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UN CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT URGES MASSIVE DIETARY CHANGE

At the Compassion in World Farming 2008 Peter Roberts Memorial Lecture yesterday (8 September), Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, called on individuals to cut their carbon footprints by transforming their diets.

Dr Pachauri highlighted the far-reaching impact of livestock farming. According to UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) figures, current global animal production is responsible for 18 per cent of all human-induced greenhouse gas emissions, with more than 60 billion farm animals reared each year. That figure is set to double by 2050 to meet the growing global demand for meat and dairy products. A radical shift in our diets is therefore needed to fight climate change.

“In every audience someone will ask what they can do to fight climate change in their personal lives. You can tell them about changing lightbulbs, switching off lights and so on. But I believe that what we can do without too much effort is to reduce meat consumption. I think that’s a lifestyle which each of us has within our powers to bring about,” Dr. Pachauri said.

As Dr. Pachauri outlined: “One kilo of beef is responsible for the equivalent of the amount of CO₂ emitted by the average European car every 250 kms.”

“Many proposals exist for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, but few have tackled the “sacred cow” issue of meat production and consumption,” says Joyce D’Silva, Ambassador for Compassion in World Farming. “Compassion’s message is to ask people in developed

countries to reduce meat consumption and choose only high welfare products. This will benefit animals, people and the planet."

Notes

- **Audio files (not broadcast quality) and photos of the lecture are available at www.ciwf.org.uk/080908**
- **Full transcription of the lecture will be available on request from Wednesday 10th September.**
- **Compassion's report, "Global Warning: Climate change and farm animal welfare" is available at www.ciwf.org.uk/globalwarning**

For further information:

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