

FARMER'S CHARTER

- I see my vocation as a farmer being to produce the food which humanity needs.
- In following this vocation I commit myself to aim for quality and produce food to the highest standard of taste and health.
- I commit myself to respect the environment in my farming methods, in such a way as to preserve the natural capital which is entrusted to me for future generations.
- I commit myself always to act and make decisions on the basis of honesty and openness.

- I believe that technical development is positive, provided it is applied to fulfil certain conditions.
 - that they are not used to subjugate the farmer to economic powers.
 - that they respect the expectations of the consumer, and natural balances of the environment.
 - that they take account of priorities in serving society within the bounds of individual conscience and respect for creation.
- I believe that the relationship between farmers and consumers should be established on a basis of mutual purpose rather than conflicting interests.
- I believe that all the processing and ancillary industries should operate in a frame work of partnership, which can ensure satisfaction and a proper return for all those who have a part in the provision of food.

- I accept that each country ought, as far as possible, to find the food it needs as near as it can to the point of production.
- I accept that any exports made at prices other than those of fair competition are unjust, and prevent balanced development of markets.
- I am convinced that it is in allowing farmers to make a decent living, particularly in developing countries, that we shall best help to meet the food needs of the whole of humanity.

- I recognise that agriculture makes an important contribution to the vitality of rural life, and so to the upkeep of infrastructure and amenities. The financial value of this contribution could and should be calculated so that the contributors would be suitably rewarded.
- I consider it essential that a fair price should be established for farm products, which takes account of the cost of production, and thus assures the future.
- I believe that an economy which is geared to the needs of people, will allow Western agriculture to become again a source of jobs and employment, and that such employment can be maintained in developing countries.
- I realise that agricultural activity embraces issues which go well beyond the farming world as such, and undertake to seek with others a truly long-term vision for agriculture on the basis of the Charter.

*The land does not belong to us. We receive it from our parents, and pass it on to future generations.
We are part of the work of Creation.*

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