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11th Forum for the Future of Agriculture

Healthy farming, healthy food
and a healthy future

Her Majesty Queen Noor Al HUSSEIN of Jordan

*International public servant and advocate
for cross-cultural understanding and conflict prevention*

FFA



Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCALLE, *Secretary General*

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One thing stands out above all others to me after this year's remarkable FFA2018: everybody is responsible, and everyone must be part of the solution. There is no way to resolve the systematic problems in our food chain or turn around our biodiversity losses if we do not come together.

First and foremost, this should mean that we stop blaming each other. We can spend the rest of time pointing fingers, telling everyone else what they are doing wrong, and proposing that the other people get their subsidies cut. All this will not help us. As our Chairman Janez POTOČNIK said, if we are to achieve food and environmental security, everybody must be a leader in their own way.

However, if we are to lead then we need the resources to do so. The pressures and demands on land, the environment and farming are multiplying and in order to make sure we get it right the European countryside cannot be starved of much-needed funding. As long as the public is unwilling or unable to pay for the ecosystem services provided by our members, the costs must be compensated in other ways. The best way to do this remains our Common Agricultural Policy and, if European policy makers are serious about combating climate change, they need to ensure that it is fully funded and properly targeted.

From our farms to everyone's plates and societies' waste, we must all embrace new ways of thinking and come together to put these into practice. That remains at the heart of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture, and we will keep pushing that message this year and at FFA2019.



The FFA Team



Janez POTOČNIK

We must all become leaders

Thoughts from FFA Chairman
Janez POTOČNIK

*"We require the help of the world community of scientists - natural, social, economic, political;
We require the help of the world's business and industrial leaders;
We require the help of the world's religious leaders; and
We require the help of the world's peoples.
We call on all to join us in this task".
"Warning to humanity, a second notice" from over 15,000 scientists.*

That was the message emphasised by the FFA Chairman when sharing his conclusions at the end of FFA2018.

Mr. POTOČNIK underlined that it is essential that those in the room did not just passively listen, but actively changed the way their various business operate in daily life.

He acknowledged that achieving a healthy future through healthy farming and healthy food is not an easy challenge. *"If we want long-term health for ourselves and the planet, we must engage in a complete transformation of all the systems that shape our society and embrace systemic leadership."*

Mr. POTOČNIK underlined that we must profoundly change our economic system as our decisions are still based on short-term growth measured by GDP and rising stock prices, not on re-using resources and promoting sustainability

throughout the production chain.

He further argued that we must profoundly change our agricultural and food systems. Right now, he noted, far too many of them exist outside the borders of what the natural world can supply and absorb. *"Our fresh water is receding, our soils are eroding, biodiversity is disappearing, and the resources needed to create inputs such as fertilizers are more and more scarce or difficult to extract."*

However, the chairman argued that it is not enough to simply point out the threats of climate change and biodiversity – real as though they are. The key, he stated, was to offer up a hopeful vision of a better world; something that far too few individuals and leaders in all spheres are willing to do.

"Most of us, especially here in the West, prefer to enjoy the comfortable illusion of prosperity by indebting future generations. Make no mistake: young people know this. They no longer trust us to hand them a world that is fair, that contains well-functioning ecosystems and sustainably produced food. Here in Europe, many of them are – for the first time – worse off than their parents. We cannot leave them with the systemic crises that we are, in large part, responsible for."

The creation of a better world, he stated, would require rewriting the rules of our economic models, farms, and environment. In doing so, there will be enormous shifts in capital, politics and power and some people would lose out in the transition. Mr. POTOČNIK said that these people should be helped as the nature of work and production changes. The prize would not just be *"a healthy future, but any future at all."*

To shape the leadership necessary for this transformation, Mr. POTOČNIK offered six concrete proposals for the systemic leadership needed by all parties if this future was to be achieved:

"First, implementing all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals should be the strategic priority of any government, at any level.

Second, all policies – especially our economic ones – should be open to systematic and frequent adjustment. The synchronicity between economic and environmental policy to responses to global risks should be strengthened.

Third, all levels of governance and all stakeholders – from citizens to presidents, from civil society to CEOs – should be active participants in the systemic changes we need. We must engage potential losers and make sure their transition is as fair as possible.

Fourth, the EU is the best pilot for this new global governance. We have an enormous wealth of good and bad examples and the potential to mobilise vast resources for change. But this will only happen with a clear, hopeful vision and transformative leadership.

Fifth, nobody should wait for the leadership of other people. You must be the leader at your level of authority – on your farm, in your business, in your government.

And finally, stop holding workshops and group photos for the SDGs. Change does not come from putting them as an annex in your annual reports. It is high time we got serious about implementations. As I have said, change is unavoidable, and as humans we are supposed to be intelligent. It is high time we prove it."



Her Majesty Queen Noor Al HUSSEIN of Jordan, Femi OKE

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Call to empower women and youth for equitable and balanced development

Speaking to a full room at FFA2018, Her Majesty Queen Noor Al HUSSEIN of Jordan acknowledged the “spectacular progress” that has been made in improving the wellbeing of billions of individuals in recent decades. This has brought significant declines in extreme poverty and infant mortality, and increases in literacy rates and women in the workforce.

