

Future of Food

VDW Project Food and Conflicts
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Conference: Beyond the Crossroads

Introductory Remarks

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Organisational Details

International Conference Berlin, Germany

9—10 November, 2011

Beyond the Crossroads:

New Issues, Persistent Problems.

Linking food security, sustainability science
and sustainability politics

Federation of German Scientists, Germany (FGS)

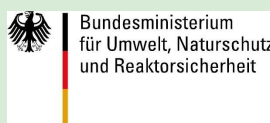
Organizer:

VDW VEREINIGUNG DEUTSCHER
WISSENSCHAFTLER E.V.

Co-Organizers:



Sponsors:



Persistent Problems

Since in April 2008 the final Intergovernmental Panel in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, has accepted the reports and summaries of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), its core questions and issues have become even more urgent. How to

- reduce hunger and poverty,
- improve rural livelihoods and human health, and
- reach equitable, socially, environmentally and economically sustainable development?

While many international political summits and conferences on hunger and international aid have been taken place and pleasant final communiqués been aired, real politics in most countries turned out to do business as usual. Just the same pattern we've seen following the I. Assessment Report (AR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1990. But at the time when the IV. AR of the IPCC has been published in 2007, national and global politics finally noticed, taking the findings and conclusions seriously and indicating that it is of utmost importance to deliver complex assessments to decision makers not once but time and again. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG), especially MDG 1 might not be accomplished until 2015, other MDG show also a very mixed balance. In 2011, as in 2010, nearly one billion people are suffering from hunger.

New Issues

Additionally, some drivers and issues turn out to contribute to economic, social and institutional results, which might counteract MDG and the findings of IAASTD, such as

- policies subsidizing fuels from biomass for transportation in the EU and other countries, resulting in conflicts and competition on land also in food-insecure countries,
- rapid growth of foreign and domestic investments in land, foremost in countries of the South, for industrial and food export purposes, exacerbating conflicts on land especially for the most vulnerable peoples,
- expansion of global, vertical integrated agro-food corporations in many not and newly industrialized countries, such not only building an overwhelming power with regard to producers but also shaping a consumers culture which heavily relies on fat, sugars and processed food,
- global agro-food corporations also use and promote industrialized forms of poultry-, pork- and cattle-farming, such maximising environmental and health impacts.

On the other hand, many signs of an agriculture, which sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people all over the world, give hope and evidence that agriculture is essential for socially fair and ecologically sustainable development and for poverty eradication.

Linking food security, sustainability science and sustainability politics

The time is right to convene an initiative to analyse the impact of IAASTD, to look at emerging issues and to strengthen endeavours for a permanent assessment on agriculture within a broad, participatory, and transparent global network in which UN-organisations like UNEP and FAO play a key role as much as civil society organisations, scientists and interested national governments from the South and the North.

To support this aim, we have launched a "Berlin Declaration" with which as many scientists, decision makers and civil society representatives can declare their commitment to the sake of a regular global agricultural assessment.

To sign the Declaration, please visit
www.zukunftderernaehrung.org.

Organisational Details

Venues

International Conference: Urania Berlin e.V.
An der Urania 17
10787 Berlin

Public Event: Rotes Rathaus Berlin
Rathausstraße 15
10178 Berlin

Registration and questions please via email to:
info@zukunftderernaehrung.org
via fax to: +49 30 2065 4858

Registration fee

EUR 20,- / reduced EUR 5,-

Bank details: VDW e.V.
GLS-Bank
BLZ 43060967
Account No. 4022787501

Keyword: „Beyond the Crossroads Conference“

Provisional Conference Program

Beyond the Crossroads: New Issues & Persistent Problems. Linking food security, sustainability science & sustainability politics.

- As of September 14th, 2011—

Wednesday, November 9th 2011

Main Focus: Analysis

10.30 Welcome & Opening

Ulrich Bartosch, Chair FGS, Germany

PLENARY SESSION

10.45 Global food security: How to get the camel through the eye of the needle

Hans Herren, Millenium Institute, USA

11.15 IAASTD, MDGs and sustainability politics. Progress, back lash and how to overcome the main obstacles

Achim Steiner, UNEP, Germany

11.45 Scientific, traditional and local knowledge. Paradigms and organization of sustainability oriented R&D for food security

Janice Jiggins, Wageningen University, Netherlands (t.b.c.)

