

POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT: What It Means For Farmers

By: Raul Q. Montemayor

Chairman, Asian Farmers Committee
International Federation of
Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

Why should developed countries bother with policy coherence?

- **Continued growth in developed countries dependent on progress in poor countries**
- **Global peace, health and progress not possible with widespread hunger and poverty**
- **But developing countries must assume responsibility and accept challenge for reform**

Coherence in domestic agricultural policies

- **Break the litany of broken promises for agriculture**
- **Need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to accumulated problems of agriculture**
- **Farmers are biggest obstacle to change but also are key players in development process**

Coherence in agricultural trade policy

- **Developed countries cannot protect and support their farmers at the expense of farmers in developing countries**
- **Trade rules must remove distortions, level the playing field, and give poor countries a decent chance to benefit from trade**
- **Developing countries must also do their share to make markets freer and fairer**

Coherence in other trade-related policies

- **Food safety and health regulations must not be used as disguised trade barriers**
- **Safe & nutritious/environmentally friendly vs. cheap food – squeezing farmers in between**
- **Efficiency vs. equity – protecting farmers from abuse from industrial and market concentration**
- **Producers, specially small farmers, must benefit from freer trade**

Coherence in development aid policy

- **Development assistance must promote development, not fix problems arising from anti-development policies and programs**
- **Go back to basics - refocus attention and resources to agricultural development and rural areas**
- **Need to recognize important role of private sector in development effort**

The role of producer organizations

- **Farmers have right and responsibility to participate in development effort**
- **Need for strong, credible and independent farmer organizations at national and international levels – the case of IFAP**
- **Farmers can play key roles in developmental planning, implementation and monitoring**