



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

**GLOBAL**  
FORUM OF FOOD  
AND  
AGRICULTURE

# Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2014

## Summary of Results





# Foreword



## Dear Readers

The 6<sup>th</sup> Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), held during the International Green Week (IGW) 2014, exceeded our expectations: representatives of 65 countries from across the globe engaged in joint and constructive discussions on the role of agriculture in ensuring global food security. Under the heading „Empowering Agriculture: Fostering Resilience – Securing Food and Nutrition”, the participants discussed what contribution agriculture and rural areas could make towards meeting a constantly growing global population’s need for healthy food. The answer that we elaborated at the GFFA 2014 is clear: the key is to have an efficient, adaptable and resilient agricultural sector.

Together with 65 ministers of agriculture, the international organisations FAO and UNEP, the World Bank, and the EU Commission, we were able, during the 6<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers’ Summit, to reach agreement on specific areas of action. In our jointly adopted communiqué, we build on three fundamental pillars: using diversity – ensuring sustainability – increasing productivity. We are consequently providing important impetus for agriculture and food security. The results will be fed into the United Nations’ current discussion on the shaping of sustainability goals for the post-2015 agenda.

I would like, on my own behalf and on behalf of my predecessor in office, former Federal Minister Dr. Hans-Peter Friedrich, to warmly thank all active participants at the GFFA, the high-level representatives of the international organisations, the panel participants and all the panel organisers for their commitment and their interesting contributions to the discussions. You were all instrumental in making the GFFA such a success. This brochure contains the results of the GFFA, which clearly show the development the GFFA has undergone over recent years and what it has become, namely one of the most important discussion platforms for future challenges that will confront the global agricultural and food sectors.

I would be delighted to be able to welcome you to next year’s GFFA.

**Christian Schmidt, MdB**

Member of the German Bundestag  
Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture

## What is the GFFA?



Entrance to the Business Lounge



Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit

The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) is an international conference that focuses on central questions concerning the future of the global agri-food industry. It is held during International Green Week (IGW) and took place in its current shape for the sixth time. The forum gives representatives from the worlds of politics, business, science and civil society an opportunity to share ideas and enhance political understanding on a selected topic of current agricultural policy within the context of food security. The GFFA is organised by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in cooperation with GFFA Berlin e.V., the Senate of Berlin and Messe Berlin GmbH.

## Kick-off event: A strong agricultural sector as a key to securing food and nutrition

**How can the agricultural sector be strengthened and made resilient enough to secure food and nutrition for a growing world population? This was the main issue of this year's Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA).**

For the first time, an official kick-off event was held to mark the start of the discussions between high-level experts of the global agri-food sector from politics, industry, science and civil society that took place from 16 to 18 January 2014. The kick-off event aimed to give an introduction to the topic, outlining its manifold aspects and paving the way for the discussions hosted by the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in cooperation with the GFFA Berlin Association, the Berlin Senate and Messe Berlin GmbH.

In his welcoming address, *Peter Bleser*, the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, underlined the key role agriculture plays in the context of global food security. „A sustainable and efficient agricultural sector is essential,“ said Mr. Bleser, introducing the core issues of the discussions to around 1,000 guests. He outlined the various challenges facing agriculture and rural areas by referring to increasing

insecurity caused by climate change, finite natural resources and rising price fluctuations on international agricultural markets. He said that three elements were of major importance in order to maintain an efficient, adaptable and resilient agricultural sector: to use production diversity, to secure sustainability and to increase productivity.

Mr. Bleser emphasized that the GFFA had become something of an institution and a driving force for international questions in the field of agriculture and food policies. „We are thus also contributing to further progress being made in overcoming global hunger,“ Mr. Bleser underlined.

In her welcoming address, *Sabine Toepfer-Kataw*, State Secretary of Justice and Consumer Protection to the Berlin Senate, identified a wish on the part of consumers to be offered a broad range of high-quality food at affordable prices. She said that in this context it was important to promote awareness that you cannot get good products for nothing.

*Sir Gordon Conway*, Professor of International Development at Imperial College London, emphasized the need for a sustainable increase in productivity in his speech. He stated that, currently, more than half a billion



Peter Bleser, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture



Sabine Toepfer-Kataw, State Secretary at the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection

people were chronically undernourished. Prof. Conway predicted that the demand for food would increase by 60% to 100% by 2050, due to a rise in world population and changing dietary habits in emerging countries such as China and India. In Mr. Conway's view, this shows the enormous challenge for which solution strategies are needed.

He described his solution concept as „sustainable intensification“. In short, he said, it was necessary „to produce more with less“. He went on to say that the agricultural sector's ability to cope with external influences such as climate changes and price volatilities needed to be improved. In this regard, Mr. Conway outlined three core approaches: he said that, firstly, more agricultural ecology and more diversity were needed; that secondly, biotechnology and biogenetics should be used, for example in order to make plants more resilient by using special fertilisers or to breed more resilient varieties; and, that thirdly, the socio-economic environment should be improved, i.e. farmers should be given better access to markets, and efficient value-added chains should be generated.

