



## LIMA - COP20 STATEMENT

### Position of world farmers on climate talks

***Lima, Peru:* With the impacts of climate change being felt on food systems around the world, agriculture is one of the issues at the heart of climate change concerns. In December 2014 at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP20) in Peru, farmers' organisations called on governments at the climate to put agriculture on the table for the Paris 2015 climate agreement.**

Climate change poses a myriad of threats to agriculture, including the reduction of agricultural productivity, production stability and negative effects on farmers' incomes. The three farmers' organisations, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), and SACAU strongly believe that agriculture has the potential to be part of the solution, through the mitigation of a significant amount of global emissions. The world's food and farming systems are now facing multiple threats and the ecosystem functions that underpin them are increasingly unstable and subject to more and more unpredictable weather conditions. It is not only the food security and livelihoods of farmers in the developing world that are under threat, it is the agriculture sector everywhere.

"The climate is changing more rapidly than expected, challenging the capability and capacity of agriculture to adapt. This reality must be addressed. Since ever, farmers have been developing resilient actions to adapt to the changing climate, as such, agriculture has the potential to be part of the solution, through the implementation of measures that can enhance farmers' adaptation capacity to climate change effects," stated Marco Marzano, Executive Director of the World Farmers' Organisation. "Despite their important role in climate change adaptation processes, farmers' involvement in global discussions on climate change are often very limited; and the voice of farmers' is not always considered in decision-making processes that directly affect their work and lives."

Although family farmers produce the lion's share of all global agricultural production, half of them are still among the world's hungry. The IFOAM assures that sustainable farming techniques including organic agriculture in soil, water and biodiversity conservation, as well as integrated and sustainable farm management help small farmers be productive, achieve family food security and climate resilience. "Unless family farmers are given the agro-ecological technologies they need to meet challenges posed by climate change, impacts on food production will be devastating, pushing millions into poverty." – declares IFOAM President André Leu.

"No constituency is more vulnerable to climate change than the world's farmers. And no constituency can do more towards mitigation and adaptation to climate change in a shorter space of time than farmers of the world. And yet agriculture is still not part of a legally binding agreement," points out SACAU President, Dr Theo de Jager.

De Jager, who is also president of the Pan African Farmers' Organisations (PAFO) says that farmers cannot change their circumstances alone and that agriculture must get the attention and support it deserves. "A large part of the population in Africa relies on agriculture for their livelihood - they are the poorest people in the world, yet the continent has huge potential to be the bread-basket of the world. Prosperity in agriculture on the continent can transform the lives of millions of households," he emphasized.

"As parties work towards a new climate agreement in Paris next year, we urge them to acknowledge that farmers are particularly vulnerable to climate change and without support their livelihoods and global food security is at great risk. Parties need to urgently agree on a framework for ambitious and far-reaching actions to support adaptation and mitigation in agriculture," concluded the three farmers' leaders.



### ***Information on the farming organisations:***

The **World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)** is an international organisation whose members are national farmers' organisations of small, medium and large scale, from all over the world. As of today, WFO counts around 70 members from about 50 countries. WFO mandate is to facilitate the inclusion of farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives in the global policy process on agriculture-related issues, in particular on Climate Change, Food Security and Value Chain, in the promotion of cross-cutting issues like innovation, gender, youth and livestock. .

Since 1972, **IFOAM** has occupied an unchallenged position as the only international umbrella organization of the organic world, uniting an enormous diversity of stakeholders contributing to the organic vision. IFOAM implements the will of its broad-based constituency, close to 800 affiliates in 125 countries, in a fair, inclusive and participatory manner.

**SACAU** is a membership based regional farmers' organisation whose members are the national farmers' organizations in Southern Africa. Currently SACAU has 17 members from 12 countries.

### ***To learn more, please contact:***

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