



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

inside:

The power of local action

Knowledge is power
for smallholder farmers

a daily
multi-stakeholder
magazine on
climate change
and sustainable
development

outreach.

18 June 2012



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pic: Christopher Schoenholz

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pic: Angus kirk

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About Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. For more information, visit: www.stakeholderforum.org

Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including the UNCSO meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena, as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team (gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org or acutter@stakeholderforum.org) You can also follow us on Twitter: @Earthsummit2012 Outreach is now available on iPad: www.issuu.com/outreachlive

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Small-scale producers still need support in the consolidated text

Daniel Hale
Progressio

Ahead of his attendance at Rio+20, Progressio development worker Derek Kim last week headed to Hodeida, on Yemen's Red Sea coast, to ask local communities what they wanted from the Summit. Local communities in this semi-arid region rely on small-scale production, with problems of climate and soils adding to the difficulty of growing enough food.

Unsurprisingly, for those local communities, especially for women who often have responsibility for feeding their family, food security was high on their list of urgent issues to address.

"Even when it wasn't the top priority," Derek says, "it's only because they hope to get water and energy available in enough quantities so that incomes increase and food security, agriculture, jobs and employment will improve. But the situation on the ground is different because the area faces water scarcity and the cost of energy is very high."

So will the consolidated text proposed by the Brazilians make any difference to the people struggling every day in Hodeida, or for any of the estimated 1 billion people around the world who are poorly nourished? It is certainly a tall order, and a single text, no matter how ambitious, would struggle. But judging by the state of the text so far, signs are strong that it can provide a decent framework for action.

There is not a huge amount of change from the texts which have been flying around in recent days; indeed the facilitator's suggested text, which formed part of the Co-Chairs' text of 2nd June, is largely unchanged. The right to food stays in early on in the document. The role of farmers, especially small-scale producers such as those in Hodeida, is also recognised.

There are a couple of additions: the Rome Principles (agreed in 2009) get a mention in the text. The Agricultural Market Information System hosted by the FAO is also added, as does the role of trade. And on the omissions, there is no 'by when' on increasing agricultural productivity.

So what is being left unsaid in the document? Well, food sovereignty is one concept that is completely omitted. Food sovereignty is the policy framework developed by small-scale food producers and food insecure groups themselves, in consultative processes over many years. It is now referred to in international policy processes, but there is no mention here. Additionally, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the primary democratic forum for global governance of food and agriculture, is not reinforced here either, surely problematic.

In addition, there are no safeguards in this document to protect small-scale producers from being turfed off their land and becoming work-insecure labourers in a newly 'sustainable' food system, although 'secure land tenure' is mentioned elsewhere. The global food system, long considered by many to be dysfunctional, is not going to be reformed by this document without some significant efforts on the part of the Brazilians. And with so much in the document that is contentious, it seems unlikely that we can expect to see it come the 22nd June – a missed opportunity.

But in other ways, the document may help galvanise political will behind sustainable food and agriculture. Specific mention of integrated water resource management – if implementation made it to Hodeida – would support small-scale farmers there to make the most of their water resources. Energy also gets some mention, a key concern of those in Hodeida. As ever, the rhetoric at Rio+20 has to be translated into reality if poverty is to be addressed in a fair and sustainable way ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Daniel Hale is Progressio's Head of Campaigns, and leads Progressio's delegation at Rio+20. To meet Derek Kim, a Progressio development worker with the Yemeni National Water Resources Authority, email lis@progressio.org.uk For more about Progressio, check out www.progressio.org.uk



pic: McKay Savage

The power of local action

UNDP Equator Initiative

A short shuttle ride from the organised chaos of Riocentro is the HSBC Arena (known locally as Barra Arena). Having previously hosted international performers, the arena is currently home to the Community Aldeia, a ten-day workshop running parallel to the official proceedings of Rio+20.

The Aldeia ('Village' in Portuguese) brings together representatives of the 25 winning initiatives of the Equator Prize 2012 with other civil society leaders, media, and the UNDP Equator Initiative partnership. This community-driven, interactive dialogue is designed to showcase the work of these outstanding local organisations, providing a platform for their representatives to share knowledge and best practices, inspire change and inform policy, and elevate their work to the international stage.

While these initiatives have developed unique approaches suited to their respective climates, landscapes and cultures, they collectively constitute an emphatic testimony to the power of local action to deliver sustainable, people-centered development solutions. Many of these groups work to meet food security needs through the introduction of improved agricultural and harvesting practices; equally common is the leading role played by women in these efforts.

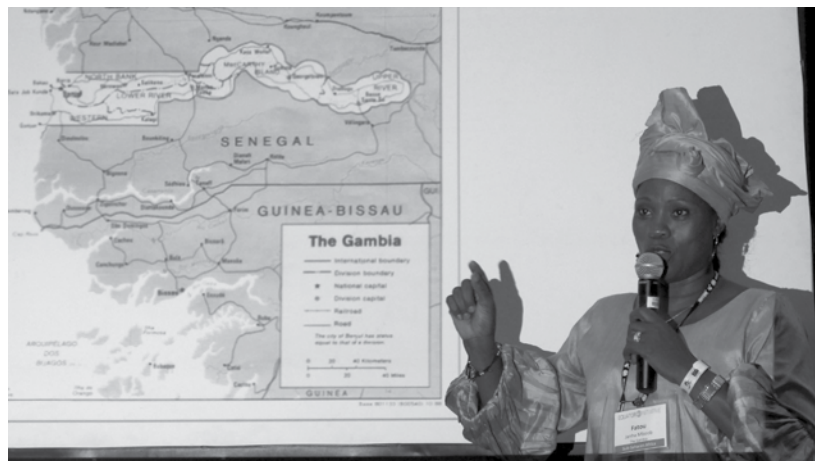
Prize winners from Sudan, Tajikistan, the Gambia, and India presented their work in a side-event titled 'Women, Food, Farming and Land' in the Community Aldeia space on Friday 15th June. Sudan's Zenab for Women Development Organisation focuses on the economic empowerment of rural women in Eastern Sudan, where female-headed households equal male-headed households. Although women play an active role in sustaining the region's vibrant agricultural economy, they are excluded from accessing the economic tools they need to boost their productivity. Zenab provides collateral for bank loans, makes tractors available for land preparation, and helps women rent land of their own to farm. Union revenues are invested in poverty reduction measures, which, as Zenab President Fatima Mustafa Ahmed explained, will set women free to enhance their participation in decision-making and move towards social and economic equality.

