

The UK Food Group
Working together for
global food security



UK FOOD GROUP

The UK Food Group (UKFG) is the leading network for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on global food and agriculture issues.

Our vision is a world in which hunger has been banished by food security. To this end our work seeks to promote sustainable and equitable food security policies; to balance corporate power by providing a public interest perspective to issues affecting global food security; and to strengthen the capacity of civil society to contribute effectively to international consultations on food security.



THE UK FOOD GROUP

What we do

We represent more than 30 development, farming, consumer and environment organisations, drawn together by a common concern for food security.

Our work is based on the simple principle of co-operation: together, members maximise their impact by pooling their expertise, sharing experiences, co-ordinating their work and operating collectively.

Our diverse membership brings a dynamic, holistic perspective to food and agriculture issues: an understanding of food security related to a more just and equitable sharing of global resources; fairer terms of trade; a concern for production of food in a sustainable manner, avoiding chemical fertilisers and pesticides, loss of habitat and biodiversity and environmental or genetic pollution; the importance of safe, healthy and affordable food; and a food industry which is effectively regulated and publicly accountable.

Our key objectives are:

- to advocate sustainable and equitable food security policies to policy makers, civil society organisations, the private sector and the media;
- to raise awareness of the impacts of globalisation on global food security;
- to document and communicate the impact of food and agriculture transnational corporations on food security, sustainable agriculture, environmental quality and community sustainability;
- to document and communicate positive examples of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable agriculture and local food systems;
- to increase the capacity of the UKFG membership to collaborate with civil society organisations North and South and thereby contribute effectively to the development of UK, European Union (EU) and international policies affecting global food security.

How we work

The UK Food Group supports working groups focusing on the global food trade, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); the international food supply chain, transnational corporations (TNCs) and the food industry; and sustainable agriculture, agricultural biodiversity and genetic engineering.

The working group members are experts in their field and represent their individual organisations in that capacity. Members meet regularly to plan, discuss and monitor the UK Food Group's programme of work. They share expertise and information, develop common strategies and engage in joint lobbying.

A Management Group, drawn from the membership, oversees the UKFG's work programme, which is co-funded by the European Commission (EC), trust funds, and membership subscriptions from British NGOs. The day-to-day business of the UKFG is administered by a Co-ordinator.



WE REPRESENT MORE THAN 30 DEVELOPMENT, FARMING, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS, DRAWN TOGETHER BY A COMMON CONCERN FOR FOOD SECURITY.

CULTIVATING FOOD SECURITY

Up to 800 million people do not have enough to eat. At the World Food Summit in 1996, world leaders pledged to halve the number of hungry people by 2015. Yet current progress towards reaching this target is painfully slow, and there is growing concern that international trade policies, the activities of food and agriculture TNCS and the spread of industrial agriculture could be intensifying food insecurity in developing countries.

In preparations for the 1996 World Food Summit, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defined the essential foundations of food security as meaning '... [that] food is available at all times, that all persons have means of access to it, that it is nutritionally adequate in terms of quantity, quality and variety and that it is acceptable within the given culture.'

Despite this recognition of the importance of access, structural adjustment programmes and other macro-economic policies have favoured a technological approach to food production and distribution. Dereje G. Michael of the Ethiopian Institute for Sustainable Development – a UKFG partner organisation, says, 'for the last seven years Ethiopia has physically produced enough food for all its people, but the market structure is so poor that farmers cannot sell their surpluses at a reasonable price, and the economy so weak that the poor cannot purchase the food they need. We feel these are fundamental problems completely ignored in most debates over food security.'

There is also growing concern that sustainable food production and livelihoods in developing countries are being undermined by increasing globalisation which has favoured the spread of high input, high tech farming methods. Genetic engineering has been hailed by the biotech industry as offering a new model of sustainable agriculture, which

will 'feed the world'. Yet their products are forcing small farmers into a new form of serfdom by the extraordinary control the industry exercises over the way farmers must grow, harvest and buy genetically modified (GM) seeds. At the 1998 FAO negotiations on genetic resources, African delegates issued a statement objecting 'strongly that the image of the poor and hungry from our country is being used by giant multinational corporations to push a technology which is neither safe, environmentally friendly, nor economically beneficial to us.'

