



AGRI Research workshop

Towards a long-term vision for European **agricultural research and innovation by 2020 and beyond**

19th June 2015

EXPO Milan site – EU Pavilion

Concept and objectives

The European Commission organises a workshop to launch the discussion on **how we see the future of European agricultural research and innovation until 2020 and, beyond, for the following decade**. The objective of this workshop is two-fold:

- **Kick-start the discussion on a long-term vision of the future of EU agriculture research and innovation** which is highly needed to address the challenges of tomorrow in a consistent and efficient way;
- Contribute to the discussion on outcomes of EXPO on '**Feeding the planet – energy for life**' by providing views on **agricultural research and innovation priorities**.

The workshop will be a first step towards a **bigger agricultural research and innovation conference** organised in Brussels in early 2016.

A background paper will be prepared and sent to participants in advance of the workshop to get their feedback on the first views put forward by the European Commission.

Audience

We are aiming at a mixed audience of around 100 stakeholders.

Participants will include mainly **scientists, agri-food sector and NGO representatives** as well as **public authorities** and **government bodies**.

Web-streaming will enable several hundreds of people to follow the event on-line and interact in the discussion via social media.

Programme outline

10:00 - Opening of EXPO site

10:30– Welcome coffee and registration

The event will be moderated by **Ann Tutwiler**, Director General of Bioversity international

11:00 – Welcome and introduction – Moderator

11.15 - Opening speech: A long-term and strategic approach to research programming in agriculture – **Aldo Longo**, Director for general aspects of rural development and research - European Commission DG AGRI (20')

11.35 – Keynote speech: Looking forward: challenges and trends to factor in a long-term strategy for agricultural R&I by 2020 and beyond? – **Erik Mathijs** – University of Leuven, Department of Bioeconomics - SCAR Foresight (20')

11.55 – Session 1: A research agenda to produce more sustainably

Discussants:

- **A more resource-efficient agriculture: John R. Porter**, Professor of Climate and Food Security, Faculty of Sciences, University of Copenhagen and Professor of Agriculture and Climate Change, Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich (15')
- **Agro-ecology: a promising future: Pablo A. Tittone**, Professor at Farming systems Ecology group at Wageningen University (15')
- **Healthier plants and livestock: Marta Hugas**, Head of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance department of the European Food Safety Authority, Parma (15')

Discussion with the audience (45')

13:30 –Light buffet

14:30 – Session 2: A research agenda for innovative rural areas

Discussants:

- **New openings for rural growth: Richard Wakeford**, Professor of Environment, Land Use and Rural Strategy, Birmingham City University; Director of Director of Kazan Centre for Land Use and Sustainable Rural Development, former chair of the OECD working Party on Rural development (15')
- **Developing the human and social capital: Krijn Poppe**, Senior Economist & Research Manager at LEI WUR; Chair of the SCAR working group on AKIS (15')

Discussion with the audience (30')

15:30 –Round table discussion: How to build a long-term strategy for EU agricultural research and innovation by 2020 and beyond? (60')

A panel of scientists, farmers and society representatives will discuss the main building blocks of a future strategy for EU agricultural research, expectations from farmers, scientists as well as society and put the EU discussion in perspective with previous exercises undertaken at international level.

Panellists:

- **Claudia Sorlini**, Chair of the department of food, environmental and nutritional science at University of studies of Milan, Member of the Steering Committee of the [EU scientific programme for Expo Milano 2015](#)
- **Hans Herren**, President and CEO at Millenium Institute – Former co-chair of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)
- **Albert Jan Maat**, President of Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (COPA)
- **Hervé Guyomard***, Scientific Director for agriculture at the French national Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA)
- **Janny Vos**, Director for Strategic Partnerships at CABI, manager of CABI office for Netherlands
- **Danielle Nierenberg**, President of the Food Tank

16:30-16:45 – Concluding remarks – European Commission - DG AGRI

17:00-18.00 - VIP cocktail on EU Pavilion terrace

23:00 – *Closure of EXPO site*

** To be confirmed*