



Official Participant

Report Template for EU Events at EXPO

Event Title :	Strengthening Global Food and Nutrition Security through research and innovation	Date:	15/10/2015
Event Organiser:	EU Scientific Steering Committee for Expo 2015 / EU Expo Taskforce		
Event Target Group:	Scientific Community, Policy makers, Civil Society, Industry		
Rapporteur:	Amy- Louis Dent, Julia Beile		

Event Concept

The event aimed to offer a platform where international actors from politics, the scientific community, industry, and civil society can discuss the recommendations for in relation to Research and Innovation for Global Food and Nutrition Security" that have been produced by the EU scientific steering committee for Expo 2015. These recommendations are based on the Steering Committee's discussion paper "[The role of research for global food and nutrition security](#)" and on the six months discussion during more than 200 conferences and workshops organised in Milan in the framework of the EU scientific programme for Expo 2015.

To target the various levels where change is needed, the Scientific Steering Committee suggested the following four recommendations. At its core "system thinking" is required (rec.1). In turn such thinking must raise awareness by "developing debate and engagement" (rec.2) to obtain social license. These social and political licenses will open up new business opportunities and reinforce the speed of change through "innovation and impact" (rec.3). Finally it is suggested to move towards an "International Panel on Global Food and Nutrition Security (IPFN)" in order to create the political license to tackle the global food and nutrition challenge.

Expected Outcomes

Dissemination of the Committee's recommendations and discussion with various stakeholders within Europe and internationally such as funders, research networks, farmers, industry and international organisations.

Main Conclusions

On Recommendations I - III:

- Citizen science being an important game changer in the debate on how to better use science on the ground. According to a recent study in Germany, nutrition and health was cited as the most important research challenge to be overcome. Recommendation II could be a game changer – through the empowerment of civil society.
- Recommendation I could act as a real game changer done to empower people to adopt healthy and sustainable diets - the need to take a systems approach. We are no longer talking about purely agriculture but the debate has become more focused on agri-food systems – There is a serious need for more trans-disciplinary research.
- Engaging with foundations offers the possibility to reach state of the art policies. Only this way to a systems approach to feed the citizen of the future can be "hard wired". There is a need to "democratize research", meaning giving citizens access to research results.
- Innovation plays an important role in ensuring Food and Nutrition security. It is crucially important that farmers are encouraged to take up research results. Such technologies as satellites and sensors have enormous benefits. There are also a number of legal barriers to be overcome. It is often the

case that legal frameworks hamper the development of new technologies.

On Recommendation IV:

- EP plans to have a hearing involving the DEVE, AGRI and ITRE Committees on how best to involve policy makers further on the issue of trying to feed the world sustainably. In his view research will need to be at the centre of this process.
- The representative of the Forum for Agricultural Research Africa (FARA) was delighted and welcomed recommendation IV. In his view it was very exciting that the EU was taking the first steps in this process.
- Importance of thinking differently about how we carry out and use research. A main challenge for the JPIs has been at the innovation phase. Collectively we are doing a lot to contribute to the research base but not enough to enhance innovation . As to whether option II or III under recommendation IV is chosen this remains to be seen but it is clear that we need to move forward and do something.
- Appreciation of the recognition of the scientific steering committee to the need for more investment in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research. The influence of the private sector has however not been adequately addressed in the recommendations.

Closing Remarks

- Commissioner Navrasisc is very proud of the work of the scientific steering committee and the Commission takes the challenge of fighting food insecurity and hunger very seriously. His Cabinet member also insisted that we cannot continue with unintended consequences in one area caused by our actions in another. The conference has been a huge encouragement. Based on the steering committee recommendation IV the Commission and particularly the JRC is considering devising a platform, a centre for knowledge on food, this would at least go in part towards delivering of the recommendation.

What follow-up actions emerged from this event?

The Steering Committee will produce now a combined document of the discussion document and the recommendations taking into account the discussion of the day.
This final document should then be presented in the European Parliament.