The effects of liberalisation have also marginalised small farmers and increased intensification of agriculture. Under current trade rules, market access has become an unequal bargain between rich and poor: while developed countries have maintained protectionist policies to protect their producers, unfair trade terms, the liberalisation policies of the World Bank and the IMF and lack of debt relief have put pressure on Southern countries to open up their domestic markets and switch to cash crops. For example, Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, has slashed its import barriers on all staple food products, including rice, with severe impacts on its poor rice producers.

Globalisation has led to a greater concentration of trade and investment in the hands of transnational corporations. Many transnational corporations in the food and agriculture sector have merged, triggering alarm bells about the excessive power exercised by private profit-based companies over the world's food system.

GLOBALISATION HAS LED TO A GREATER CONCENTRATION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE HANDS OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. MANY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR HAVE MERGED, TRIGGERING ALARM BELLS ABOUT THE EXCESSIVE POWER EXERCISED BY PRIVATE PROFIT-BASED COMPANIES OVER THE WORLD'S FOOD SYSTEM.



**THE REGULATION OF
TRANSNATIONAL
CORPORATIONS IS OF
WORLDWIDE CONCERN
PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF
THEIR CONDUCT IN HOST
COUNTRIES AND THEIR
IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY,
AS INTERNATIONAL LAW
PROVIDES VERY FEW
MEANS OF ENFORCING
CODES OF CONDUCT**



The issue of TNC regulation is of worldwide concern particularly in terms of their conduct in host countries and their impact on food security, as international law provides very few means of enforcing regulation agreements over TNCs.

These issues of access and equity, sustainability and the negative effects of globalisation and trade liberalisation are fundamental issues, which must be addressed in order to achieve global food security.

Many UKFG members believe that communities must be enabled to feed themselves by supporting access to secure livelihoods, land and other essential resources which strengthen the ability of people to grow or buy food at household level. We are working to raise awareness of the potential of sustainable agriculture to meet people's food needs; to raise awareness of the effects of the global food trade – especially the WTO agreements and the CAP – on food security, environmental quality and community sustainability; to raise awareness of the need for coherent trade and development aid policies; and to raise awareness of the need for effective international regulation of TNCs, including the issue of intellectual property rights and their impact on farming communities.



THE UK FOOD GROUP IS WORKING TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY TRADE LIBERALISATION UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND ON AGRICULTURE AND TRADE RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY EXPORTS OF SUBSIDISED AGRICULTURAL GOODS BY THE EU AND US.

ADVOCACY

Mobilising the political will to tackle hunger is a prerequisite for securing global improvements in food security. The UKFG meets and briefs the key decision makers at local, national and international level, advocating sustainable and equitable food security policies to governments, NGOs, the food industry and the media.

In the UK, we meet with Ministers to discuss food security issues; we comment on government consultations on trade and agriculture and the enquiries of relevant select committees; and have submitted evidence to the House of Commons Agriculture Committee on CAP Reform. We attend the Trade Policy Consultative Forums organised by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – round-table discussions on trade issues, involving business, consumers, NGOs and trade unions; and the International Trade NGO Days run by the Department for International Development (DFID) to gather NGO input on government thinking on trade and development issues.

In 2002, the UKFG organised a meeting between Dr Tewolde Egziabher, Ethiopia's negotiator at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and DFID's Deputy Director of the Central and Southern Africa Division, to discuss the issues raised by the provision of GM food aid through the World Food Programme.

We also meet with the EU Commission, work with European MEPS and take part in negotiations at key international fora such as the World Trade Organisation and the World Food Summit. The UKFG was represented on the UK government's delegation to the World Food Summit – Five Years Later in 2002, and we met regularly with DFID's core management group on food security to discuss the government's food security paper in preparations for the meeting.

In 2002 we organised the seminar, *Genetic futures in food and farming*, to raise awareness among NGOs, academics, journalists and policy makers, of the key issues at stake before the meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

The UK Food Group and the WTO

One reason why the talks at the Seattle Ministerial Meeting of the WTO collapsed was the failure of the dominant members of the WTO to take account of the concerns of Southern governments. Many of our partner organisations in the South wish to address the negative impacts of the Uruguay Round on Agriculture and the built-in bias of the WTO towards some of the dominant countries, before proceeding with further liberalisation.

The UKFG is working to raise awareness of the environmental and social problems caused by trade liberalisation under the Uruguay Round on Agriculture and Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, and the problems caused by exports of subsidised agricultural goods by the EU and US. We are also working to highlight trade policy regimes that promote sustainable agriculture and meet the needs of poverty reduction and food security.