Tajikistan's Zan va Zamin also works to support women farmers by assisting them in securing land tenure, supporting diversified agricultural methods, and promoting conservation of agro-biodiversity. Through the group's advocacy efforts, over 1,200 rural women have received land of their own to farm and 50 women have

been trained as farm leaders. The organisation has resisted prevailing agricultural trends in the country by promoting the conservation of rare native fruit species. Additionally, 20 seed funds and 20 revolving loan funds have been established to provide financial assistance to farmers.

Market access has been a focus of the work undertaken by winning initiatives from the Gambia and India, finding solutions to overcome barriers to small producers in reaching larger markets. TRY Oyster Women's Association has trained women oyster harvesters in the Gambia in sustainable harvesting techniques and aquaculture. By uniting into an association, the harvesters now have a central point for the processing and packaging of their oysters, as well as training in alternative livelihood options, to generate income during the off-season. The group aims to eventually become a regional centre for the packaging and international export of oysters.

Similarly, Shashwat has worked with communities affected by the construction of the Dhimbe Dam in India to improve their access to markets. This has involved developing new production activities to cater to specific market demands. Responding to the lack of demand locally for the sale of fish caught in the dam's reservoir, Shashwat have, since 2009, mobilised women's self-help groups to raise ornamental fish for sale in urban markets. A founding member of Shashwat, Anand Kapoor, explained that initiatives such as this have allowed the communities affected by the dam to reframe its impacts as opportunities rather than ongoing problems ■



More info

These four groups illuminate the issues being negotiated at Rio+20. They provide rare 'good news stories' among the doom-and-gloom forecasts and, more fundamentally, they show us the true meaning of sustainable development. These inspiring examples of local action will be honored at the **Equator Prize 2012 Award Ceremony at Vivo Rio** (Downtown Rio de Janeiro) on **Wednesday June 20th**. To attend the event, which will be hosted by Gilberto Gil and UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, register at www.equator2012.eventbrite.com.

Building knowledge systems for agriculture

Robynne Anderson

World Farmers Organisation

Agriculture and food security are at the core of much the discussions on sustainable development. Farmers represent one third of the world's population and one half of its poor. As the planet's primary ecosystem managers, farmers' activities depend on a sound environment. Farmers provide multiple goods and services to society, such as production of food, growing fibres, delivery of ecosystem services, land stewardship, enhancing biodiversity. They also play a key role for rural development and rural employment. The farming sector contributes to economic growth and to reducing poverty and hunger in developing countries, while still being an important part of the economy in industrialised countries.

But sustainable agriculture is a knowledge-intensive activity. Farmers need to have access to training, extension services, and sharing of traditional knowledge that can encourage the production of abundant and nutritious crops and mixed diets. Yet, in the past 20 years, public funding and support for extension services has steadily declined and other forms of knowledge sharing, such as village knowledge centres and mobile phone enabled agronomic support, have not yet been fully scaled up to realise their true potential.

There are three dimensions to sustainable development: social, economic, environmental. Knowledge sharing is key to supporting these dimensions, and extension and advisory services are a vital knowledge-sharing institution. Improving institutions for knowledge sharing will help us to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As embodied in MDG1, cutting hunger is the top social priority. By ensuring that farmers have information, markets, technologies, and other services, extension and rural advisory services (RAS) can further the quality, diversity, and volume of food to tackle hunger and malnutrition. MDG1 also aims to reduce poverty. As one half the world's poor are smallholder farmers, extension services that provide information, training, linkages for marketing, price discovery, and economic skills, provide a mechanism to break the poverty cycle. To further the environmental sustainability – including limiting deforestation, fostering biodiversity, and protecting water – extension also plays a key role in sharing information on improved practices and technology.

Knowledge sharing is critical to achieve sustainable development. Thus, increasing and improving agricultural extension and advisory services can be a legacy outcome of Rio+20 that allows agriculture to continually adapt to multiple demands. Whether it is better meeting nutritional needs, improving water use efficiency, reducing land use, or any of the other competing demands on farmer services, they are best met through improved practices based on knowledge.

Knowledge helps farmers adopt practices that maximise the efficiency of the inputs they use and help protect the natural resources they depend on. Training

programmes should specifically involve women farmers in developing countries as essential 'gatekeepers' for household nutrition and welfare.

Providing this education to rural communities in a systematic, participatory manner is essential to improving their production, income and quality of life. Extension services disseminate practical information related to agriculture, including correct use of improved seeds, fertilisers, tools, tillage practices, water management, livestock management and welfare, marketing techniques, and basic business skills to address poverty. Extension is also an essential pillar for rural community progress, including support for the organisational capacity of farmers' groups and the formation of co-operatives.

