



FFA announces new partnerships to drive ideas and thinking for a more sustainable food and agriculture system

Brussels, December 11, 2019 - The Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) today announced a series of new partnerships that will support its mission to contribute ideas and thinking that can help to build a more sustainable food and agriculture system both in Europe and around the world.

Rabobank is a cooperative bank with deep roots in agriculture and which has grown to be one of the world's leading financial institutions. Recognising the shared responsibility for growing a better world, they are committed to playing their part by contributing networks, knowledge and finance, to accelerate the transition to an ecologically and economically sustainable global food system. FFA is therefore delighted to welcome Rabobank as one of our Strategic Partners who, together with our founding partners – The European Landowners' Organization and Syngenta – help to lead and shape the FFA strategy and annual work program.

The **Chicago Council on Global Affairs** is one of the world's leading, independent, non-partisan organisations providing insight on critical global issues. Since 2010, they have convened the annual Global Food Security Symposium to identify opportunities for U.S. leadership to address the problem of food security and alleviate hunger and poverty through agricultural development. Our new international partnership will enable the two organisations to work together to increase the impact, influence and reach of the both the FFA and Global Food Security Symposium.

The annual conference of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture was founded by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and Syngenta in 2008. Rabobank and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs join the existing FFA strategic partners, The Nature Conservancy, WWF Europe, Cargill and Thought for Food, to support the ongoing mission of the FFA to contribute to the development of a more sustainable food and agriculture system. The FFA returns on **Tuesday, March 31, 2020** to the Square Meeting Centre with the overall theme of accelerating change.

Commenting on today's announcement, Janez Potočnik, Chairman of the FFA said: "The challenge we face today in living within our planetary boundaries is increasing in both scale and urgency. Building a more sustainable food and agriculture system in Europe, and globally, is unavoidable if we are to succeed in meeting and overcoming the challenge."

"The Forum for the Future of Agriculture has an impressive record in convening the key stakeholders to work together to generate and showcase the necessary ideas, thinking and connections that can enable a step change in the sustainability of the food and agriculture system. The new partnerships that we have announced today will enable us to go further, deeper and faster in delivering on our mission and we look forward to working with each of them."

Berry Marttin, Member of the Managing Board at Rabobank said: "Over the past 12 years FFA has grown to be the place for debate on the promotion of a sustainable food and agricultural system globally. In this period of time FFA has moved from being a convener to an influencer role. With the right and unique balance in public and private strategic partners and with the challenge of reaching the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and 2050 climate neutral goals, Rabobank is pleased to join FFA and working together in reaching our shared goals."



Grace Burton, Director, Government Relations, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs said: “The only way hunger and food insecurity can be eradicated is by working across issues, organizations, and siloes. By partnering with FFA, the Chicago Council hopes to create space for enhanced dialogue, fostering new ideas and building new solutions to this age-old problem.”

About FFA

The annual conference of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture takes place every spring in Brussels. The purpose of the FFA is to stimulate open discussions on the future of European and world agriculture and assess what should and what can be achieved over time, attaching equal weight to two challenges: food security and environmental security. The FFA Brussels is accompanied every year by regional conferences across Europe. The Forum is now established as the premier meeting place for those who have a stake in the future of agriculture and has been addressed by European Commissioners, MEPs, National Government Ministers, Industry Leaders, Academics, NGOs, International Organisations, including OECD and FAO.

Working with the founding partners, ELO and Syngenta, the FFA strategic partners, The Nature Conservancy, WWF Europe, Cargill, Thought for Food and now, Rabobank and Chicago Council on Global Affairs, support the ongoing mission of the FFA to contribute to the development of a more sustainable food and agriculture system.

To learn more visit www.forumforagriculture.com

For further information contact:

Marie Orban, Communication Officer, Forum for the Future of Agriculture

Marie.orban@elo.org

Tel.: +32 2 234 30 74

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