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SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL UNIONS

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PRESS RELEASE

Scoring for Agriculture

Should agriculture be on the climate change agenda? What impact would this have? The ball is now in your court to assess the game changing impact of negotiations at COP 17 in Durban.

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) has teamed up with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to present agriculture's role in climate change in an innovative manner.

'*Agriculture In*' is a ball game with targets designed to address the significance of agriculture and how it can contribute to food security, adaptation and mitigation.

"Agriculture is the foundation of most African economies and the most climate-sensitive sector so it is imperative that it forms part of the agenda at this year's COP17," said Ishmael Sunga, CEO of SACAU.

"This game not only highlights that but also the specific areas of intervention such as the need for the establishment of Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) Work Program on Agriculture that covers both adaptation and mitigation and addresses the needs of African farmers."

Journalists are invited to test their ball skills while getting a better understanding of agriculture and its importance at the SACAU/IFAD joint stand at this year's COP17 within the UNFCCC exhibitions hall. The targets will be:

- Green Climate Fund;
- SBSTA Work Programme; and,
- Mitigation financing for Farmers.

Prizes allocated for winners name the many benefits for farmers and wider communities if agriculture is included: Improved Food Security, Lasting Poverty Reduction, Reduced GHG Emissions, More trees, More Resilient Livelihoods, Enhanced biodiversity.

"Poor smallholder farmers are on the front line of climate change impacts yet they don't benefit enough from climate finance," said Elwyn Grainger-Jones, Director of IFAD's Environment and Climate Division, "climate finance can help scale up investments in sustainable agriculture and research that will help them adapt to changing weather conditions and contribute to global food security."

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