

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION FOR RURAL PEOPLE IN AFRICA FAO, Rome, 28-29 November 2007**

**Paris / Rome, November 22, 2007** – High-level officials from the Ministries of Education and Agriculture of more than 10 African countries will participate in a workshop on education for rural people in Africa to be held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, on 28 and 29 November 2007.

The workshop is co-organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) in collaboration with UNESCO, the French Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs and the World Bank Institute (WBI) and with the support of the Italian Development Cooperation (DGCS).

The workshop will focus on progress made since the Ministerial meeting on education for rural people held in Addis Ababa in September 2005. Country reports prepared by the concerned Ministries and the relevant agencies will be examined.

Education for rural people is a strategic priority in the fight against extreme poverty, hunger and illiteracy and for promoting rural development. In rural areas, illiteracy hinders development and food security, threatens productivity and health and limits opportunities to improve livelihoods. Worldwide, 100 million children, the majority living in rural areas, are still being denied the opportunity of going to school.

FAO ([www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)) is the lead UN agency for the global Education for Rural People (ERP) initiative.

ADEA ([www.adeanet.org](http://www.adeanet.org)) promotes the development of effective education policies based on African leadership and ownership. It has become a leader in the processes of dialogue, sharing and learning for the qualitative transformation of education in support of Africa's development.

African countries participating in the workshop are: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda.

#### **For media accreditation**

Please contact the FAO Media Relations Office:

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**The workshop will be conducted in English and French.**

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