

Responding to a Need for Global Agricultural Education

Overview of Issue for
Delegates' Consideration

August 2009



Background

- ▶ U.S. agriculture strongly tied to international food, resources and political issues
- ▶ Ag Ed/FFA history of providing students with agriculture experiences in foreign countries:
 - engaged relatively few students
 - little understanding of serious world agricultural issues
- ▶ National FFA Global Task Force (2006) recommended these strategies:
 - integrate global education into current FFA programs
 - partner with organizations and agencies to provide global education and programs
 - provide information beyond the FFA Global Program



Vision

- ▶ Ag Ed Mission: prepare students for careers and choices in global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource systems
- ▶ Global Vision: offer variety of integrated opportunities to engage students and teachers with critical agricultural issues facing the international community
 - prepare students for leadership and service to address needs, alleviate suffering and raise living standards
 - provide opportunities ranging from in-classroom instruction to international service activities



Rationale

- ▶ Moral imperative and responsibility for those working in agriculture:
 - global crises in providing food, fuel and nutrition to growing populations
 - awareness of larger impact of U.S. agriculture activities as a world economic and political leader
- ▶ Obligation to educate agricultural education students and FFA members about:
 - global issues regarding agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems
 - career opportunities in global agriculture, energy and food distribution systems
 - international service learning opportunities related to agriculture



Rationale

- ▶ Agriculture industry need for:
 - graduates/employees who understand and want to engage in international agriculture issues
 - workers prepared and willing to serve overseas, who can advance into leadership positions
- ▶ Benefits to the Ag Ed/FFA program:
 - global agriculture learning opportunities enrich the Ag Ed/FFA program
 - focus on global issues adds relevance to the Ag Ed program that can help recruit more students and teachers
 - opportunities to more fully integrate agriculture content into the entire school curriculum and environment
 - Ag Ed/FFA can connect with new, high-profile and well-connected business, foundation and world-wide partners



Pursuing an Engagement Strategy

▶ Process:

- agricultural education can partner with education, industry, government and philanthropy to explore global agricultural education and engagement strategies

▶ Potential result:

- Cooperative/partnership opportunities to involve students and teachers in global agricultural issues affecting our industry, country and world



Request of Delegates

- ▶ Explore the concept of/need for an integrated global engagement strategy for Ag Ed/FFA
- ▶ Confirm importance of developing such a strategy (if so agreed) for Ag Ed/FFA
- ▶ Support the identification and involvement of key partners in/outside Ag Ed to help formulate the global engagement strategy