But these advances have been uneven and bypassed many communities that “remain plagued by stubborn, unmet, basic human needs”. Their plight is being further exacerbated by the effects of climate change, agricultural practices and poor water resource management, she pointed out, emphasising the need for equitable and balanced development.

The UN’s sustainable development goals provide a long-term framework for action. But Queen Noor stressed the need for urgent action today since the many challenges “are having profound

international consequences right now” – one of the most visible being the forced migration of millions of people.

Her Majesty described the forum’s focus on food, agriculture and environmental protection as “central to how we address the challenges we face, given the links to virtually every dimension of society, economy, human welfare and peace and security”.

Agenda for action

With 40 years’ experience as an international public servant in the developing world, she offered an agenda for action. “We must more aggressively draw on the knowledge and untapped capabilities of men and women who we have largely marginalised and in some cases driven to despair.”

She emphasised the need to empower women and youth. Rural women, she pointed out, are the family anchor. They produce and provide food in local communities and “store a cumulative wisdom and knowledge of generations past”.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation’s work focuses on developing the national and economic potential of women and the poor, providing education, training and income-generating opportunities. Its capacity building model is now followed by over 20 countries in Western Asia.

The results promote local and national stability and prosperity by reducing poverty and hunger, improving health

and education and combatting desperation and radicalisation. The King Hussein Foundation is investing parallel efforts in helping young people, especially from underserved communities. “Witnessing these students grow and succeed has been my most rewarding work in our foundation,” Her Majesty confided, urging others “to support, mentor and train this next generation”.

In addition, women and youth must be involved in decentralised decision-making to ensure a more equitable distribution of development benefits. Experience in Jordan has shown that “open, inclusive and integrated development approaches” are essential to raise the wellbeing of entire communities, she added.

Queen Noor had a specific message for the private sector. She called on it to ensure rural farmers have access to new resource-efficient, higher yield crops, to improve distribution systems and to share knowledge and training.

More widely, she asked it to invest in empowering women and young people; to incorporate these communities’ expertise into efforts to advance food security; and to work effectively with governments to achieve these many aims.

She emphasised the importance of these contributions by concluding: “It is clear that we will be dependent upon all of you to help us make the transition to a more sustainably resilient, healthy and peaceful future.”

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Food for Soul

"Chefs are usually invited to cook, not to express their ideas", acknowledged Massimo BOTTURA as he took to the stage at FFA2018. Mr. BOTTURA is Chef Patron of Osteria Francescana and Founder of 'Food for Soul'. His speech centred around the role that sharing meals has in promoting inclusion in communities and in reducing food waste.

Mr. BOTTURA emphasised the need to change the way we think about food waste. Talking about the need to see food for what it is, he said that we need to see surplus food as *"ordinary ingredients not waste"*, and called for a better understanding of what can be done with these ingredients. He made a plea to the audience to, *"Talk to the ingredients. Ask them the right questions"*, and explained to them that a ripe tomato and a green tomato are used for different things, and that the same is true for freshly baked bread or bread that is al-

ready a few days old.

It was during the Expo in 2015 that his work on tackling food waste through working with communities all started. Mr. BOTTURA and his team saw an opportunity to raise awareness about food waste and food insecurity and decided to create *Refettorio Ambrosiano*, a soup kitchen to feed those in need in a neglected neighbourhood in Milan.

"Every morning, a truck arrived with food waste from the Expo. 65 of the best chefs turned 15 tonnes of food waste into more than 10,000 healthy meals over 6 months."

The success of *Refettorio Ambrosiano* paved the way for the development of the 'Food for Soul' project, a non-profit association seeking to unite people around the table, empower communities, and fight food waste. Mr. BOTTURA and his team have replicated their soup kitchen model in Rio de Janeiro, London, Modena, Bologna, and most recently in the church of la Madeleine in Paris. They are also planning to open a soup kitchen in Mexico. According to him, there are three key values associated with the project: the quality

of ideas, the power of beauty, and the value of hospitality. The importance of hospitality and its capacity for regenerating communities was underlined further, with Mr. BOTTURA saying that *"A refettorio nourishes the body and the soul"*. He attributed the success of the model to the quality of the ingredients and the power of hospitality. He talked about how the design of the refettorios is important for this hospitality, stating that *"50% of the success of a good meal is credit to the dining room"*, and explaining how a lot of thought goes into their structure and design so that they are open to everyone.

The passion for cooking for people runs deep in Massimo BOTTURA. He talked about how his grandmother taught him to cook and shared her wisdom about cooking being *"an act of love"* rather than business.

In closing his speech, the renowned chef invited the audience to spread the message and act, reminding us that we all have a voice and that, more importantly, that we can all play a role and make a difference.



Massimo BOTTURA

HEALTHY FUTURE

Agriculture and food: the future

Professor Louise O. FRESCO, leading scientist in the field of agriculture and sustainability, shared her thoughts on the circular economy, reinstating trust in science-based policy, and the need for an international convention on food and agriculture.

A former UN director, author of numerous works of both fiction and non-fiction, including the acclaimed *Hamburgers in Paradise*, and cited among the top 30 most influential people in the Netherlands, Prof. FRESCO is an impressive figure in European environmental circles. Her TED-Talk style intervention encompassed everything from trade wars to CRISPR-cas9. She elegantly summarised the current unease of European consumers when it comes to science and technology, and made a clear case for reversing this trend in order to ensure the sustainability of our agricultural systems.

