



PRESS RELEASE

More private investment needed to enhance food security and agricultural development, according to high-level panel

Private investment in the food and agriculture sectors can enhance productivity, drive job creation and income growth, increase food supply and enhance food security, according to participants in a high-level panel in Berlin on 18 January.

The panel recognised the need to attract more private investment, both domestic and foreign, in the food and agriculture sectors, and called on governments to design coherent policy frameworks and implement reforms in order to improve the investment climate. It also emphasised the need to ensure that agricultural investment is beneficial to both home and recipient countries as well as host societies, especially small-scale farmers and rural communities. ([See Chair's conclusions](#))

Panellists underlined in particular the importance of secure and well-defined land and water rights, adequate agriculture-related infrastructure, open and reliable agricultural trade, competitive financial markets, and enhanced agricultural research and development as key elements of an enabling environment for agricultural investment. They welcomed the support provided by the OECD Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture to improve countries' policies for agricultural investment and encouraged the demand-driven use of this framework at both the national and regional level.

The panel also stressed the need to promote responsible business conduct so as to ensure that agricultural investments do bring benefits not only to investors and recipient countries, but also to host societies and local communities. It noted the key role that the consultations carried out under the auspices of the Committee on World Food Security to develop principles for responsible investment in agriculture could play in this regard. Panellists also emphasised the interest of inclusive business models enhancing linkages between large-scale investors and local communities, as effective ways to enhance the social benefits of agricultural investment.

This meeting was attended by senior government officials from OECD, emerging and developing countries, as well as representatives from the private sector and international organisations. Ken Ash, Director of the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate, reported the conclusions of the panel to the Agriculture Ministers' Summit of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, held on 19 January 2013. ([See Ministers' Communiqué](#))

For more information on the panel, please visit:

www.oecd.org/investment/highlevelpanelonprivateinvestmentinthefoodandagriculturesectors.htm.