

The Future of Agriculture *Scenarios, Concepts, Visions*

25-26 August 2010
KTC Königstein

About the symposium:

A world in balance: a sustainably intensified agriculture to provide enough food for all and preserve natural resources

The world's population is predicted to grow to nine billion by 2050. The world will eat more food over the next half-century than has been consumed over the whole of human history. Hunger and malnutrition, high food prices, scarce natural resources and, above all, new environmental challenges like the impact of climate change are pressing problems. The impacts are global and affect developing and transition countries as well as the member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) .

In many developing countries, poverty and commercial exploitation lead to unsustainable use of resources causing sinking water levels, loss of fertile land, accelerated desertification, a decline in biodiversity and will eventually lead to more poverty and growing migration. At the same time there is a demand for a higher agricultural output. In recognition of this dilemma, voices are calling for higher efficiency in agricultural production, more output with less input. However, this can not be accompanied by compromises regarding the sustainability of production. How, where and by whom will agriculture be practiced in 2050, and what can be appropriate answers to the intensification vs. environmental sustainability dilemma? And how avantgarde will a global agricultural sector have to be to meet the demands of a growing and consuming world?

Thinking for the future of agriculture today

This symposium will present current initiatives to describe potential scenarios and concepts of tomorrow's agriculture. It will bring together international experts, private-sector representatives, decision-makers, opinion leaders with GTZ staff from a broad range of countries to reflect on the shape of the agricultural sector by 2050.

Key issues under discussion will be, among others:

- Multifunctionality: What services should be provided by the agricultural sector to society, e.g. production of food, feed and fuel, environmental services, preserving cultural heritage and who is paying for it through what kind of?
- Income generation: Under which conditions can the agricultural sector be an engine of economic growth and provide jobs especially for poor people to future generations?

- Finding the right scale: Will the world's food supply be produced on small-scale farms with low input use such as fertilizer, pesticides and agricultural machinery, or will the farmers of the future be highly qualified professionals applying large-scale production systems with an array of high-tech instruments and capital input?
- Rural vs. urban: what will be the dominant migration patterns, will ever fewer people in rural areas produce the bulk of food staple crops and at the same time peri-urban agriculture is supplying the fresh produce market?
- The functional divide: Will arid areas of the globe be used to power solar plants and agricultural production will be concentrated in fertile regions of the planet?
- Technology: New themes such as vertical agriculture, in-vitro meat production, functional food or cloning are coming more and more into the debate. New ways of communication impact the way agricultural products are produced and marketed.

We look forward to sharing and discussing the future of agriculture with you. Your participation is most welcome and we hope to see you in Königstein, Germany, in August 2010.

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