Draft Agenda

GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURE

**AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:
INFORMATION NEEDS FOR EFFECTIVE POLICY RESPONSES**

Paris, Friday, 3 December 2004

Policy makers need a range of information in order to ensure that the needs of poor households are addressed as effectively as possible. In particular, insights into the distributional effects of policy reforms can underpin decisions on the appropriate pace and sequencing of reforms, and help with the design of accompanying policies to help households to adjust, or to mitigate adverse shocks to income. This Global Forum examines what can be done to ensure that the provision of data and analysis can be tailored to policy makers' needs.

Chair: Neil Fraser (New Zealand)

10.00-13.00 **MORNING SESSION. What information do policy makers need?**

This session focuses on the nature and content of policy makers' information needs. What are the critical issues facing policy makers? What kinds of economic analysis can help guide strategic responses? On the other hand, when is there a need for quick answers, and how can they be provided as reliably as possible? How can policy makers ensure that information used for short-run policy responses is consistent with that developed for longer term planning?

Introduction: Wayne Jones (OECD)

Discussants: Guilherme Dias (Brazil), Juan Esteban García Dobarganes (Mexico), Charles Mataya (Malawi), Ibrahim Assane Mayaki (West Africa HUB), Han Jun (China).

Plenary discussion

13.00-15.00 ***Lunch***

15.00-17.45 **AFTERNOON SESSION. Institutional responses to policy makers' needs.**

This session focuses on the role of OECD and other international organisations in ensuring that the policy information and analysis flowing from these organisations is timely and tailored to the needs of policy makers in developing countries. A further objective is to examine ways in which the diverse impacts of agricultural and trade policy reform on developing countries can be presented coherently to developed country policy makers. Finally, the session should address the co-ordination of activities across the various international organisations.

Introduction: Jonathan Brooks (OECD)

Discussants: *Representatives from international organisations will provide brief overviews of work on distributional impacts of reform being undertaken at their respective institutions, and consider how this analysis feeds into national policy discussions and decision making.* John McIntire (World Bank), Randy Stringer (FAO), Tidiane Ngaido (IFPRI), Paolo Giordano (IADB).

Plenary discussion

17.45-18.00 **Concluding remarks:** Stefan Tangermann, Director, Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, OECD.