According to Prof. FRESCO, humanity is at a crossroads. Global population growth, an expanding middle-class, consumer demand for low-cost, convenient products, and the impact of climate

change all pose challenges for the future of agriculture. While food is safer, cheaper, and more abundant than ever, there is “profound unease” about how this food is produced and what effect this has on human health and the environment.

“We must counter the erosion of trust; the fundamental feeling that science cannot provide the answer.”

As humanity enters into a post-fossil fuels world over the course of this century, the pressure on our agricultural systems will only increase. The next wave of agricultural innovation must be sustainable. We must embrace advances in food production while actively involving wider partnerships within the process. Given the challenges a changed climate will bring, it is vital to communicate the benefits of responsible science.

Biomass will play a vital role in meeting our energy and chemical needs, innovative plant breeding techniques such as CRISPR-cas9 will enable us to grow more resistant and nutritious varieties, and technological advances including robotics, satellite imagery, precision farming, and smart machinery will enable us to manage the complexity of a fully circular, minimal-impact bio-economy. However, innovation need not only be high-tech; different production systems such as agro-ecology, urban agriculture, and permaculture could also play a part,

as could more sustainable consumer diets. Whatever the tools or concepts, it is clear that current systems will be transformed.

“The world will run on biomass. Agriculture will be producing the biomass necessary for feed, fuel but also all kinds of chemicals.”

In many ways, we have reached a stalemate. On the one hand, despite technological advances leading to unsurpassed productivity, 11% of world population remains undernourished and there are still 2 billion people that are not getting enough micronutrients each day. On the other hand, environmental damage and health concerns have severely eroded public trust for science-based solutions for the agricultural system.

So how can we build a global agricultural and food system that will meet the challenges on the 21st century? Prof. FRESCO believes that the solution lies in an international convention on food and agriculture. Building on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and going beyond the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), an international convention on food and agriculture would establish credible regulations, reinstate public trust, and consolidate political will. Whatever the model, Prof. FRESCO believes that an international agreement is a necessary next step and that Europe should lead the charge.



Professor Louise O. FRESCO

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Systemic change for a healthy future

The session on best practices showed how information systems and data can contribute to more sustainable farming around the globe and presented different ways of overcoming economic access to technological tools.

Systemic changes in the way we farm are already a reality. It is now possible for farms to produce food and energy by utilising and recycling the farm's own resources. Markus EEROLA, a farmer from Knehtilä Farm in Finland, calls this 'agroecological symbiosis'. Mr. EEROLA embraced systemic change on his organic farm because for him future-proofing the farm means keeping on top of ongoing developments. However, as he highlighted, it is also fundamental to be able to communicate the contribution of such changes to making farming "healthier".

Understandably, systemic change will differ from one place to another. "Nature is diverse from place to place, and agriculture should be optimised for the local conditions", noted Morten ROSSÉ, partner & head of Natural Solutions in SYSTEMIQ, adding that communication and information technology now enables farmers to decide where, how, and what to plant based on science.

Dik KRUIJTHOFF, a Dutch farmer from the cooperative Novifarm, talked about



Morten ROSSÉ, Markus EEROLA, Dik KRUIJTHOFF, Stephen SACKUR

the potential for systemic change if farmers in a region join forces and work together. Novifarm farms the land belonging to five farms, in total some 800 hectares. He said that at this scale, farmers can make a living and invest in precision farming and sustainability, which is not necessarily the case for smaller farms. How can we overcome this barrier for smaller farmers? Mr. KRUIJTHOFF said that while family farms may be reluctant to sell land or share buildings, they could benefit from sharing management and transportation costs. This type of collaboration can translate into freeing up capacity to invest in precision farming and circular solutions, contributing to more resource efficient agriculture. This alone is not enough though to ensure that we don't just produce enough food, but that the food we do produce is healthy. For him, healthy soils are needed to produce food with a high concentration of micronutrients, and you can't have healthy agriculture or a sustainable future without healthy soil.

Mr. ROSSÉ talked about the potential for public-private consortiums to help to introduce technology where it's currently unaffordable and to create new value chains. He also mentioned that it should not come as a surprise that "the largest tree planting company in Africa may soon be one that does not own any land".

What about the costs associated with bringing about systemic change? The speakers showed that protecting resources and nature can go hand in hand with better economic and working conditions for farmers. This was exemplified by Mr. ROSSÉ who gave the example of three projects in South East Asia and East Africa that combine economically viable small-scale agriculture with forest conservation. Better access to finance, information systems, and data makes such changes possible. Satellites and sensors are also key players in making Mr. KRUIJTHOFF's farm highly resource efficient. However, he noted that there are also risks associated with relying on these systems, saying that since the work is organised around the data, nowadays it's almost impossible to farm without it, should they lose contact with the satellites.

The three speakers embrace change and agree that more resource efficient agriculture can be beneficial for preserving natural resources, but that the two may not always develop simultaneously. "Efficiency is the low hanging fruit, the next step is to be more environmentally friendly", concluded Mr. KRUIJTHOFF. To which Mr. ROSSÉ added, "there are pockets of healthy agriculture out there and they need your engagement."

