



Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

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*****Audio Press Briefing*****

Wednesday, 17 November 2010 - 9:00 a.m. EST/ 2:00 p.m. GMT

2°C and Rising: Food Security in a Two-Degree World, How to Cope?

In the lead up to the UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun, Mexico, four of the world's top experts on food security and climate change—from research centers in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the United States—will speak at an **audio press briefing for media on Wednesday, 17 November at 9:00 a.m. EST**. The panelists will discuss the challenge of feeding the world's poor in the regions most vulnerable to climate change, and associated increases in temperature and variability in terms of rainfall patterns, growing seasons, and other environmental processes critical to food production in developing countries. They will also announce a sweeping new program to address the nexus between climate change and agriculture.

A two-degree Celsius increase in temperature could have devastating impacts on global food production. Crops currently grown in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia simply will not be able to beat the heat. Shifting weather patterns and less reliable growing periods each year could result in failed harvests one of every two years in the low-lying areas of Africa, for example. At the same time, agriculture is a major contributor to climate change. Nearly one third of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from the farm sector.

WHO: **Bruce Campbell**, CGIAR Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
Andrew J. Challinor, University of Leeds and Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP)
Andy Jarvis, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
Gerald Nelson, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Philip Thornton, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

WHEN: Wednesday, 17 November 2010, 9:00 a.m EST/ 2:00 p.m. GMT

DETAILS: **Please RSVP here:** <http://sn.im/1gczid>
To access the audio briefing, reporters should dial:
U.S. Call-in: +1-800-895-0231
International Call-in: +1-785-424-1054
Conference ID: 7FOOD
Program Title: Food Security in a Two-Degree World

For press materials, visit the online press room at
<http://ccafs.cgiar.org/content/press-room>

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With over one billion hungry people in the world today, national governments and global food agencies are already grappling with the challenges of maintaining adequate food supplies in vulnerable regions. Experts from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and other institutions are concerned that increasing climate variability brought on by climate

change will exacerbate an already tenuous situation, putting pressure on food production and hurting efforts to reduce poverty, particularly in Africa.

As climate negotiators prepare for the next round of climate negotiations, these experts from the world's leading agricultural research institutions will present new findings on the scope of the problem facing food production in developing countries, the likely impacts, and promising new solutions for addressing and preparing for climate change.

Experts from the CGIAR are available to discuss a wide range of topics, including:

- What evidence is there that agriculture is in trouble, as the impact of climate change makes itself felt?
- Which farming systems and regions will be hit hardest by climate change?
- How much will it cost to introduce options for climate adaptation more widely?
- Where does agriculture stand in the current climate negotiations?
- What has science learned about addressing the challenges of climate change and food security?
- Are negotiators paying enough attention to the link between reducing emissions from deforestation and food production?
- Is vegetarianism the best way to reduce emissions and feed the world sustainably?
- Can wheat beat the heat?
- What are the best strategies for managing climate change?

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The **Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)** is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for sustainable development with the funders of this work. The funders include developing and industrialized country governments, foundations, and international and regional organizations. The work they support is carried out by 15 members of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, in close collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector. www.cgiar.org - <http://cgiarconsortium.cgxchange.org>.

The program on **Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)** is a strategic partnership of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP). CCAFS brings together the world's best researchers in agricultural science, development research, climate science, and Earth System science, to identify and address the most important interactions, synergies and tradeoffs between climate change, agriculture and food security. For more information visit www.ccafs.cgiar.org.