



Invitation to a European conference organised by **WWF**
in partnership with **FNCIVAM**



**« Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy:
What future for a sustainable agriculture? »**

Paris, October 14th 2008

At a time when the Health check of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is underway, agriculture is once again at the heart of the debate both at national and international levels: rising demand for some agricultural products, failure of the WTO negotiations, political tensions related to the EU budgeting process, climate change impacts and the energy crisis.

These new factors, coupled with the impacts of agriculture on the environment, health, rural society and the global economy, constitute **major challenges for the future European Agriculture Policy**.

In France, commitments of the « Grenelle de l'Environnement » (2007), which yet remain to be implemented, have acknowledged the adverse role played by agricultural activities on biodiversity. They also resulted in a blueprint agreement in order to move French agriculture on a more sustainable path: 50% reduction in pesticide use by 2018; 20% of useable agricultural land devoted to organic agriculture by 2020; controlled energy consumption and certification of high-value environmental farming systems.

Given that France is a major agricultural player both at European and global levels, and because it is under the French Presidency of the European Union that decisions on the CAP Health Check will be taken and that the first proposals for a reformed CAP post-2013 will be made, WWF and FNCIVAM (a French network of sustainable farmers) are organising on October 14th 2008 **a European conference on sustainable agriculture**.

This conference will show that efficient production, safe and healthy food, environmental protection, job creation in (and revitalisation of) rural areas are goals that can all be reached together. The objective is to raise the issue of **a sustainable agriculture in Europe**, taking into account both the actors involved and the arguments in favour of a sustainable agricultural model as well as **to move forward on a successful integration of the environment in the CAP reform**.

Over 15 speakers, including Michel Barnier, **French Agriculture and Fisheries Minister**, Jean-Luc Demarty, **Director General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission**; Stoilko Apostolov, Director of the **Foundation for Organic Agriculture BioSelena** (Bulgaria); Jacques Morineau, President of the **Sustainable Agriculture Network** (France), will discuss these issues together bearing in mind the following four major challenges:

- *Can a less-intensive model of agriculture feed the world?*
- *What agricultural techniques can help address climate change and preserve biodiversity?*
- *What incentives are needed to pay for social and environmental services provided by farming?*
- *How to support a semi-urban agriculture and how to reinvent local food systems?*

For further information and registration, please contact:

Isabelle Macé, WWF-France, colloqueagriculture@wwf.fr; +33 1 55 25 84 84.