This speech was followed by a panel discussion moderated by *Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun* from the Center for Development Research at Bonn University, in the course of which *Ashish Bahuguna*, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India, emphasized the importance of market access, in particular for agricultural stakeholders with small holdings. He stated that they required bargaining power to be able to reach acceptable prices for their products. He continued by saying that this was why the Indian Government supported these farmers to join forces in organisations. He went on to state that, in his opinion, the central problem of the farming sector was that it lacked a strong voice. To this end, he claimed, the agricultural sector needed the governments' support. A number of experts from the audience made further contributions to the discussion. The Global Director of Plant Science and External Research of Mars Incorporated, *Howard Shapiro*, pointed to the necessary urgency, as he said that undernourished children could not wait until political solutions were agreed on and applied. He stated that this required „uncommon collaboration“ by different stakeholders striving to realize the common objective of achieving sustainable development.

*Christel Weller-Molongua* from Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) explained that, apart from having access to land, the issue of legal and ownership security was of critical importance to farmers, in particular small-scale family farms. She also emphasized that diversity should include the gender question.

*Dr. Eckart Guth* of GFFA Berlin e.V. and former Ambassador to the EU, WTO and the United Nations, underlined the need to reduce trade barriers. He said that this would help to increase prosperity. Referring to the progress achieved at the WTO Conference held in Bali in December 2013, he stated that important steps forward had been taken, but that these steps had been small and further steps would have to follow.

Finally, *Marita Wiggerthale* from the non-governmental organisation Oxfam reminded the audience not to focus solely on technical advances when looking for possible solutions, but to also consider overcoming existing structural inequalities. She stated that, in her view, farmers with small holdings were most vulnerable in structural terms and thus needed to be given greater attention.

In conclusion, *Gordon Conway* spoke of Norman Borlaug who was born 100 years ago and is considered to be the father of the Green Revolution. He appealed to the audience, saying that more men and women with this kind of „can-do attitude“ were needed to meet the challenges facing agriculture and global food supply.

The participants, inspired by these words, set about putting them into action by carrying the impetus gained from the kick-off event into a total of 21 in-depth expert panel discussions and four Working meetings held by the European Commission, the World Bank, the World Food Organisation FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP.



# GFFA expert panel discussions and working meetings

**The second day of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2014 was dominated by intensive discussions in technical and working meetings.**

The successful kick-off event for this year's GFFA was followed by intensive technical debates about possible solutions for strengthening agriculture. „Strong” agriculture in this sense means agriculture which adapts to new challenges, copes with crises and consequently plays a key role in ensuring global food security.

There are many different aspects to the subject, and just as many ideas about how to achieve this goal. Within the scope of the GFFA, a number of different organisers from politics, industry, science and civil society therefore hosted a total of 21 expert panel discussions, inviting participants to discuss this core subject from different angles and as it related to different regions. This ensured that the GFFA was closely meshed with current scientific thinking.

These events brought the international „Who is Who” of the agri-food sector to the International Congress Centre (ICC) under Berlin's radio tower. It was not just the expert panel discussions which were well attended. The corridors and hallways of the ICC were also crowded. Because discussions were not carried out in

the conference rooms alone. It was also an opportunity to exchange opinions, forge cooperative ties and discuss findings behind the scenes. This exchange may have been quieter than the large-scale kick-off event on Thursday, but it was by no means less interesting, and it was marked by a high level of expertise. This meet-and-greet was at least as important for most of the experts taking part as the flurry of flashbulbs during the larger events. At the GFFA, just as at other events, it is the mix that matters.

One subject the experts discussed was how to ensure that natural resources were managed sustainably. As it will be essential for future food security that natural resources are used in a manner which ensures that they are still available for future generations. Strategies for the sustainable use of plants, soil and water are therefore essential for achieving the goal of sustainable agriculture, as are issues relating to sustainable animal husbandry.

An adaptable and resilient agricultural sector requires diversity. The discussions in the expert panels also focused on how this diversity could be achieved using different methods of cultivation, a corresponding approach to plant breeding and the use of particular seed.

Other panels of experts applied themselves to the subject of increasing productivity in agriculture i.e. to issues related to know-how development, technology transfer and the contribution of research and development. Because increasing productivity is regarded as essential for having any chance of meeting the food demands of a growing global population.

All fora focused on the core subjects of sustainability, diversity and productivity, but discussions also covered other topics, such as the necessity of „good governance”, i.e. of successful interplay between government, industry and civil society. Likewise, discussions also addressed the increasing volatility of the international agricultural markets and the challenges arising from this.



Expert panel discussion

Following the expert panel discussions, a number of working meetings on the above subjects were held by the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Environmental Programme of the United Nations and the World Bank.

The European Commission emphasised that the resilience of the agricultural sector was a matter accorded particular attention in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The Commission said that, following last year's reform of the CAP, there was now an even greater focus on climate-compatible agriculture. It went on to state that it was also important for there to be coherence between agricultural and development policy. It said that the EU had taken an important step forward in this regard by lifting subsidies for products being exported to Africa.

The UNEP focused on the importance of healthy ecosystems as a basis for food security. It stated that, in view of the scarcity of water and soil resources, it was necessary to resolve the issue of how production can be structured so that it does not destroy its own foundations. The UNEP presented successful sustainable measures taken in the field of cocoa production and seed diversity in this regard.