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SESSION 1

Transitioning towards sustainable food systems for a healthy future

The first session began after the special address by Queen Noor Al HUSSEIN of Jordan. The speakers included Hilal ELVER, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for the United Nations; Cyriaque SENDASHONGA representing IUCN; Lawrence HADDAD, Executive Director of GAIN; and Alexandra BRAND, Chief Sustainability Officer for Syngenta.

Hilal ELVER opened the discussion by giving a presentation on the current state of the food system and its weaknesses. She talked about hunger, the “triple burden” of malnutrition, and the need for democratization of the food system. There were some startling points that Mrs. ELVER brought up, such as global hunger levels actually increasing between 2015 and 2017, with 815 million people that were food insecure in 2017, an increase of 11% since 2015. She also spoke about a recent report that says on the imminent danger of famine for 30 million people in north east Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Not since World War II have this many countries been classified this way at one time.

Mrs. ELVER also spoke about growing food insecurity in some developed countries as a side effect of growing wealth inequality, and the parallel problem of food waste at the home level in the developed world. Following on from her comments about democratisation of the food system, Mr. HADDAD spoke about the need for a social movement to come together to put pressure on policy makers to challenge the current make-up of the food system.

The consumption of meat was addressed by Hilal ELVER and Lawrence HADDAD. Mr. HADDAD explained that in many low and middle-income countries, people need to eat more meat because it is an important source of micronutrients and that animal protein is a critical factor in the growth rates of children. Nevertheless, he said that we do need to think about the type of meat we consume as not all meats have the same environmental footprint.

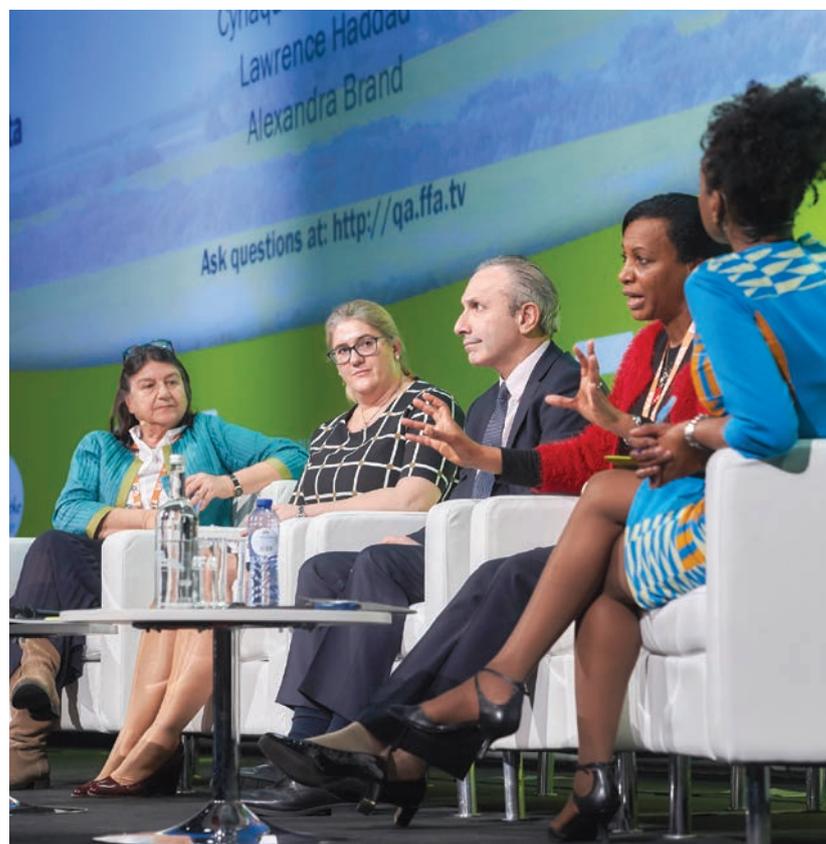
Cyriaque SENDASHONGA spoke about agriculture and nature being “natural allies” and the importance of making both compatible. Alexandra BRAND led on from this talking about Syngenta’s work with farmers and how good soil management can reduce carbon emissions from agriculture.

At the same time, Mr. HADDAD spoke about how the challenge of working with policy people. In low and middle-income countries, Mr. HADDAD explained that it can be difficult to get policymakers to think about problems like hypertension, obesity, and diabetes, and Mrs. ELVER talked about mistakes being made in following the paths of developed countries, for instance in the expansion of monoculture. At the same time, Mr. HADDAD spoke about how high-income countries do not really understand what the SDGs mean for them, and the disconnect between what their different ministries are pursuing and the objectives of their aid budgets. Mrs. SENDASHONGA addressed this point about coherency at government-level by explaining that the introduction of the SDGs instigated a very different approach by which we all have to work together. She acknowledged that this is a big change to bring

about but said that the pace for adopting to this new way of working has been very slow.

Mr. HADDAD returned to some of the points raised in Mrs. ELVER’s presentation about hunger and malnutrition and said that people need to mobilise and ask fundamental questions about the food system, such as why fruits and vegetables are so expensive in some low and middle-income countries. Mrs. BRAND opened the discussion highlighting that there is a need for reliable information on food in the same way that the IPPC is the authoritative body on climate change science.