The five areas to mobilise the potential of rural advisory services:

1. Focusing on best-fit approaches;
2. Embracing pluralism;
3. Using participatory approaches;
4. Developing capacity; and
5. Ensuring long-term institutional support.

Rio+20 outcomes should include a specific and concrete commitment from governments to revert decade-long trends in underfunding of knowledge sharing mechanisms, in particular extension services.

Modern extension services must increase their capacity for two-way information sharing – between experts in research and farmers themselves who have essential information on farming. Research and extension should be functionally linked and there should be pluralism in the approaches to implementing this form of education.

Governments should help farmers adopt sustainable practices through the promotion of knowledge of best practices, such as manure management and integrated crop management, as well as improving access to scalable information technologies to receive weather, crop, and market information, as well as other early warning systems.

Successful programmes already exist. For example, the Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets (ESFIM) programme promotes a collaborative approach to research. Working in eleven developing countries, the initiative partners farmers' organisations with local researchers to voice their requirements more effectively, and provides farmers' organisations with information and knowledge that will strengthen their ability to collect, organise and exchange experiences and knowledge ■



Knowledge is power for smallholder farmers

Cecilia Schubert

Coalition for a Competitive Food and Agricultural System

“Knowledge sharing is key to supporting agriculture”, Dyborn Chibonga, Chief Executive Officer, National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi said at a side event on Wednesday 13th June. Extension services, or rural advisory services, are vital knowledge sharing institutions, crucial to achieving the social, economic and environmental elements of sustainable development.

The side event brought together farmers and prominent speakers from all over the world to discuss how to mobilise the potential of extension services and communicate their role in improving agricultural practices.

Extension services can help improve livelihoods by providing vital information, technologies and knowledge to farmers. For example, it provides access via smartphone to market data such as weather projections and livestock prices, offers knowledge centres with information on new crop varieties, and index-based insurance through private sector engagement with local communities.

Chibonga presented five key pillars for enabling and mobilising robust agricultural extension and advisory services:

1. Focusing on best-fit approaches;
2. Embracing pluralism;
3. Using participatory approaches;
4. Developing capacity; and
5. Ensuring long-term institutional support.

Together, these would enable knowledge-based agricultural infrastructure to continually adapt.

Knowledge transfer is a two-way street

Chibonga emphasised that farmers have detailed knowledge of their land and practices, and always seek the best possible yields. This is an important consideration for today's researchers, where two-way communication, information and knowledge must be curated and changed to fit local contexts. As such, pluralism and best-fit approaches are essential to maximise the benefits of extension services. “The farmer wants to be involved in the development of demand driven, flexible content” Chibonga stressed.



Instead of lasting only a few years, extension services must develop into sustainable, long-term institutional projects in the wider area. Progress cannot be made until well after initial information dispersion, and all sectors in the community (public, private, non-governmental and farmers' organisations) play a role in ensuring that rural advisory services serve agriculture and farmers as intended.

The need to share basic information is sometimes forgotten

Speaker Bridgit Muasa from the Department of Veterinary Service in Kenya, emphasised the need to return to basic information before sharing highly technological advice. “Basic information, such as ensuring that poultry farmers know about the importance of feeding newborn chickens within the first hours, can be crucial” she said. “It is important to remember that people may not have basic information and knowledge when developing extension services and sharing information. Going back to basics means that people have a better opportunity to use more advanced knowledge at a later stage”.

Mobile phones can be used for more than phone calls, they can help transform the way farmers work – Farmer Zeinab Aloumani from Jordan pointed to the need for to train female farmers to use available mobile services, so they can benefit from information and advice related to agriculture.

Connecting the dots from field to plate – the step forward

In many countries, younger generations tend to be disconnected from agriculture and farming culture, preferring jobs in urban areas. A disconnect also exists between consumers and food producers. “Many people do not know how food gets from the field to their plate” commented audience member Matt Linnegar, a farmer from Australia. Looking forwards, it is clear that communities must help bridge this gap, and work to ensure that consumers trust the producer and better understand the real impacts of the food lifecycle ■

What is sustainable agriculture?

Brittany Laidlaw

Major Group for Children and Youth

Making serious commitments to feed the excess 2.3 billion people set to occupy the planet by 2050 should be on the minds of world leaders as they negotiate the final text on food and agriculture this week.

In the lead up to Prep Com, The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) recognised the profound transition needed towards sustainable agricultural systems, in order to deliver healthy and nutritious food for the generations to come, particularly in developing nations. Reflecting this agenda, the mantra in texts has focused on intensifying sustainable agricultural production. However, the negotiations have seemed to completely miss the mark on addressing the definition of sustainable agriculture itself. This is not surprising, given that throughout the 'informals', delegates adopted a tendency to add the word 'sustainable' in front of any kind of development to justify its worth within the text, without considering the meaning. Given that an agreed definition has failed to make its way into the text, any reference to sustainable agriculture is questionable.

In addition to the lack of definition, agreements to 'promote' rather than 'transition to' more sustainable practices do little to commit to an abandonment of current industrial systems – which have historically left cropland degraded and less productive over time – or acknowledge their failures.

What is sustainable agriculture? What does it mean for food security, and how have delegates missed the mark on marrying the two terms?

The Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) strongly believes that sustainable agriculture means the successful management of resources to satisfy changing human needs, while maintaining the quality of the environment and conserving natural resources. Studies have revealed that the extensive use of contaminants and modern inputs by commercial agricultural systems have depleted the earth's natural resources and caused air, soil and water pollution. In particular, pesticide application has contributed to reduced biodiversity, and farmer-debt, in many developing countries. But these practices have seemingly slipped under the radar in the negotiations.

