok, 2 November

The 2007 session of IFAP's Committee on Agricultural Cooperatives was hosted by the Cooperative League of Thailand and chaired by Gaston Rico of CAF, Uruguay. Issues discussed included: Cooperative enterprise development in Asia, the role of agricultural cooperatives in market regulation, and adding value to coops through social responsibility. There were five main conclusions from the discussion, as follows:

1. Strengthen financial capital of coops e.g. through tax incentives to invest in coops to create profitability.
2. Strengthen social capital e.g. establishing training centres for business planning, enterprise development or networking; developing market information systems to share information.
3. Create a stable regulatory framework and political environment in which coops can work for their members.
4. Develop alliances among coops for investment and trade, and alliances with international organizations like ICAO, FAO and NEDAC for technical cooperation for rural enterprise development e.g. on bioenergies.
5. Strengthen links with consumers e.g. through coop brands, fair trade, and social responsibility.

The Committee also decided to share lesson learned from case studies on successes and failures of cooperatives.

IFAP Asian Regional Committee Meeting, Hanoi, Vietnam, 6-10 November

Hosted by Vietnam Farmers' Union (VNFU), the Committee discussed regional priority activities for 2008. Key issues such as competitiveness; access to resources, knowledge and information; and sustainability (climate change mitigation and prevention) were also discussed. Potential viable solutions are available in terms of technologies, processes, and financial support to enable them to cope.

Participants encouraged IFAP to support more knowledge and information sharing on best practices, strengthening South-South and North-South collaboration, and sustaining links with potential donors such as IFAD and AUSAID, as well as with universities and research institutions. IFAP members were advised to engage with their governments at the national and regional levels.

The meeting was followed by a field visit to cooperatives and a fishing village in Halong Bay.

IFAP project with the Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF)

Since December 2006, IFAP has been collaborating with the Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) on a project aimed at strengthening the participation of farmers and their representative organisations in this important research program. The CPWF looks at the issue of water productivity in agriculture from a research perspective; the objective of this project is to gather farmers' priorities for research with regards to water for agriculture so that these can be integrated in the CPWF research agenda.

To fulfil this objective, a specific methodology was developed at the IFAP secretariat and was tested in September during a working mission in the Mekong river basin, one of the nine "benchmark basins" of the CPWF. This methodology is based on participatory and interactive workshops at the local level, so that farmers can express their view and concerns, and meetings with FO representatives at various hierarchical levels (e.g. commune, district, provincial, etc.) to consolidate the workshop results on a larger scale.

Two study areas, Bac Lieu province in Viet Nam and Svay Rieng province in Cambodia, were selected with the help of IFAP member organisations in the region, the Viet Nam Farmers' Union and the Cambodian Farmers' Association for Agricultural Development (CAMFAD) respectively. In each study area, two workshops were conducted in different villages, with an average of 20 to 25 farmers participating per workshop.

The workshop results are consistent within the two study areas and reflect accurately the issues that farmers are facing at farm level. In Bac Lieu province, Viet Nam, farmers deplore the lack of small water channels to irrigate individual fields, heavy sedimentation in the existing channels which results in water shortages during the dry season, salty water infiltration and acidity. In Svay Rieng province, Cambodia, farmers are dependant on rainfall for rice cultivation, their main crop. Their most urgent request is assistance in water infrastructure, i.e. water channels to irrigate and to drain excess rainwater from their fields. Machinery (for digging channels) and better seed varieties are also priority issues.

After the workshops, the results were discussed in meetings with FO representatives and local officials from relevant sectors (e.g. department of agriculture, irrigation, etc.). In both countries, all agreed with the issues that farmers have identified at farm level. However, meeting participants added some interesting issues to the analysis which were not visible at the local level.

In Viet Nam, respondents stressed out that before investing in new irrigation systems in the countryside, it is essential to upgrade and dredge the existing water channels in order to guarantee an adequate water supply to farmers. They also pointed out the need for research in a sluice gate management and operation model that takes into account tidal effects on the inland flow of salty water. In Cambodia, respondents pointed out the need for training and extension services in water and agricultural management to rural communities.

The analysis of the results yields a clear picture of how local priorities evolve at larger scales and of how impact pathways should be designed to maximise the adoption of research products and innovations on the ground. It also shows the vital role that farmers' organisations play in rural areas and their potential for collaborating successfully with the CPWF. IFAP recommends the inclusion of the VNFU and CAMFAD in future CPWF funded projects in the area, as a concrete follow-up to this collaboration. Both organisations are ideally placed to relay the needs and concerns of farmers in the initial phases of a project and to act as "next-users" to facilitate the dissemination and the adoption of the project outputs.

This research from the IFAP Secretariat is run by Nicolas Hosgood, Junior Economist, under the supervision of Nora Ourabah Haddad, Senior Policy Officer, with the financial support of the Challenge Program on Water for Food (CPWF).