When the conversation turned to the reform of the CAP and its budget during the questions from the audience, Mrs. SENDASHONGA made the point that there is no healthy food without a healthy environment, while Mr. HADDAD remarked that there needs to be investment in technology which is adaptable for farmers outside of Europe as well as those in Europe. Hilal ELVER added that in revising the CAP, European leaders need to also take into consideration the consequences the policies will have on other countries.



Hilal ELVER, Alexandra BRAND, Lawrence HADDAD, Cyriaque SENDASHONGA, Femi OKE



Gary TABOR, Ann TUTWILER, Femi OKE

SESSION 2

Connecting conservation and agriculture

Gary TABOR, Founder of the *Centre for Large Landscape Conservation* and Ann TUTWILER, Director General of *Biodiversity International* discussed how connected landscapes and agrobiodiversity are both essential for ensuring natural conservation and agricultural sustainability.

Although the speakers proposed different definitions of connectivity, both stressed the fundamental importance of connecting conservation and agriculture. On the one hand, for Gary TABOR nature connectivity means connecting landscapes, ecosystem services and protected areas in a type of circulatory system for nature in order to halt biodiversity loss. On the other hand, for Ann TUTWILER this interconnectivity plays out on the level of biodiversity within the agricultural system itself.

Gary TABOR warned against applying outdated thinking to agriculture and biodiversity. He cautioned that we are still approaching conservation with a 19th century mindset in which areas of nature are separate from areas of human activity. Yellowstone National Park in the United States represents this the most clearly. This almost perfectly square protected area of volcanic land does not take into account the migration patterns of the animals it seeks to protect.

We must now evolve towards a new system of conservation which recognises the importance of safeguarding the circulatory processes within functioning ecosystems. This 'process conservation' ensures the connectivity of ecosystems services and the connectivity of natural habitats. According to Gary TABOR, this means being smarter about conserving nature outside of traditional 'natural parks' and using what conservation biologists call "*the matrix of mixed land tenures and mixed land uses.*"

If we want to stop losing nature then we have to restore and connect nature in rural agricultural areas and develop green infrastructure in urban landscapes. According to Ann TUTWILER, we need to ensure biodiversity *within* agricultural systems as well.

We have to conserve the processes that sustain nature. For Mrs. TUTWILER, this means connecting landscapes, ensuring diversity in our agricultural practices, and marrying precision farming and precision conservation. She explained that *Biodiversity International* takes a connected view when it comes to agriculture. Agricultural systems are not separate from the larger ecosystem. Ensuring biodiversity within the agricultural system involves every living system needed for humanity to produce food: diversity at the level of soils, genetic diversity, species diversity, and diversity at the landscape level.

In the 20th century, the focus was on eradicating famine and malnutrition by producing more calories. Today's problems are different: our current agricul-

tural system is contributing to the fact that we are surpassing our planetary boundaries¹ and that a small number of crops are overwhelmingly dominant.

Solutions lie in the diversification of our agricultural practices. Agrobiodiversity underpins 6-8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Combined with crop rotation and mosaic landscapes, crop diversification improves water use and soil quality, which are important for the functioning of the biosphere. Strategic agrobiodiversity can also significantly reduce pests and disease-related crop losses.

Gary TABOR explained that one of the biggest threats to connectivity in conservation, and therefore to global biodiversity, is linear infrastructure. He applauded the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and Syngenta's call to action on landscape connectivity.

Wild biodiversity, agrobiodiversity, interconnected landscapes, and connected ecosystem processes should be part of an integrated approach to agriculture. We are witnessing a wholesale shift in the ecology of the planet and now is the time to starting pushing the boundaries of connected thinking around agriculture and conservation.

¹ *Planetary boundaries is a concept of nine Earth system processes which have boundaries that was proposed in 2009 by a group of scientists led by Johan ROCKSTRÖM from the Stockholm Resilience Centre and Will STEFFEN from the Australian National University.*



Philipp SCHULZE ESKING, Jean ARTHUIS, Ariel BRUNNER, Stephen SACKUR, Ariane LOTTI, Phil HOGAN

SESSION 3

Future for EU farming: Could EU agriculture survive without the CAP ?

With the European Union in the midst of another CAP reform and growing pressures on the budget, session three was a highly anticipated debate which did not disappoint.

The session was opened by the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil HOGAN. Commissioner HOGAN argued robustly that the European farming community is 'essential to meeting societal objectives such as food security, as well as helping to meet our targets on the environment' and went on to argue that the strong focus on the environment and a new system based on clear targets and local management was evidence of that. However, he also used the opportunity of the FFA to once again address a common criticism about the 'The Future of Food and Farming – for a flexible, fair and sustainable Common Agricultural Policy' Communication, released last November, that it is in effect re-nationalising agricultural policy, by stressing that the overall strategic decisions

would continue to remain in Brussels, but allow more flexibility for more appropriate mechanisms at the local level.

Commissioner HOGAN's view of the importance of retaining a strong and ambitious CAP budget was echoed by Jean ARTHUIS MEP, Chair of the Committee on Budgets at the European Parliament. However, Mr. ARTHUIS voiced his concern over the €14 billion annual hole in the budget that Brexit will leave and warned that if the EU budget remains at 1% of the total EU GDP, this would lead to a significantly reduced pot of money. This, combined with growing demands on the budget by Member States, would result in radical choices and funds granted for the CAP would inevitably be lowered.

