



## UK Parliamentary Inquiry into the Global Food Crisis

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development

### CALL FOR EVIDENCE

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### Deadline for Submissions Midday Tuesday 31 March 2009

Today the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development launched its new Inquiry in the House of Commons. The Inquiry, which is now calling for evidence, will look at whether the UK is meeting its current commitments, moral or otherwise, for addressing issues of global food security and; how well equipped the UK is to play its part in generating long-term predictable and sustainable development for those affected in the developing world.

APPG Chair Dr. Ian Gibson MP announced *"This Inquiry will act to focus cross-party and wider public attention on the key issue of global food security at a time when the effects of the economic downturn will inevitably be felt hardest by the poorest of the poor in the developing world."*

The Inquiry will seek to take both oral and written evidence from a wide range of stakeholders and eminent authorities on this subject, and associated topics. The Inquiry is seeking to obtain written evidence in response to several specific questions, whilst also exploring some of the wider associated issues, these include:

1. How can 9 billion people be fed equitably, healthily, safely and sustainably by 2050?
2. How significant a threat does a lack of food security present globally?
3. What is currently being done to address the international risks associated with food security?
4. How is the UK part of the global problem and/or solution?

**Inquiry Clerk: James Birch**

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5. What role should the UK Government perform in ensuring that food production is sustainable at a worldwide level?
6. Is there a coherent cross-Government food strategy in the UK?
7. Does *UK plc* have a global responsibility to share its appropriate science, skills and technology to help those in developing and emerging markets face the ongoing challenges presented by food security?
8. What roles do, and should, UK private industry; civil society; academia and research institutes play in addressing issues of global food security?
9. What are the global challenges faced, if any, in relation to the following aspects of the global food system:
  - Soil fertility;
  - Land use, reform and availability;
  - The development of biofuels as crops;
  - Water security;
  - Demographic and population change;
  - Energy security;
  - Climate change;
  - The impact of livestock rearing;
  - Food safety;
  - Hidden hunger, nutrition and health;
  - Available expertise and the provision of suitable training;
  - The role of science and technology;
  - Farmer practices and farm management;
  - Trade, infrastructure and global markets;
  - The role of indigenous knowledge;
  - The good governance agenda.
10. How do you think the food security situation/debate will change over the next 40 years?
11. What are other countries (developed and developing) doing to combat issues of food security both nationally and internationally, and with what success? How can the UK best engage, support or replicate these examples?
12. Where examples of best and worst practice exist in tackling issues of food security (in both public and private sectors) and what should the UK do to replicate the successful projects and assist those which require it?
13. What additional, or different roles, should the UK play (both individually and in collaboration with other national and international entities) to address issues of global food security?
14. Any other comments

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**The APPG invites all interested parties to address these and related matters in writing by midday Tuesday 31 March 2009.**

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## **NOTES FOR SUBMITTERS**

All submissions should be in Microsoft Word or Rich Text format. All submissions should be sent by e-mail to [birchj@parliament.uk](mailto:birchj@parliament.uk). The body of the e-mail must include a contact name; professional position; organisation; telephone number and; postal address. The e-mail should also make clear who has contributed to the submission and whether the submission represents the views of the individual or the wider organisation they work for.

Submissions must address the terms of reference. They should be as concise as possible and no more than 4,000 words in length. Paragraphs should be numbered for ease of reference, and the document must include an executive summary of no more than one page in length.

All Party Parliamentary Groups make public much of the evidence they receive during Inquiries. If you do not wish your submission to be published, you must clearly highlight this in the body of your email. If you wish to include private or confidential information in your submission to the Group, please contact the Group's Coordinator to discuss this. While APPGs may not be able to investigate individual cases, case studies are welcome in support of your evidence.

Submissions should be original work, not previously published or circulated elsewhere. Once submitted, no public use should be made of the submission unless you have first obtained permission from the Chair of the Inquiry Team, Dr. Ian Gibson. For further details about this Inquiry, please contact James Birch, Group Coordinator, on 020 7219 5472.

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) was established by Parliamentarians in October 2008 in response to growing concerns over the heightening food crisis and a steady decline in the funding of agricultural research for international development at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Chaired by Dr. Ian Gibson, it is a cross-party initiative drawing members from both Houses of the UK Parliament which aims to bring together Parliamentarians concerned with both the technical, and social science, of agriculture. It seeks to use its cross-party membership to improve support from the British Government for farmers and other stakeholders in developing countries whilst

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recognising the pivotal role that increased levels of agricultural research, and their outputs, can have in eliminating global poverty. Further information about the Group can be found at: [www.agricultureandfoodfordevelopment.org](http://www.agricultureandfoodfordevelopment.org)

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