

PRESS RELEASE
CARBON FARMERS
CONFERENCE
SUPPORTS UN FAO
CALL FOR SOIL
CARBON TRADING



PRESS RELEASE

24 NOVEMBER, 2008

Australian Carbon Farmers Join UN FAO
Campaign to change Kyoto

The United Nations Food & Agricultural Organisation has launched a global campaign to have the Kyoto rules changed so that soil carbon be recognised as a class of offset credit for greenhouse gas emissions trading.

Under the title of “Sustainable Intensive Production”, the FAO wants to see food production stepped up to meet world demand and that this be done sustainably. The FAO sees rewarding farmers for growing carbon in soils as the link to sustainable increases in production.

Carbon Farmers of Australia principal Michael Kiely addressed a recent FAO meeting at Purdue University in Indiana on Australia ‘carbon farming’ trends. Australia’s own Carbon Farming Conference (held last week) saw a working party produce a communiqué which:

- Endorsed the FAO’s campaign to change Kyoto rules
- Endorsed the NFF and other groups calling for Agriculture’s involvement in carbon markets
- Called for a CRC for Carbon Responsive Farming to be established

ATTACHED:

Final Communique of Carbon Farming Conference, Orange NSW
Final Communique, UN FAO “Conservation Farming Consultation”,
Lafayette, IND.

CONTACT: Michael Kiely (02) 6374 0329



COMMUNIQUE OF CONFERENCE

24 November, 2008

A working group of the 2008 Carbon Farming Conference and Expo, organised by Carbon Farmers of Australia, has endorsed the statement of the UNITED NATION'S FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION communiqué "Mitigating Climate Change" with the following:

"We confirm:

1. that agriculture can respond immediately to sequester carbon through capture and storage.
2. that agriculture should be provided with an opportunity to support the national and global climate management effort and
3. that soil carbon should be included in voluntary offset markets.

"We support the position taken by the National Farmers Federation and those national farm lobby groups arguing for Agriculture to play a positive role in Climate Change Mitigation.

"We request that the Commonwealth Government establish a CRC for Carbon Responsive Farming.

"And we urge the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organisation's Crop & Grassland Service convene a meeting of conservation and carbon farming representatives in Australasia as part of its campaign for soil carbon offset trading."

Attachment: United Nations FAO Communiqué "Mitigating Climate Change"



WORKING GROUP FROM THE CARBON FARMING EXPO & CONFERENCE 2008

Ken Bellamy, Prime Carbon
 Jane Bradley, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, WA
 *Jeremy Bradley, Footprints Organic Farming
 *Peter Calkin, Microsoils
 Angus Campbell, Recycled Organics Unit, UNSW
 Andrew Carroll, Health Support
 Bryan Clark, Grain Growers Association
 John Dalton, Landcare NSW
 Nigel Diprose, Caidoz Consulting
 John Fry, Conservation Volunteers
 Gerry Gillespie, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
 Chris Higgins, Western CMA
 *Andrew Hines, Moss-Ridge Pastoral Company
 *Barney Hughes, Microsoil
 *Michael Kiely, Carbon Farmers of Australia
 *Louisa Kiely, Carbon Farmers of Australia
 Helen King, ANU
 John Lawrie, Central West CMA
 Honor Lee, organic farmer
 Kate Lorimes-Ward, DPI NSW
 Tony Lovell, Soil Carbon Australia
 *Cath Marriott, Yarallah
 Nicole Masters, Integrity Soils NZ
 John Mills, NSW TAFE
 *Hamish Munro, Cattle Council
 Susan Orgill, NSW DPI
 *Col Seis, "Wiona", Gulgong
 *Paul Smith, Pipinui NZ
 Peter Wadewitz, Waste Management Association
 Alan Welch, Central West CMA
 Tim Wiley, Department Agriculture & Food, WA
 *Bob Wilson, Evergreen Farming WA

*Farmers

BACKGROUND TO UNITED NATION'S FAO SOIL CARBON COMMUNIQUE 21 November, 2008



The Principals of Carbon Farmers of Australia were invited to represent Australia and address a 3-day conference organized by the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) as part of a campaign to have soil carbon accepted as a class of offset credits tradable on the world's emissions markets.