The World Bank's conference concentrated on three principles for the future of the global food industry. These were: 1.) ensuring adequate food for a growing population (9 billion people by 2050), 2.) fostering the resilience of the agricultural sector; and 3.) reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of agricultural systems. The World Bank stated that functioning governance structures at international level were indispensable for implementing these principles.



Speaker at the FAO working meeting



Speaker at an expert panel discussion

The FAO's discussions concentrated on efficient and healthy food systems. The FAO identified the three greatest challenges as being climate change, food security and the growing demand for animal products (milk, eggs, meat). However, particular attention was also paid to consumers. Because the FAO working group also focused on the issue of consumer knowledge, consumer expectations and consumer information as being basic elements that go to make up a healthy diet.

The results of the working meetings were fed into the 6<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit on Saturday, 18.01.2014, and integrated into the final communiqué.



# GFFA Working Meeting European Commission



## „Designing measures to make rural households resilient to food security shocks”

### Panel participants:

**Bence Toth**, GD AGRI (EG)

**Jean Pierre Halkin** – GD DEVCO (EG)

**HAMADOUN Mahalmoudou**, CILSS

**Bernhard Pacher**, CEO, ADCON

**Ann Tutwiler**, Bioversity International

### Facilitator:

**John A Clarke**, Direktor, GD AGRI (EG)

Comprising experts from the European Commission, Bioversity International, CILSS<sup>1</sup> and a private sector representative (ADCON, a firm involved in telemetry and weather stations) the panel recognised that the frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters, mainly impacting the poor, has increased in recent years. Studies show that the trend is likely to be further exacerbated by climate change and other factors such as demographic trends and urbanisation, and consequently should be addressed immediately through improved capacities for anticipation, prevention and resilience.

In October 2012 the European Commission published a report entitled „The EU Approach to Resilience: Learning from Food Security Crises“ addressing such issues. The EU has launched two major initiatives to improve resilience among vulnerable populations – „SHARE“ (*Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience*) and „AGIR“ in West Africa (*Alliance Globale pour l'Initiative Resilience*). For AGIR, the aim is to mobilise €1.5bn for the period



Bence Toth

2014–2020 specifically to support resilience building in West Africa. The focus is on vulnerable populations, improving development / humanitarian coherence and addressing the root causes of food crisis.

The panel discussion underlined that building the resilience of farmers is increasingly being recognized as a key driver for sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods. For example, in the EU, the reformed CAP provides a broad list of instruments geared towards fostering resilience through reducing income variability, maintaining productive capacity, promoting innovation, disseminating knowledge and managing risks among others.

1 Comit\_ permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la S\_cheresse dans le Sahel.



from left Jean Pierre Halkin, HAMADOUN Mahalmoudou, John A Clarke, Ann Tutwiler, Bernhard Pacher, Bence Toth

The Discussion also signalled a clear warning that agricultural activity in many parts of the world relies too heavily on too narrow a diversity of crops, to the extent that sustainable food and nutrition security is being put at risk. The panellists highlighted the potential role that biodiversity can play in increasing resilience in terms of pest and disease control, disaster mitigation and crop stability, but this presupposes strong national conservation and use policies. There is also increasing awareness that a greater understanding and emphasis of ecosystem resilience is required to reach the goal of sustainable development. Innovation partnerships aim to provide a working interface between agriculture, bio-economy, science and others.

There was a demand for more research on minor/orphan crops as well as on the costs/benefits of index insurance and their applicability on a larger scale.

An important aspect is that when it comes to building resilience to food security shocks a coherent multidisciplinary approach is required that encompasses economic, environmental and territorial / social sustainability, involving, amongst others, economic, social, health policies as well.

# GFFA Working Meeting United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



## „Feeding the world in harmony with nature“

### Panel participants:

**Mr. Scander Mekersi**, Director of Investments  
Programming and Economic Studies in the Algerian  
Ministry of Agriculture

**Stephan Weise**, Deputy Director General, Bioversity  
International

**Marie Haga**, Executive Director of the Crop Diversity  
Trust

**Edward Millard**, Director, Program Design &  
Development, Sustainable Agriculture, Rainforest  
Alliance – „Greening the Cocoa Industry Project“

**Salman Hussain**, Coordinator, The Economics of  
Ecosystems and Biodiversity – „Policy scenarios and the  
TEEB study on Agriculture & Food“

### Facilitator:

**Achim Steiner**, UNEP Executive Director

The debate on food security to date has largely revolved around maximizing production, distribution and access while minimizing production and post-consumption losses, with little formal recognition of the importance of managing the ecosystem services and biodiversity that secure the foundation for our food system. This session sought to catalyze discussion on the importance of healthy ecosystems as a basis for food security and sustainable natural resource use policies, in both terrestrial agricultural landscapes and marine and



Edward Millard

freshwater fisheries in the context of resilient food systems. The session highlighted concrete and successful actions aimed at building robust and resilient food systems including through a landscape approach that are underpinned by restoration and management of ecosystems.

video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaouOWx3Bmo>  
from the [www.thinkeatsave.org](http://www.thinkeatsave.org)

