

## **XXIII EURAGRI members conference 2009**

### **FOOD SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF RECENT CRISES: FOOD, FEED, FUEL, FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC**

**Gerrit Meester, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands  
and Chairman Committee for Agriculture OECD**

The world wide financial and economic crisis was an important driver behind the decline of international food prices after the price hike in 2008. However most recent crop prices are still substantially higher than around 2000. OECD-FAO-projections show in nominal terms 20 to 60 % higher prices in the next decade than in the decade before. Causes behind it are the further increase of world population, economic growth and changing food habits, especially in emerging countries in Asia and Latin America, and increasing demand for biofuels. The big question is how this additional demand will be met. The main solution might be to fill the gap between actual and potential yields of world's most important food crops. Increased factor productivity in animal production might be an additional solution that does not only contribute to food security, but also to other aspects of sustainability like protecting biodiversity and reducing green house gas emissions. The big challenge is how European research organisations can contribute to the solutions.