

**Agriculture and Climate Change:
Challenges for Workers, Producers and Consumers**

Side Event by

the German Trade Union for Construction, Agriculture and Environment (IG BAU)
and the German NGO Forum Environment & Development

- Debate 1.5 hs, finger food provided -

Date: 14 May 2008

Time: 6:30 – ca. 9:30 pm

Venue: Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN / German House

Agriculture is a major contributor to climate change and at the same time, it is a major victim: Current wide spread intensive farming practices and land use change are responsible for large emissions of greenhouse gases. Concurrently, global warming leads to shifting of vegetation zones and weather patterns, particularly in rainfall, making agriculture more difficult - and even impossible in some regions. The rapidly growing demand for agricultural products opens up new opportunities for the farming sector, but it also creates additional pressures on the environment. What needs to be done to make agriculture more sustainable, what can workers and producers do, what can consumers do?

This side event will look at current challenges to agriculture from various viewpoints.

Opening Statements:

Hans-Joachim Wilms, Deputy Chairman, IG BAU

Jürgen Maier, Director, German NGO Forum

Panel:

Agriculture in a Changing World – Challenges for Workers and their Unions

Omara Amuko, Global Health and Safety Officer, International Union of Food, Farm and Hotel Workers (IUF)

Reducing Agriculture's Impact on the Climate

(Greenpeace International - tbc)

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy

and International Environmental Implications

(Matthias Machnig, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany - tbc)

Changing land use practices for sustainable farming

(N.N.)