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*Background Information:*

AN EXCERPT FROM

**A NEW LOOK AT AGRICULTURE**



Redefining agriculture's role in our  
economy, landscape, environment  
& social culture

EXCERPT #1

*Guiding Principles*

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## **Guiding Principles -- A Global View**

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*I want to [share] a story about a boy – a very curious and inquisitive young boy – who had the opportunity to visit a submarine and was just fascinated at its ability to stay underwater for so long. So he asked the captain “What happens when submarines run out of fuel?” And the captain explained that they run on nuclear energy and can stay underwater for a decade or so.*

*“Well,” the boy asked, “what happens when they run out of drinking water?” And the captain explained all the different distillation methods they had to make sea water potable.*

*The boy persisted. “Well, what happens when they run out of air?” And the captain told him about their oxygen tanks and so forth.*

*Finally, the boy asked. “So when do submarines come up?”*

*“That’s easy,” the captain said, “when we run out of food.”*

*All the technology in the world can’t replace food, the most fundamental of human needs. It’s great to have fiber optic networks and high-definition televisions. But no one can create or use state-of-the-art innovations unless they eat their breakfast. It’s as simple as that.*

— Remarks by  
Dan Glickman  
Former Secretary of Agriculture, USDA  
at World Ag Congress, St. Louis, MO  
May 24, 1999

## ***Guiding Principles -- A Local View***

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*Agriculture is part of our essential habitat, in exactly the same way that wetlands are an essential habitat for wading birds.*

— Frank “Sonny” Williamson, Jr.  
Williamson Cattle Company  
Immediate past Chair, Governing Board,  
South Florida Water Management District

*For agriculture to be sustainable, there must be a recognition that farming is part of a larger natural and human ecosystem, every element of which is interconnected and interdependent.*

— John C. Folks  
Environmental Administrator  
Florida Department of Agriculture &  
Consumer Services

*No regulation, land use plan, import duty, tariff, purchase of development right or other governmental policy will be able to sustain agriculture if it is not profitable for individual operators — and their suppliers — to remain in business.*

— Craig Evans  
President, Florida Stewardship Foundation