12.15 Human rights, food security and conflicts

Ellen Messer, University of Brandeis, USA

14.00 PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS

1. Important Issues—old and new

Anita Idel, FGS, Germany

Elba Rivera Urbina, W8 Oxfam Int., Nicaragua

Folkhard Isermeyer, Thuenen-Institute, Germany

Michael Krawinkel, University of Giessen, Germany

2. A Plethora of Conflicts

Caroline Kruckow, Church Development Service, Germany
Ellen Messer, USA

Maryam Rahmanian, FAO Vice Chair HLPE Steering Committee, Iran

Michael Windfuhr, German Institute for Human Rights
Sergei Alexanian, N.I. Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry, Russia

3. Reception and perceptions of the IAASTD-Reports

Benedikt Haerlin, Foundation on Future Farming, Germany
Judy Wakhungu, African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya

Molly Anderson, College of the Atlantic, USA

Rudolf Buntzel, Church Development Service, Germany

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4. Green Economy: Challenges for Agriculture

(organized by the Forum on Environment & Development)

Harald Grethe, University of Hohenheim, Germany

Horst Fehrenbach, Institute for Energy & Environmental Research, Germany (t.b.c.)

18.00 Presentations of the WGs recommendations

Thursday, November 10th, 2011

Main Focus: Strategies towards IAASTD 2

PLENARY SESSION

09.00 Building a global assessment cluster for sustainability politics

Joachim Schellnhuber, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany (t.b.c.)

09.30 Linking food policies to sustainable agriculture

Alexander Mueller, FAO, via video

09.45 Listening to the voices of the future: Presentation of young academics from the „Future of Food“ Summer School

Haiyan Peng, China;

Sisira Saddhamangala Withanachchi, Sri Lanka

10.05 Discussion

10.35 Core strategic issues

Hartmut Vogtmann, German League for Nature & Environment, Germany

11.15 PARALLEL STRATEGY WORKING GROUPS

Strategies towards IAASTD 2—WG1

Introductory statements:

Andreas Schriber, BioVision, Switzerland

Elba Rivera Urbina, Nicaragua

Kenneth Whittaker, Ghanaean Poultry Producers Organization

Ute Sprenger, journalist and consultant, Germany

Strategies towards IAASTD 2—WG2

Introductory statements:

Angelika Hilbeck, Swiss Fed. Institute of Technology

Markus Arbenz, IFOAM, Switzerland

Maryam Rahmanian, Iran

Patricia Martins, MST, Brazil

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Strategies: What role for agriculture at Rio +20? —WG3

(organized by the Forum on Environment & Development)

Introductory statements:

Ulrich Hoffmann, UNCTAD, Germany (t.b.c.)

Michael Windfuhr, Germany

Rudolph Buntzel, Germany

Sophia Murphy, IATP, USA (t.b.c.)

14.00 Presentation of the WGs recommendations and discussion

Hartmut Graßl, former director World Climate Research Prg., laureate of the environment prize of the DBU, Germany

14.45 Roundtable: Next steps ahead

Andreas Schriber, Switzerland

David Segovia, Bank of the South, Ecuador

Folkhard Isermeyer, Germany

Judy Wakhungu, Kenya

Maryam Rahmanian, Iran

Kanayo Felix Nwanze, President IFAD, Nigeria (t.b.c.)

16.30 Concluding remarks & presentation of the Berlin Declaration

Stephan Albrecht, FGS, Germany

19:00 PUBLIC EVENT at CITY HALL BERLIN

„Courageous Commitment to a world without hunger—
Mutiges Engagement für eine Welt ohne Hunger.“

Key note speakers:

- David Segovia, Bank of the South, Ecuador
- Elba Rivera Urbina, W8 Oxfam Int., Nicaragua
- Hartmut Graßl, former director of World Climate Research Program, laureate of the environment prize of the DBU
- Joseph Sayer, MISEREOR, Germany

Roundtable:

Hans Herren, Vice-Chair of IAASTD, laureate of world food price
• Ilse Aigner, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (t.b.c.)
• Judy Wakhungu, African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya
• Maryam Rahmanian, Vice-Chair of High Level Panel of Experts, Committee on Food Security, FAO, Iran

Moderator: Christine Grefe, DIE ZEIT, Germany