Workshop on the quality of Mediterranean products and the certification of trade names, Tunis, 26 October

During the International Show on Agriculture, Farming Machinery and Fisheries (SIAMAP 2007) organized by UTAP (Union Tunisienne pour l'Agriculture et la Pêche, an IFAP member organization) in collaboration with IFAP Secretariat, an information workshop on "the quality of farm products and the promotion of local food products" was held in Tunis on October 26, 2007. Reflecting the scientific and technical atmosphere of this event, this workshop aimed at informing the participants of the new demands for generic quality and the new perspectives related to specific attributes of Mediterranean products.

Mr. Troccoli, expert of COLDIRETTI (IFAP member in Italy) and representative to the European institutions explained to the participants the procedures to be followed by the developing countries wishing to submit to the European Union specifications in order to get the recognition for a quality product. Participants stated they were in favor of this kind of meeting as they were given the opportunity to exchange

information on a matter of common interest, i.e. the better value of products of origin. The discussions highlighted the need for a legal framework as well as for the development of a national law aiming at helping producers to enhance the quality of their products while making it easier for them to access markets.

Outside this workshop, a session dedicated to the "professional structures" was held in the Hall with the attendance of Mr. Bahri, President of UTAP, of Mr. Giva, President of IFAP's Mediterranean Committee, and other UTAP members.

Participants at those two sessions included farmers, experts in the field of agricultural extension and supervision, farm advisors and senior members of Tunisian professional organizations. Mr. Giva, in his presentation of the activities of IFAP's Mediterranean Committee, highlighted the crucial role played by farmers in the international agreements leading the region to a Euro-Mediterranean Union.

FAO seminar on « Quality food products linked to geographical origin and traditions in the Mediterranean », Casablanca, Morocco, 8-9 November

IFAP took part in the seminar on "Quality food products linked to geographical origin and traditions in the Mediterranean" which took place in Casablanca November 8-9, 2007. Organized by FAO in partnership with the Government of Morocco (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), this event is part of the framework of FAO actions in the field of food quality and security.

In the Mediterranean countries, the importance of quality related to the geographical product origin is linked to the potential of the region in terms not only of resources to be enhanced but also to the role it plays in rural development, the collective management of territorial resources and the improvement of market access and producers' income. The seminar aimed at the sharing of experiences among countries and players by highlighting the common goals for the protection of geographical indications, the identification of success or failure elements in order to learn lessons and, finally, at the development perspectives through cooperative actions.

The workshop emphasized the need for capacity-building at both the institutional and legal levels within the framework of geographical indication's protection. At the local level, the information and organization of players, the development of reliable specifications and the exchange of experience are the key elements for success when requesting certification. Following the various requests for support and assistance made by representatives of participating countries, the organizations present at the workshop proposed

support measures for GI protection initiatives. It is the case of IFAP in its capacity building activities for its members in order to enhance the quality of Mediterranean products. The IFAP regional coordinator for the Mediterranean region has informed the participants that information and training workshops are expected to take place at the request of member countries wishing to start a certification process. Experts and scholars from the northern part of the Mediterranean are able to help producers get the recognition they deserve for quality products.

Information : <http://www.mp-discussion.org/casablanca/>

ESFIM Seminar, Tunis, 24 - 26 October

Generating better practice to engage in the domestic, regional and international markets is a key for small farmers who today face rapid evolution in technology, marketing and regulation. This is the challenge which was tackled in the IFAP-ECART Workshop on "Empowering Smallholders Farmers in the Market" held in Tunis, from 24th to 26th of October. IFAP and ECART had elaborated in 2006-07 a research proposal for helping farmers in this regard. 17 farmers' organisations, 9 researchers and 5 donors and international organisations' representatives participated in this workshop to enrich this proposed initiative and decide the specific orientations they would like to see in the ESFIM Programme. The combination of short presentations, discussions among the participants and subgroups reflections resulted in a better understanding of the ESFIM initiative by the representatives of farmers' organizations and donors. Moreover, the discussions were very useful to identify opportunities for improvement of the focus and the content of the ESFIM Programme thanks to the farmers' contributions. IFAP and ECART will use the outcome of this workshop to adjust and enrich the ESFIM proposal which will be presented to the currently interested donor organizations to initiate activities in a maximum of ten countries. **More:** www.esfim.org

OECD Ministerial Round Table on Biofuels, Paris, 11-12 September

For IFAP, biofuels represents a real opportunity for improving the livelihoods of farm families and strengthening rural economies. However, there were many skeptics at the OECD Ministerial Round Table on Biofuels, held in Paris in September 2007, particularly among the NGOs and some academics. They are concerned about energy efficiency, the effect on food supplies and on the environment, as well as the use of subsidies. However many ministers as well as farmers' organisations feel that biofuels represent the best way of meeting climate change goals in the transport sector, given present technology. In addition,

biofuels also contribute to enhancing energy security, to clean-air policies and to supporting rural industries. As the Minister of Environment of the Netherlands said at the meeting, if we talk only about economics we miss the point. Biofuels are a good transition fuel to a more sustainable energy future.