# GFFA Working Meeting Worldbank



THE WORLD BANK

## „Climate smart agriculture – Three principles for the future of global food systems”

### Panel participants:

**Howard Shapiro**, Chief Agricultural Officer and Global Director of Plant Science and External Research, MARS Inc.

**Sonja Vermeulen**, Head of Research, CGIAR-CCAFS

**Jean-Francois Soussana**, Scientific Director, INRA

**Sir Gordon Conway**, Professor, Center for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London; Director, Agriculture for Impact

### Facilitators:

**Rachel Kyte**, World Bank Group vice president and special envoy for climate change

**Tobias Baedeker**, Task Force to Catalyze Climate Action, Worldbank



from left Rachel Kyte, Howard Shapiro, Jean-Francois Soussana, Sonja Vermeulen, Sir Gordon Conway

In his keynote address, AG *Kawamura* noted that innovation would be necessary to achieve food and nutrition security in the context of a changing climate, changing demand patterns and population growth. He highlighted the fact that we would have to use our imagination to produce sustainably, to use any space and technology available to feed 9+ billion people in 2050.

The second part of the working meeting presented two short films about how farmers have been able to find innovative and sustainable ways to raise their cattle while reducing emissions – because it made sense to them economically. In “Happy Cows”, Costa Rican cattle farmers found ways to protect the environment while reaping economic benefits. In “Feed the Food”, North American cattle farmers also employed sustainable strategies that were good for their farms and their wallets.

In the panel discussion, panellists discussed how climate change would affect agriculture, including through higher temperatures, increased water stress, more variable rainfall, sea level rise, and extreme weather events. Agriculture is the sector most vulnerable to climate change – particularly for smallholders, women and vulnerable groups. The group also indicated that agriculture was a major contributor to climate change, directly accounting for about 14 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, or approximately 30 percent including land-use change. Panellists noted the urgency of climate-smart actions in the agricultural sector, and Dr. *Soussana* highlighted the importance of mitigating agricultural emissions, emphasizing that agriculture could quickly become the primary source of emissions if immediate action were not taken.

However, agriculture can also be a part of the solution: helping people to feed themselves by empowering farmers to increase productivity, adapting to changing conditions through enhanced resilience and mitigating climate change through a reduction in GHG emissions and carbon sequestration. Dr. *Vermeulen* referenced a number of climate smart agriculture examples, including experiences in Ethiopia, Morocco and Niger. In one example, positive incentives towards planting trees initiated by the government reduced erosion, increased nitrogen in the soils and increased carbon storage in the trees, while also improving farmers’ livelihoods. Sir Conway mentioned that the key challenge is to sustainably intensify while building resilience and lowering emissions, and to integrate these dimensions into the core of the agricultural system.

Dr. *Shapiro* indicated the need for new forms of global collaboration to meet the challenges we are facing. No one institution or country has the breadth of capacities needed to catalyze systemic change on these multi-faceted challenges. Governments, farmer organizations, the scientific community, the private sector, civil society organizations and international organizations will have to build on their important ongoing work and achieve scale by engaging in new forms of partnerships. An Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture is bringing together these diverse actors to form a ‘coalition of the working’.

The event was able to actively engage a technical audience. The question and answer session towards the end was animated and interesting, inspiring a spontaneous call for action from the Minister of Agriculture of Zambia, *Hon. Robert Sichinga*. There was broad consensus on the need to think about new strategies for feeding the world sustainably in the face of climate change and the need to reduce emissions from agriculture. On the resilience side, there was a particular focus on the increasing frequency of pests and diseases caused by even minor climatic changes. The session illustrated these challenges, discussed what actions were needed and pointed towards ways we can deliver action at scale.



# Cooperation Market



Information booths at the cooperation market

In 2014, many different institutions again used the Cooperation Market as an opportunity to showcase their activities in the agri-food sector. In contrast to the exhibition halls at the International Green Week, the focus here is primarily on the presentation of specific projects. Hence the Cooperation Market has a particular role to play in this setup. An activity in the margins of other events – networking – occupies centre stage at this Market .

Therefore the Cooperation Market is an ideal platform for exchange and for establishing contacts. This year it was attended by a total of 36 national and international exhibitors, including associations and companies, but

also universities, institutions and non-governmental organisations involved in agriculture and international cooperation.

Hence Parliamentary State Secretary Peter Bleser underlined at the opening ceremony of the Cooperation Market: „We are very happy to gather such a big and diverse group of exhibitors here. This means that there are manifold and exciting opportunities for networking”

Numerous trade visitors seized the opportunity and got established contact with the exhibitors.

## International GFFA Panel

**The International GFFA Panel featured high-level representatives from politics, science, research and civil society discussing ways to overcome hunger and malnutrition through an efficient and resilient agricultural sector.**

„Empowering Agriculture: Fostering Resilience – Securing Food and Nutrition”; this was the motto of the International GFFA Panel on Saturday 18 January 2014, which was held as part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA).

A glance at the data shows how relevant this subject is: according to estimates by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), there are 842 million people suffering from hunger worldwide. That represents 12 percent of the global population. Malnutrition has a severe impact on the development of a further two billion people. In view of the fact that the global population is expected to rise from today’s level of seven billion to nine billion people by 2050, it is evident that the ability to strengthen agriculture will play a decisive role in food security.

