

**Launch of Poverty in Focus #24**  
**Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, CEO – FANRPAN**

Acknowledgements:

Dr Leena Srivastava, Executive Director, The Energy and Resources Institute and Vice-Chancellor, TERI University,

Dr Youba Sokona, Head of the Africa Climate Policy Centre and Co-chair of IPCC Working Group III,

Esteemed panelists,

Representatives of civil society including a number of Executive Directors – CEBRI,

ABONG and the Director Designate of the Stakeholder Forum

Ambassadors, Representatives of Governments and

Representatives of UNDP and the UN system,

Dr Radhika Lal, Deputy Director of IPC-IG,

Other IPC-IG and TERI colleagues,

The organizing team for the side-event,

Representatives of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with sincere pleasure that I take part in the launch of Poverty in Focus No. 24, the IPC-IG's special issue for Rio+20. As a participant and panelist in the International Seminar on the Role of South-South Cooperation in Agricultural Development in Africa, held in May of this year in Brasilia and as a contributor myself of Poverty in Focus # 23, published last year, I find myself in an inenviable position today in being involved and part of this side-event and this launch.

The timing and the topic could not be more important given the partnership between The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the International Policy Centre for

Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) and the Democratic Governance Group of the Bureau for Development Policy on “Civil Society and the Knowledge Community: Dialogues around Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD).

Much is expected from all of this during this week in particular here in Rio, including that we can truly see and define and a path towards sustainable development and make tangible progress in that direction starting next Monday. One of the important entryways for that progress depends on an institutional framework for sustainable development at the global level and many supporting institutional frameworks at the national and regional level. In fact, the current discussions on institutional frameworks seem to be around three issues –two of which are largely reflected in the focus of today’s event and reflected in this new Poverty in Focus: a strengthened science-policy interface, and enhanced participation of civil society.

It is for this reason that this Poverty in Focus can inform the ongoing discussions, highlight emerging good practice, encourage further research and monitoring and generally encourage us on this complex and challenging path to make development not just sustainable but also inclusive and equitable. I have had the chance to quickly review the content and the breadth of the issues are pertinent not just to agriculture but to all sectors and to all countries.

The emerging lessons from Brazil-Africa South-South and other forms of South-South encourage are very encouraging and need to be further explored. This PIF serves a number of important roles including highlighting the importance of both civil society organizations and the knowledge community in the above, and in particular the ways in which they can complement each other and each other’s efforts on issues of inclusion. The collaborative effort to prepare the PIF itself is valuable in this context also, the partnership between IPC-IG, the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, the Overseas Development Institute and the Institute for Development

Studies represent the shape of potential new partnerships as do the ongoing calls for greater public-private sector partnership. I want to particularly acknowledge therefore Ammad Bahalim, Lidia Cabral, Alex Shankland and Leisa Perch. Moreover, I salute all of the authors who gave of their time and intellectual inputs in order to make this Poverty in Focus one of the biggest in IPC's publication history as well as one of the richest in terms particularly of civil society inputs.

This PIF includes articles from 3 Rural Women in Brazil as well as from two African agribusiness owners, important contributions in a year in which the catalytic and important role of Rural Women has been recognized and lauded. Moreover, it also aligns the interests and perspectives of African researchers with those of Brazilian researchers and government representatives with other civil society and also with academics from other countries in the South.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the important role played by the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG/UNDP) to foster the policy dialogue for inclusive growth and increasingly in the context of rural and sustainable development. As UNDP's global forum for policy dialogue and South-South learning on development innovations, from its headquarters in Brasilia, Brazil, IPC-IG continues to make a significant contribution to knowledge and also to the process of participation and benefit-sharing as outlined in their definition of inclusive growth. Their work across the board equips not only policymakers in the South but also potentially equips and contributes to a broader constituency – civil society organizations and the knowledge community.

This PIF is dedicated to the role of South-South cooperation in building a more inclusive and sustainable model of development for African agriculture. A subject very close of my heart, interests and work as Chief Executive Officer of FARNPAN. This is also highly topical now in international development and one which is instrumental to

discussing issues at the heart of IPC-IG agenda. The intended audience is policymakers, technical specialists and general stakeholders in the agriculture sector as well as development specialists. It sought to explore four key questions:

- How can South-South cooperation help to define models of agricultural development that address the intersections between food/nutritional security, rural poverty and the environment challenges?
- What are the African visions for the agricultural sector and its role in development and how effective are Brazilian and Chinese cooperation projects in promoting the development of African agriculture, vis-à-vis North-South forms of cooperation? What is working, what is not?
- Can South-South cooperation contribute to strengthening the roles of women, the poor and the most vulnerable in the global economy, making them proactive actors and not just passive beneficiaries? If so, can lessons from productive inclusion help?
- What could/would be the future areas of action and research in South-South agricultural cooperation for inclusive and sustainable development?

In my estimation it has succeeded. It is only by sharing knowledge, ideas and debating them that we can decide on the “future needed” as well as the “future we want”.

I therefore declare Poverty in Focus #24 entitled The Role of South-South Cooperation in Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Development: Focus on Africa, officially launched. I urge all of you to read it and I look forward to the debate, the dialogue and the follow-up work urged by the authors in “getting it right” in terms of people, policies and institutions. Today’s side-event sets the stage beautifully for discussing many of these themes more broadly including issues of economic justice, social inclusion in development finance, governance of biofuels and disaster risk reduction amongst them.

I wish to acknowledge the support of UK DFID in supporting both the May 17<sup>th</sup> seminar as well as the publication of this special issue and in particular Dan Bradley. On behalf of IPC-IG, I also thank UN Women, Articulacao Sul, CIRAD, WFP’s Centre of Excellence for Hunger and FAO, amongst others. I congratulate the editorial team as well as collectively the 20+ authors who

contributed to the series of articles. Though many of the authors are not here today, some are with us including colleagues from the IPC including former interns. Thanks must also go to Josique Lorenzo, Pablo Burkolter, Tanya Wragg-Morris and Thais Fernandes as part of the Rural and Sustainable Development Team linking both the seminar, the PIF and this event and in making it all possible.

Looking forward, the nexus between agriculture and development highlights two key issues: eliminating hunger and rethinking agriculture, in light of sustainability and equity. Climate change, livelihoods and food security, in particular, represent both challenges and opportunities for achieving these two objectives, and many questions do remain. I look forward to this new phase as well as emerging innovations, which must include new partnership arrangements as well as new, expanding or evolving partnerships.

Thank you.