Overall, there has been a severe lack of attention given to the conservation and restoration of the earth's bio-systems to assist food security, particularly in areas of extreme climates. Specifically, express mention of the maintenance of soil fertility – a crucial element of sustainable agriculture has been largely avoided – only to be moved into desertification texts. Given that agriculture depends on fertile soil, the lack of reference to it is cause for concern.

Why have organic methods and other biological practices not been considered to ensure soil fertility and impacts on biodiversity is addressed?

The MGCY hold that it is not viable to increase agricultural production without addressing how this will impact the earth's future yield capacity. If delegates do not seriously commit to alternative methods of production, such as organic or biological practices, it will be difficult to ensure that any action to abandon current industrial systems is taken. After attending many side events on the topic, which identify organic farming as a viable solution – not only for long-term food security, but also climate change adaptation/mitigation, soil fertility and water efficiency in areas of extreme drought – we are left wondering why this has not been given more attention.

It seems like history is beginning to repeat itself. There have been few successes in the integration of environmental protection with achieving food security in the past 20 years. As delegates continue to refer to existing commitments, which themselves have proved disappointing, only time will tell if governments will wake up to the serious action needed to feed a global population of 9.3 billion. Whilst we agree that prior agreements demonstrate achievements made in the past, we stress the need to act on them.

Therefore, in hope of achieving a truly sustainable outcome for agriculture, we call on Member States to recognise the inherent link between food security, environmental protection and sustainable agriculture and the need for effective governance to ensure their pursuit ■



Food and nutrition security, health and gender equality: Partnerships for climate-resilient sustainable development

Cristina Tirado

Public Health Institute's Centre for Public Health and Climate Change

Food and nutrition security, health, gender equality, climate change and environmental degradation, including loss of biodiversity, are all closely interlinked. Climate change and environmental degradation undermine the ability for people to move out of poverty and compromises their human rights. This has a direct impact on the health, food and nutrition security of millions of people – particularly women and their children.

There are 925 million hungry people in the world and three quarters of all hungry people in the world, some 700 million, live in rural areas. Half of them are farming families, who survive on marginal lands or holdings too small to support their needs, while the other half are landless families dependent on farming, herding, fishing or forest resources, as well as the urban poor. Food and nutrition insecurity and ill health are associated with poverty and gender inequality: 60% of chronically hungry people are women and girls. Furthermore, globally and with few exceptions, rural women fare worse than rural men and urban women and men for every indicator for which data is available.

Several factors are critical to countering these challenges:

- Women's empowerment, engagement and transformational leadership play a critical role in the shift to sustainable and resilient development pathways that ensure global health, food and nutrition security and prosperity. Increasing women's access to and control over productive resources would enable them to increase yields on their farms, leading to increased incomes. Research indicates that an increase in women's incomes translates into improved child nutrition, health and education.
- A climate justice approach with an emphasis on protecting human rights, participation, transparency and accountability, together with investments in social safety nets and in sustainable livelihoods, can make development more inclusive and equitable.
- Integrated strategies are needed to address the interlinked issues of food and nutrition security, health, gender equality, climate change and environmental degradation.

Stakeholders from different fields have identified successful strategies for addressing the challenges that climate change and environmental degradation pose to food and nutrition security and health. But there is a tendency to address these issues through siloed approaches, which reduces their effectiveness and impact. The future we want should ensure that these strategies are integrated and addressed from a gender and human rights perspective. This calls for effective, transparent and results-oriented partnerships working together to achieve equitable and climate-resilient sustainable development.

Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships are critical to promote synergies and to reach common goals on food and nutrition security, health and climate change in the context of Rio+20 and the post-2015 MDG framework. Key priorities must be to protect and build human and social capital, focusing on education, social protection and capacity building; to protect and uphold human rights and to adopt a climate justice approach to these linked challenges; to address gender inequalities and to socially and economically empower women; to support civil society organisations so that they can better interact with the public and private sectors and more effectively engage in policy dialogue with governments; and to build government capacity for joint planning across ministries and sectors. This also requires aligned donor support for cross-sectoral programming and implementation among UN agencies and other stakeholders ■



pic: WFP/Mario di Bari

The vital role of agroforestry for a sustainable future

Phil Dobie

Stakeholder Forum and World Agroforestry Centre

There is no doubt that the world needs trees. The Stern Report estimated that 18% of global emissions are the result of deforestation, and that curbing deforestation would be a highly cost-effective means of reducing the greenhouse gases that we are putting into the atmosphere. The world has recognised the dangers of continuing to destroy forests, and huge amounts of effort are being put into re-afforestation programmes and into Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), designed to avoid further deforestation. However, there is a class of trees that are too often ignored – those that grow on farms and in non-forest landscapes. Almost half of the farmland of the world – over 1 billion hectares – has at least 10% tree cover, and a further 160 million has over 50% cover. There is huge potential to increase the number of trees on farms and in productive landscapes.

Trees are important for the mitigation of climate change, but also bring many other benefits. They help to control the flow and loss of water in the soil, they provide food for people and food for their animals, and many trees contribute to the health of agricultural soils by adding nitrogen and organic matter. People, including poor people in developing countries, earn significant incomes from trees through the sale of fruit, timber, fuelwood, charcoal and fodder. They grow more crops and raise better livestock as a result of their trees. With proper management, trees can help to restore seriously degraded land. Trees can provide benefits for all members of communities: women value the firewood that they provide without their having to walk long distances; women and men appreciate the food and income that they provide, and the landless appreciate the jobs they provide.

