



MEDIA RELEASE

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LEAF pledges its commitment to global food security initiative

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) will formally pledge its commitment to a global food security initiative '*The Declaration of Abu Dhabi for Global Food Security through Good Agricultural Practices*' at a formal launch event in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 28 to 29 October 2014. Other signatories include Unilever, BASF, Nestlé, SAI Platform, Syngenta, Bayer CropScience and a number of other leading global food industry organisations, certification bodies and NGOs.

The Declaration of Abu Dhabi is a global collaboration between public and private partners in the food industry in order to identify, align and implement practical, sustainable solutions to growing global food security and safety challenges.

Specifically, all partners are committed to developing and adopting three important measures:

1. A common set of good agricultural practices.
2. A system for uniquely identifying every farm that is recognized by all stakeholders.
3. A mechanism for securing the commitment and reporting by supply chain partners.

By supporting *The Declaration of Abu Dhabi*, LEAF will pledge to continue to develop practical solutions that will help ensure food safety and quality and the sustainability of natural resources, without compromising biodiversity and ecosystems.

The declaration aims to deliver the following outcomes:

1. Aligned investment in good agricultural practices, which can apply to training, adherence and verification
2. Supply chain traceability, individual and collective reporting and impact evaluation
3. Reliable market for farmers using growing practices aligned with the good agricultural practices

Jeremy Boxall, LEAF Commercial Manager, who is attending the inaugural signatories meeting said:

“LEAF is all about collaboration - building partnerships with everyone involved in the food chain to help farmers to farm more sustainably, particularly through the adoption of Integrated Farm Management (IFM). We are very proud to be part of this global food security initiative, which will give our members the opportunity to collaborate with even more industry players and stakeholders, in particular governments and food manufacturers. The Abu Dhabi Declaration represents an important step in bringing diverse minds together in pursuit of a common goal - a world that is farming, eating and living sustainably.”

“Specifically, our commitment to the Abu Dhabi declaration will really formalise what we have been doing for the last ten years in ensuring the principles of GLOBALG.A.P. underpin the LEAF Marque Global Standard. Furthermore, the declaration recognises that standard systems such as the LEAF Marque Global Standard move beyond these basic principles in terms of environmental enhancement and community engagement – pushing forward the boundaries of sustainable farming and developing innovative ways to engage communities with farmers and their food. We enthusiastically endorse the Declaration and look forward to working together with other partner organisations in the pursuit of its aims and objectives.” concluded Mr Boxall.

The event will be held in conjunction with the GLOBALG.A.P. SUMMIT 2014 which is under the Patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of UAE, Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority.

For further information and details about *The Declaration of Abu Dhabi*, please visit www.declaration-of-abu-dhabi.org.

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LEAF Editors' Notes:

- LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is a leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. LEAF works with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers to inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities.
- LEAF promotes Integrated Farm Management (IFM), a whole farm business approach that delivers sustainable farming.
- The LEAF Marque is an assurance system recognising sustainably farmed products. It is based on LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) principles. Farms in 33 countries worldwide are producing to the LEAF Marque Global Standard.

- All LEAF Marque certified farms are independently inspected to ensure they meet stringent criteria to demonstrate that food is being produced to high environmental standards. These criteria include soil management and fertility, crop health and protection, pollution control and by-products, energy and water efficiency, wildlife and landscape management and animal husbandry and the environment.
- Managed by LEAF, Open Farm Sunday is the single, most effective and supported day in the farming calendar for the UK farming industry to 'open their gates' and welcome consumers onto farms to discover the story behind their food and the vital role farmers have in enhancing the countryside.
- For more information about the Abu Dhabi declaration, contact Jeremy Boxall, LEAF Commercial Manager +44 (0)7764201334, email: jeremy.boxall@leafuk.org. For further information about LEAF visit www.leafuk.org, email: enquiries@leafuk.org tel: 02476 413911. (Registered charity no: 1045781).