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April 16, 2008

Letter to the Editor

In response to “U.N. Panel Urges Changes to Feed Poor While Saving Environment” in the *New York Times*, April 16, 2008

To the Editor: Re: “U.N. Panel Urges Changes to Feed Poor While Saving Environment” (April 16)

To prevent, or at least mitigate, a future food crisis like the current one, the focus of international aid and agricultural policies must be altered. The focus must now be on supporting the developing world’s rural women and men to take self-reliant actions to sustainably provide for their own food needs. Particular attention must be on empowering rural women. They farm most of their communities’ food, yet are thwarted in this endeavor by severe, entrenched gender discrimination.

Jill Lester
President & CEO
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