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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR L'UNIFICATION DU DROIT PRIVE

CREATING A FAVOURABLE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CONTRACT FARMING

The UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming

UNIDROIT – Villa Aldobrandini
Via Panisperna 28 – Rome

Wednesday, 27 April 2016

An International Conference hosted by

UNIDROIT

in collaboration with FAO and IFAD

under the auspices of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

PROGRAMME

8.30 – 9.00 *Registration*

9.00 – 9.15 **Opening**

- Mr José Angelo Estrella Faria, UNIDROIT Secretary-General
- Min. Plen. Mr Andrea Tiriticco, Head of the Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

9.15 – 9.45 **Investing in Agriculture Responsibly through Contract Farming**

Contextualizing contract farming against the global concerns regarding food security issues, small farmers' inclusion in value chains and policy orientations of each organization

Key speaker/Moderator: Mr Idés de Willebois, Director, West and Central Africa Division, IFAD

- **Investing in Agriculture Responsibly**
 - Mr Jesper Karlsson, International Consultant, Trade and Markets Division, FAO
- **Contract Farming: an Overview**
 - Contract Farming: What is it about? Ms Marlo Rankin, Agribusiness Economist, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO
 - Experiences from the field – video testimonials

9.45 – 11.00 **Contract Farming: What is at Stake?**

A review of experiences illustrating how to maximize benefits and minimize risks of contract farming from the perspective of economic, social and environmental development. Issues to be discussed would include the type of model that produces the best results, the crops most suitable for contract farming and the types of contract that are more relevant in different countries and circumstances

Moderator: Mr Andrew Shepherd, Agribusiness Consultant

Discussants

- Mr Charles Ogang, President, Uganda National Farmers Federation, World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) Board Member
- Prof. Michele Pisante, Deputy Commissioner, Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA) (Italy)
- Mr Michael Schlup, Partnerships Coordinator Cocoa Sustainability, Barry Callebaut & General Manager, Cocoa Horizons Foundation
- Mr Giel Ton, Senior Researcher, LEI, Wageningen University and Research Centre Nijmegen, the Netherlands - *leading a 3ie-funded systematic review on contract farming with Ghent University*

Discussion

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

International organisations, non-governmental organisations, bilateral cooperation agencies and partners supporting the Conference will be offered a space to illustrate their activities and display their publications

11.30 – 12.30 A Legal Tool for Good Practices in Contract Farming Operations: the UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming

Key speaker/Moderator: Prof. Fabrizio Cafaggi, Italian School of National Administration, University of Trento (on leave) (Italy)

- **Policy issues and legal approach of the Legal Guide**

Linking the economic and social dynamics of the contract farming operation with the legal dimension. How a legal approach – regulatory and contractual – can make a difference, focusing on selected issues

- **How to use the Legal Guide? Plans for implementation**

A presentation of the author organisations' current plans to disseminate the Legal Guide and ensuring that it brings benefits to the intended users

Discussants

- Ms Eva Galvez Nogales, Agribusiness Economist, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO
- Ms Marlo Rankin, Agribusiness Economist, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO
- Ms Marieclaire Colaiacomo, Procurement Officer, East and Southern Africa Division, IFAD
- Ms Frederique Mestre, Senior Officer, UNIDROIT

Discussion

12.30 Concluding Remarks

- Mr José Angelo Estrella Faria, UNIDROIT Secretary-General

Contract farming, broadly understood as agricultural production and marketing carried out under a previous agreement between producers and their buyers, supports the production of a wide range of agricultural commodities and its use is growing in many countries.

Mindful of the importance of enhancing knowledge and awareness of the legal regime applicable to contract farming operations, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have prepared [the UNIDROIT/FAO/IFAD Legal Guide on Contract Farming](#).

The Guide is a useful tool and reference point for a broad range of users involved in contract farming practice, policy design, legal research and capacity-building. It can also contribute to the creation of a favourable, equitable and sustainable environment for contract farming.

This Conference aims to provide information on contract farming and explain the approach and practical usefulness of the Guide to potential stakeholders. It will likewise provide information on current plans regarding the implementation of the Guide in various countries. In particular, the three author organisations have established a [Community of Practice on Legal Aspects of Contract Farming \(CoP/LACF\)](#) within the framework of the *Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD)*.

The Conference is primarily directed to diplomatic representations in Italy who deal with UNIDROIT, FAO and IFAD on a regular basis, and are ideally placed to convey the corresponding information to stakeholders in their respective countries. International organisations, non-governmental organisations, and bilateral cooperation agencies involved in contract farming, are also invited to attend and actively participate in the discussions.

Simultaneous translation will be provided in English/French.

UNIDROIT acknowledges the support of

- 3ie – the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation - <http://www.3ieimpact.org/>
- Barry Callebaut & Cocoa Horizons Foundation – <http://www.cocoahorizons.org/>
- *Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria* (CREA) – <http://sito.entecra.it>
- LUISS School of Law - LL.M. in Food Law - <http://isl.luiss.it/llm-food-law>

in the holding of the Conference