In the run up to the WTO Ministerial Meetings, the UK Food Group met regularly with civil servants and Ministers to discuss the Government's preparations and positions at these key meetings. The UK Food Group is a member of the Government's Trade Policy Consultative Forum and is regularly consulted by the UK government on WTO issues affecting food security. We have submitted written evidence to the House of Commons Agriculture and Development Committees on the WTO and its impact on UK and EU Policies, and commented on the Government's consultation paper, *'Agriculture and the WTO Negotiations.'*

THE UK FOOD GROUP SEEKS TO CREATE AWARENESS OF THE KEY ISSUES AROUND FOOD SECURITY FROM SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, TO THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TNCs AND THE EFFECTS OF THE GLOBAL FOOD TRADE. WE PUBLISH THOUGHT-PROVOKING ESSAYS AND BRIEFING PAPERS, ORGANISE SEMINARS AND MEDIA BRIEFINGS, RUN A WEBSITE, AND ORGANISE THE WORLD FOOD DAY DEBATE, AN ANNUAL PUBLIC EVENT.



COMMUNICATION

The UK Food Group seeks to create awareness of the key issues around food security from sustainable agriculture, to the impact of the international food supply chain, food and agriculture TNCs and the effects of the global food trade. We publish thought-provoking essays and briefing papers, organise seminars and media briefings, run a website, and organise the World Food Day Debate, an annual public event. In 2002, the motion debated was, 'This house believes that food sovereignty provides the best means for feeding the hungry poor.' It was proposed by Michael Windfuhr of the Food Information and Action Network, and seconded by Suman Sahai of the Indian National Biodiversity Board.

In 1999 and 2000 we ran the World Food Awards, a popular event devised to increase understanding, awareness and concern about world hunger by focusing media and public attention on UN World Food Day. Judged by some of the UK's leading journalists, food writers, and environmentalists, the awards celebrated initiatives which seek to meet the food needs of people and safeguard the environment, and highlighted the reasons why the food system is failing over 800 million hungry people.

Hungry for Power

The food and agribusiness corporations have immense control over every part of the food chain: from land to seeds, crops to chemicals, processing to marketing. This extraordinary influence gives them the means of power over life itself, for food is our most basic human need. These companies enjoy the position of economic superpowers and speak directly into the ears of international trade negotiators, yet are not subject to any democratic controls.

Published by the UKFG in 1999 to wide acclaim, *Hungry for Power* documents the impact of food and agriculture transnational corporations on food security.

It spotlights the activities of Nestlé, Cargill, Monsanto, Chiquita, Zeneca, and British American Tobacco – all charged with undermining food security.

The report was commissioned by the UKFG to increase awareness of the activities of the transnational corporations and to document how they are abusing their dominant position to the detriment of the poor. It makes a powerful case for action to curb the activities of transnational corporations where their activities threaten food security.

Other UK Food Group publications include:

Mapping Government Thinking on Globalisation (2000), a discussion document which highlights the contradictions in government thinking on globalisation and food security issues.

Selling Out: the cost of free trade for food security in India. This essay by Indian food and trade policy analyst Devinder Sharma is a powerful indictment of the impact of globalisation and the activities of transnational corporations.

RESEARCH

We commission and fund a wide range of action research to document the impacts of globalisation on food security and to compile evidence of successful sustainable agriculture methods and local food systems. Our aim is to stimulate an informed debate among decision-makers and the public based on topical and authoritative evidence on food security issues from around the globe.

The UK Food Group and the Common Agricultural Policy

In the UK the current crisis in farming and the protests of other EU farmers have fuelled interest in how and where food is grown and processed. However there is still little popular understanding of the effects of trade liberalisation and the impact of the CAP, especially of its subsidy system on food security in developing countries. Many UKFG members favour reform which involves the gradual transformation of the CAP from a policy focused on supporting agricultural markets to a policy focused on support to rural areas, and given for explicit social, rural development and environmental goals.

The UK Food Group and Sustain commissioned the Institute for Environmental Policy (IEEP) to undertake research on the Common Agricultural Policy, with the aim of promoting informed discussion on reform. The results were published in two background briefing papers, the first examining how the CAP operates and its impacts; the second outlining possible reform scenarios for the CAP and their impact on key stakeholders. The research was notable for offering a cross-cutting sectoral analysis of an unusually broad range of stakeholders; as a result it was possible to highlight where areas of reform would be beneficial to all constituencies.

