

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD)

IPM - NEW YORK 23 - 27 FEBRUARY 2009

LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

KEY POINTS

- **SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO LAND ARE KEY ISSUES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION.**
- **SOIL PROTECTION IS IMPORTANT BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY.**
- **LAND DEGRADATION MUST BE FOUGHT LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY BY REDUCING LOSS OF SOIL RESOURCES THROUGH PROTECTION OF PRODUCTIVE AREAS.**
- Global and national policies must protect productive agricultural areas and ensure local adaptations through a participatory process.

THERE ARE THREE MAIN REASONS FOR THE INCREASED GLOBAL EMPHASIS ON SOIL PROTECTION:

FIRST, SOIL IS A SCARCE AND VULNERABLE RESOURCE.

SECOND, WE WITNESS A RAPID LOSS OF AREAS WHICH CANNOT BE REPRODUCED. THIS IS A CRITICAL AND NON-SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. CLIMATE CHANGE ADDS TO THIS CHALLENGE AND NORMA SHARES THE VIEW OF THE GROUP 77 AND CHINA THAT LAND USE PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT ARE CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF STRATEGIES TO ADAPT TO THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

THIRD, THE RAPID GLOBAL POPULATION GROWTH INCREASES THE PRESSURE ON PRODUCTIVE AREAS AND THE FUTURE GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION IS UNCERTAIN. THE MOST LIKELY SCENARIOS INDICATE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR USE OF BOTH HIGH AND LOW PRODUCTIVE AREAS TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY.

LAND AND SOIL RESOURCES ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES IN NORWAY. IN 2004, A NATIONAL TARGET WAS FORMULATED AS FOLLOWS: "WE INTEND TO REDUCE THE YEARLY LOSS OF SOIL RESOURCES BY 50 PER CENT BEFORE 2010." THE GOVERNMENT HAS DELIVERED PROPOSITIONS TO THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF SOIL RESOURCES. LOCAL POLITICIANS ARE INVOLVED. NORWAY ENCOURAGES GLOBAL AND NATIONAL DECISION-MAKERS TO ADOPT POLICIES TO PROTECT PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND ENSURE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS AT ALL LEVELS. CITIZENS, THROUGH LOCAL COUNCILS, HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS THAT CONCERN THEM.