

INVITATION

FARMERS' DIALOGUE - CAMEROON (DEA-C)

is pleased to invite you to the International Farmers' Dialogue being held in CAMEROON

from 2nd to 9th May 2018 with the theme:

"FAMILY AGRICULTURE AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

One third of the world's population is involved in agriculture, mostly in developing countries, similar to Cameroon these farmers are mainly small family farmers or share croppers on rented agriculture land. However, in more developed countries, agriculture is generally practiced on a larger scale on both family owned farms or by multinational corporations. These multinationals control much of the seed, fertilizer, chemicals, production, research, marketing and distribution of agricultural products.

Family farming has become synonymous with vulnerability, but it can be a key to ending this cycle. Indeed, it is a proven farming system that can support sustainable life on this earth where natural resources are limited. We must also promote communication with consumers so that everyone can lead healthy lives and encourage the right kind of exchanges.

In the context of the liberalization of its national economy, Cameroon has chosen agricultural development and the rural sector as the fundamental option of its strategy for growth and employment. Agriculture therefore remains a decisive sector for its economy. It contributes more than 40% to export earnings and 41% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs 80% of the labor force. It is the major source of income for the poorest members of the population, it receives the full attention of the government and remains the main pillar of the country's food security.

Indeed, the country has many assets: wide geographical and climatic diversity allows it to grow a large number of agro-industrial crops for local consumption (corn, cassava, plantain, pineapple, macabo, rice, millet, sorghum, peanut, potato, sweet potato, green bean, soy, tomato, yam, onion, pistachio, pumpkin seeds, guava, mango, avocado, papaya, onion, etc.) and export (cocoa, coffee, cotton, natural rubber) banana, tobacco, palm oil, etc.).

Livestock and aquaculture are also an important sub-sector of the Cameroonian economy. More than 30% of the Cameroonian population is basing on it as a means of subsistence, but also a source of income and savings. We also note the capacity of this sub-sector to generate jobs: cattle traders, poultry sellers, fish sellers, transporters, butchers and delicatessens, etc.

"Farmers' Dialogue International" is a legal association under Swiss law based in Geneva. It is an associate member of the International Association of Initiatives of Change, an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and Participatory Status with the Council of Europe.

Contact: internationalfd@iofc.org - Website: www.famersdialogue.org

This meeting will be an opportunity for Cameroonian farmers to discuss with their hosts the question of the transformation of their agricultural production, conservation and export.

The question of the mechanization of agriculture is also of great concern to the small producers grouped within the Common Initiatives Groups (CIG).

By promoting exchanges, sharing of experiences and skills between farmers from different backgrounds. The planned meeting will contribute to significantly improving the conditions for Cameroonian farmers.

The meeting will be held from **2nd to 9th May 2019**

It is advisable to arrive at Yaounde Airport - Nsi-Malen on May 02, 2019.

Farm visits: organized for all participants.

Places of accommodation:

- The John XXIII Center of MVOLYE for the Central Region.
- The Archdiocese of DOUALA for the Littoral region.
- The EBOLOWA and SANGMELIMA Reception Centers for the Southern Region.

Participation fee: 450 USD for accommodation, catering and local transport for the entire stay.

Visas: Please contact the nearest Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon for the necessary information. You can apply for a Tourist Visa for the conference. The visa can be given three months before arrival. DEA-Cameroon can provide a letter of invitation.

Registration online (link to be communicated later)

For more information, please contact the following people:

- **Mr. Bienvenu Vincent-de-Paul Mougnanou**, General Secretary of ACRAM/IC, member of the IofC African Coordination Group, project leader - bvmougnanou@gmail.com
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