

Number 43 | May 2013

SUMMARY: The Dublin Conference: Addressing the interlinked challenges of hunger, nutrition and climate change > Agenda > ROSA News

**VIEWSON
CURRENT ISSUES**


Hunger - Nutrition - Climate Justice - 2013

The Dublin Conference: Addressing the interlinked challenges of hunger, nutrition and climate change

The link between hunger, nutrition and climate justice was the focus of a two-day event hosted by the Irish Government and the Mary Robinson Foundation¹. It took place on 15-16 April 2013 as part of Ireland's presidency of European Union. In this article, Camilla Toulmin, Director of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and deputy chair of the Montpellier panel, shares her insights on the main solutions proposed during the Conference to address the interlinked problems of food insecurity, undernutrition and climate change. She stresses the potential for sustainable intensification as a driver of development.

- **IIED supported the Dublin Conference and played a key role by organising the pre-conference workshop for grassroots delegates. It aimed to provide a voice to practitioners, what was their specific contribution to the debate and policy discussions?**

The Conference brought together a diverse audience. The idea was to connect key policy makers with practitioners and local stakeholders. To ground the discussion, particular attention was paid to drawing on practical experience and concrete examples. Approximately 100 developing country delegates brought their community's experiences to share with a further 200 political representatives, policy makers, and delegates from civil society, business, advocacy groups and research institutions. We believe that it is essential to get grassroots organisations—in particular farmers—involved so they can inform and influence international development strategies. IIED facilitated this process by organising the pre-conference workshop. It was a great opportunity to learn from each other, compare and contrast successes and see what institutional, political and economic support is needed to promote a new approach to addressing hunger, nutrition and climate change.

- **What were the main Conference's recommendations to address these interlinked problems?**

At the heart of the Conference was an acknowledgement of the inequity of the impacts of and responsibility for climate change. This includes the growing volatility of weather patterns, and in particular their impact on crop yields, and the growing scarcity of natural resources such as land, forests and water, upon which many of the poorest households rely. This situation demands the preservation and enhancement of natural capital alongside a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions originating from agriculture; this is not only the right pathway but an urgent one.

¹ This Conference was organised in partnership with the World Food Programme and the CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

**ROSA is
an initiative of the:**

**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

The Conference helped develop a joint understanding of the underlying causes and stressed the importance of involving a wide range of stakeholders and actors. Now, we need to develop options for joined-up action. None of these inter-linked problems would can be solved without political will and higher-level political champions — which are currently lacking.

- **As a Panel member, you actively participated in the recent report launched by the Montpellier panel. It aims to redefine sustainable intensification and shows its relevance for improving rural livelihoods and food security by strengthening resilience? What is new about the approach developed in this report?**

The new report from the Montpellier Panel brings together much existing practice. It provides innovative thinking on and examples of how sustainable intensification techniques are being used by smallholder farmers in Africa to address the food and nutrition crisis. It aims to demystify sustainable intensification. In fact, over recent years, the term “sustainable intensification” has taken on a highly charged and politicised meaning, becoming associated with large-scale, industrial agriculture. But the term needs to be understood in a more balanced way. It is clear that we need to boost the harvest of food and fibre from any given area of land. But rather than doing this in conventional unsustainable ways, which mean more pollution, less biodiversity and more climate change, we can choose to intensify farming in a sustainable way with fewer adverse impacts.

Many of these solutions exist —they involve better use of the soil, water and ecological systems, as along with diverse crop mixes, such as grains, legumes and integrating livestock. For these solutions to spread, support from policymakers and the development community are needed. Sustainable intensification requires more than just inputs and technology. It demands greater cooperation and organisation in rural areas. We are calling on governments in partnership with the private sector and NGOs to recognise the huge potential for this approach in terms of food security, better nutrition and more resilient rural livelihoods.

AGENDA



Upcoming events

13-14 June: G8 Summit – Special event on hunger and nutrition – United Kingdom

13-14 November: ICN+21 Technical Preparatory Meeting– Rome (Italy) [>>>](#)

Past events

- **Conference on hunger, nutrition and climate justice – Dublin, 15-16 April 2013:** Organised during the Irish presidency of the EU, this conference brought together about 300 persons from various backgrounds: policy makers, local community leaders, practitioners, civil society, advocacy groups, researchers, business, etc. It aimed to be part of the dialogue towards the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The conference paper provides thematic briefs and short summaries of 18 case studies based on solutions arising from the field and policy actions that have promising results. [>>>](#)
- **Meeting of the minds on nutrition impact of food systems – Geneva, 25-28 March 2013:** In preparation for the International conference on nutrition (ICN21) the UNSCN Secretariat, in close collaboration with WHO and FAO, has organised the "Meeting of the Minds". This four-day event has brought together 70 experts and practitioners. During the first two days, the participants discussed the nutritional impact of relevant policies shaping the food systems of countries at different stages of the nutrition transition, and the recommended policy options. The next two days were dedicated to the elaboration of frameworks and tools to be used to describe and analyse national policies in the area of food and agriculture. All background documents and presentations are available on the website on the UNSCN (executive summary and full report are still to be published). [>>>](#)

EC's latest news

- **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement senior level meeting – Brussels, 14-15**

March 2013: This two-day conference brought together representatives from SUN countries, donors, UN agencies, civil society, academia and the business community to ensure that nutrition remains at the top of the international development agenda. The meeting was hosted by the EC for Development Andris Piebalgs, and featured presentations from SUN focal points, lead group Members and senior officials from development partner agencies. Participants debated the best ways to ensure that nutrition features in the post-Millennium Development Goals development framework; how to cost, fund and measure the impact of nutrition investments; and how to ensure principled and sustainable efforts are made by all key partners to eradicate malnutrition in all its forms. >>>