Farmers around the world are increasingly adopting trees into their farming systems. Almost 5 million hectares of land in Niger that was formerly almost devoid of trees is now covered with crop and animal producing farms where crops are grown under an extensive canopy of trees. Many countries have set ambitious targets for tree cover – for

instance India has worked for some years to ensure that 33% of its land is under trees. Some of this will be achieved by restoring existing forests, but much will have to be the result of more trees on farms and non-forest landscapes.

Farmers are often constrained when they want to grow more trees. They need good quality seeds and seedlings, which few government agencies can provide. They need improved varieties of trees that produce more and are better adapted to local conditions. Forest laws are often applied to trees on farms and farmers are punished for felling and selling their trees. Markets for fruit and other tree-based commodities are often poorly developed. Poor people find it difficult to invest in trees, when most costs accrue at the time of planting but income does not flow for several years. Agroforestry scientists around the world are bringing science to the assistance of poor people. Scientists are producing improved tree varieties and understanding how markets can be improved. They are studying tree-based production systems and how trees contribute to land restoration. They are building up our understanding of the benefits that trees on farms bring, both directly in the form of food security and income, and indirectly in the form of enhanced ecosystems services. They are studying the effects of policies and advising decision-makers on how to create incentives for people to plant more trees.

Agroforestry can help us to achieve a future where people have the food and income that they need without destroying the ecosystems services that they depend upon. Real agricultural potential can be increased through the application of agroforestry innovations while providing increased options for managing the environment. Agroforestry can contribute significantly to the aim of Reducing Emissions from All Land Uses (REALU). There is an exciting future for trees outside of forests, on our farms and in our landscapes ■

More info

www.worldagroforestrycentre.org



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GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UN WOMEN AT RIO+20

Join UN Women at the Rio+20 conference in an interactive Forum and Summit on the Future Women Want! Organized in collaboration with the Government of Brazil and other partners, the Forum and Summit will reaffirm the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental.

THE FUTURE WOMEN WANT – ONE-DAY LEADERS' FORUM

Tuesday, 19 June 2012, 9:30am – 6:00pm

Major Group Pavilion, Room T-2, Riocentro, Rio de Janeiro

The one-day Forum will promote and profile the contribution of women in promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication. Interactive exchange will be around the progress made in the implementation of key normative frameworks as well as recommendations for addressing the remaining gaps and challenges; the important role that women play as enablers and beneficiaries of sustainable “green” economies; and strategizing on the post-2015 international development framework.

Note: Accredited Rio+20 participants will be able to attend the Forum without additional registration.

THE FUTURE WOMEN WANT – LEADERS' SUMMIT

Thursday, 21 June 2012, 11:00 – 1:00pm

Conference Room P3-1, Riocentro, Rio de Janeiro

The culmination of the Forum will be the Women Leaders' Summit on the Future Women Want, which will bring together women Heads of State and Governments. The Leaders will issue a “Call to Action” to highlight women's vital contribution to realizing sustainable development as well as how they can benefit from it.

Note: By invitation only.

For the latest updates, go to www.unwomen.org and follow UN Women on



Twitter (@UN_Women @ONUMujeres @ONUFemmes) and



Facebook (facebook.com/unwomen; facebook.com/onumujeres; facebook.com/onufemmes).

Join the conversation using hashtag #WomenRio on Twitter!



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Ideas for how to reverse the failings of the global food system

Carlo Petrini
Slow Food International

It is evident - through the concrete experience of millions of people - that there is a model of sustainable development that revolves around food; a new model of agriculture and production that respects both people and the environment, and the knowledge and traditions of local communities.

Preserving agricultural biodiversity is a way to ensure a future for our planet, and humanity as a whole. Combined with climate change, the progressive loss of plant and animal diversity could prove nothing short of disastrous in the years to come. However, it is important to point out that it would be senseless to defend biodiversity without also defending the cultural diversity of peoples and their right to govern their own territories. The rights of people to control their land, grow food, hunt, fish and gather, according to their own needs and decisions, is inalienable.

All people should have access to nutritious and fair food, have adequate food from their own natural resources or markets of their choice and have the right to produce their food using traditional practices and cultures.

Human wellbeing depends on the universal right to quality food for all. Obesity and hunger are symbols of the failure of a global food system that is based mainly on industrial production and mostly dependant on fossil energy resources. Never before has it been so important to radically change a food system that destroys the environment and the dignity of workers.

The reintroduction of local food products is essential to feed our planet. There is growing worldwide awareness that boosting local economies, agriculture and respect for small communities are ways of reconciling ourselves with the earth and nature. Lack of water, loss of soil fertility, unprecedented food waste - these are all problems that will remain unsolved if we continue to produce, distribute and consume food under the ongoing system. We need to respect and promote natural and subsistence economies that for too long have been considered inferior to the economy of global finance. We will depend on the sensitivity and pragmatism of women and the wisdom and memory of the elderly, as well as indigenous peoples

who hold the key for a more sustainable approach to the right to food. The whole world must prevent land grabbing practices in many regions, especially in Africa, as it is trampling on the rights to food and subsistence of many indigenous and farming communities.

The new Rio+20 negotiating text clearly promotes consensus, but it remains far from putting the planet and people before economic growth. In particular, we hope:

- To see the reintroduction of text to strengthen smallholder farmers' access to resources and inputs by 2020; and
- That the recently agreed text from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 'Guidelines on Land' will be afforded stronger wording than 'encouraged to give to consideration to'.

