

INTERVENTION
BY INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

As many have said, partnerships are essential and critical to our ability to accomplish cross-cutting goals for sustainable development.

Strong cooperation among the Major Groups, government and UN agencies working in partnership on sustainable agriculture and rural development under the broad framework of sustainable food systems has been built on relationships begun at Rio and solidified since the last review of SARD at CSD in the year 2000 and the Johannesburg Summit.

The SARD Major Group partners are continuing to expand our work in preparation for CSD 16/17, building on lessons learned (which are being documented) about the essential ingredients of successful partnerships.

Our goal is to develop a common platform of agreed priorities that Major Groups and collaborating governments and UN agencies can focus on for CSD, and lead to work beyond 2008/2009.

TWO PRIORITIES ARE:

As noted by the Women's Major Group, the Women as a Voice for Agriculture (WAVA) Network will link women in leadership positions, from ministers and deputy ministers, scientists, professionals, and champions in civil society to speak up and actively work on behalf of women farmers and women waged workers – those all too often left behind when decisions about investments in agriculture are being made.

NGOs working on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) also wish to highlight the often neglected role of livestock in sustainable development.

To this end a Global Livestock Working Group is in the process of proposing a review for CSD 16 the state of livestock and its impact social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability - water, soil, desertification, drought, climate changes, public health and livelihoods – and using the year between CSD 16 AND 17 to identify policy recommendations which have been informed by Major Group multi-stakeholder engagement.

On a concrete note and as an example of Major Group multi-stakeholder partnership in action, IPSA and Major Groups are working to organize a City and Farm Linkages Showcase at CSD 16 on May 10-11, 2008.

This will highlight community food security projects, tours of local farms and markets, processing, distribution and other cooperative ventures. The event will also provide a forum for collaborative work at CSD, to which all are cordially invited.

Thank you.