

KEY POINTS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE VALIDATORY SESSION

The participants of the Norman Borlaug Centenary Dialogue on "Take it to the Farmers" based on detailed deliberation on various challenges and issues facing the Farming communities had the following recommendations.

- The **International Year of Family Farming 2014** provides an opportunity for initiating concerted and innovative steps for improving the quality of life of hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, livestock breeders and indigenous communities.
- The participants observed that Climate Change is the greatest threat to sustainable food security. Recent scientific research has led to development of rice strains with tolerance to flood and drought. Breeding for stress tolerance has opened up opportunities for **Climate Resilient Agriculture**.
- **Value Chain Development** should receive high priority to enhance income from farming. Appropriate policy support will enable farmers to collectively produce and market products and support on farm value addition.
- **Youth will be attracted to farming** only if farming becomes economically rewarding and intellectually stimulating. Appropriate policies need to be developed that will make agriculture challenging, meaningful, more attractive, profitable and a credible career to the youth through the application of appropriate and modern technologies.
- Most farm families operate on small holdings. There is a need for Farmers' organizations which can confer on them the economy of scale. Producer Companies, Commodity Centered Associations, Womens' self help groups and other methods will help in **Conferring the Power of Mass Production** (particularly in the post-harvest stage) with decentralized individual products.
- **Role of Women** as both drivers and change agents in agriculture need to be recognized and emphasized. Gender dimensions need to be integrated in key aspects of agricultural participatory researches, policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Greater emphases are needed for **Farmers' Access and Control** over natural resources, mainly seeds, land, water, forests etc.
- Investments and policies for **Building Capacities** of farming communities and their organizations to improve their interaction with local, national and regional markets are needed to be in place.