During Rio+20, Slow Food is giving visibility to real sustainability experiences - both existing actions and those still in discussion. We are supporting the Circuito Carioca de Feiras Organicas of Rio de Janeiro, and greatly look forward to the opening of three farmers' markets (one of which we will open with EU Commissioners Ciolos and Pieblags, FAO Director Da Silva and Italian Environment Minister Clini). The markets will be held from 9am to 1pm, on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 19th June**, in Ipanema, Praça Nossa Senora da Paz;
- **Thursday 21st June**, in Tijuca, Praça Alonso Pena; and
- **Saturday 23rd June**, in Jardim Botânico, Praça da Igreja São José da Lagoa and in Bairro Peixoto, Praça Edmundo Peixoto

Finally, we have prepared a booklet for the summit with tips on the best places to eat and drink in Rio, from botecos (popular bars) to high end restaurants. The guide, ("Rio de Janeiro - 100 Tips, Slow Food") also presents innovative social projects in the favela communities ■

MORE INFO

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NGO Major Group Clusters: priorities and demands for a successful Rio+20 outcome

The following are the top priorities of some of the NGO voluntary thematic clusters - what they consider would define a successful outcome of Rio+20. Further key asks from the thematic clusters will be published in upcoming editions of Outreach.

Rural Community Development Cluster

- Adoption of an integrated, multi-sectoral community based approach to sustainable rural and impoverished urban development to overcome poverty and ensure that all people's basic human rights and needs can and will be met.
- Establishment of a global program by the United Nations to support the development of a world wide network of Resource and Service Centers and Training Programs, to ensure that all people have access to clean water and basic sanitation; renewable energy; sustainable agriculture; green building practices; social, educational, and cultural opportunities; preventative health care; ecological restoration; and green jobs.

Biodiversity Cluster

- Recognition by the UNCSO of biodiversity as an overarching and crosscutting issue in the Rio+20 negotiations.

- Rejection of market-based green economy approaches and the commodification of nature as it ignores the third pillar of the International Convention on Biological Diversity: equity.

- Rejection of techno-fixes, as they are short-sighted and create short term benefits that rarely meet the needs and rights of the most marginalized, who are our greatest protectors of biological diversity such as Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, small-holder farmers, fishers and pastoralists.

Health Cluster

- Promotion of universal health coverage as an essential foundation for poverty alleviation and sustainable development.
- Development and promotion of sustainable development policies that foster human well-being and reduce preventable ill-health and deaths from both communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Recognition of the relationship between sustainable development and sexual and reproductive health and rights, by guaranteeing access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and supplies ■

Sustainable Development Dialogues, 16th June: Sustainable development for fighting poverty

Rishikesh Bhandary, Tufts University

The Dialogue session on poverty eradication challenged the fundamental notion of poverty, its measurement, and the steps necessary to address it. Panelists put dignity front and centre in the discussion and called the current measures of income inadequate.

Dr. Manish Bapna (World Resources Institute) highlighted that tackling governance was critical, not just to ensure dignity for people, but to ensure that sustainable development was pro poor as well. He underscored the need to change power relations and expressed dismay at the lack of attention governance was receiving in the official negotiations. Dr. Marcia Lopes (Brazilian Former Minister for Development and Fight against Hunger) said that the focus on finding solutions to poverty eradication was misplaced, as people have neglected the role of institutions.

Panelists identified improved agriculture as the way to improve livelihoods, address food security, promote social inclusion and stem migration into cities. Dr. Pavan Sukhdev (UNEP) spoke of the importance and potential of smallholder farms and urged the audience to turn away from intensified agriculture.

Dr. Judith Sutz (University of the Republic) spoke about our responsibility to make innovation, knowledge creation

and research inclusive, so that we can reinvent systems to place social inclusion at the heart of what we do. Dr. Boaventura de Sousa Santos (University of Coimbra) emphasised the need to approach poverty eradication through public policies like reforming the tax system, to reduce income inequality, and promote welfare through access to health services.

Panelists agreed on the common failure to portray sustainable development as a problem of justice. They were of the view that by using arguments only based on science, economics, and security, political leadership had not risen to the challenge and public support remained weak.

'Promote global education to eradicate poverty and to achieve sustainable development' was voted in through the internet vote, while 'ensure universal health coverage to achieve sustainable development' received the highest number of votes from the floor. These goals will be forwarded to the high level political dialogue for further debate.

With these goals voted in, Bapna argued that the recommendations were geared towards the state and that he would place more confidence in goals that recognised the potential of people, their wisdom and the values of local communities ■



Sustainable Development Dialogues, 17th June: The economics of sustainable development, including sustainable patterns of production and consumption

John Hontelez, Forest Stewardship Council

Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland - the lead author of the report that in 1987 provided the world with the first and still relevant definition of sustainable development - opened discussions declaring strong support for the issue that has topped the public vote for the future you want: for leaders at Rio to take concrete steps to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies. Other panellists supported this remark and also emphasised that action needs to clearly reflect the growing imbalance in the world, with 16% of the global population consuming 78% of global resources, an increasing and over consuming middle class, and a global population which already consumes 50% more resources than the Earth can replenish.

The panellists led with pleas to not only work with market instruments but to also to insist that governments take responsibility in planning for the future, organising democratic planning processes, and focussing on bioregions as specific dimensions. Several panellists emphasised the

need to put tackling climate change as an absolute priority, setting clear targets and timetables to define the urgency and ambition level and enable monitoring of progress.

After a large number of interventions from the floor, the participants voted as a second demand to: include environmental damages in the Gross National Product (GNP) and complement it with measures of social development.