At the Conservation Agriculture Carbon Offset Consultation – held in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA, 28-30 October 2008 – 84 delegates from 14 nations agreed to a communiqué calling for the governments of the world to take steps on soil carbon trading.

This was the second of a series of 'consultations' run by the UN FAO prior to the InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meeting in Copenhagen in 2009. The first was held in Rome in July, 2008. The UN FAO is determined to put a strong case for changing many of the Kyoto rules that preclude soil carbon's engagement in trade.

The month before, 181 countries attending the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, convened by UN FAO, 3-5 June, 2008, called for farmers to be given access to the billions of dollars coursing through the world's carbon markets. "It is essential to ... increase the resilience of present food production systems ... We urge governments to create opportunities to enable the world's smallholder farmers to participate in, and benefit from financial mechanisms and investment flows to support climate change adaptation, mitigation and technology development..."

The CFA is seeking to have Australia more deeply involved in the United Nation's FAO soil carbon campaign.

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD & AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION



Theodor Friedrich, Senior Officer (Crop Production Systems Intensification) FAO Crop and Grassland Service (AGPC) Room C-782 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome Italy

FAO's first and still valid mandate is to fight the hunger in the world and to achieve food security for all. In order to achieve this, agriculture has to be not only productive, but also sustainable, respecting the natural resource base and the environment. In recognition of the fact that agricultural production must be in harmony and not in opposition with environmental integrity, FAO is defining a new programme called sustainable production intensification.

A major component of this programme is the recognition of the mutual relationship between agricultural production and climate and the effects of climate change. Agriculture is directly affected by climate change but it has also a huge potential to mitigate climate change. Besides reducing GHG emissions, agriculture can restore in the soils significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Farming practices and systems, such as conservation agriculture, have been developed, which allow such carbon sequestration in soils without sacrificing agricultural production or having negative repercussions on other ecosystem services. In a recent Conservation Agriculture Carbon Offset consultation a clear agreement could be reached that agriculture can in this way significantly contribute to climate change mitigation, while at the same time fulfill its role to produce food, fibre and other required products and to provide important ecosystem services.

With this in mind, the farmer can "produce" besides the traditional agricultural products also carbon, stored in the soils as a service to mankind, which hopefully will also get an adequate recognition and payment as other products and services. FAO is promoting concepts like conservation agriculture in all world regions through awareness raising activities, conferences and through demonstration projects in the field. FAO is convinced that with such practices agriculture will be able to feed the world in a sustainable way and welcome initiatives, such as the Carbon Farming Conference in Australia, which support this cause.

Carbon Farmers of Australia (CFA)

Carbon Farmers of Australia (CFA)¹ is the commercial arm of the Carbon Coalition Against Global Warming (the Carbon Coalition)², a farmers' lobby that promotes increasing soil carbon levels as a solution to declining soil health and farm profits, and the effects of Climate Change. Active members include farmers, agronomists, scientists, educators, entrepreneurs and extension officers. The Coalition has conducted an awareness-raising campaign in the media and members have addressed more than 200 gatherings in Australia, New Zealand and the United States. The Coalition's members have appeared before and made submissions to many government enquiries and lobbied individual politicians. When Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced an enquiry into soil carbon in early 2008, *The Land* newspaper declared that the Coalition had "single-handedly barnstormed the issue onto the national agenda." A Coalition delegation visited the USA in 2006 and consulted with leaders of the 3 Presidential partnerships of States addressing terrestrial carbon sequestration. It also secured the first order for Australian agricultural soil carbon from the Chicago Climate Exchange. To encourage more collaboration between scientists and farmers in research projects, the Coalition, in collaboration with Catchment Management Authorities, has staged a series of 4 "Soil Science Summits" to promote knowledge exchange between farmers and graziers and leading soil scientists. The CFA has now staged 2 annual Carbon Farming Conferences. Most recently they represented Australia at the United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organisation's "Conservation Farming Carbon Offset Consultation" in Indiana in October, 2008. Co-Convenors of the Coalition, Michael and Louisa Kiely, are woolgrowers from the Central West of NSW in Australia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CALL (612) 6374 0329, michael@carboncoalition.com.au

¹ CFA is a not-for-profit organisation

² The Carbon Coalition is an Incorporated Association