Agriculture itself, however, is confronted by a major need to adapt. Scarcity of resources, climate change, natural catastrophes, economic and financial crises, and a lack of access to innovations, capital and education – these are all challenges for which solutions must be found.

In his welcoming address, *Hans-Peter Friedrich*, the former Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, underlined the fact that the realisation of the human right to food was the central challenge of our century. He said that, to cope with this challenge, it was essential to have an adaptable, efficient and resilient agricultural sector. He went on to say that the sector should be based on three main pillars: firstly, the preservation and use of diversity in terms of plant varieties and breeds of animal; secondly, the sustainable use of natural resources; and thirdly, an increase in the productivity of agricultural production. In order to achieve these goals, Friedrich underlined the need for international co-operation. „The responsibility for global food security is a responsibility that we all share,” said Friedrich and at the same time thanked the many representatives of governments,

international organisations, scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations and civil society for their exchange of ideas and experiences during the GFFA.

*Gerda Verburg*, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at the World Food Organisation (FAO), started the discussion by giving a keynote speech. She made it clear that it required a high degree of international cooperation between different stakeholders in order to strengthen agriculture. She said that factors that played a particularly important role included agricultural investments, access to education, research results and security of property in land use. She went on to say that small family farms required particular support as they were the most vulnerable. She called upon policy-makers to not only develop solution-oriented approaches, but to also ensure that these approaches were put into action.

A high-ranking panel then discussed solution concepts:

- Liam Condon, CEO at Bayer CropScience;
- Sir Gordon Conway, Professor for International Development at Imperial College London;
- Hans Herren, President of the Millennium Institute Arlington;
- Maryam Rahmanian, researcher at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam;
- Robert Sichinga, Minister of Agriculture in Zambia;



Gerda Verburg



from left Philip von dem Bussche, Dunja Hayali, Robert Sichinga, Hans-Peter Friedrich, Athanasios Tsiftaris, Maryam Rahmanian, Liam Condon, Sir Gordon Conway

- Gerd Sonnleitner, UN Goodwill Ambassador for the „International Year of Family Farming“ and the former President of the German Farmers’ Association;
- Athanasios Tsiftaris, Minister of Rural Development and Food in Greece; and
- Philip von dem Bussche, CEO of KWS SAAT AG.

The panel was moderated by the journalist *Dunja Hayali*. Her main question to the panel was: what role does agriculture play in food security? With reference to the core topics of productivity, sustainability, genetic engineering, family farming and governance, it was discussed how agriculture could be made able to deal with the future challenge of feeding a growing global population. The panel discussion made one thing above all clear: there can be no quick and easy answer, given the many facets of the task. The empirical reports and viewpoints were as varied as the composition of the panel. And despite this, by the end of the morning it was clear that agriculture could, and had to, make a central contribution towards alleviating hunger in the world.

*Robert Sichinga* reported on his experiences regarding the agricultural sector in Zambia. He said that smallholder farmers were essential in Zambia. He went on to say that it was Zambia’s goal to put smallholder farmers in a position both to feed their families and to make a profit from their production. He continued by saying that Zambia therefore supported the agricultural sector with subsidies which accounted for 50% of the agricultural budget of the country in order, for example, to provide seed and fertilisers.

*Liam Condon* stated that, in his view, greater openness to public-private partnerships was required. He said that this would facilitate access to innovations which, in turn, established the basis for increases in productivity. He emphasised in this regard that it was necessary to have a stable political environment and a legal system with a secure, long-term foundation.





Robert Sichinga

For *Maryam Rahmanian*, smallholder farmers' lack of power in the political and economic process constituted a core problem in rural development. She called for smallholder farmers to be better supported and family farms to be better integrated.

*Athanasios Tsiftaris* explained that Greece was already following this path. He said that his country was helping smallholder farmers to form organisations and consequently to strengthen their negotiating strength in respect of policy makers and the market.

*Gerd Sonnleitner* underlined that family farms were important factors for ensuring the stability of rural regions. He called in this context for a worldwide right of ownership and for the access of farmers to education, infrastructure and loans to be improved. He said that this was part of good governance and that good governance paid off in the end. He continued by saying that levels of hunger were particularly low wherever family farms had reliable overall conditions.

*Sir Gordon Conway* believed that, logically, it was political leaders who held the key for sustainable and productive agriculture and that they should make agriculture a political priority.

*Philip von dem Bussche* underlined the important role that seed and corresponding advances in breeding played for increasing productivity in the agricultural sector. He said that genetic engineering was an important aspect, but not the most important. While *Conway* considered genetic engineering to be indispensable in the fight against devastation and diseases, *Hans Herren* believed that yields could also be significantly increased with local varieties. He thought that healthy soil and soil fertility were far more important aspects than genetically engineered seeds. *Sichinga* emphasised that Zambia was not relying on genetic engineering as this technology was not considered sufficiently controllable.



Gerd Sonnleitner



2014  
International  
Year of  
Family Farming

# Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit

## 65 States decide on measures to eradicate hunger and strengthen agriculture.

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit, Ministers from 65 States underlined their firm resolution to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to realize the human right to food. They said that, in the light of the „International Year of Family Farming” called by the United Nations, particular attention should be given to the needs of family farms in the agricultural sector.