The panel then identified a third issue, with the majority supporting a practical demand, something that governments, at all levels can and should start doing right now: promoting a green economy through sustainable public procurement worldwide, as a catalyst for sustainable production patterns. Panellists underlined that public authorities at all levels, whose purchases together represent 20% of the global economy, can in this way directly boost sustainably sound production patterns and give the right example to companies and individual consumers ■

Sustainable Development Dialogues, 17th June: Forests

Rishikesh Bhandary, Tufts University

The Dialogue on Forests attracted an enthusiastic crowd, and a diverse and distinguished panel. Panelists spoke with a common voice on the need to appreciate forests for what they are and achieve zero net deforestation. They described the central challenge as using the services provided by forests while minimising their destruction.

Dr. Bertha Becker (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) encouraged the audience to view forests as urban centers with the capacity of delivering many services to the people residing in them. Dr. Julia Marton-Lefevre (IUCN) highlighted the many benefits of forest restoration that extend well beyond forest products. However, other panelists noted that deforestation needs to stop before effective restoration can begin. As restoration is not in the four paragraphs on forests in the latest draft outcome text, panelists encouraged language on restoration.

Arguing that forests can be a channel for empowering forest-dependent communities, Dr. Klaus Toepfer (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies) urged the audience to think about how local communities and indigenous peoples can obtain a greater share of value addition on forest related products. He also stressed the importance of having culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development to appreciate the diversity and richness of the many paths to sustainable development. Other panelists agreed with Dr. Toepfer on the critical role of culture.

Christian del Valle (Althelia Climate Fund) stressed the importance of embarking on the path of zero net emissions by focusing on reporting on environmental benchmarks. He cited an example of how companies started to count their carbon emission once the EU Emissions Trading Scheme began. The same can be done for a comprehensive tracking of environmental impact of corporate activity. However, some panelists argued that people have different values and views on sustainability. They pointed out the highly complex nature of valuing environmental services and stressed the need for dialogue and communication to arrive at common metrics.

Dr. Estebancio Castro Diaz (Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of Tropical Forests) bemoaned the lack of significant participation by indigenous peoples in the Rio Dialogues given its computer-based format. However, he appreciated the emphasis placed on traditional knowledge and the need to promote language diversity in the goals.

The goal 'Restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020' was voted in through the internet poll, while the floor identified 'Promote science, technology, innovation and traditional knowledge in order to face forests main challenge: how to turn them productive without destroying them' as the second goal. Panelists opted for zero net deforestation by 2020 ■



ECO Corner

ECO Corner is produced by the cooperative efforts of Climate Action Network members at the Rio+20 Conference

New text is a green light for fossil fuels

So the Brazilians pulled together a draft and shared it with at least some of the world on Saturday night (some delegates had not even received it on the Sunday). Like everyone else, ECO was scrambling to see what was in it, specifically for energy and climate.

Oh the irony of climate and energy

As expected, there was good and bad, but what was unexpected was the irony. The new text was strong on climate, reaffirming the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. There was a temperature target (2°C or 1.5°C), and a nod, i.e. 'recognise the importance of mobilising funds and transferring technology, as well as urging parties to honour their Kyoto commitments (hint hint, Canada et al).

And yet what is driving climate change and is responsible for two thirds of all emissions, what is destroying local communities and their environments – our addiction to dirty fossil fuels for energy – has been completely watered down. In fact, the energy paragraphs positively promote fossil fuels. It makes achieving what is agreed in the climate paragraphs a near impossibility.

Actively endorsing fossil fuels

Thanks to Canada, Russia and others, where we talk of 'an increased use of renewable energy sources', the text also adds 'and other low-emission technologies', and even goes further, explicitly including 'cleaner fossil fuel technologies'. There is a recognition that renewable technology and energy efficiency are necessary for sustainable development, but there is no means of achieving it: all mentions of technology transfer and finance have been removed, with finance only mentioned for energy access. While this is of course incredibly important for sustainable development – and great that it gets its own paragraph in the text, if a little weak on access for who – it is not the whole picture. If we are expecting countries to leap frog our own dirty development pathways, rich, industrialised countries need to provide adequate and appropriate technology and finance in line with commitments that have been in place for the past 20 years.

Sustainable Energy for All

Ban Ki-moon's 'Sustainable Energy for All' (SE4All) initiative, which is not part of the official process but was 'welcomed' in the Zero Draft, has now only been noted after a united position from G77+China. While it is addressing the right challenges – climate change and poverty – a statement signed by over 100 civil society organisations from across the world shows how much work is needed. As it stands, its unambitious targets are inadequate to tackle the climate crisis, while civil society and the energy poor – those it should be helping – have been left outside a process dominated by corporate fossil fuel, finance and utility interests. The lack of recognition in the text will not mean the end of the initiative, as the Secretary General's office have been predicting this for a while, the challenge now is ensuring that after Rio, the initiative launches a people-driven process to see how we can genuinely deliver sustainable energy for all.

Fossil fuel subsidies

One way we can start is by ending government handouts to the fossil fuel industries, but they've been dealt a heavy blow in the latest text. Rather than honouring commitments made back in 2009, the text 'recognises the need for further action' – collective amnesia? Like all issues, there are nuances, so the first step is addressing subsidies given directly to dirty energy companies, but pushing them out of the text is another step backwards. Today, over a million signatures are being handed to world leaders, all calling on governments to stop handing our money to dirty industry, because Rio is a real chance to make some progress. We need to make sure that happens.

