Sustainable agribusiness

In the following text a FAO economist explains the importance of integrating smallholders into food value chains to reduce poverty and improve food security for millions of poor households in developing countries.



1 **Read this text and comment.**

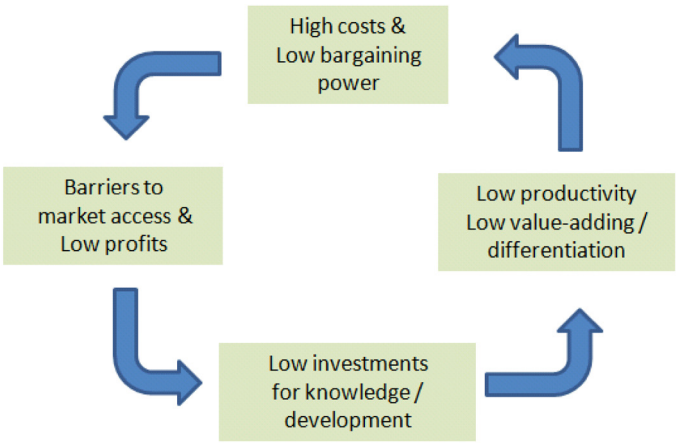
FAO Policy Series: Sustainable Agribusiness & Food Value Chains

Small-scale producers provide over 70% of the world's food needs, while agribusinesses are one of the main generators of employment and income worldwide. Improving the sustainability of food value chains can massively benefit the rural poor.

We've been seeing in the past years that globalisation is changing the way we put food on our tables. So, the risk for small farmers is to be excluded from what we call the value chain, not be able to market their product, not be able to comply with new quality standard and not be able to get the right price for them on the market.

One of the possible solutions is linking the small farmers with agribusinesses and agri-industries: they can create employment and they can introduce new standards that make food safer and of a better quality. They can also include a larger number of farmers into the value chains.

It is very important to increase the dialogue between agribusinesses, agri-industries, farmers, civil society and the public sector.



The coordination between different government's ministries, for example, is very important at all levels: local level, regional level, but also national level.

What is very important is to understand that there are very different ways in which governments and agribusinesses can work together for the benefit of smallholder farmers and consumers.

We are helping supporting government to put in place the right policies, in a way that all stakeholders are on the same base.
So, it's a win-win situation for everyone.

2 **Go online and identify Italian areas where the following concerns are particularly serious.**

"While Italian agriculture is in a leading position in terms of organic farming, sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation, water scarcity, illegal workers and the role of women and combined ageing of its workforce remain pressing concerns."

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