

Africa Urged to Adopt a Green Revolution

By Brenda Zulu

The African Union Commission Chairman Jean Ping has called for the transformation of the agricultural sector while the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has emphasized priority in the agricultural sector which he said accounts for more than half of the workforce.

He pointed out that Africa's smallholder farmers could achieve a Green Revolution as crop yields could double or more when farmers have access to fertilizer, seed and irrigation they need.

There is need to reduce an over reliance on the US\$40billion per year of food imports which could be reinvested in agriculture and socio-economic development.

Speaking in the context of the 14th Ordinary Session of the African Union, Sheila Sisulu Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme said, "the year 2010 was going to repeat itself in terms of an increase in food prices as Africa has delayed to respond to the crisis."

"The challenges posed by high food prices, impacted severely on Africa more than any other continent but surely sounded a wake up call for all of us," said African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Rhoda Tumusiime Peace.

She explained that the emphasis on African Agriculture was to increase production and productivity but also ensuring that there was value addition which creates both on and off farm employment plus also the focus on marketing infrastructure for increased trade between member states and beyond.

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