



Rabobank

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Global food and agribusiness leaders to meet in Australia ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit

Leading global farmers and members of the international food and agribusiness community are to meet in Australia in November to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities around global food security ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane.

The **Rabobank Global Farmers Master Class**, which begins on November 5, will see approximately 40 of the world's leading primary producers gather in Victoria and New South Wales to share information and ideas on the future of farming. These farmers will then join with up to 600 participants from government, industry, academia, media and advocacy groups at the inaugural **Rabobank F20 (Food) Summit** in Sydney.

Rabobank Group executive board member Berry Marttin said the Master Class and F20 Summit programs were designed to bring industry participants together to raise awareness and facilitate solutions that contribute to securing a sustainable future for the food and fibre sectors around the world.

"The world's population is forecast to grow from seven billion people today to over nine billion people by 2050 and at the same time we are nearing the limits of our natural resources. So the challenge for farmers and food producers is to feed more people with fewer resources while also being sustainable," Mr Marttin said.

"As the world's leading specialist agribusiness bank, Rabobank is committed to the development of the agricultural sector and through the bank's global Banking4Food vision, we have taken a leadership role in bringing the industry together."

Based around the theme 'the rise of the rural entrepreneur', the Master Class program will see the farmers share information and experiences as they travel through key producing regions in Victoria to hear from leading agricultural thinkers and learn the latest techniques and developments throughout the supply chain.

Rabobank Australia & New Zealand chief executive officer Thos Gieskes said the Master Class Program would be "a mix of farm-stay visits, educational opportunities, best-practice demonstrations and unique Australian experiences that not only showcase the best of what this region has to offer, but focus the minds of the farmers on what they can do to innovate and improve farming practices".

Seven leading Australian farmers will be among the Master Class participants.

This will be the second Global Farmers Master Class. The first – which also brought together 50 leading international farmers – was staged in the Netherlands in 2012.

The 2014 Master Class program concludes in Sydney on Thursday November 13 with the inaugural Rabobank F20 (Food 20) Summit. Titled 'Global food security: shared responsibility, collective solutions', the Summit will feature a range of international



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keynote speakers discussing the themes of increasing food production, improving access to food, encouraging balanced nutrition, and strengthening stability in markets and production chains.

“This is the first event of its kind and a truly unique gathering of farmers, academics, policy makers and key influencers from all sectors of the agriculture and food production chain, including processors and major agri corporates,” Mr Gieskes said.

“The goal is to raise awareness of the challenges around global food security and contribute to the discussion around solutions ahead of the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Brisbane.

“The key themes to come from the F20 Summit will form part of a submission to the G20 Agricultural Working Group and will become a platform for the broader food and agribusiness industry to remain engaged in delivering solutions to the global food security challenge.”

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Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is a part of the international Rabobank Group, the world’s leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has more than 110 years’ experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness. Rabobank is structured as a cooperative and operates in 41 countries, servicing the needs of approximately 10 million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1600 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is one of Australasia’s leading rural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the region’s food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 93 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Media contacts:

Denise Shaw
Media Relations
Rabobank Australia & New Zealand
Phone: +61 2 8115 2744 or 0439 603 525
Email: denise.shaw@rabobank.com

Jess Martin
Media Relations Manager
Rabobank Australia & New Zealand
+61 7 3115 1832 or 0418 216 103
Email: jess.martin@rabobank.com