The Round Table stressed that biofuels should meet 'sustainability' criteria. This means setting up a WTO-compatible international certification system to ensure that biofuels have been produced in an environmentally-friendly manner. Developing countries stressed that any such certification schemes must be accompanied by capacity-building programs so that producers in developing countries are able to meet the required standards.

The Round Table also stressed that investments in bioenergy production should not prevent industry from continuing efforts to improve the energy efficiency of vehicle engines as well as the efficiency of oil refineries.

International Forum on Soils, Society & Global Change, Selfoss (Iceland), 31st August - 4 September

The International Forum on Soils, Society & Global Change was organized to celebrate the centenary of conservation and restoration of soil and vegetation in Iceland and aimed to create synergies. The Forum developed an ethic of land care and encouraged greater experience, knowledge and innovation in dealing with the multi-facet challenges through dialogue between specialists and key stakeholders. It enhanced understanding of the global change processes, especially related to the synergistic role of soil conservation and land restoration. Among others, the key issues addressed during the meeting were: Soil and land management including soil stewardship and care, soil management and synergies between existing multilateral environmental agreements, carbon finance in the context of carbon sequestration and land restoration, knowledge management and the role of sustainable land management indicators, and capacity building approaches in legislative and policy development techniques. The Forum highlighted land care and soil conservation as a global concern. A special focus on examining the feasibility for the development of a Code of Practice on soil stewardship was made. The need for integrated approaches was promoted as well as the fact that soils issues should be linked to global agendas on climate change, poverty reduction, and biodiversity.

Currently, there are 3 million km² of land undergoing severe to extreme soil degradation. Desertification has been reported to affect a large proportion of earth's dry

lands with 250 million people directly affected and over 1 billion at risk.

IFAP was represented by SRA (Argentina) and by Innocent Muhereza from the Uganda Cooperative Alliance.

Mission by the President of the African Farmers' Committee and the IFAP regional coordinator in six countries, 7-25 November

In order to strengthen IFAP's links with its member organizations on the African continent, and following the recommendations of the 14th Session of IFAP African Farmer's Committee held last March in Cotonou (Benin), the President of said committee, Mr. Jacques Bonou, and IFAP regional coordinator traveled together from November 7 to 25 to the following countries: Benin, Mali, Niger, Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. There, they met the member organizations as well as the national and regional authorities responsible for agriculture in those countries.

Their mission had three main objectives, that is : 1) To strengthen the communication between the members and the Executive Board of the African Farmer's Committee ; 2) To take note of their concerns so as to establish priorities and define those factors that may contribute to their engagement in the decision-making processes at both the regional and international levels ; and 3) To promote the dialogue between the farmers' organizations and the regional and international authorities so as to prepare lobbying strategies aiming at positively impacting the decisions related to farm policies.

Other missions will take place in the African region during the year 2008 before the 38th World Farmers' Congress in June 2008 in Poland.

International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) General Assembly, Singapore, 16-19 October

The International Cooperative Alliance held its last General Assembly in Singapore from 16th to 19th of October under the theme: "Innovation in Co-operative Business". IFAP was represented in this important event for agricultural coops by Mr. Benia from CAF (Uruguay) and the IFAP Vice President Mr. Montemayor from FFF (Philippines). IFAP actively participated in coops' sessions on energies and research and in the Seminar of the International Committee of Agriculture organised by NACF, the Korean farmers' organisation. This Seminar highlighted the challenges faced by agricultural coops from different parts of the world in their business activities and their role in rural development. Risks and responsibilities of the coop movement in this framework were underlined. Plenary sessions were also

organised to tackle issues such as business and sustainable development. In his presentation, Mr. Benia identified factors which influence the agricultural sector, and explained the necessary extrapolation of effects and impacts of such changes at the social, economic and environmental levels. The role of agricultural coops in this new and changing context was also discussed as well as future opportunities for development.

33rd North American and European Union Agricultural Conference, Prague, 14-17 October

Some 200 farmers' leaders attended this biennial event which takes place in years when IFAP does not have a world congress. Most of them are IFAP members.

US farmers said that they were enjoying record farm incomes with high commodity prices and falling debt. Although high feed prices are causing problems for livestock producers, this would be solved in future by using corn-based by-products from bioethanol production. **Mexican** farmers were also enjoying strong growth of the farm economy, but there were problems for consumers as tortilla prices rose by 25%. The government is changing the tax system to oblige agricultural producers to pay more tax. In contrast, farmers in **Canada** were not doing well. Farm income is stagnant, except for supply-managed commodities. Beef prices fell dramatically as a result of a BSE crisis, pork producers are hit by high feed costs, and a strong Canadian dollar is hurting farm exports especially to the USA. In **Europe**, farmers are preparing for the "health check" on the CAP farm policy reform next year and will be discussing a new CAP policy for 2013. EU farmers want a policy for competitiveness, stability, and sustainability. The policy should also ensure a balance of agriculture over all the European territory, and must be greatly simplified.

The Secretary General of IFAP made an opening presentation on the "world situation". He said that agricultural markets have been boosted by strong demand in emerging economies like China and India, and expanding biofuels programs. This has significantly improved the investment climate for agriculture. Farm incomes have improved and optimism has returned to the farm sector. There is every reason to believe that this can continue in the immediate future. However, the environment in which farmers operate has become more unstable. Farmers' organisations need to take advantage of these relatively good times in agriculture to work on improving ways to manage risks, on both the market and policy side, so that farmers are better able to handle any downturns when they come.

The discussion on trade issues stimulated many comments, including: "WTO negotiations should lead to "profitable" market access; imports must not push out local agriculture ("agriculture de proximité" which is part of the notion behind 'sensitive products'; WTO should only deal with that part of farm production that enters world trade". There was concern about the increasing instability of agricultural markets, and a call for governments to maintain structural stability mechanisms in response to temporary price changes. If these stability mechanisms are not used, then they cost governments nothing so why eliminate them.

The CFA will host the next NA-EU Farmers' Conference in Canada in October 2009.

More: Read the presentation on "world situation" at <http://www.ifap.org/en/publications/documents/IFAP-WorldEconomicSituation2007.pdf>

AgriCord seminar on "Small-holder cooperative strategies and international markets", Leuven, 17 October

AgriCord, which is the alliance of agri-agencies for strengthening farmers' organisations in developing countries, held its 3rd North-South Dialogue of Farm Leaders on 17 October in the headquarters of the Belgian Farmers' Union. Farm organisation presidents from developing countries in Africa (francophone and Anglophone), Asia and Latin America presented the challenges that they were facing, and leaders from farmers' organisations in OECD countries reacted on "what can be done; what can we do?".

P. Chengal Reddy, Chair of the Federation of Farmers' Associations of Andhra Pradesh, India, said that while the Indian economy was growing strongly the 600 million farmers in the villages remain poor. His federation was organising farmers into commodity groups in order to supply the supermarkets which are coming into the country. He called on donor countries to do an audit to see if their development assistance is reaching 'us the poor'.

Samba Gueye, President of the Farmers Council of Senegal (CNCR), stressed the need for farmers to be able to work together to build a sustainable agricultural sector for the 243 million people in West Africa, and defend themselves against trade liberalisation in WTO. Nduati Kariuki, President of the Kenyan National Federation of Agricultural Producers, drew attention to the problems in East Africa of a lack of market information, as well as lack of infrastructure for transport, irrigation, storage and processing. He called for the elimination of tariff escalation against processed food products from Africa, more cooperation (twinning) among farmers' organisations to increase direct sales to Europe.

Carlos Simancas, President of the Agricultural Cooperative Federation in Colombia (CONFECAMPO) and Chair of IFAP's Latin American and Caribbean Farmers' Committee, said that Latin America has a dynamic agricultural export capacity but small-scale farmers are not benefiting. Small-scale farmers need to better understand how supply chains function in a global market, and strengthen their organisational capacities to deal with them.

Reacting to the developing country leaders interventions were: Noel Devisch, President of the Belgian Farmers' Union, René Ladouce, President of the Walloon Farmers' Federation, Elisabeth Gauffin, Vice-President of the Swedish Farmers Federation (LRF) and Chair of IFAP's Development Cooperation Committee, Karen Serres, Chair of the French Farmers Federation (FNSEA) Women's Committee and of the IFAP Women's Farmers Committee and Tapio Kytola of the Finnish Farmers' Federation (MTK). They agreed that the global agenda is becoming a 'farmers' agenda', and all farmers need strong policy and marketing organisations to make sure that farmers' benefit from global economic development. Farmers should be organised in order to be able to supply their local markets in the face of competition and earn a decent living from their work, they concluded.

In his summary, the Chair of AgriCord, Laurent Pellerin from Canada, stressed four points: the need to strengthen organisational capacity, the need to develop agriculture in a way which allows farmers to live from their production, the need to develop marketing networks particularly through farmer-owned coops, and the need to share knowledge and experiences among farmers. AgriCord would do its best to facilitate all of these.

Launch of World Bank "World Development Report 2008", Washington D.C., 19 October

IFAP Vice-President Ajay Vashee represented IFAP at the official launch of the World Development Report 2008 in Washington D.C. on 19 October, along with the Director General of FAO and the President of IFAD. The launch was presided over by Mr. Francois Bourguignon, Chief Economist and a Senior Vice President of the World Bank. Mr. Vashee intervened at two separate press conferences at IMF headquarters that day.

The World Bank consulted civil society organizations during the elaboration of this report, including farmers' organisations represented by IFAP. The report calls for increased priority for agriculture and gives a significant role to farmers and farmers' organisations in driving the development process. Thus for IFAP, both the

substance of the report and the consultative process used to write it represent a huge improvement over the way such intergovernmental reports are usually put together.