Southern action research

In collaboration with Southern partners, farmers, researchers and development agencies, the UKFG are working to raise

awareness of efforts at local, national and international level to promote sustainable methods of agriculture which are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sound.

The UK Food Group has supported an ongoing programme of action research in 10 Asian countries carried out by the Philippines based Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform (ANGOC). 200 villages are being surveyed to identify simple, participatory food security indicators at household and community levels; with the aim of developing skills for using these indicators as the basis for community-level planning and action by local NGOs and communities. The data collection and analysis will also be fed into a wider review of food security, which will be used as the basis for linking local action and ANGOC's policy work with local and national governments and international agencies

Other action research projects supported by the UKFG include:

- a study of food security and agricultural policy in Thailand focusing on 10 rice growing communities in four regions of the country;
- a capacity building project working with small farmers in Malawi and Mozambique to examine the effects of market liberalisation and identify strategies to improve food security;
- research on small-scale coffee producers in Haiti, which will be used to enable producers to improve coffee marketing opportunities;
- research into artisanal fisheries in India, to be used as the basis of an advocacy programme in support of fishworkers' resource access rights;
- an assessment of the impacts of patents and plant breeders' rights on traditional agricultural systems in Peru.



THE UK FOOD GROUP SEEKS TO STIMULATE AN INFORMED DEBATE AMONG DECISION-MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC BASED ON TOPICAL AND AUTHORITATIVE EVIDENCE ON FOOD SECURITY ISSUES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE.

NETWORKING

The UK Food Group seeks to encourage co-operation between NGOs working on food security through its regular meetings, working groups and seminars. As a network of expertise the UKFG is able to bring together a wide range of agencies and interests, to pool knowledge and to plan work on raising awareness of food security in the UK. At European level we work with some key EU networks such as the German Food Group, on research, publications and conferences.

Together with the Liaison Committee of Development Non-Governmental Organisations to the European Union, the UK Food Group organised a conference in Brussels in 2000, *Fighting hunger and food insecurity: development policy challenges for NGOs and the EC*. Over 80 participants from NGOs, Southern partners and EU civil servants attended, including the Director – General of DG Development.

As part of this networking and advocacy initiative, a *Food Security Forum* was also organised. Thirty participants, from the 15 NGDO platforms, EuronAid and Southern partners discussed the Liaison Committee's future policy paper on Food Security and identified ways of making their food security work more effective throughout the European Community.

In 2002 the UKFG organised the seminar *WTO and agriculture: are UK NGOs ploughing the same furrow? Developing synergistic approaches for sustainable and equitable agriculture trade*. Chaired by Caroline Lucas MEP, this informal meeting provided an opportunity to hear and discuss perspectives from UK NGOs representing development, environment, animal welfare, farming and consumer interests. The meeting aimed to increase understanding of each other's positions and identify areas of agreement in order to map out a clearer common strategy and goals.