At the kick-off event for the world's biggest meeting of Agriculture Ministers, the Former German Minister of Agriculture *Hans-Peter Friedrich* emphasised that it was a major task to produce enough food to feed people while at the same time safeguarding the basis for a nutritious, diversified and balanced diet. He said that a decisive question in this context was how the agricultural sector could be made as resilient as possible to climate change, volatile prices on agricultural markets and declining resources. He claimed that there was no single solution that was valid for all regions and all problems. „What we need here are intelligent, site-adapted and sustainable models that are suited to the people on the ground,” the Minister said.

In their final communiqué, the participating Agriculture Ministers underlined three core pillars as the keys to empowering the agricultural sector: diversity, sustainability and productivity.

They stated that diverse production helped to increase agriculture's resilience. They went on to say that this included preserving and sustainably using site-adapted plant varieties and animal breeds as well as applying knowledge of cultivation methods and diverse production structures in practice. They said that the diversity in agrosystems needed to be used, protected and strengthened. The ministers stated that breeding and production of plants with improved nutrient and water efficiency should also be progressed.

Sustainable farm management was said to be indispensable in order to preserve natural resources, in particular water and soils, for both the present and future generations. It was stated that, to this end, it would be necessary to encourage strategies and measures to adapt the agricultural sector to climate change and to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. It was further stated that it was necessary to maintain soil productivity and to use water resources efficiently. The ministers also said that land use demands for purposes other than farming should be reduced.

They identified increasing agricultural productivity as the basis for meeting the food requirements of a growing world population. The ministers believed that access to education and training as well as to services, technology and capital was especially important. In addition, it was stated that an essential prerequisite for an increase in productivity was to also strengthen the transfer of know-how – also via cooperative ventures between state and industry. They said that avoidable losses along the value-added chain needed to be reduced.

The participating Ministers emphasised the significance of transparency of politics and the market, of well-functioning price mechanisms and of rule-based, and therefore fair, trade in order to make the agricultural sector more resilient. They stated that it could be helpful



6<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit





David Nabarro, Gerda Verburg and Hans-Peter Friedrich at the presentation of the final communiqué

to upgrade international early warning and information systems to ward off critical events and to be better able to cope with them.

The Agriculture Ministers present appealed to international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society, industry and the scientific community to support the aim of achieving global food security. They stated that broad-based commitment throughout society was required to this end. The Agriculture Ministers agreed to feed the results achieved at the GFFA into the current discussion led by the United Nations on the post-2015 agenda.

At the conclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit, former Federal Minister *Hans-Peter Friedrich* handed over the final communiqué to the Chairwoman of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization FAO, *Gerda Verburg*, and to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition, *David Nabarro*. Mr. Nabarro thanked the attending Ministers for their great commitment on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.



View of the Weltsaal at the Foreign Office

# Final Communiqué of the GFFA 2014

## „Empowering Agriculture: Fostering Resilience – Securing Food and Nutrition”

We, the Agriculture Ministers of 65 states of the world, assembled here in Berlin on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2014, at the beginning of the „International Year of Family Farming”, for the 6<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers’ Summit, which is taking place during the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), regard the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and the realisation of the human right to food, as one of the greatest goals in the world and declare that we are committed to achieve this. We reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. Agriculture is pivotal as it lays the foundation for producing an adequate supply of healthy food.

We therefore declare it our mission at the GFFA 2014 in Berlin to highlight how fundamental agriculture is in contributing towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

We know that we are facing immense challenges:

The progressive scarcity of natural resources, the negative impacts of climate change, extreme natural disasters, and the loss of genetic diversity and soil fertility prevent agricultural potential from being fully realised.

Economic and financial crises, and excessive volatility on agricultural markets, are causing uncertainty. This is endangering further agricultural investment which may in turn reduce the efficiency of the entire food system.



Participants at the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit 2014

Moreover, the difficulties in coping with these challenges are exacerbated by a number of other factors, such as insufficient know-how or access to education and capital; poverty; unequal participation of women and men, and insufficient social security provision in the face of rapid population growth and demographic change.

Meeting these challenges requires deeper national and international cooperation and partnership: Government, civil society, the private sector and academia – all must share responsibility to achieve our goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

We are convinced that we must enable agriculture to adapt to new conditions, deal with risks and recover quickly from crises. Particular attention needs to be given to family-owned farms and smallholders, because of their important role in feeding the global population.

We agree that our core task is to develop an efficient, adaptable and resilient agricultural sector which builds on three fundamental and equal pillars: diversity, sustainability and productivity.

