

## **Agriculture (Government focal point: Ministry of Agriculture)**

### **1. Policies and programmes to achieve food security and sustainable agriculture**

Norwegian agricultural policy is based on the goals for food security and sustainable agriculture. The main goals are set out in the white paper *Norwegian Agriculture and Food Production* (Report No. 19 (1999-2000) to the Storting). The recommendations of the white paper are followed up through the annual budgets for the Ministry of Agriculture and the annual Agricultural Agreement between the farmers' unions and the Government. This agreement covers most forms of economic support for food production (food security) and environmental and social schemes and programmes.

### **2. Policies and programmes to enhance agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes**

The Agricultural Agreement.

### **3. Recent agrarian reform and other measures designed to secure equitable access to land resources by both genders**

Norwegian law gives men and women equal rights as regards the purchase and inheritance of farms and farmland.

### **4. Programmes for environmentally-sound agricultural pest control**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has prepared an Action Plan on Reducing Risk Connected to the Use of Pesticides (2004-2008).

### **5. Actions to improve water management in agriculture (e.g., more efficient use, improved irrigation); measures to make more efficient and effective use of energy and other essential inputs for sustainable agricultural production**

Water use is not a major issue in Norwegian agriculture because of the Norwegian climate. Energy efficiency is regulated through general energy legislation and market mechanisms.

### **6. Completed bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements relating to liberalization of agricultural product markets, including under WTO's Doha round of trade negotiations.**

Norway, together with the EFTA states Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the South African Customs Union (SACU) in June 2006. It includes a bilateral Agricultural Agreement between the SACU States and Norway. The FTA has not yet entered into force.

A free trade agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the EFTA States was signed and entered into force in 2007. The FTA includes an Arrangement on Trade in Agricultural Products between Egypt and Norway.

**7. Measures taken to diversify agricultural production systems, including development of new markets for value-added agricultural products**

The Norwegian Agricultural Development Fund under the Agricultural Agreement includes special measures dealing with these issues: for example there is a programme for organic food.

**8. Improved national early warning systems for monitoring food supply and demand and household access to food; weather insurance schemes for farmers.**

The Fund for Natural Disasters is an insurance scheme under the Agricultural Agreement.