



ADNA

Advocacy Network for Africa

Reform of U.S. Food and Agricultural Policy to Fight Hunger and Poverty in the U.S and in Africa

In reauthorizing the U.S. Farm Bill Congress should give priority to reducing hunger and poverty in the United States and in Africa where the fate of farmers, 60 percent of whom are women, is tied to agriculture for survival.

On both the domestic and international front, food insecurity is a problem with the greatest impact on poor people, particularly children. USDA reports that 18-20 percent of households are food insecure in both rural and urban America. In California, a state with the highest agricultural output in the nation, 13 percent of households are food insecure.

In Africa, where more than 70 percent of Africa's 360 million people and survive by subsistence farming, food insecurity caused by poverty, conflict, droughts, and insufficient land and water supplies, is compounded when crop prices are driven to the floor by inexpensive grains that are "dumped" on local markets. Conditions placed on many African countries to secure loans from the IMF and World Bank have forced countries to drop governmental programs that once supported farmers through subsidies and extension programs.

In negotiating trade agreements African countries are pressured to get rid of import taxes and quotas on U.S. products leaving them with very little measure to protect a majority of their population. U.S. farm subsidies contribute to overproduction which makes dumping possible.

The farm bill offers an opportunity for more responsible policies to be framed right so that it gives capacity to African farmers to develop an agricultural base that is self sustaining and free from competition from subsidized corporations.

The 2007 Farm Bill Should:

- **Reduce commodity subsidies that distort trade.**
- **Increase funding for conservation and encourage better land stewardship.**
- **Support resource- poor minority farmers and promote rural development.**

These measures in conjunction with recognizing the right of governments in developing countries to protect their own agricultural markets will help farmers and rural life around the world, and especially in Africa.

For more information about the U.S. Farm Bill and its impact on food security in Africa, please contact:

Mhizha Edmund Chifamba, Executive Director

Washington Office on Africa, 212 East capitol Street, NE; Washington DC 20003;

Phone: (202)-547-7503; Fax: (202) 547-7505

Email: woa@igc.org Website: www.woafrica@igc.org