

# **The Food & Fuels Workshop**

## **Executive summary**

FACT Foundation organized an expert workshop on “food & fuels” on May 18, 2009. 26 Participants of a mixed background discussed 9 propositions. Major findings were that:

- The effects biofuels have on food security are highly context specific. It was generally excepted that small scale biofuel production for local development poses less of a threat to food security than large scale production for exports. Consequently, many of the sustainability criteria will have to be different for each situation.
- From a technical point of view there is the potential to produce sufficient food and fuels for the world population, considering 10% bio-energy in the world primary energy mix. However political and socio-economical issues are more determinant. When farmers are given the right incentives, they will invest and their production of both food and fuels will increase.
- Multipurpose crops, that can be used both as food and fuel, increase farmers income - and food security since they can be consumed in case of food shortages. Besides, better market prices ensure farmer investments in yield increasing technologies.