The theme of the need for a strong CAP continued throughout the session. Ariane LOTTI, an agricultural entrepreneur from *Tenuta San Carlo* farm in Tuscany, took the audience through the realities of farming within the context of the increasing volatility, which Mr. HOGAN identified as one of the priorities for the future CAP, when she described a perfect storm in 2017 of organic transition costs, the commodity market crash, crop failure and drought, and the crucial role that the guarantee of CAP funds made to her cash flow during this period.

A second thread that was common among the speakers who answered the

question on the future of the CAP, was acceptance. There was a general agreement that there must be more acceptance and transparency with regard to what farmers do and what it takes to grow food, but also an acceptance that if the public want public goods, they must be willing to pay for them. Philipp SCHULZE ESKING of the German Agricultural Board proposed better farm-level indicators for sustainability and a credit system as a way to show greater transparency.

Despite the emphasis of the speakers on a strong CAP with strong environmental credentials, Birdlife's Ariel BRUNNER said he feared business as usual and saw a resistance to recognising the extent of the problems we are facing on biodiversity, soil, and climate change. He, like the other four speakers, supported a strong CAP but argued that the CAP should be one of transition; to help farmers transition to a more sustainable agricultural system.

In conclusion, the 5 participants in the session, including representatives from the Commission and the Parliament, as well as farmers and an environmental NGO, all agreed that a strong CAP is needed for European agriculture to survive. They only differed on where the emphasis in this new CAP should lie.

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CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Leadership and transformation for a healthy future

First Vice President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Better Regulation, Inter Institutional Relations, Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, Frans TIMMERMANS, gave a rousing speech at FFA2018 calling on Europeans to embrace the inevitable changes we face together.

The Commissioner told the packed hall that we are now at the beginning of the 4th industrial revolution and that it will affect everyone. He cautioned that this means that there will be turmoil, that the way we relate within societies and between societies will fundamentally change, and that we need to see the future CAP in this context. He urged those listening to embrace change, warning that whilst we can fight to keep everything the same, change is inevitable. The changes that are coming down the line are already on course and it is futile to resist them. Rather than spending one's energy resisting inevitable change, Commissioner TIMMERMANS talked about how it is more beneficial to embrace transition but to ensure that it delivers what we want in line with our European values.

Giving the example of such a shift, he spoke of the rapid sea change in the way we view plastics. He said that in three short years, the way citizens view plastic has changed dramatically, creating public acceptance for fundamentally changing the way we use plastic, and causing policy makers to react. This, Mr. TIMMERMANS explained to the FFA, is the way to create effective change: to galvanise support, react with policy, and integrate it into education systems. Going back to agricultural policy, the Commission's Vice President said that the CAP could and should be such a tool. If used effectively, it can drive us in the direction of higher quality production and higher quality products whilst protecting our European values in terms of food production. Mr. TIMMERMANS believes that, as with the change in mentality about plastics, consumers will in time be ready to pay for the true cost of their food.

However, for this to happen, we need to stop pigeonholing our views and operating in silos of opinion. We need to start

learning how to engage and discuss with those whose lives and opinions are unlike our own. This silo approach was, he said, particularly apparent between rural and urban communities. Both communities must realise that there is no future for rural areas unless they are in sync with urban ones and vice versa. He stressed that we all have a co-responsibility for our destiny.

Commissioner TIMMERMANS explained that if we want to embrace change and mould it for the best outcome, we need to work at a European level. Europe's strength, he said, lies in the scale it pro-

vides for research and innovation, facing environmental challenges, and working together to find new ways to control pests and embrace the energy transition at lower costs. If we can do this, agriculture will be in a better place in 10 or 15 years' time. He urged those present to understand that, *'there is no protect in protectionism, but there is isolation in isolationism'*.

He finished by accepting that the challenges we face are huge but stated that he was optimistic if we can combine efforts at continental level to embrace what is coming.



Frans TIMMERMANS

Healthy farming, healthy food, healthy future



This annual Forum is an initiative of the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and Syngenta. The FFA brings together a wide and diverse range of stakeholders to inspire new thinking on how European and global agriculture needs to respond to the major challenges of delivering both food and environmental security.

The Forum was created in 2008 in response to the belief that many of Europe's agricultural and environmental policies focused on solving yesterday's problems such as overproduction. The FFA instead deals with the challenges and market opportunities of the future. These include: feeding a growing world population, demands for a higher quality diet, developing renewable sources of energy and changing weather patterns. With limited arable land available globally, there is a need to maximize production on existing cultivated land, but to do so in a sustainable manner.

The Forum for the Future of Agriculture 2018 convened with a call for action by all stakeholders and society at large to work together in order to deliver real world solutions for a healthy future

through healthy farming practices and healthy food production. The Forum brought together leaders from politics, industry and society, who highlighted the importance of biodiversity for healthy food production, presented emerging farming technologies and best practices in artificial intelligence and sustainable forest management among others, as well as considering options on how to reduce food waste.

FFA2018 came at a time when real world action is needed to put the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into practice and a new cycle of reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is starting to take shape. This is coupled with growing public interest in farming practices, along with increased environmental awareness and health

consciousness related to food consumption.