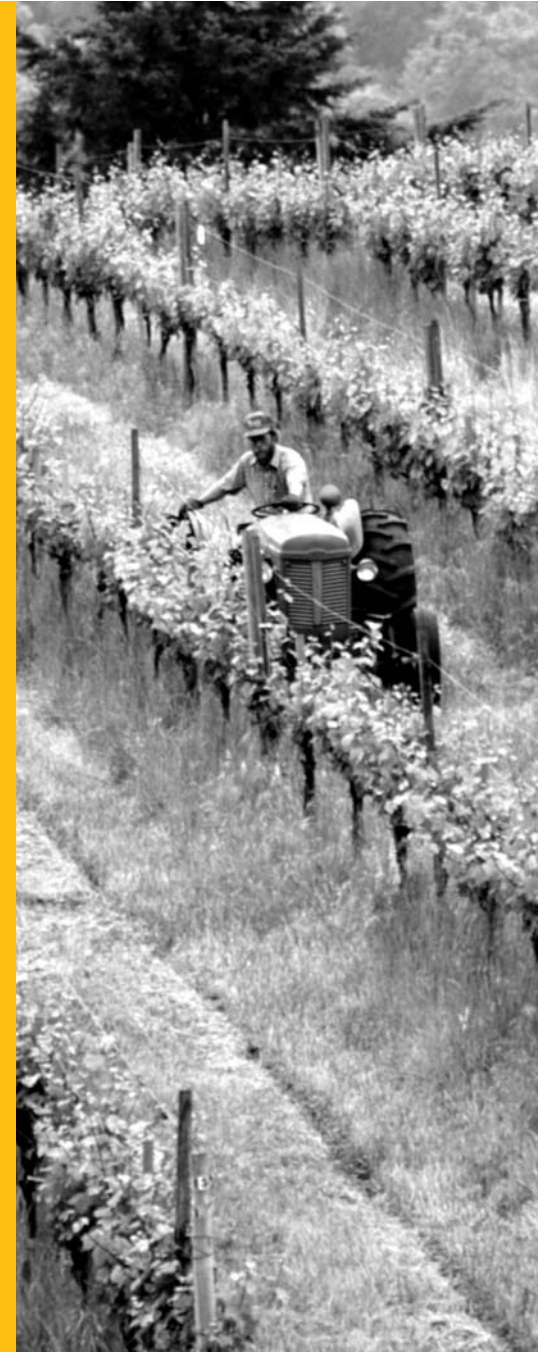
Another seminar, *From plough to plate: corporate accountability in the food and agriculture sector*, was organised to identify a common agenda by NGOs in addressing the issues of the international food supply chain, transnational corporations and food security.

Voices from the South

The UK Food Group funds and organises attendance by Southern representatives at key international meetings, ensuring that Southern voices are clearly heard in the global debate on food security. Two Southern partners from Mexico and Ecuador attended the *8th Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (1999). Five southern partners from the Philippines, Cameroon, Croatia, and Peru attended the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle, 1999.

The UK Food Group decided to focus its efforts for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, in funding attendance by a number of Southern delegates to the NGO Forum and People's Earth Summit (PES). Dereje Gebre Michael of the Institute for Sustainable Development, Ethiopia, gave a paper on *'Threats of Genetic Engineering and the Biosafety Protocol'* in the NGO Forum. This was the first in a series of debates on GM and food aid that were very well attended and got much coverage from local and international media. His colleague Sue Edwards spoke in the Women's Tent at a session on Water, Food Security and Food Sovereignty, and prepared the draft declaration by the African Civil Society Group, *'In support of the Zambian and Zimbabwean governments position to reject food aid contaminated by genetic engineering'*. The participants also networked with many international NGOs, and distributed publications and materials about ISD projects to government delegates and others.

AS A NETWORK OF EXPERTISE THE UK FOOD GROUP IS ABLE TO BRING TOGETHER A WIDE RANGE OF AGENCIES AND INTERESTS, TO POOL KNOWLEDGE AND TO PLAN WORK ON RAISING AWARENESS OF FOOD SECURITY.



UK FOOD GROUP MEMBERS

ActionAid

ActionAid is a unique partnership of people who are fighting for a better world – a world without poverty. As one of the UK's largest development agencies, we work in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, listening to, learning from and working in partnership with over nine million of the world's poorest people.

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Fax: 020 7281 5146

Email: RTripathi@actionaid.org.uk

Email: TRice@actionaid.org.uk

Website: www.actionaid.org

Agricultural Christian Fellowship

The Agricultural Christian Fellowship is a membership organisation open to Christians and others involved in agriculture, forestry, horticulture and related trades. It works with Christian farming groups in Germany, Kenya and the USA to develop a Christian understanding of global food and farming.

Contact: Christopher Jones, ACF, 38 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GP

Tel & fax: 0116 2550362

Email: fcn@uccf.org.uk

Baby Milk Action

Baby Milk Action is a non-profit organisation which aims to protect health, save infant lives and to end the avoidable suffering caused by inappropriate infant feeding. Baby Milk Action works with the global network, IBFAN, to strengthen independent, transparent and effective controls on the marketing of the baby feeding industry.

Contact: Patti Rundall/Mike Brady, Baby Milk Action, 23 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3AX

Tel: 01223 464420

Fax: 01223 464417

Email: prundall@babymilkaction.org

Email: mikebrady@babymilkaction.org

Website: www.babymilkaction.org

Banana Link

A non-profit organisation working towards environmental, social and economic sustainability in the international banana trade. Banana Link focuses on campaigns and awareness raising, lobbying activities and promoting sustainable policies including Fairtrade. Banana Link works closely with banana workers' trade unions in Latin America and small farmers in the Caribbean and is a key member of EUROBAN, a network of European organisations.

