



Demand briefing: Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture

The issue

Sustainable agriculture, although not officially defined, generally refers to the capacity of agriculture over time to contribute to overall welfare by providing sufficient food and other goods and services in ways that are economically efficient and profitable, socially responsible, and environmentally sound.

The food and beverage industry

Food security and sustainable agriculture are at the centre of Fairfood International's work. A sustainable food system is one that not only provides safe, nutritious and reliable access to food for all, but also one in which the food is produced in less socially, environmentally and economically damaging ways.*

Solutions

To date, world leaders have made several declarations on the importance of food security and sustainable agriculture, namely in Agenda 21 from the Rio '92 conference. Many of these commitments have not been met; or where progress has been made, it is quite limited. Thus, the time has come to call on the food industry to take control of the issue.

Our demands

Companies should make commitments and implement initiatives:

- To take an integrated and holistic approach to sustainability across their supply chain and within the entire business.
- To make serious commitments towards sourcing sustainably grown commodities.
- To support continued progress towards achieving the (environmental) goals of Agenda 21, for example by:
 - Continuing to implement policies, practices and programmes that conserve and rehabilitate land (Para 14.15) throughout their operations
 - Increasing the speed of progress on improving the use of integrated pest management (Para 14.75)
 - Making a serious commitment to improving irrigation, and water services related to agriculture, especially in Sub Saharan Africa where less than 5% of agricultural land is irrigated (Para 18.68)

* For an overview of statistics related to the (lack of) sustainability in the food and beverage industry, see the [Fairfood International Strategy Document 2012-2014](#).

Note for the editor:

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Fairfood International is a vital part of the global movement of people who are passionate about creating change towards a sustainable food and beverage industry. www.fairfood.org