The situation of rural populations has worsened since 1982 when the last World Bank Development Report was written on agriculture. This shows clearly that existing agricultural strategies are not working. IFAP urged the World Bank to adopt a new "farmer-centred approach" to development, and is pleased that it seems to have done so. The report clearly recognises that any successful agricultural and rural development strategy requires investment in small-farm agriculture so that subsistence farmers become small-scale entrepreneurs and not migrants to over-crowded cities.

For farmers, the WDR 2008 is an encouraging beginning. However, a report does not bring income to farm families unless it is successfully implemented, and that will be the key to the development value of this report in the future. **More:** IFAP Press release at http://www.ifap.org/en/newsroom/pr_wbdevelopmentreport2008.html and

SAI Platform Advisory Committee, Geneva, 22 October

IFAP is a member of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Advisory Committee, which met in Geneva on 22 October. The Initiative brings together about 20 food companies to discuss on a 'pre-competitive basis' how to deal with sustainability issues in order to protect their brands. The IFAP Secretary General drew attention to three key challenges relating to sustainable agriculture. The first was the global rise in raw material prices which is set to continue. This raises questions for brand managers about the availability of raw materials and continuity of supplies. The second challenge was increasing market instability due to climate change and weather variability, policy changes, economic imbalances and globalisation of health and disease risks. This needs to be addressed by risk management measures, including through strengthened cooperation in commodity supply chains. The third challenge concerns environmental issues of sustainability, including improved farming practises, water governance, renewable energies, and certification schemes. Brand managers are increasingly being required to source products using sustainability criteria, and to communicate to consumers about these criteria. The SAI platform will continue to give support to its member companies on these issues through advice on best practises, sharing knowledge on research and innovation, and providing training and education packages.

GlobalHort board of directors, Hong Kong, 8 December

Launched in March 2006 and mainly initiated by research institutions, GlobalHort aims to advocate and promote horticulture as well as networking and stimulating the R&D work in this field. An IFAP representative (Raul Montemayor, Philippines) was invited to represent farmers during this board meeting. Mr. Montemayor emphasized the need to ensure that the research initiatives produce practical results for farmers.

Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, Queensland, Australia, 26 – 30 November

IFAP was represented at the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems held in Australia from 26 to 30 November. Several documents were introduced and discussed. Many delegations supported the proposal on the Development of a Generic Template for Health Certificates due to the advantages that a harmonised certificate would have. While some delegations recognised the burden caused by too many certificates, they said there was need to consider other initiatives in this area such as those of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business before starting new work. The next Session is currently scheduled from 24 – 28 November 2008.

More: www.codexalimentarius.net

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, New Delhi, India, 30 October – 4 November

IFAP was represented at 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) that met to revise the draft guidelines for the validation of food hygiene control measures and the guidance on microbiological risk management metrics. The 40th Session of the CCFH is currently scheduled from 1 to 5 December 2008 in the USA.

Producers / Researchers Forum on Market Access Mechanisms, Canada, September 24-October 4

Organized by UPA-DI (agri-agency from Canada), the Forum on Market Access Mechanisms aimed to examine methods of improving farm income. It brought together researchers and farm leaders to explore issues related to collective marketing and supply management. Some examples of success stories were presented. IFAP participated through Raul Montemayor (Philippines), and Ron Bonnett (Canada).

More: www.upadi-agri.org

FAO Conference, Rome, 17 - 24 November

The FAO Conference was this year very much devoted to the discussions of the report from the Independent External Evaluation Committee (IEE), which under 18 months had made an evaluation of the work of FAO. The IEE presented a very far-reaching report with more than 100 recommendations aimed at making FAO a more efficient and financially sound organization. The Conference welcomed the Report as a well documented and thorough basis for reforming FAO. The IEE stressed the importance of the contributions which FAO has to make in supporting the three major goals of Member Nations as stated in the Strategic Framework: 1) overcoming hunger and malnutrition; 2) agriculture's contribution to sustainable economic and social development; and 3) conservation and sustainable use of the natural resource base. These three priorities are very positive for the activities of IFAP. The IEE Action Plan will be discussed at consultations next year (IFAP will participate), including regional consultations and a special meeting of the FAO Conference in November 2008. A majority of Members supported the proposal for a "maintenance budget" for 2008-2009 as a strict minimum to allow the Organization to continue to operate without disruptions during the biennium. They did that while recognizing with regret that the provision for the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) would remain substantially below the level mandated by the Conference in 1989 at 17 %.

The IFAP President Jack Wilkinson addressing the Conference said that, following the IEE's priority recommendations on fighting hunger and on agriculture's contribution to economic and social development, it was now time to go from discussions about the matter to more solid and far-reaching actions to help the poor farmers to improve their economic and social life. Wilkinson urged strongly FAO and Member States governments to collaborate in order to reach this goal, involving farmer organizations in the process.

