

## Press Release

5 December, 2013

### **Impax Food and Agriculture Fund Strong performance in first year**

Impax Asset Management (“Impax”) marks the first anniversary of its Food & Agriculture Fund. The net asset value per share has risen 16.5%\* per cent over the year, compared to 10.0% per cent for the MSCI All Country World Index Agriculture and Food Chain, and performance is considerably ahead of most other funds in the sector.

Michael Landymore, Investment Manager of the Fund commented:

“We have had a strong first year. Flexible allocation between the food and agriculture sectors has enabled us to minimise the impact of volatile agricultural commodity prices. We also benefitted from our stock selection, including investments in bid targets Heinz and Cermaq.”

The Fund invests from “dirt to dinner” to give investors exposure across the Food and Agriculture chain. These two sectors are complementary. Food companies are largely characterised by steady growth, low volatility of returns and cash generation, whereas agriculture stocks tend to be more volatile and offer investors some indirect exposure to soft commodities, while reducing risk compared with direct investment. Impax believes that a dynamic allocation across both sectors produces superior risk-adjusted returns.

The investable universe of these two sectors is large and diverse, currently comprising some 1,100 stocks with a combined market capitalisation of approximately US\$ 4 trillion. The fund is a concentrated, conviction-driven portfolio of well-diversified companies with higher quality and generally less volatile earnings streams.

Over recent months production surpluses have dented palm oil, sugar, coffee and cotton margins. These lower prices of many soft commodities should help livestock producers, food processors and consumers, but are likely to be negative for farm machinery and agricultural input purchases. Ratings across the agriculture sector have fallen - notably in fertiliser stocks following this summer’s ‘Great Potash Crash’- while consumer staples companies generally continue to trade at a premium.

With regard to the outlook for the sectors, Michael continued:

“It is too early to call a significant re-allocation back to upstream agriculture. However the conditions for a rebound in 2015/16, weather shocks aside, will be laid down in the coming months, and stocks are beginning to look attractive on a longer term basis. “

“We will continue to navigate our way between the two sectors via a high conviction, concentrated portfolio, biased to well diversified companies with consistent, low volatility returns, on attractive valuations.”

*\* Data as of start of first full month. Impax Food and Agriculture Fund launched on 30 November 2012, data shown is for sterling A accumulating or equivalent.*

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**Notes to Editors**

**The Impax Food and Agriculture fund – our perspective and approach**

The fund is a UCITS IV sub-fund of Impax Funds (Ireland) plc, and is managed by Michael Landymore and Simon Higgs who joined Impax in April 2012. The managers have an in-depth knowledge of the food and agriculture sectors and over 50 years' combined investment experience.

Geographic exposure is currently: Europe 50%, North America 37%, Asia Pacific (ex Japan) 9% and Japan 3%.

**Top Ten Holdings (as at 30 November 2013)**

Company	Sector	Country	Holding (%)
Royal Ahold NV	Distribution & Commercial Services	Netherlands	4.2
AGCO Corporation	Machinery & Equipment	United States	4.2
E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company	Diversified Food & Agriculture	United States	4.2
Yara International ASA	Agricultural Inputs	Norway	4.0
Royal DSM NV	Diversified Food & Agriculture	Netherlands	3.9
Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc	Basic Foods	United States	3.7
Nutreco NV	Agricultural Inputs	Netherlands	3.7
Casion Guichard-Perrachon SA	Distribution & Commercial Services	France	3.7
Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc	Beverages	United States	3.6
Lindsay Corporation	Machinery & Equipment	United States	3.5
<b>Total allocation to top 10 holdings</b>			<b>38.7</b>

**About Impax Asset Management**

Founded in 1998, Impax Asset Management was one of the world's first managers dedicated to identifying the investment opportunities in resource efficiency and environmental markets and demand for cleaner, more efficient products and services through listed and private equity strategies.

Impax now manages £2.3 billion\* for investors globally, and is committed to providing strong long-term risk-adjusted returns.

The company's team of 28 investment professionals has been assembled over 15 years. Impax's listed equity funds seek out mispriced companies that are set to benefit from the long-term trends of changing demographics, rising consumption, limited natural resources and urbanisation.

Investment is focused on the alternative energy, water, waste, food, agriculture and related markets. Impax's private equity infrastructure funds invest in power generation assets in the renewable energy sector.

*\*as of 31 October, 2013*

*Impax Asset Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.*