ROSA NEWS



New online resources

- **Lessons learned in the Sahel. Assessing the response to the 2012 food crisis in the Sahel to build resilience for the future, Oxfam, ACF, Save the Children – April 2013:**

The analysis reveals that, although the 2012 response was bigger and, in many respects, better than responses to previous crises, there were still significant shortcomings that need to be addressed. The report mentions the difficulties in terms of leadership, the inconsistency of messages on the severity of the crisis and some problems in the donor funding. The report underlines the importance of tackling three key structural challenges that weakened the 2012 response, just as they did with previous responses: i) develop a shared understanding of vulnerability, ii) break down barriers between humanitarian and development actors, iii) invest in strengthening the capacity of national and local actors. >>>

- **Urban poverty, food security and climate change. Policy brief, IIED – March 2013:**

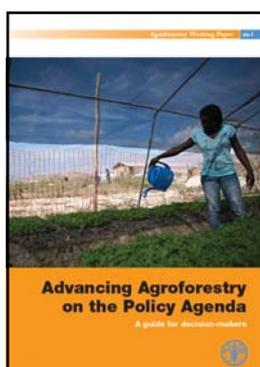
This short article by Cecilia Tacoli highlights the key elements of food insecurity in urban areas. The author shows the differentiation of food insecurity levels between the different types of urban households and explore some policy priorities to tackle this issue. >>>

- **Advancing agroforestry on the policy agenda. A guide for decision-makers, FAO, CIRAD, CATIE, World Agroforestry Center – February 2013:**

This policy guide shows how agroforestry can be integrated into national strategies and how policies can be adjusted to specific conditions of this land use and resource management system. It provides examples of best practices and success stories, as well as lessons learned from challenges and failures. The guide provides ten major tracks for policy action, including: raising awareness of agroforestry systems to farmers and the global community; reforming unfavourable regulations in forestry, agricultural and rural codes; and clarifying land-use policy regulations. >>>

- **Improving nutrition through multisectoral approaches, The World Bank – January 2013:**

This report provides operational guidance to maximize the impact of investments on nutrition outcomes for women and young children. The recommendations in this document build on evidence to date on issues of malnutrition, with the aim of providing concrete guidance on how to mainstream nutrition into agriculture, social protection, and health. The document is composed of five modules, including an introduction, an economic analysis of the relationship between poverty, economic growth and nutrition, and one module for each of the aforementioned focus sectors. Accompanying briefs for the agriculture, social protection and health modules, are also available and serve as a summary of their corresponding chapters in the full report. >>>





For the brief « Improving nutrition through agriculture and rural development » [>>>](#)

For the brief « Improving nutrition through social protection » [>>>](#)

- **Trends and impacts of foreign investments in developing country agriculture. Evidence from case studies, FAO – November 2012 :** This report draws on examples of agricultural investments in nine developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It examines the trends in agricultural foreign direct investment (FDI) and its economic, social and environmental impacts at national and local levels, as well as the factors determining these impacts. It presents cases implying large scale land deals as well as their expected and then realised effects. Deals where local farmers are associated can show promising results for certain types of investments. The report also insists on the importance of the legal framework in the regulation and the guidance of such investments. [>>>](#)

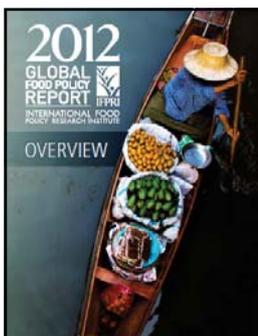
- **Creating access to agricultural finance. Based on horizontal study of Cambodia, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand and Tunisia, AFD– December 2012:** Inadequate financing of the agricultural sector remains a major constraint in developing countries. This study intends to (i) draw broad lessons from the history of public participation and the support provided by international donors for agricultural finance in numerous countries; (ii) make a diagnostic of the current situation, put forward the reasons for inadequacy between supply and demand for financial services in the sector and analyse the various solutions that have been found; and (iii) make recommendations for the creation of financial products that are responsive to the agricultural sector's needs and constraints. The study elaborates on the key elements to innovative agricultural finance: reduce delivery costs, adapt to agricultural growth patterns and cash flow cycles and use value chains to ensure proper loan repayment. [>>>](#)

External resources and links

- **Programming for nutrition outcomes:** The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has just released their free, Master's level training module, which explores the problem of undernutrition, highlights its multi-sectoral causes, and identifies potential programmatic solution. This training module contains 17 sessions covering topics such as maternal and child nutrition, nutrition and infection, agriculture, climate change, and social protection for nutritional outcomes. These are self-study sessions and no tutorial support is provided. [>>>](#)

- **2012 World Food Policy Report, IFPRI – March 2013:** IFPRI's 2012 Global Food Policy Report reviews food policy developments and trends. The different chapters tackle a variety of topics: agricultural productivity, green economy, agriculture and gender, youth employment in Africa, EU and US subsidy policies and regional agriculture policies. [>>>](#)

- **West African agriculture and climate change, IFPRI – March 2013:** The first of three books in IFPRI's climate change in Africa series, examines the food security threats faced by 11 of the countries that make up West Africa and explores how climate change will increase the efforts needed to achieve sustainable food security throughout the region. A full report and country profiles are available. [>>>](#)



Contacts:

EuropeAid-ROSA@ec.europa.eu

animation@reseau-rosa.eu

This bulletin was written by the GRET team in charge of animating ROSA.

The network is an initiative of EuropeAid (Unit C1 – Rural development, food security and nutrition in collaboration with Unit R7 – Training, knowledge management, internal communication, documentation).

The points expressed do not reflect the official position of the European Commission.