### Conserve and use diversity

Conserving and using diversity helps to increase the efficiency, adaptability and resilience of agriculture, lay the foundation for producing a diverse range of foods, and consequently contribute towards securing an adequate supply of sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

### We, the agriculture ministers assembled at the GFFA,

#### undertake to

- promote diversity of agricultural production systems reflecting geographic and climatic conditions;
- strengthen support to research, and provide resources, in order to advance the conservation and sustainable use of plant varieties and animal breeds that are adaptable to local conditions;
- transfer existing knowledge about crop-growing methods and different production structures into practice;
- promote the diversity of agricultural production to enhance dietary diversity to meet nutritional needs which in turn makes people more resilient;
- promote the breeding of animal and plant varieties that have improved nutrient and water efficiency as well as higher stress tolerance;
- support global efforts to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources (on farm, in situ and ex situ) and the sharing of the benefits arising out of their use in order to ensure that future generations have access to the necessary diversity for breeding;
- use, protect and, where necessary, strengthen diversity in agricultural ecosystems;
- support the diversity of operational and production structures in order to reduce risks ("risk management").

### Ensure sustainability

Sustainable farming must be economically sound, ecologically compatible and socially responsible. It must use natural resources, in particular soil and water, in a manner which preserves them for future generations. Priority must be given to water and its use as an essential resource for food security. Conservation and efficient use of resources are important elements in improving the resilience and adaptability of agriculture, particularly

with regard to climate change. Sustainable agriculture provides a relevant and ongoing contribution towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the world as well as a stable basis and secure income for those working in agriculture.

**We, the agriculture ministers assembled at the GFFA,**

**undertake to**

- promote strategies and measures to adapt agriculture to climate change and to reduce its emission intensity in accordance with nationally defined priorities, contexts and needs;
- recognize the range of values provided by ecosystems as a basis for the sustainable use of resources;
- work towards reduction of soil degradation;
- maintain soil fertility and productivity by sustainable management;
- reduce the loss of agricultural land;
- support efficient water use and resource-conserving, sustainable irrigation systems and water recycling;
- establish and protect tenure rights to land, forests and fishing grounds as well as water rights for all – in particular vulnerable people – as a basic prerequisite for sustainable farming in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

## Increase productivity

Globally, agriculture must increase its production in a sustainable manner and reduce losses, in order to meet the demand of the growing global population; with resources becoming more scarce, productivity must be increased. This requires technology, innovation, know-how and investment.

**We, the agriculture ministers assembled at the GFFA,**

**undertake to**

- support access to education and training for men and women alike in order to enable those working in agriculture, particularly the smallholder farmers, to apply current knowledge;
- ensure access to services, technology, capital and markets;
- support the transfer of know-how regarding improved crop-growing and livestock production methods and the proper use of adapted technology e.g. by promoting and encouraging networks to share information and knowledge;
- expand cooperation between government and the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, inter alia with the assistance of adapted financing models;
- increase responsible investment in agriculture, and strengthen value and marketing chains, as adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agricultural Ministers' Summit on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in the recommendations for "Responsible investment in the food and agriculture sectors";
- support the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in its negotiations on principles for responsible agriculture investment;
- support systems and technologies which avoid losses during harvest, storage, processing, marketing and consumption of agricultural produce and thereby reduce food waste;
- ensure food safety, animal and plant health.

Setting a course that will allow us to achieve diversity, sustainability and productivity requires political commitment and decisiveness. We therefore advocate an integrated, cross-sectorial policy approach at all levels. We will promote this approach in the international discussion processes and in our national policies.

The International Year of Family Farming is an opportunity to promote and strengthen family farming.

In addition to this, we underline our commitment to establishing healthy food systems that build on a strong agricultural sector and that ensure both access to food and the availability of food.

Early-warning systems, which help to ward off crises and facilitate earlier recognition of crises, are also improving the resilience of agriculture. We note that greater market transparency and open, rule-based and therefore fair

trade are necessary to meet and combat economic and economy-related political crises and the risk of extreme price volatilities on global agricultural markets at an early stage. We therefore encourage the full implementation of the G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture, in particular the expansion and efficient use of international early warning and information systems such as the global Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) or the earth observation system Geo-Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM).

We note that it is not only policy-makers who bear responsibility; broad-based social commitment is needed to draw closer to our goal. We therefore call upon international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society, private sector and academia to share this responsibility and join us in our efforts.

**We, the Agriculture Ministers assembled at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2014 in Berlin, are taking on our responsibility and making our contribution towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition and are committed to promote this issue in international fora.**

**We will incorporate the results of the GFFA into the current discussion within the United Nations (UN) on the post-2015 agenda, embracing the UN Secretary-General's „Zero Hunger Challenge“. The eradication of hunger and malnutrition should in this context be considered of utmost priority.**

**We therefore appeal to the international community to anchor „food security and nutrition“ as a central element in this process.**



## Participating countries of the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit 2014

Republic of Albania  
 People's Democratic Republic of Algeria,  
 Argentine Republic,  
 Republic of Armenia,  
 Republic of Austria,  
 Republic of Azerbaijan,  
 Republic of Belarus,  
 Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
 Federative Republic of Brazil,  
 Republic of Bulgaria,  
 Burkina Faso,  
 Republic of Cameroon,  
 Canada,  
 Republic of Colombia,  
 Democratic Republic of the Congo,  
 Republic of Croatia,  
 Republic of Cyprus,  
 Arab Republic of Egypt,  
 Republic of Estonia,  
 Republic of Finland,  
 French Republic,  
 Georgia,  
 Federal Republic of Germany,  
 Republic of Ghana,  
 Hellenic Republic,  
 Republic of Haiti,  
 Hungary,  
 Republic of India,  
 Islamic Republic of Iran,  
 Republic of Iraq,  
 Italian Republic,  
 Japan,  
 Kyrgyz Republic,  
 Lao People's Democratic Republic,  
 Republic of Latvia,  
 Kingdom of Lesotho,