More: Read the IFAP President's speech at http://www.ifap.org/en/newsroom/sp_faoconference2007.html

All documents of the FAO Conference at http://www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/conf/c2007/index_en.htm

Some FAO Press releases: "New agriculture" needs new FAO-

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000708/index.html> and FAO outlines priority areas in Aid for Trade Initiative -

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000710/index.html> and biennium budget of FAO -

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000715/index.html>

Members Activities

This page belongs to IFAP member organisations. It provides the opportunity to communicate information from different countries and reflects the diversity of farmers' organisations activities worldwide. The content of this page does not involve IFAP's work directly and does not reflect necessarily its viewpoint.

Norway: Seminar on Trade and Development attended by IFAP President

"Farmers need to get organised to gain more power" was the main message from IFAP President Jack Wilkinson as he addressed the Trade and Development Seminar in Oslo, Norway, on November 16. Wilkinson was invited to give his views on how to strengthen the third world farmer. "It is absolutely vital that the farmers organise themselves, also to get its fair share of the growing world market prices" said Wilkinson. The seminar was organised by a multitude of organisations from the fields of agriculture, development, environment and trade unions, including IFAP member The Norwegian Farmers Union (Norges Bondelag). As in many other countries agriculture, trade and development are hot topics in Norway for the moment, and some groups urge that Norwegian farmers should lower their production for the local market to help third world farmers. "It does not help the third world farmer if Norwegian farmers stop producing" said Wilkinson during the debate. The less than 60 000 Norwegian farmers, squattered around an area the size of France, mainly produce meat, dairy, cereal and eggs for the domestic market. The growing season in this northernmost agriculture in the world is half of what it is in the Paris area, and the average farm has 18 cows and 18 ha. 50% of the food is imported. During his trip to Norway, Wilkinson visited farms in the eastern and western parts of the country. He also talked with the Norwegian Farmers Union and the Federation of Norwegian Agricultural Cooperatives, and he met the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Terje Riis-Johansen. Mr. Riis-Johansen used to be a board member of the Norwegian Farmers Union, and have attended several IFAP meetings in the past.

Source: Norges Bondelag

UK: 'Good Neighbour Initiative'

The NFU has launched the 'Good Neighbour Initiative' to minimise inconvenience to the general public when pesticides are being sprayed near residential areas. It consists of a farmers' leaflet, 'Spraying Responsibly – best practice when spraying near to residential areas', that forms the centre section of December's issue of British Farmer and Grower and a Spray Operator Guide which is being distributed to around 14,000 spray operators. NFU Vice President Paul Temple said: "We believe this initiative shows how the voluntary

approach, based on communication and agreed solutions, is an effective way of dealing with the small number of problems that arise from spraying alongside residential areas." **More:** www.nfuonline.com

Uruguay: Assembly of the National Commission for Agricultural Development (CNFR) 30 October, San Jacinto-Canelones

Under the slogan "Who's seizing our land?" CNFR held its 92nd General Assembly that brought together 450 delegates from more than 50 grassroots organizations, as well as leaders from other Uruguayan agricultural organizations. The event was attended by Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Vice President the Republic of Uruguay – who is acting President during the absence of Dr. Tabaré Vázquez.

Since 1915 CNFR has been working to foster development by keeping Uruguay's families on the land, which is why its opinions were reflected in the Assembly's final declaration that said:

- 1) We face an ongoing process of concentration and foreign acquisition of land, pushed by single crop farming and forestry, and this is driving farming families off the land throughout the country.
- 2) We believe we cannot defer introducing with all due dispatch enabling legislation to establish who owns the land and how much they own, so that on this basis effective policies can be framed that include instruments such as differential tax rates alongside policies aimed at encouraging people to settle and stay on the land and at integrating them into the economy. These policies will strengthen and consolidate a rural development model and the *Uruguay Productivo* programme, which sees family farming as a way to combat poverty and bring genuine sustainable development in terms of the economy, society and natural resources.
- 3) A moratorium should be declared on the purchase of land by non-resident foreigners and on new forestry projects until a regulatory framework is put in place that safeguards agricultural land.
- 4) Throughout its history our national parliament has dealt on several occasions with the issue of concentration and it has looked particularly closely at the increased foreign ownership of our land, based on arguments put forward by honourable members from different political groups, including members of the present government.
- 5) That in the light of these considerations and of the parliamentary majority enjoyed by the current government, plus the clear wish expressed by representatives of other political groups who have come out in support of this idea, we believe that the conditions now exist to legislate in this area before it is too late. **More:** <http://www.geocities.com/cnfruruguay/>

World Food Day

The farmers are ready to meet the challenge!

Message of the IFAP President Jack Wilkinson,
16 October 2007

The “right to food“, theme selected to celebrate this 2007 World Food Day, is clearly a universal right. Food means agriculture. Governments must give agriculture the priority it deserves in order to respect the right to food of the world’s more than six billion people and most likely more than nine billion by the year 2050.

This is a challenge that farmers throughout world are ready to meet. However, governments must commit to provide a stable and favourable economic environment and an advantageous farm policy framework in which farmers have a fair and equitable opportunity to earn reasonable incomes for their families.