Contact: Liz Parker, Banana Link, 38-40 Exchange Street, Norwich NR2 1AX

Tel: 01603 765 670

Fax: 01603 761 645

Email: blink@gn.apc.org

Website: www.bananalink.org.uk

Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It funds development projects which are inspired and managed by local people, putting faith in people's abilities to find their own solutions to their problems. As a voice for the poor, CAFOD works to raise awareness of the root causes of poverty and injustice and campaigns for change.

Contact: Matt Griffith, CAFOD, Romero Close, Stockwell Road, London SW9 9TY

Tel: 020 7733 7900

Fax: 020 7274 9630

Email: mgriffith@cafod.org.uk

Website: http://www.cafod.org.uk

Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR)

CIIR works to overcome poverty and injustice in developing countries. It carries out development projects, together with a range of research, advocacy and development education activities. CIIR's current work programme on food security centres on the impact of agricultural trade liberalisation in the South.

Contact: Steve Kibble, CIIR, Unit 3, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, London N1 7BJ

Tel: 020 7288 8629

Fax: 020 7359 0017

Email: steve@ciir.org

Website: www.ciir.org

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of 40 British and Irish Church denominations. It works to provide hope, health and the chance of a decent life to the world's poorest communities, whatever their race or religion. Christian Aid links directly with people living in poverty through local organisations, supporting programmes which aim to strengthen the poor towards self-sufficiency. Christian Aid also seeks to address the root causes of poverty through its development education and campaigning work.

Contact: Kevan Bundell, Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT

Tel: 020 7523 2203

Fax: 020 7620 0719

Email: kbundell@christian-aid.org

Website: www.christianaid.org.uk

Consumers International

Consumers International is an independent federation which supports, links and represents consumer groups and agencies all over the world. It has a membership of over 250 organisations in 115 countries and strives to promote a fairer society through defending the rights of all consumers, especially the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged.

Contact: Nita Pillai, Consumers International, 24 Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RX

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Fax: 020 7354 0607

Email: npillai@consint.org

Website: www.consumersinternational.org

Department of Health Management & Food Policy, City University

The Department of Health Management and Food Policy undertakes research, writing and education on food policy issues, informed by a commitment to social justice, food security, citizenship and environmental protection. The Department runs the pioneering Masters in Food Policy. Its research interests range from food governance, trade and biotechnology to the monitoring of key policies such as the CAP and Agreement on Agriculture.

Contact: Dr. David Barling, Department of Health Management and Food Policy, Institute of Health Sciences, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB

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Farmers' Link

Farmers' Link works to promote awareness of sustainable agriculture and rural development issues; to increase understanding of the links between agriculture and rural development in the UK and elsewhere; and to stimulate debate on food production and agriculture.

Contact: Anne-Claire Chambron, Farmers' Link, 49a High Street, Watton Thetford, IP25 6AB

Tel: 01953 889100

Fax: 01953 889222

Email: flink@gn.apc.org

Website: www.farmerslink.org

Farmers' World network (FWn)

FWn aims to raise awareness among the UK farming and rural community of the problems of developing countries and the relationships between European and Southern agriculture. It also works to foster links between farmers and rural communities worldwide. Activities include publishing a bi-monthly journal, 'LANDMARK', Briefing Papers, Exchange Visits between rural communities, running seminars and conferences and mounting displays at agricultural and rural shows.

Contact: Adrian Friggens, Farmers' World network, Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh CV8 2LZ

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Fax: 01203 414808

Email: adrian@fwn.org.uk

Website: www.fwn.org.uk

Find Your Feet

Find Your Feet's vision is a world in which everyone has the right to build a future free from poverty. We work with the rural poor, using their own skills and knowledge to develop sustainable solutions to poverty. Based on our ongoing experience in South Asia and Southern Africa, we inform and influence global debates on development.

Contact: Dr Dan Taylor, Find Your Feet, 316 Bon Marché Centre, 241-251 Ferndale Road, London SW9 8BJ

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Fax: 020 7733 8848

Email: dan@fyf.org.uk

Website: www.fyf.org.uk

Gaia Foundation

Gaia acts as a European base for individuals, NGOs, networks and policy-makers in the South committed to maintaining cultural and biological diversity and Earth-centered governance. They collaborate primarily with organisations and individuals working with indigenous people and small farmers, and are involved in sustainable agriculture, plant genetic resources, patents, genetic engineering and biosafety.

