



**28 NOVEMBER 2012**

## **International Fertilizer Industry Association Council Meeting - Palazzo Colonna**

Mr Director General Luc Maene,  
Distinguished IFA's Member Companies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the 38th Enlarged Council Meeting of the International Fertilizer Industry Association here in Rome.

First, I wish to acknowledge the work done by Luc Maene to strengthen private sector cooperation with the Committee on World Food Security, in particular, through the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN).

I also wish to congratulate Charlotte Hebebrand, who will take up the Director-General's role following Luc Maene's retirement.



The efficient, responsible and safe production and use of agricultural inputs is important for sustainable food security. I count on you to keep IFA and the IAFN engaged with the CFS.

My presence here today confirms the strong interest I have in expanding cooperation with the private sector, and the recognition the contribution of private sector federations and associations can give to the fight against hunger.

The private sector, and specifically the input industry, has a major role to play in global efforts to achieve the goal of a food-secure and sustainable world.

This is at the core of FAO's mandate and it is translated into the five strategic objectives we are defining for the work of the Organization.

One, to eradicate hunger. Two, to increase sustainable production. Three, to reduce rural poverty. Four, to improve more inclusive and efficient food systems. And, five, to increase resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

The private sector, civil society and other non-governmental organizations can make an important contribution in all of these areas. There is no way that FAO will end hunger in the world if it works in isolation.

I am truly convinced of this, for which reason I have been working to strengthen and expand FAO's partnerships since my first day in office.



FAO is working to enhance its partnerships with the private sector at all levels: corporate, regional, sub-regional and also, at country level, where private sector support is most needed. At the same time, taking all necessary precautions to assure our neutrality and independence.

We are preparing an FAO strategy for partnerships with the private sector to set a clear basis for our collaboration and to make this relationship transparent.

As you know, the International Agri-Food Network has provided valuable comments to this document and I thank you for your engagement.

The strategy was discussed this month in the Joint Meeting of the Program and Finance Committees. Members highlighted the importance of a clear strategy and have asked for amendments.

We are working on the issues raised and consider it important that the International Agri-Food Network continue supporting this process.

Let us take a look at the main challenges ahead:

We have a growing population, which is expected to surpass the nine billion mark in the year 2050. And, we face increasing environmental pressures.

FAO estimates that agricultural production would need to grow globally by about 60 percent by 2050.



In order to ensure sustainable food security, countries must meet the growing demand for food while reducing agriculture's environmental footprint.

As you know, the use of mineral fertilizers has come under intense scrutiny. There is a strong debate between those who call for a ban on their use, those who are in favor of low-input agriculture and those who support farming as in the usual way.

FAO is advocating for a shift of paradigm from our current input intensive farming to sustainable intensification. We call it the Save and Grow approach.

Finding the right balance between the appropriate use of external inputs and natural methods is a part of this shift.

Looking at the big picture: we need to make the way we produce and consume more sustainable.

This means bringing people together to agree on principles and guidelines of the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference.

Organizations like the International Fertilizers Association have an important role to play, exchanging ideas and information, helping build consensus.

IFA is already doing this through its participation in the International Agri-Food Network. Working within the framework of the Committee on World Food Security, the network contributed to the approval of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure.



I call on your support to assist in the implementation of these Voluntary Guidelines at the national level.

At the global level, the Committee will now embark on the negotiations on the principles of responsible agricultural investments.

I call on you to participate in these negotiations with the same constructive spirit you showed in the debates on the Voluntary Guidelines.

Your strong support and commitment is important to address existing and future challenges that will face the world's population.

United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki Moon has said: "Our times demand a new definition of global leadership".

This is increasingly true when it comes to the global governance of agriculture and food systems.

FAO is ready to join this new era of collaboration and asks you to join in the efforts to ensure food security for all.

Thank you.