

NFF BOUND FOR COPENHAGEN IN DECEMBER

WITH international carbon accounting rules failing to reflect agriculture's vital role in storing carbon and, therefore, hampering farmers' positive on-farm efforts that reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, the NFF will lead a delegation to the upcoming Council of Parties (COP) meeting in Copenhagen in December.

The Australian Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is misguidedly underpinned by these limited and restrictive international accounting rules, resulting in major ramifications for our farmers if these rules remain unchanged.

The NFF's strategy to change the Kyoto carbon accounting rules has been two-fold.

Firstly, the NFF has educated and influenced the international farming community on why it is in all our interests to change the rules. In doing so, farmers across the globe can exert consistent and cohesive pressure on their governments to secure better understanding and action in the wake of global farming's predicament.

The NFF's membership of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) has been valuable to this end, with the NFF presenting its case to IFAP's 'Climate Change: farmers' solutions' conference in May, winning broad support. NFF Manager – Economics and Trade Charlie McElhone's address is available online at: <http://www.nff.org.au/media-files/2428470953.html>.

The event showcased the role that agriculture can play in a Post-Kyoto Protocol in cooperation with key IFAP members. The NFF demonstrated how farmers can mitigate climate change, using the Australian experience and highlighting how the international carbon accounting rules impede farmers' ability to engage.

Secondly, the NFF is working closely with the Australian Government's Kyoto

negotiating team to ensure their efforts are focused on agriculture's areas of interest within this highly technical treaty.

The Copenhagen meeting will be a crucial negotiating round for the new Kyoto Protocol. Direct industry involvement in Copenhagen will be essential if a positive result is to be achieved.

Member organisations wishing to join the NFF delegation should contact the NFF as soon as possible. *Contact: Charlie McElhone.*