

Montpellier, France — December 1, 2016

## PRESS RELEASE

# > An international conference combining food security, environmental sustainability and social progress



Over 200 experts will meet in Montpellier, France, at the *"Agri-Chains and Sustainable Development: linking local and global dynamics"* conference on 12-14 December to discuss what can be done to balance an ever-growing global demand for food and other agricultural products in the face of a worsening environmental crisis and growing social inequalities.

Agricultural and food value chains (agri-chains) have a crucial role to play when it comes to alleviating poverty, ensuring zero hunger, consuming and producing responsibly, mitigating climate change, and other ambitions encapsulated by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations last year with a view to eradicating poverty, protecting the planet and guaranteeing prosperity for all. In many countries, particularly the poorest, agri-chains are an important source of livelihoods and income.

The **AC&SD international conference** initiated by CIRAD - a French agricultural research and international cooperation organisation working for the sustainable development - and its partners is organised around three themes:

1. How are agri-chains performing with respect to the SDGs, and how can this be assessed?
2. What public policies and governance mechanisms are required to support the SDGs at different scales?
3. What innovations and partnerships could set agri-chains on the road to sustainable development?

The conference will be an exciting opportunity to hear about numerous initiatives involving a range of agri-chains' stakeholders including business representatives (Danone, Mars etc.), representatives of supporting institutions (AFD, EuropeAid etc.), investors (Moringa Fund), members of farmers' organisations (Estrella Penunia, Asian Farmers Association, Ibrahima Coulibaly, ROPPA/Via Campesina, etc.) and researchers, who will be sharing their experiences and their work during the parallel sessions.

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### Agri-Chains & Sustainable Development: Linking local and global dynamics

These will include:

- An analysis of the dairy chain, looking at the various ways of ensuring economic development in line with the SDGs, from West Africa to Southeast Asia via India. Are public-private partnerships a good thing? Can cooperative institutional innovations improve the lives of small-scale producers? What measures are required to support the switch from semi-subsistence to commercial systems?
- An analysis of the cocoa chain, to illustrate the emergence of public-private partnerships aimed at maintaining supplies despite the threat of climate change.
- Citizens' initiatives aimed at establishing alternatives to the domination of multinationals, notably viewed through the prism of the changes in relations between urban and rural areas: building new links between producers and consumers by creating new multi-stakeholder local circuits, establishing participatory certification, etc.

These three days of debates and discussions will help to map the different models of transition to sustainable development, and the technical and social innovations currently being experimented. They will fuel dialogue with policymakers, encourage scientists and experts to look for other development models, and launch the debate on new modes of partnership and investment.

#### Note to the Editor

1. **Cirad is a French agricultural research and international cooperation organisation** working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions. Find out more: <http://www.cirad.fr/en>
2. **The Agri-Chains & Sustainable Development conference will take place on 12-14 December, at Le Corum, Montpellier.** For more information on who will be speaking, and to register to attend, go to: <http://acsd2016.cirad.fr/>
3. **There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals**, which have been internationally agreed and adopted in September 2015 at the UN General Assembly. Find out more: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

#### PROGRAM

[acsd2016.cirad.fr/program](http://acsd2016.cirad.fr/program)

#### TWITTER

 #acsdmpl

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**With the support** of Agropolis Fondation, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI, the French Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry (MAAF), Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole, and the Moringa Fund