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For Immediate Release

ICRW Praises Introduction of Global Food Security Act in House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 26, 2009 – *ICRW President Geeta Rao Gupta issued the following statement today upon the introduction of the Global Food Security Act (H.R. 3077) in the House of Representatives. The bill, introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), integrates the role of women farmers in its call for U.S. foreign assistance to promote food security and agricultural development.*

Women farmers produce a majority of the food in developing countries – despite limited access to credit, information, land, tools and technology. With the appropriate investments, women can be key economic agents of change in their roles as farmers, entrepreneurs and wage laborers. Moreover, when women can generate income through agriculture, they are more likely to spend it on improving their families' nutrition, health and education.

The Global Food Security Act recognizes this and calls for a strategy that will “prioritize and support the central role of women” in efforts to make U.S. agricultural development initiatives more effective.

ICRW commends Rep. McCollum for seizing this opportunity to invest in women farmers and harvest the pay-offs of improved food security and boosted agricultural economic growth to reduce poverty and hunger.

ABOUT ICRW: The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a leading Washington, D.C.-based international research organization with offices in India and Uganda that works to advance gender equality and human rights, fight poverty, and promote sustainable economic and social development for all. Learn more about ICRW and its work at www.icrw.org.

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