



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

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22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change



FIPA IFAP

SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS (IFAP)

Paris, 2 July 2007: Today, at the margins of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) the Secretariat signed an agreement with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) on future cooperation between the two organizations.

World-wide agricultural and other production systems account for over 40% of the land use of the Earth. Agriculture has contributed significantly to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity through for example sustaining the genetic diversity of domesticated animals and plants. Agriculture is also the main basis of livelihoods in many developing countries and has contributed significantly to economic well-being and hence reduced a main driver of biodiversity loss – poverty. However, as demands for food production increase the environmental footprint of agriculture needs to be reduced – to ensure the sustainability of farmers' livelihoods and for the well-being of the wider environment.

The mandate of IFAP is to develop the capacities of farmers to influence the decisions that affect them at both the domestic and international levels. IFAP represents 115 farmers' organizations in over 80 countries, most of them developing, and with a strong representation of small-scale farming interests. IFAP plays a prominent leadership role in many international agriculture forums.

The partnership agreement comes as the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity is to be reviewed at the next meeting of SBSTTA to be held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 18 to 22 February 2008. Biodiversity and agriculture is also the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity, to be celebrated on 22 May 2008. Climate change, which is being discussed at the current meeting of SBSTTA, also has major

consequences for agricultural biodiversity and farming practices. All of these subjects will be considered at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008. The partnership will enable strengthened communication and collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention and farmers' organizations, which have a major role to play in the management and conservation of biodiversity. IFAP will contribute to improving the effectiveness of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity through representing farmers' views in the aforementioned processes and by raising awareness among its members of the importance of biodiversity in the context of sustainable agricultural development. IFAP will also contribute to the celebration of the International Day on Biological Diversity to be held on 22 May 2008 on the theme biodiversity and agriculture and to the International Year on Biodiversity in 2010.

International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

IFAP is the world farmers' organization representing over 600 million farm families grouped in 115 national organizations in 80 countries. It is a global network in which farmers from industrialized and developing countries exchange concerns and set common priorities. IFAP has been an advocate for farmers' interests at the international level since 1946 and has General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. <http://www.ifap.org/>

For more information contact: e-mail: ifap@ifap.org

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, it currently has 190 Parties—189 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

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