

**Urban-Rural Partnerships for
Food Security and Vibrant Markets:
Draft Organizing Plan for December 2008 – May 2009**

UN Commission on Sustainable Development Meetings, February - May 2009

For part one of the two-year review and policy cycle (CSD 16), IPSA coordinated with international Major Groups and US Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to organize a *City Farm Linkages Showcase* parallel to CSD on May 10-11, 2008. The Showcase featured the innovation, practices and leadership in communities to address food security and sustainable agriculture which must inform policy. Urban and rural farm tours for delegates, learning events and other outside meetings informed action during the CSD formal schedule. Major Group interventions in thematic discussions and at multi-stakeholder dialogues repeated themes that were stressed in the Showcase, including the role of local authorities/mayors of cities in partnership with civil society to strengthen regional food systems. The urban rural partnership theme was highlighted at CSD 16, when local authorities and MG partners strategically identified this key linkage as a promising area for focused CSD deliverables.

For 2009, plans have begun to continue this focus with Major Group/CSOs, interested governments and UN agencies, as all grapple with challenges in agriculture and rural development, food security and economic safety nets in a time of food and financial crisis with far reaching effects locally and globally. It is in this new context that “urban rural partnerships for food security and vibrant markets” are critically important and relate to priorities of many countries and Major Groups.

For a number of reasons, New York City is even more poised to play a role as the host city in 2009. Food policy has become a city-wide issue for New York since CSD 16, with the most recent occasion being a “Politics of Food” conference keynoted by the Mayor of New York and the President of the UN General Assembly (http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/special_events/politics_of_food/register.html)

Building on the City Farm Linkages Showcase events of last May, with many of the same organizations and leadership that made those events such a success, a series of events are being planned for CSD 17 in February and May 2009. These are initial plans and will undoubtedly change as resources are obtained, new partners join and plans evolve over coming months.

International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA) – DRAFT

CSD 17 Objectives and Activities¹

Objective 1: At the **Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) in February, 2009** create political support among governments for the unique role of cities and other local authorities to strengthen rural and urban economies through new concrete multistakeholder collaborations for food security and vibrant markets.

1. Beginning in January 2009 organize and conduct **effectiveness training** for civil society Major Groups in New York and North America to assist international delegates through a hosting committee in New York City.
2. Develop a **CSD side event** focused on urban-rural partnership with urban mayors from developing and developed countries, farmers' organizations, agricultural commissioners, nutrition experts, and relevant UN agencies.
3. Hold a **one day leadership retreat** following IPM, on February 27-28 to plan for CSD in May with both Civil Society and Government delegations represented.

Objective 2: At the **Commission on Sustainable Development meeting in May, 2009**, deliver political support from CSD Policy Decisions² and Civil Society Proposals³ for cities and other local authorities working in multi-stakeholder collaborations for food security and vibrant markets.

1. Propose a **plenary multi-stakeholder dialogue** with urban rural partnerships for food security.
2. Organize among Major Groups and CSOs to work effectively on **deliverable language and proposals** for CSD 17 negotiation.
3. Plan tours and seminar on Saturday, May 9th, 2009 for both Governments and Civil Society. A **City Farm Linkages Tour** may include wholesale market and supply chain improvements to connect regional agriculture to local institutional, retail and emergency markets.
4. Work with DESA and the Major Group organizing partners to bring internationally recognized and celebrated leaders, including possibly a high New York public official, to set the tone during the **High Level Ministerial Segment** and call for bold action by Governments and new initiatives led by Major Groups.
5. Maintain an **information and communication network** to organize related activities using <http://www.sustainablefoodmonitor.org> as a site for managing events and processes.

¹ Activities include both those inside the UN on the formal schedule of the CSD and outside the UN to support the on-going work inside.

³ Civil Society proposals for partnerships and collaborations could be referenced by and through Government decisions.