

XXIII EURAGRI Members Conference 2009 INIA, Madrid

Conference Programme



Agricultural Research for Food Security

The 2nd SCAR Foresight Exercise (December 2008) states a dramatic worsening of fundamental prerequisites for today's agriculture and food production systems. Climate change has been singled out as a main challenge. Furthermore, additional and partly interrelated other constraints such as soil degradation, water scarcity and biodiversity loss, increase the vulnerability of food systems even further. Therefore, in order to ensure secure and sustainable food supplies, the main challenge and priority for agricultural research initiatives will be to find sustainable technological developments and innovations, which permit adaptation to the unavoidable consequences of climate change and for mitigation measures where possible. This has to happen against the background of population growth and thus the continued rise in global demand for food, energy and water. This rises the question if today's agricultural knowledge systems have the capacity and orientation to address these complex issues adequately and timely.

The XXIII EURAGRI Members Conference will address these complex issues. One session will focus on Climate Change and its impacts on Food Security. A second session will look at bio-energy, as a means for agriculture to contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions, similarly keeping in mind likely competition for land use. Finally, the conference will discuss the options of science funding bodies on how to meet the complex challenges ahead. The conference will invite to dialogue and discussions in a combination of plenary sessions, panel discussions and theme sessions with discussions in break-out groups.

Sunday, 27 September

20:00 Welcome reception at the hotel
 The address of the hotel is:
 HOTEL FLORIDA NORTE MADRID,
 Paseo de la Florida 5
 28008 MADRID, Spain
 +34 915 428 300

21:00 Board meeting at the hotel

Monday, 28 September

- 8:00 Bus from the hotel to INIA
Address INIA:
INIA - Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria
Carretera de la Coruña Km 7,5
28040 Madrid
- 9:00-9:45 Welcome
Opening addresses
- 9:45-10:20 Keynote presentation
“Food Security in the Context of Recent Crisis, Fuel, Food, Financial, Economic”
Professor, dr. ir. G. Meester – Chairman of the OECD Committee for Agriculture (NL)
- 10:20-10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45-12:30 Theme Session I: Climate Change and Agriculture
Chair: Erkki Kemppainen – Agrifood Research, Finland
1. Climate Change and Food Security – Professor Robert Watson, Defra (UK)
 2. Climate Change and Genetic Resources – Professor, Dr. José Esquinas, Universidad Politécnica de Cordoba – UPM (ES)
 3. How to develop mitigation and adaptation measures – Professor Inés Minguez, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid – UPM (ES)
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch
- 13:30-15:00 Break-out session (3 groups)
Coffee and fruit is served during break-out sessions
- 15:00-16:30 Theme Session II: Food Security and Agro-energetic crops
Chair: Fons Werrij – EURAGRI
1. Foresight and competition on food and non-food production in Mediterranean agriculture – Pierre Blanc
 2. Overview of the Spanish situation in bio-fuel production and consumption – Project manager Trinidad Contreras, APPA Biocarburants
 3. New perspectives in agricultural non-food production – Programme Director R. P. J. Bol, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
- 16:30-18:00 Break-out session (3 groups)
Coffee and fruit is served during break-out sessions
- 18:00 Bus from INIA to the hotel
- 20:00 Bus from the hotel to the Country Club
- 20:30 Conference Dinner
- 23:00 Bus to the hotel

Tuesday, 29 September

- 8:30 Bus from the hotel
- 8:30-15:00 Excursion to Dominio de Valdepusa, a vineyard and wine cellar near Toledo
- 15:00 Coffee break at INIA
- 15:30-17:30 Theme Session III: How to meet complexity of challenges? Are the present Agricultural Knowledge Systems ready to meet the challenge?
Chair – Michel Dodet – INRA, France
1. Agricultural Research, Research Alliance – Michel Dodet, INRA
 2. Joint Programming, Status – Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer, European Commission
 3. European Energy Research Alliance (EERA), Background and Status – Director Soria Lascorz, CIEMAT (ES)
- 17:30-18:30 Concluding remarks of conference
- 18:30 Bus to the hotel

Wednesday, 30 September

- 9:00 Bus from the hotel
- 9:30-11:00 General Assembly (only one representative of each country necessary)
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 Bus to the hotel

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