

XXV EURAGRI Members Conference 2011

Prague – 26-27 September

Ministry of Agriculture

Tesnov 17, Prague 1

room no. 400

Conference Programme

‘Agriculture – related research and innovation in a changing world’



Background

Growing demands on natural resources due to an increasing and increasingly affluent population combined with the effects of climate change, decreasing fossil fuel stocks and resource scarcities ask for changes in the production and consumption patterns throughout the agro-food system (production, processing and distribution of food, feed, fuel and fibre) to ensure delivery of sufficient biomass (food and non-food) to meet global needs in the future. This is the case, both in terms of improving resource efficiency of production systems and the management of ecosystem services.

Continued investment in knowledge generation is the basis for innovation. However successful knowledge exchange between the different actors of the entire system is crucial to achieve real system transition towards a sustainable solution.

Furthermore, coherent policies, also across sectors (food, health, environment, energy and finance), are needed as supportive actions.

Key questions to be addressed by the conference:

- A) What role of agricultural research in knowledge and innovation management and its continued evolvement to ensure system transition towards a sustainable solution?
- B) How to improve interaction between agricultural research and the other actors in the sector and society at large? What means are needed?
- C) What policy actions can/must be taken to support the needed transition?
- D) Do agricultural research institutions need to change? If yes how?

Monday, 26 September

8:00- Coffee and registration

9:00-12:30 Welcome by Czech Minister of Agriculture and research director Jan Nedelnik, president of EURAGRI, Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences

9:30-12:30 Session I A: Setting the Scene – Chair: Rector Lisa Sennerby Forsse, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

1. Transition pathways and implications for research – visions from SCAR's 3rd Foresight – *Deputy director Annette Freibauer, Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas*
2. How to transform knowledge to innovation in order to meet the challenges ahead?
 - a. CAP perspectives – *Dr. Martin Scheele, DG-Agri, European Commission*
 - b. Agriculture and innovation systems – *Dr. Krijn Poppe, WUR and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation*
 - c. Impact of agricultural research and transfer of results for farmers in the Czech Republic - *Mr. Jan Veleba, President of Agrarian chamber of the Czech Republic*

Coffee

3. Panel discussion with representatives from research institutions, consumers, farmers, industry and extension services – *Bernhard Bauske (WWF Germany), Mike Jones (Stockholm Resilience Centre, farmer), Jana Hajslova (Prague University, Institute of Chemical Technology), Jon Birger Pedersen (Danish extension service), Elisa Bianco (Slow Food), Christian Huyghe (INRA), Andrew Kuyk (Food and Drink Federation, UK)*

Questions to be addressed:

- a. What are the respective expectations of the panellists with regard to the contribution of agricultural research and how should the agricultural research system evolve to better respond to these expectations?
- b. Is a reform of the agricultural research system (structure, funding, research approach etc.) needed and if yes which and how should it be handled by the actors concerned?

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Session I B: Discussion in parallel working groups on the morning topics

Discussion of morning session's key messages in 4 parallel breakout groups

15:00-15:30 Coffee

15:30-16:30 Session II: the role of policies in contributing to change, innovation and growth in the agro -food system, Chair: Michel Dodet

Keynote by *Catherine Moreddu, OECD*

The role of policies, also across sectors in contributing to change, innovation and growth in the agric-food system

16.30-17:30 General Assembly

Open part: All participants are invited to discuss a draft of EURAGRI Strategy Paper

Closed part: Internal formal organisational business

Tuesday, 27 September

8:30-10:30 Session III: The innovation process - measures and role of actors
Chair: Michel Dodet

Keynote: OECD outcome of June conference on 'Agricultural Knowledge Systems'
Chief scientist international Yvon Martel, Chair of the OECD Co-operative Research Program with an introduction by Catherine Moreddu, OECD

4 Parallel sessions in break out groups

1. Private Public Partnerships – Access to results, IPR – Director Markku Järvenpää, MTT Agrifood Research

Questions to be discussed:

- a) How and when should private sector – firms – be incorporated into the research and development work? How to motivate them to support long term strategic research?
- b) Is it useful for universities and research institutes to aim at an extensive patent portfolio or are there better practices to transfer intellectual property rights from research to the private sector?
- c) Is there an optimal balance between open access public research and targeted development projects with the private sector?
- d) How to transfer rights without losing them, knowing that industry often wants to adopt exclusive rights?

2. How to bring the research world and agricultural practitioners closer?

– *Dr. H. J. Lutzeyer, DG Research*

Questions to be discussed:

- a) Which role for Joint Programming, ERA-Nets, Technology Platforms, research projects?
- b) Which role for regional and local research stations as innovation brokers?

3. Innovation triangle – Education – Director Pascal Bergeret, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Questions to be discussed:

- a) Which role has education in the agri-food innovation process?
- b) What tools and arrangements can be used to promote the participation of education bodies in the agri-food innovation process (eg: curriculum design, students' practicals, establishment of networks and clusters...)?
- c) How to ensure policy coherence (Education and Research, Innovation, CAP) to promote agri-food innovation?

4. Innovation triangle – Research – Dr. Pierre-Benoît Joly, INRA

Questions to be discussed

- a) In order to contribute to sustainability, agricultural research has to promote a diversity of innovations. How to promote diversity and contribute to transition toward sustainable agriculture?
- b) Public agricultural research is now a complex, multi-level ecosystem of innovation characterized by a diversity of actors. How to cope with such diversity? What is the role of public agricultural research in this context?

c) Accountability emerges as a key and pervasive notion. How to perform accountability?
What is the specific role of impact assessment, its limitation and potential benefits?

10:30-11:00 Coffee

11:00-12:30 Session IV: Reporting, Chair: Elfriede Fuhrmann

1. Reporting Monday parallel sessions + plenary discussion
2. Reporting Tuesday morning parallel sessions + plenary discussion

12:00-13:30 Lunch

**13:30-15:30 Session V: Research organisations' response to the challenges ahead
Chair: Director General Erkki Kemppainen, MTT Agrifood Research**

Søren A. Mikkelsen lecture

The strategic responses of Aarhus University to the challenges ahead, both with regard to content and structure. *Head of Department of Agroecology Erik Steen Kristensen, Aarhus University*

Panel discussion

With representatives from European research organisations/ institutions: *Prof. Hubert Wiggering (Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research), Prof. Edward Arseniuk (IHAR, Poland,) Prof. Zoltan Bédö (Agricultural Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), director Huub Löffler (Wageningen International), director Michel Eddi, INRA.*

Focus should be given to barriers to change and possible trade offs. What role of agricultural research in knowledge and innovation management and more specifically in the perspective of Horizon 2020?

15:45 Final remarks and closing of conference

Coffee

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