

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Embargoed Until:**

October 30, 2009

**For Information:**

Heather Miller

202-328-5056 Ext. 1

**Expert group launches recommendations on climate change and food security policies**

**WHO:** International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

**WHAT: Platform of international climate change, agriculture, and trade experts calls for coherence among climate change, agricultural development and trade policies.** See summary of recommendations on next page.

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 29, 2009 – 4:15-5:30pm.

The platform recommendations will be announced during the final session of the IPC-ICTSD seminar, “Climate Change, Agriculture, and Trade; Promoting Policy Coherence.” Funding is being provided as part of a grant to IPC from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**WHERE:** Hotel Monaco, Athens Room

700 F Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20004

**About the Platform:**

The ICTSD-IPC Platform on Climate Change, Agriculture and Trade: Promoting Policy Coherence is an interdisciplinary platform of climate change, agricultural and trade experts. It promotes increased policy coherence to ensure effective climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security and a more open and equitable global food system. For more information, click [here](#).

## IPC/ICTSD Platform on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Trade: Promoting Policy Coherence – Considerations for Policymakers

Climate Change will increase the likelihood of extreme weather events and contribute to longer-term changes in temperature and precipitation. Given agriculture's reliance on the weather, the agricultural sector will be seriously impacted by climate change. The sector is also a significant contributor of greenhouse gases and will need to play a role in mitigating climate change. At the same time, however, increased demands on the sector require that agricultural production more than double by 2050. The Platform identifies the following policy priorities:

- **Increased and sustained financing for agricultural development is required to promote food security, alleviate poverty, and address climate change.** Developing country and donor country governments should point to these three very important rationales for providing increased support to the agricultural sector.
- **Global food security requires substantial adaptation efforts directed towards the agricultural sector.** Emphasis must be placed on strengthening adaptive capacities in developing countries, with an eye toward also promoting socio-economic development and food security.
- **As it pursues climate change mitigation, the international community must be aware of potential negative spillover effects for food security and make provisions to address them, particularly in order to protect the world's poor and vulnerable.**
- **Efforts to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions should not jeopardize food security.** Agricultural productivity on arable and degraded land must be increased so as to reduce deforestation, which contributes 20% of total emissions. A focus on relative carbon intensity and soil carbon sequestration is also advisable.
- **Innovation and dissemination of new technologies will be important for both adaptation and mitigation.** Public as well as private research is required, especially given developing countries' limited capacity to fund new research in this area. Existing tools and knowledge can already be employed and should be encouraged via concerted extension services.
- **An open and equitable trade system for food and agriculture is vital for food security and can contribute to both climate change adaptation and mitigation;** it can help offset climate-induced production decreases in certain regions and facilitate the transfer of food and agricultural products from regions where their production requires relatively less greenhouse gas emissions to regions where production would result in higher emissions.
- **Climate change and international trade policies should be coherent with each other.** This will be more difficult to achieve if countries adopt unilateral trade-related climate change measures. Members of the World Trade Organization should engage in a process to consider the range of climate change/trade issues, with a view towards increasing members' understanding, a possible clarification of WTO rules or even as preparation for future negotiations. Such a process does not require a new institutional framework or mandate and can occur within the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment.