



Farming First Food Security Statement

Food security requires the availability, accessibility and affordability of sufficient food with the required nutritious quality for all. In a world of growing population and consumption, achieving this goal is a responsibility commonly shared by farmers, governments, researchers, businesses and other representatives of society.

The Farming First coalition believes that agricultural productivity has to be improved and food production increased in a sustainable way to find short and long-term solutions to food security worldwide.

At the center of the solution are the millions of farmers around the world who produce the food we all eat. By providing farmers with the right tools, knowledge and techniques, food security can be realized in all countries.

Subsistence farmers need help to become rural entrepreneurs in order to raise their incomes and break down the vicious cycle of poverty.

The coalition believes that:

- Food security should be an immediate and future priority for all countries worldwide.
- Farmers need to be at the center of new strategies.
- Governments should invest in their agricultural sectors and in policies which support agricultural development in developing countries.
- Governments should devise long-term agricultural development strategies supporting the development of local agricultural markets and farmers' ability to answer market demands.
- Productivity levels in most developing countries have to be raised as much as possible while ensuring environmental sustainability.
- Local production should be stimulated by providing farmers with the technology, the knowledge, the market information and the adequate financial services they need.
- Women farmers should become specially targeted recipients because of their vital roles in the agricultural workforce, in household food procurement and preparation, and in family-unit support.
- Food security is a complex issue requiring concerted efforts over the long term, international, regional and national policies need to be coordinated and implemented in consultation with farmers.

The six principles developed by Farming First are meant to provide strategies for ensuring food security by emphasizing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

To learn more, read about Farming First's six principles at <http://www.farmingfirst.org/principles> or visit our page on food security at <http://www.farmingfirst.org/foodsecurity>