Contact: Liz Hosken, Gaia Foundation, 18 Well Walk, London NW3 1LD

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Fax: 020 7431 0551

Email: liz@gaiagnet.org

Website: thegaiafoundation.org

Harvest Help

Harvest Help provides practical support to rural communities, helping them improve their livelihoods through sustainable farming, provision of clean water, education and increased self-reliance. Since 1985, Harvest Help has provided assistance to over 30,000 people living in some of the poorest villages in Africa.

Contact: Andrew Jowett, Harvest Help, 3-4 Old Bakery Row, Wellington, Telford TF1 1PS

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Fax: 01952 247158

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Website: www.harvesthelp.org

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

IIED is an independent non-profit organisation which seeks to promote sustainable patterns of world development. It carries out research, services, training, policy studies, consensus-building and public information. IIED's work is undertaken with, or on behalf of, governments and international agencies, the academic community, NGOs and the people they represent.

Contact: Bill Vorley, IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD

Tel: 020 7388 2117

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Website: www.iied.org

Website: www.racetothetop.org

ITDG (Intermediate Technology Development Group)

ITDG is working for a just and equitable world, enabling people to increase their access to, and control over, technology, information and knowledge, so that they can live in a secure, fulfilling and dignified way. In its international advocacy work, ITDG focuses on issues concerning food security and agricultural biodiversity.

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Fax: 01926 634401

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Website: www.itdg.org

New Economics Foundation (NEF)

An independent think-tank working to build a just and sustainable economy based on quality of life and respect for environmental limits. To this end, NEF aims to promote accountability and participation in business and public life and to develop tools for autonomy through community economic initiatives. NEF is now the home of Jubilee Research, servicing the ongoing international Jubilee debt campaign. NEF's work on globalisation ranges from corporate accountability to climate change.

Contact: Andrew Simms, New Economic Foundation, Cinnamon House, 6-8 Cole Street, London SE1 4YH

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Website: www.neweconomics.org

Oxfam GB

Oxfam GB works with poor people worldwide to overcome poverty, hunger, disease and exploitation. Its programmes support poor people in their pursuit of sustainable livelihoods, helping them claim their basic rights to food, health, education, employment and shelter, and win a say in decisions that affect their lives. Oxfam works through development and relief, research and public education.

Contact: Tom Lines, Oxfam GB, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DX

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Fax: 01865 312245

Email: tlines@oxfam.org.uk

Website: www.oxfam.org.uk

Panos Institute

Panos is a research and information organisation which acts in the belief that pluralism in civil society and particularly in the media is a pre-requisite for sustainable development. Panos works from offices in 12 countries, North and South, to stimulate media coverage and informed debate about environment and development issues, disseminating information and facilitating information exchanges between North and South.

Contact: Environment Programme, Panos Institute, 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD

Tel: 020 7278 1111

Fax: 020 7278 0345

Email: kittyw@panoslondon.org.uk

Website: www.panos.org.uk

Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK)

The Pesticide Action Network UK is concerned with the health and environmental problems of pesticides worldwide. It carries out monitoring and research, disseminates information and promotes sustainable alternatives. With the International Pesticide Action Network, PAN UK promotes ecological agriculture which will 'feed the world without poisons' and achieve economic independence from the pesticide treadmill.

Contact: Barbara Dinham, Pesticide Action Network UK, Eurolink Business Centre, 49 Effra Road, London SW2 1BZ

Tel: 020 7274 8895

Fax: 020 7274 9084

Email: barbaradinham@pan-uk.org

Website: www.pan-uk.org

Save the Children

Save the Children is the leading charity working in the UK to create a better world for children. We work in 70 countries helping children in the world's most impoverished communities. Based on over 80 years' experience of working in famine relief, we believe successful intervention in food crises requires an effective approach to famine prediction and the assessment of food needs.

Contact: Anna Taylor, Save the Children, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD

Tel: 020 7703 5400

Fax: 020 7703 2278

Email: a.taylor@scfuk.org.uk

Website: www.savethechildren.org.uk

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)

SCIAF is the official overseas aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. The organisation supports programmes for change among poor people regardless of race or religion in Africa, Asia and Latin America, responds to emergency appeals and campaigns for a more just world.

