



## Intelligent Trade for a sustainable future.

### Statement of Young Farmers 2020 to the 12<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference

As young farmers, we acknowledge that one of our biggest challenges in the coming years is to produce enough quality food sustainably to feed the rising world population. We face many challenges including the effects of climate change, which make many regions of the world vulnerable to food insecurity. Fair trade should support sustainability in all its dimensions – ecological, economic and social.

We feel that trade is of paramount importance for food security at a national and global level especially in countries without a strong agricultural program to feed its people or in countries suffering from extreme impacts of climate change. In order to have small or family farms integrated into local, regional and international markets, farmers need reliable market conditions.

Some barriers to agricultural trade that we recognise include:

- Access to financial capital or subsidies
- Access to land
- Lack of knowledge and skills
- High input cost
- Availability of labour forces
- Unregulated market speculations
- Unequal food and production standards

We the young farmers suggest that the following solutions be considered at international level:

- Equip farmers, through training and education, with the necessary skills and knowledge in order to sustainably produce quality products to meet the standards of the markets locally and internationally.
- Encourage farmers to develop cooperatives where their products are grouped together to gain better profits.
- Strengthen farmers' position in the supply chain by improved regulations regarding market speculations enhancing transparency to ensure proper income for the farmers.
- Policy to be made with producers, especially young farmers, and fact based knowledge involved in the decision making process.

In our opinion the implementation of the following measures, could guarantee safe, sustainable and inclusive food:

- Universal traceability standards.
- Food inspection guidelines and training to address the challenges that farmers have while implementing these standards.
- Encourage a paradigm shift amongst all stakeholders to adopt the proactive implementation of a Regenerative Agricultural System.
- Worldwide coalition to monitor the implementation of these measures.

We, the young farmers, feel that the implementation of these measures will ensure a Global Trade policy that addresses the challenges of food security. We urge the Ministers, assembled at the GFFA 2020, and all responsible policymakers to keep involving young farmers and their various representative organisations in the decision making process in the future.

Our sincere thanks go to the German Federal of Food and Agriculture for the invitation to the GFFA 2020 and for the opportunity to engage directly in the discussion among the Agriculture Ministers of the world.

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