



MORE and BETTER

An international network for support of food, agriculture and rural development to eradicate hunger and poverty

NEWSLETTER N.1 - 2012

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 25 - 27:** Initial discussions on the zero draft of outcome document (New York, USA)
- **March 19 - 23:** First round of 'informal-informal' negotiations on the zero draft of outcome document (New York, USA)
- **February 20-21:** Farmers' Forum (IFAD, Rome)
- **March 9 - 12:** Third round of negotiations for the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (FAO, Rome)
- **March 12 - 16:** Asia Pacific FAO Regional Conference (Vietnam)
- **March 26 - 30:** Latin America and Caribbean FAO Regional Conference (Argentina)
- **April 16 - 20:** Europe FAO Regional Conference (Azerbaijan, Baku)

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Getting ready for the More and Better General Meeting in Rio, Brazil

As earlier announced, the More and Better general meeting in 2012 will take place in Rio de Janeiro, just before the start of the UN official Conference. Dates are not set yet, but should be between the 16th and 22nd of June, 2012. We hope that the majority of you will be able to attend. Currently, we are working on the budget in order to guarantee a large participation of representatives from Southern organizations; depending on available funds, we will be able to support a limited number of participants. More information on the budget and the selection process will follow as soon as possible.

Rio+20: registration open

The registration process for UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held on 20-22 June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is now open.

NGOs and other Major groups' organizations that are NOT yet accredited to the United Nations and wish to participate in the Rio+20 Conference should register by the 20th of February 2012. Following this link: <http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=382&type=22&s=15>, you can start the accreditation for new groups. Once your registration is approved, your organization can pre-register representatives until the general deadline of 20 May 2012. For more information, please see: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=90>.

Rio+20: disappointing and very weak zero draft

The so called zero draft of the outcome document for Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, came out in the beginning of January. It can be downloaded from <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=12&nr=324&menu=23>. The document is very disappointing and weak. It is filled with good words and intentions about sustainable development and poverty eradication, but almost empty of concrete actions, policies for real changes and commitments. On trade it's the same mantra about open, non-discriminatory trade and support for finishing the Doha round. Only three of the 128 paragraphs are on food security, and in two of them "global agri-food markets" and more "open trading systems" are promoted. Two of the most positive elements in the zero draft are the support for "the creation of an international knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate countries' green economy policy design and implementation," including a toolbox of good practices, and the proposal to create a roadmap for the implementation of sustainable development. The first talks between governments on the zero draft takes place in the UN headquarter January 25-27 and the more formal negotiations on the text will start in March.

Now we need to influence national governments to make substantial changes and to strengthen the document. The document ***Rio+20 Time to act!*** (see: <http://www.timetoactrio20.org/en/>) which More and Better and many of our member organizations have signed on to, should be actively used in the contact with the governments.

We ask you to send your proposals, reports on your work on Rio+20 to secretariat@moreandbetter.org and to our e-mail list.

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Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

More and Better took part as a guest at the Annual General meeting of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (<http://www.donorplatform.org/>) in Berlin, January 17-18. We think it will be especially important in the coming months to follow and discuss the work of the Donor Platform on climate change and agriculture. Most members of More and Better will have common views with the Donor Platform on many points, but also disagree with some of the viewpoints and proposal from the "Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change" (<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/commission/>) which is established by the Donor Platform.

2014: International Year of the Family Farming

The 22nd December 2011, the UN General Assembly has declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming-IYFF. For the first time in history, an International Year has been promoted by Civil Society. The campaign in favor of IYFF started in 2008 and it has been supported by more than 350 organizations from 60 countries all over the world. As Civil Society, the main dimension of the IYFF preparation work, under the leadership of the farmers organizations, pastoralists, traditional fishers, etc., will be focused on identifying and promoting in each country the main demands and aspirations of rural women and men, to be addressed to each government, requesting the approval of agricultural policies in favor of a sustainable and prosperous Family Farming. See more at <http://www.familyfarmingcampaign.net>.

Farmers' Forum

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has organized every second year, from 2006, the Farmers' Forum. The Forum this year will take place in Rome on February 20-21st and a special focus will be "Investment in young farmers" (see: <http://ifad-un.blogspot.com/2010/08/investing-in-young-farmers.html>). Many representatives from farmers' organizations which are also members of More and Better will attend and More and Better as a network is invited and will take part as an observer.

If you have feedback on articles, suggestions of content for future issues or other thoughts please write to: secretariat@moreandbetter.org

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