Contact: Kate Robinson, Policy Officer, SCIAF, 19 Park Circus, Glasgow, G3 6BE

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Susila Dharma Britain (SDB)

SDB is a UK Registered Charity and the national branch of Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA).. SDIA's projects are primarily initiated by local people and development professionals in developing countries. SDIA links the projects with funders, promotes their work and sometimes provides small-scale grants. SDB also works with partner organisations in developing countries, raising funding for their projects and supplying expertise and contacts.

Contact: Sachlan North, Director, SDB, 41 Higher Drive, Purley, Surrey CR8 2HQ.

Tel & fax: 020 8668 3228

Email: sachlan@susiladharmabritain.org.uk

Website: www.susiladharmabritain.org.uk

Tearfund

Tearfund is an evangelical Christian relief and development agency working through local partners to bring help and hope to communities in need around the world. Tearfund supports more than 500 projects in 90 countries, many of them addressing issues of local food security.

Contact: Keith Etherington, Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Middlesex TW11 8QE

Tel: 0208 977 9144

Email: keith.etherington@tearfund.org

Website: www.tearfund.org

War on Want

War on Want campaign on a national and international level to expose the politics behind poverty and reform the systems that can devastate poor people's lives. We undertake projects in partnership with groups in the world's poor countries, supporting and empowering them as they build a better future for themselves.

Contact: Lies Craeynest, War on Want, Fenner Brockway House, 37-39 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES

Tel: 020 7620 1111

Fax: 020 7261 9291

Email: lcraeynest@waronwant.org

Website: www.waronwant.org

Women's Environmental Network (WEN)

WEN exists to empower and inform women on environmental issues and to this end its campaigns focus on issues linking women, the environment and health. WEN promotes sustainable, organic, local food production: its Taste of a Better Future network supports ethnic minority women's groups engaged in organic food growing and composting initiatives.

Contact: Caroline Fernandez, Women's Environmental Network, PO Box 30626, London E1 1TZ

Tel: 020 7481 9004

Fax: 020 7481 9144

Email: food@wen.org.uk

Website: www.wen.org.uk

World Development Movement (WDM)

The World Development Movement is an independent membership organisation campaigning to tackle the root causes of poverty.

Contact: Clare Joy, WDM, 25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR

Tel: 020 7274 7630

Fax: 020 7274 8232

Email: Clare@wdm.org.uk

Website: www.wdm.org.uk

WWF-UK

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. WWF's ultimate goal is to help build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

Contact: Richard Perkins, WWF-UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR

Tel: 01483 412529

Fax: 01483 426409

Email: rperkins@wwf.org.uk

Website: www.wwf.org.uk

OBSERVERS

Greenpeace

An independent non-profit global campaigning organisation, Greenpeace uses non-violent, creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and their causes. We research the solutions and alternatives to help provide a path for a green and peaceful future.

Contact: Charlie Kronick, Greenpeace,

Tel: 020 7865 8228

Email: charlie.kronick@uk.greenpeace.org

Website: www.greenpeace.org.uk

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

We are Britain's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. Our mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty, and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. ODI's work combines applied research, practical policy advice, and information, dissemination and debate.

Contact: Simon Maxwell, ODI, 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JD

Tel: 020 7922 0345

Fax: 020 7922 0399

Email: s.maxwell@odi.org.uk

Website: www.odi.org.uk

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and other wildlife, through reserve management and policy advocacy. It sees agriculture and reform in agricultural and trade policy as a key part of this. The RSPB has over a million members in the UK and is the largest member of BirdLife International, a global network of conservation organisations working in over 100 countries.

Contact: David Ellis, Environmental Policy Department, RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL

Tel: 01767 680551

Fax: 01767 692365

Email: david.ellis@rspb.org.uk

Website: www.rspb.org.uk

Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming

Sustain represents over 100 national public interest organisations working at international, national, regional and local level. Sustain's aim is to advocate food and agriculture policies and practices that enhance the health and welfare of people and animals, improve the working and living environment, promote equity and enrich society and culture.

Contact: Vicki Hird, Sustain, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF

Tel: 020 7837 1228

Fax: 020 7837 1141

Email: vh@sustainweb.org

Website: www.sustainweb.org

UK Food Group

PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT

Tel: 020 7523 2369

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Email: ukfg@ukfg.org.uk

Website: www.ukfg.org.uk