

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 5, 2007

Contact: Megan Bowman at 206.373.7154 or meganb@igdleaders.org

**Statement of the Initiative for Global Development in Support of Real Reform
during Senate Farm Bill Debate**

The Initiative for Global Development (IGD), a national network of business leaders working to reduce global poverty through the promotion of economic growth, urges strong support for amendments offered during the upcoming Senate debate on the 2007 Farm Bill that would achieve real reform of our agricultural subsidy regime.

Current U.S. farm subsidies distort world prices for key commodities making it difficult for farmers in developing countries to compete and earn a better living. They also run afoul of global trade rules. The farm bill approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee last month does little to improve the prospects for poor farmers or U.S. compliance with World Trade Organization rules.

“When the full Senate deliberates over the farm bill it is critical that they take a global perspective – one that acknowledges that our future prosperity and the prosperity of others are inextricably linked,” said IGD President & CEO Jennifer Potter. “Reforming our subsidy system so that U.S. farmers are protected when they need help, but don’t get annual payments from the U.S. government when they don’t, will improve the prospects for a global trade round and for farmers in the developing world who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of U.S. farm supports.”

IGD urges strong support for reform amendments that may be offered, including those that would diminish the trade-distorting nature of our subsidy programs or that would reduce the overall level of support, either through payment limits or a reasonable income cap.

About IGD: The Initiative for Global Development is a national alliance of business leaders that champions effective solutions to reduce global poverty. For more information, go to www.igdleaders.org

###