The discussions in Brussels will continue during the FFA2018 regional events, taking place in Finland on the 13th of June and in Ukraine in October.

The FFA Team.

For full videos of all sessions, additional interviews and more, please visit www.forumforagriculture.com

The FFA is an initiative from



Bulgaria's "Preservation of soil health and fertility by implementing new concepts of land management" unanimous winner of the Soil Award

The Land and Soil Management Award rewards land use and soil management practices mitigating soil threats such as degradation, erosion, reduction of organic matter content, diffuse contamination, and compaction as well as the reduction of soil biodiversity, salinization, sealing, flooding and landslides. In doing so, the award sheds light on outstanding achievements, encourages new concepts of land and soil protection and their implementation in land management, as well as enhances awareness on land and soil functions.

Under the auspices of the European

Commission (DG Environment and the Joint Research Centre), in association with BOKU and Ljubljana Universities and Syngenta, the ELO awarded the prize to Galina PEICHEVA-MITEVA from Bulgaria. Significant number of measures were mentioned by the Jury, but in addition they underlined that together with her team Mrs PEICHEVA-MITEVA represents the efforts of an individual farmer in improving soil quality, a project the jury

felt could be replicated across different EU countries.

In addition, a special "Diploma of Recognition" was awarded to the "Holistic Management Regenerating Agricultural Soils" project from Zimbabwe.

For additional information on the Land and Soil Management Award please consult our website: www.elo.org



Professor Martin GERZABEK, Galina PEICHEVA-MITEVA, Christopher COOKE, Trond QVALE, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE



Emeritus Professor Allan BUCKWELL, Janez POTOČNIK

Rethinking EU livestock The pre-FFA Stakeholder Debate



As has become tradition on the eve of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture, the RISE Foundation engaged over 150 high level stakeholders in an animated debate on a key and current topic for the future of European agriculture. This year the topic was livestock.

In 2017, the Foundation launched a new study on livestock production in Europe. The decision to focus on livestock came out of earlier work by the Foundation on Nutrient fluxes in Europe¹. Data gathered during this research showed how the rapid evolution of the livestock sector in size, scale, specialisation and concentration had led to a system that was out of balance, where the environmental impacts of production were having serious consequences and greatly outweighing any important positive contributions that the sector could make.

For nearly a year, the Foundation has studied the literature of both the positive and negative impacts of livestock production and consumption in Europe. Emeritus Professor Allan BUCKWELL, the Director of the study, took the audi-

ence through RISE's thinking on how we should view the future of livestock production and consumption in Europe. He outlined RISE's efforts to find a framework to engage actors in a constructive debate on the issue and explained how the analysis of the impacts of the sector, combined with ROCKSTRÖM's (2019) planetary boundaries work and De VRIES (2013) paper on human needs and adverse impacts and a social floor and environmental ceiling, had led RISE to develop the concept of the *A Safe Operating Space (SOS) for Livestock*.

By outlining this new concept to the audience, and the proposed system for defining boundaries, RISE hoped to ignite a response from across a wide range of sectors to help feed into and define its ongoing work in this area. And the audience did not disappoint. First up were the panel; Tom TYNAN – Special Advisor to Commissioner HOGAN, Duncan WILLIAMSON – Food Policy Manager and WWF UK and Hans HUIJBERS, Farmer and Member of the Board of the LTO Nederland, who each

gave a strong response to Foundation's conclusions to date. Then came an intense hour of questions and comments from members of the audience representing farmers, industry, NGOs and research institutions.

Janez POTOČNIK, the Chairman of RISE explained to the audience that the overwhelming scientific evidence concerning these impacts, and our need to honour our international agreements on the SDGs and Climate change, meant that it is inevitable that the livestock sector will be forced to change. And indeed this transition is already in process. However, it is crucial, he argued, that any shift in livestock farming in Europe must be accompanied by public support mechanisms and consideration of the complexity and contributions the sector can bring.

The final report will be released **26th June 2018** in Brussels.

¹ Buckwell, A.;Nadeu, E. 2016. Nutrient Recovery and Reuse (NRR) in European Agriculture. A review of the issues, opportunities and actions. RISE Foundation, Brussels



Barend VERACHTERT, Nuno CALADO, Galina PEICHEVA- MITEVA, Pierre-Olivier DREGE, Pedro PARENTI, Adam RÓŻYCKI

Pre-FFA event on Future Farming: Technology, Sustainability and Generational Renewal

Landowners and managers must face new challenges every day. These include rising fossil fuel and input prices, the environment requirements, climate change, water supply, but in addition also the management of ones such as man power (including rural depopulation, immigration etc.), risk management and so on. Therefore, the ELO organised a conference the day before the Forum for the Future of Agriculture to try to offer concrete solutions on how to adapt to those new conditions.

Barend VERACHTERT, Head of Unit of Agri-Food Chain, DG Research & Innovation, during his keynote speech explained the reasoning and the recommendations of the “Food 2030” report. He explored what is needed to transform and future-proof our food systems to be sustainable, resilient, and competitive. Two of the main issues he pointed out were the need of nutrition for sustaina-

ble and healthy diets, ensuring that nutritious food and water is available, accessible and affordable for all; and how this affects the farmers’ daily business. The second point was the need of innovation and empowerment of communities, with new business models and value-added products, goods and services; meeting the needs, values and expectations of society in a responsible and ethical way.