Every person in the world must be able to access at any time sufficient, nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable food so as to meet his/her needs, either by producing it themselves or by having the means to purchase it.

IFAP urges that the following measures be taken by national governments to assure the right to food:

- Provide farmers with secure access to natural, economic and productive resources on a long-term basis.
- Put in place, appropriate legislation or professional frameworks to ensure that farmers are equitable partners in the food chain, so as to ensure a better marketing of their food products and profitable selling prices.
- Promote a balanced development of rural communities, allowing farm families access to basic services that are no less than those provided to urban centres (roads, schools, services, small businesses, basic administrative infrastructure).
- Ensure an adequate pricing of food products that allows farmers to pursue their professional activities and to invest in the developments required to ensure sustainability.

The fight against hunger and poverty should be a basic objective of all nations in order to ensure the right to food of their peoples. It is time to act!

World Rural Women's Day

« The right to food: rural women produce and provide»

Message of the Chair of the IFAP Women Farmers’
Committee, Karen Serres, 15 October 2007.

All human beings need food, food is as vital as the air we breathe or the water we drink. Therefore, the right to food is a part of the respect for the life of each individual, wherever they come from.

We, rural women, want to contribute to this awareness to the right to a healthy, balanced and sufficient food supply for all. But food does not fall from the skies! It needs to be produced! Men and women throughout the world cultivate the land and raise cattle to procure their food and the food needed by the populations. Rural women are on the front line in the counties with the highest risks of famine and malnutrition.

But beware! Impoverishing women farmers will not help to provide food to city dwellers! A profitable selling price for women farmers products is absolutely essential to ensure their capacity to continue feeding others. Urban and country dwellers must move forward together to ensure everybody’s right to a healthy nutrition in sufficient quantities.

Any possible improvement to the production capacity of rural women will contribute to the fight against hunger and malnutrition. For thousands of years, rural women have had the responsibility to produce food under difficult conditions sometimes even dangerous for their health. Discriminations remain regarding access to land, to credits, to seeds and to adequate tools. Furthermore, delays and obstacles due to limited or lack of schooling penalize rural women in their capacity to fulfill their given food-producing mission.

Far from remaining passive, rural women would like to be able to support everybody’s right to food. This is why this World Rural Women Day will emphasize the importance of a support to all those who produce the food we eat.

We are all interdependent on our planet. Men and women, rural and urban dwellers, we all depend on each other and on food for our survival. Let us promote together improved living and working conditions for rural women so that together we may move towards a world where words such as « malnutrition » and « famine » will no longer be relevant.

Have a very good World Rural Women Day in unity and solidarity.

More: IFAP [Press Release](#) and [Recommendations](#)

International Organisations

UN Conference on Climate Change, Bali, 3-14 December 2007

All information regarding the UN Conference on Climate Change is available on the UNFCCC website at <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Read IFAP Press release at

http://www.ifap.org/en/newsroom/pr_bali05-11-07.html

Read Farmers' Contribution from IFAP President at

http://www.ifap.org/en/newsroom/sp_bali-14-12-07.html

UN International Day of Rural Women

A draft resolution that would have the General Assembly of the United Nations declare 15 October of each year as the International Day of Rural Women was approved on 8 November by the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) of the UN, as Member States stepped up collective efforts to better the lot of women living in rural areas.

More: Press release

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gashc3903.doc.htm> and UN Third Committee-

<http://www.un.org/ga/third/index.shtml>

WTO- Food safety and animal-plant health data now easier to find

A new comprehensive system for searching for information on WTO member governments' sanitary and phytosanitary measures — food safety and animal and plant health and safety — has been launched.

Information: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news07_e/sps_ims_oct07_e.htm

More on sanitary and phytosanitary measures:

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm

Launch of the UNEP's 4th Global Environment Outlook

After five years of consultation with stakeholders in all regions of the world, the "Global Environment Outlook: environment for development' report" (GEO-4) was released last October. It provides a comprehensive and authoritative overview of the state of the environment. **More:** <http://www.unep.org/GEO/>

United Nations International Year of Planet Earth

The General Assembly has proclaimed the year 2008 to be UN International Year of Planet Earth. The UNESCO has been designated to organize activities during the Year, in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant UN bodies, the International Union of Geological Sciences and other Earth sciences societies and groups throughout the world.

More: <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/index.htm>

FAO

Despite record 2007 production cereal prices remain high –

FAO's latest forecast puts world cereal production in 2007 at 2 101 million tonnes, with most of the increase in coarse grains, especially maize in the United States. The figure represents a slight downward revision since the UN agency's November forecast, but still indicates a record level of production, up 4.6 percent from last year. International cereal prices in November remained high and volatile, however, reflecting sustained demand, particularly from the biofuels industry, coupled with historically low levels of stocks and insufficient increases in production, mainly of wheat, in exporting countries, according to FAO's latest Crop Prospects and Food Situation report. Early prospects for the 2008 wheat crop are favourable, according to the report. According to the report, 37 countries worldwide are currently facing food crises.