Principality of Liechtenstein,  
 Republic of Lithuania,  
 Grand Duchy of Luxembourg,  
 Republic of Malta,  
 United Mexican States,  
 Republic of Moldova,  
 Mongolia,  
 Montenegro,  
 Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal,  
 Kingdom of the Netherlands,  
 Kingdom of Norway,  
 Sultanate of Oman,  
 Palestinian Territories,  
 Republic of the Philippines,  
 Republic of Poland,  
 Portuguese Republic,  
 Romania,  
 Russian Federation,  
 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,  
 Republic of Serbia,  
 Republic of Sierra Leone,  
 Slovak Republic,  
 Republic of Slovenia,  
 Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,  
 Swiss Confederation,  
 Ukraine,  
 Republic of Uzbekistan,  
 Republic of Yemen,  
 Republic of Zambia

European Commission, Food and Agriculture  
 Organization of the United Nations, United Nations  
 Environment Programme, Worldbank, Committee on  
 World Food Security (CFS) and the United Nations (UN)  
 took part.

# The Secretary General Message to the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture and Sixth Agriculture Ministers' Summit

*[Delivered by Mr. David Nabarro,  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition ]*

*I am pleased to send greetings to the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture and to the Sixth Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit.*

*It is heartening to see how you are harnessing agriculture's potential. Developing this potential can eliminate hunger and malnutrition through food systems which are diverse, productive and sustainable. I applaud your commitment to ensuring that every man, woman and child enjoys their right to adequate nutritious food.*

*This is directly in line with my vision for a world with zero hunger -- a world where every person has year-round access to nutritious foods, where food is not wasted, and where the elimination of childhood malnutrition is achieved through sustainable, climate-smart agriculture that benefits smallholders.*

*Resilient food systems need to be climate-smart: adapting to changing conditions, minimizing their carbon footprint and enabling the most vulnerable to prosper even with increasingly unpredictable weather. Food systems should increase income, enhance soil fertility and help to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.*

*Achieving these aims requires a broad coalition of groups who share the conviction that hunger can – and must – be eliminated in our lifetime. Governments, farmers, the private sector, civil society and scientists, such as those represented at the Committee on World Food Security, are vital to our success.*

*Engaging a broad range of stakeholders is particularly important when it comes to addressing the links between climate change and food security. Many of the world's 500 million small farms are already struggling to produce enough food on increasingly fragile ecosystems.*

*Last month I welcomed the proposal made at the Third International Conference on Agriculture and Climate Change to establish an alliance for climate-smart agriculture and food security. I will look to this new Alliance to encourage the widespread adoption of climate-smart practices and contribute to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. I also look forward to the launch of the Alliance at the Climate Summit I will host in New York on 23 September 2014.*

*I applaud the vital work that you are doing. I ask you to consider what commitments and actions you can champion at the Summit. And I wish you every success in the important work that lies ahead.*

## International Business Panel “Food Security: Identify Challenges – Increase Resilience”

The food and agriculture sectors have a crucial contribution to make in increasing global food security, including in regions affected by crises. This was one of the key observations of the sixth International Business Panel of the food and agricultural industry, held by GFFA Berlin e.V. Numerous high-ranking delegates from government bodies, commerce and the scientific community, from Germany and abroad, attended the event and discussed possibilities of facing crises and taking suitable measures to increase resilience in the food and agriculture sectors.

These sectors are on the verge of a global investment surge. Research into more resilient varieties and farming methods constitute a key focus. Although many governments are making efforts to increase their resilience against supply crises, it became evident that the international community must pay even greater attention to the topic of food security. For this reason, a good number of delegates wished to see Germany making global food security one of the topics of its presidency of the G8 in the coming year. Sustainable agriculture constitutes “a definite



International Business Panel Discussion at the Deutsche Telekom building



Rachel Kyte

competitive advantage”, particularly in developing countries, said *Rachel Kyte*, World Bank Group Vice-President and special envoy for climate change. *Mr Achim Steiner*, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), drew particular attention to the risks arising from the impact of climate change upon agricultural production and food security. He expressed the concern that the consequences of climate change are being seriously underestimated.

*Martin Richenhagen*, Chairman of AGCO, the agricultural machinery manufacturer, was optimistic: “The productivity increases are huge in many areas and can even be improved with better technology, crop selection and farming methods.” This concerns not only



from left Reiner Emrich, Martin Richenhagen

technology, but also selection of appropriate varieties and farming methods, said *Reiner Emrich*, Senior Vice President Global Strategic Marketing, BASF Crop Protection: “Rice, maize and wheat are now the major crops. For regions with difficult climate conditions there might be better alternatives such as sorghum.”

The International Business Panel Discussion is held annually by GFFA Berlin e.V. The GFFA is an association of bodies in the German food and agriculture sectors, including the Federation of German Food and Drink Industries (BVE), the German Farmers’ Association (DBV), the German Agricultural Society (DLG), the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA).



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