In response to the keynote, Adam RÓŻYCKI, Managing Director, G’s Poland Zoo and Agros spoke about how to integrate manpower and environmental care in creating an economically viable business. A central question posed by the director was whether it was better to increase exports or shorten food chains in order to distribute efficiently and capture value. He also warned of the consequences of Brexit for agri-business, noting manpower shortages in the UK and declining seasonal worker rates.

Those were echoed by Galina PEICHEVA-MITEVA, member of the Board of BAALO. She underlined the need of promoting sustainable business models to encourage younger generations to take over the farms. She emphasized the need to quickly propose concrete so-

lutions to stop the rural depopulation – a major problem in her native country of Bulgaria.

One of such solutions is the enhancement of various services in the countryside, with a special role for broadband internet. That point was echoed and developed by Pedro PARENTI, Head of Marketing for Yara Crop Nutrition Europe. Speaking about digital farming as one of the cornerstone for the future of agriculture he pointed out the daily challenges of the farming world: would they in the future be more farmer or IT engineer? He also questioned whether the current set of technologies are affordable for smaller farms.

Nuno MENDES CALADO, General Secretary, UNAC added to that debate topics related to forest management. He shared his view on how efficiently integrate nature protection in forest management, emphasizing that climate change is already affecting our way to produce also for forestry.

All panelists agreed that the pressure on the countryside is growing, and the landowners and farmer managers need new tools to face tomorrow’s challenges and societal expectations.

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Contact:
Emmanuel De Groef
Tel: +32 2 709 10 50
manu.de.groef@telemak.com
www.telemak.com

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Diary dates

10 - 13 May, Lake of Constance

21st Congress of the FCS: "Prealpine & Alpine Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting"
www.friendsofthecountryside.org

21 - 25 May, Brussels, Belgium

EU Green Week: Green cities for a greener future
www.eugreenweek.eu



22 May, European Parliament, Brussels

"Pollinator Friendly Farming: what's possible now?" - organized by ELO, in partnership with MEP Karl-Heinz FLORENZ, President of the Intergroup "Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside"
www.elo.org



22 May, Abbey of Trappists Westmalle, Belgium

FORBIO Information Day - organized by ELO and Landelijk Vlaanderen
www.forbio-project.eu

5 - 6 June, Vienna, Austria

ELO General Assembly
www.elo.org



13 June, Helsinki, Finland

Forum for the Future of Agriculture regional event
www.forumforagriculture.com/ffa-regionals/



Wildlife Estates : showcasing best practices in private conservation

The Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) and the Wildlife Estates Label (WE) showcase best practices in agroecology and private biodiversity conservation

The Wildlife Estates (WE) Label is the largest private biodiversity conservation label in Europe. It represents a network of exemplary territories which voluntarily implement active management practices in order to enhance biodiversity on their land.

The WE label highlights the key role of private land management and responsible land use in safeguarding biodiversity. Above all, it demonstrates that managed land, whether for agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, or ecotourism, can be directly beneficial to biodiversity when done so responsibly.

The project now includes almost 300 estates covering over 1.5 million hectares, of which more than 600,000 ha are designated as Natura 2000 areas. On 27 March 2018, three new territories were awarded the WE Label for their outstanding wildlife management and conservation efforts: Landgoed Het Paviljoen in Flanders, Belgium which is owned by the de Cartier de MARCHIENNE family; La Ronca Estate in the Toledo province in Spain owned by the MARAZZI family; and Bellinga Gods in southern Sweden owned by the PIPER family. Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Secretary-General of the ELO and Humberto DELGADO ROSA, Director for Natural Capital at DG Environment of the European Commission welcomed the work undertaken by these estates to halt the loss to European biodiversity.

The label is present in 19 Member States and regions. It promotes the benefits of active management of private land among key stakeholders and engages both the private and public sectors in mutual cooperation to halt the loss of biodiversity. If you would like to know more about the Wildlife Estates Label, please visit: www.wildlife-estates.eu.

Homage to Mr. Lionel de LEZARDIERE

ELO and FCS pay tribute to Mr. Lionel de LÉZARDIÈRE, President of the 'Propriété Privée Rurale de Loire-Atlantique', for his work, his devotion and his friendship during all the years of the close collaboration of shared values and common goals.



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Publisher : Thierry de l'Escaille
Chief editor : Emmanuelle Mikosz
Text editor : Robert de Graeff, Maeve Howe

Communication & proof readers: Ana Canomanuel, Jehanne de Dorlodot - Verhaegen, Clara Moreno
Back office : Gabriela Pena, Alberto Hermosel

Rue de Trèves, 67
 B - 1040 Bruxelles
 Tel. : 00 32 (0)2 234 30 00
 Fax : 00 32 (0)2 234 30 09
countryside@elo.org
 Internet Site : www.elo.org

Let's increase our food supply without reducing theirs

the good growth plan

Syngenta Brussels Office
 Avenue Louise, 489,
 B-1050 Brussels
 Tel: +32.2.642 27 27
www.syngenta.com
www.goodgrowthplan.com