More: <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000723/index.html>

The State of Food and Agriculture 2007 –

This year's edition of *The State of Food and Agriculture 2007* of the FAO concludes that carefully targeted payments to farmers could be a promising approach to protect the environment and to address growing concerns about climate change, biodiversity loss and water supply.

"Agriculture employs more people and uses more land and water than any other human activity," said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf in his foreword to the report. "It has the potential to degrade the Earth's land, water, atmosphere and biological resources – or to enhance them – depending on the decisions made by the more than two billion people whose livelihoods depend directly on crops, livestock, fisheries or forests. Ensuring appropriate incentives for these people is essential."

Current incentives tend to favour the production of food, fibre, and increasingly, biofuels, but they typically under-value other beneficial services that farmers can provide, such as carbon storage, flood control, clean water provision or biodiversity conservation.

Farmers can provide better environmental outcomes, but they need incentives to do so. Payments for environmental services represent one way of increasing incentives to adopt improved agricultural practices—and even to offset pollution generated in other sectors.

More: <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000698/index.html>

FAO Statement on World Food Day 2007:

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000679/index.html>

EDITORIAL: Continued from Page 1

In 2007, IFAP signed a memorandum of cooperation with the U.N. Convention on Biodiversity. IFAP also participated in the Conference of the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification in Madrid in September 2007, and provided input into the UNCCD 10-year strategic plan.

On trade issues IFAP held a special event on agriculture with the G-4 ambassadors and 200 participants at the WTO Public Forum in October 2007. On food chain issues, IFAP held a Conference with the National Farmers Union of the USA on "Profitability: farmers' solutions", in Washington D.C. in March 2007. IFAP also led a research project with IFAD and ECART on "Empowering smallholder farmers access to markets" which was concluded in its initial phase by a meeting in Tunis in October. Further, the IFAP Commodities Conference held in Vienna in April saw commodity activities becoming more closely integrated into the general policy work of IFAP.

A particular lobbying success for IFAP in 2007 was its involvement in the World Development Report of the World Bank (WDR 2008). Farmers' organisations have been saying for years that investing in agriculture and small-scale farmers is crucial to reduce poverty and hunger. WDR 2008 now says this too. The report calls on donors and developing-country governments to give a higher priority to agriculture in their budgets, and gives a significant role to farmers and farmers' organisations in driving the development process. It is now critical to build on this achievement and make sure that governments implement the recommendations in the report at national level.

IFAP's working relations with IFAD were strengthened, when IFAD linked its African regional farmers' consultation to IFAP's African Farmers' Committee session in Cotonou, Benin in March 2007. IFAD also participated in IFAP's Asian Farmers' Committee session in Hanoi, Vietnam in November, presenting its regional program.

Closer links were established with research institutes throughout the world so as to make research agendas more farmer-driven. IFAP's President was elected as the Vice-Chair of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research in Rome.

IFAP has also had considerable success in representing farmers' views at: the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, Stockholm water week, the ILO on child labour and on rural employment, the OECD Trade and Agriculture Committee, and the OIE on animal health and welfare.

Concerning internal organization, IFAP enjoyed a significant increase its budget in 2007 and was able to set up a new Development section in the Secretariat with support from AgriCord's Farmers Fighting Poverty Program. The four regional coordinators and Program Manager that comprise this section are working to build capacity on policy processes in developing country member organisations. Excellent meetings have been held in all regions this year and clear work priorities established.

IFAP adopted a new phase of its Communications Strategy which is more focused on lobbying and giving visibility to IFAP's actions. A new "Presidency Letter" was introduced in 2007.

IFAP's efforts to facilitate the entry of young people into agriculture were boosted by a memorable 2nd IFAP World Congress of Young Farmers held in Buenos Aires in July 2007. Also, efforts to recognize women's contribution to agriculture were progressed through the meeting of IFAP's Women Farmers' Committee in Bangkok in November and through celebration of World Rural Women's Day. Strategy

Policy papers were prepared on: aid-for-trade, food safety and quality, animal welfare, bioenergy and biodiversity. These will be debated at the next World Farmers' Congress to be held in Warsaw in June 2008. Meanwhile, we wish you all the very best greetings of the season and a happy New Year, and we also wish our Communications Coordinator Julie Emond every success in her new challenges back in Canada.

World Farmer is edited by the Secretariat of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

This Newsletter is available in English, French and Spanish and can be seen on IFAP's Website <http://www.ifap.org/en/publications/newsletters.html>

Please send your comments to:

Julie Emond, Communications Coordinator
julie.emond@ifap.org

60, rue Saint-Lazare, 75009 Paris – France
Tel.: +33 1 45 26 05 53 Fax: +33 1 48 74 72 12

Notice: Readers are welcome to further circulate or to copy this publication provided the source is properly identified.