The future we do not want

This text is not going to deliver a sustainable future, driven by clean, safe and affordable energy, but it reflects what is round the table: no political commitment from those that can make it happen. We need to challenge fossil fuel interest ■

Rio+20 Side Event Calendar

Date	Time	Venue	Title	Organisers
18/6/12	09:00 - 12:30	RioCentro Pavilion 6, room 1	Workshop #3- Global Major Groups Community	ECOSOC
	09:30 - 11:00	RioCentro T-9	Sharing solutions for a sustainable planet	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
	09:30 - 21:00	RioCentro P3-3	Open Dialogue on the Future We Chose	Brazil
	11:00 - 12:30	Windsor Barra Hotel, room: queluz VII	Women's Empowerment Principles: Local Opportunities to Turn Principles into Progress	UN Women
	12:00 - 13:00	UNEP Pavilion	How research can inform the green economy transition - Discussion tables with EU-funded project officers	UNEP
	13:00 - 14:00	UNEP Pavilion	Natural Capital and Economic Development: Bridging or Breaking	UNEP
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro T-2	Peasants Reclaiming our Future with Food Sovereignty and Agroecology	LA VIA CAMPESSINA - International Peasant Movement
	14:00 17:00	UNEP Pavilion	UNEP-SEE Joint Event: China Going Green - Forum on Civil Society and Green Economy in China	UNEP
	14:00 - 15:30	Windsor Barra Hotel, Alvorada I	Gender Equality for Sustainability	UN Women, UN Global Compact
	17:00 - 19:00	UNEP Pavilion	Achieving Social and Environmental Goals through Sustainable Public Procurement	UNEP
	17:30 - 19:00	UN5 room in Arena da Barra (Barra da Tijuca)	Towards the constitution of a "Supranational Democratic Climate Authority" An open roundtable from Rio+20 (Sustainable Development) to Doha (Climate Change) 2012!	World Democratic Governance project association, WDGpa
Date	Time	Venue	Title	Organisers
18/6/12	8.15 - 9.15 am	Hotel Excelsior (next to Copacabana Palace Hotel)	Briefing: Inside Strategies and Groups, UN Perspective, Mapping Government strategies and inside players	V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation
	08:30 - 17:30	Fundacao Getulio Vargas Praia de Botafogo, 190 Rio de Janeiro	Choosing Our Future: Open and Participatory Sustainable Development Governance	The Access Initiative
	09:00 - 12:30	RioCentro Pavilion 6, room 1	Workshop #3- Global Major Groups Community	ECOSOC
	09:30 - 18:30	RioCentro T-2	Leaders' Forum on the Future Women Want: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Sustainable Development	UN Women
	09:30 - 13:00	RioCentro P3-6	UN-Water Day (part1)	UN-Water
	09:30 - 11:00	RioCentro T-6	Energy for All and Global Sustainability: new scenarios and governance	Stockholm Environment Institute
	09:30 - 11:00	RioCentro P3-A	Tackling displacement by natural disasters in the sustainable development	Norwegian Refugee Council
	09:30 - 13:00	National Confederation of Trade in Goods, Services and Tourism. Av. General Justo 307, Centro 20021-130	What is at stake at Rio+20? Recommendations from Brazilian and EU civil society. 6th Meeting of the EU-Brazil Civil Society Round Table	EESC and the Brazilian Council for Economic and Social Development (CDES)
	11:00 - 12:30	UN5 (Barra Arena)	Motorcycle Safety at Rio + 20	Ecuadorian Motorcyclists Association
	13:00 - 14:45	UNEP Pavilion	From Resource Efficiency to Resource Potential - The International Resource Panel's finding on Understanding the Hidden Opportunities for People, Planet and Prosperity	UNEP
	15:00 - 16:45	UNEP Pavilion	21 Issues for the 21st Century: Input to the New and Emerging Challenges Discussions	UNEP
	15:00 - 18:00	National Confederation of Trade in Goods, Services and Tourism. Av. General Justo 307, Centro 20021-130	EU-BRICS Civil Society Meeting - Dialogue for Sustainable Development	EESC with Economic & Social Councils & similar institutions from the BRICS countries
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro T-5	Human Rights at the heart of Sustainable Development - Honouring Principle 1	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro T-6	Defying Disasters: A Tri-Continental South-South Dialogue	Philippines
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro P3-B	Putting Green Economy into practice	Switzerland
	17:00 - 19:00	UNEP Pavilion	Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to the Development, Management and Use of Water Resources	UNEP
	17:30 - 19:00	RioCentro T-10	Green economy and inclusive growth for a sustainable future	Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
	17:30 - 19:00	RioCentro T-10	Green economy and inclusive growth for a sustainable future	Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
	18:00 - 21:00	Cube de Engenharia (Engineering Club) Av. Rio Branco, 124- 18ª - Sala 01 Centro	Advancing a Peoples Movement	The widening circle
	19:30 - 21:00	RioCentro P3-F	The Global Transition to a New Economy- mapping a green and fair world	The New Economics Institute

Reflections on the negotiations - Saturday 16th June

Outreach Team
Stakeholder Forum

Rio grinds: Where sustainable development meets the coffee bar

So with the possibility of negotiations finishing early, what will the governments do? **Rio+25 is only five years away!**

It seems that until the new forum for sustainable development is set up we will be returning to the CSD cycle, which includes Rio+25 in 2017. So, we thought we would remind governments on what they need to prepare for the next few years.

2012/2013 – Bio-diversity Cycle

- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Biotechnology
- Tourism
- Mountains

In fact why wait! With so much time at hand, government officials could have a five day CSD 2012 review of the issues above. What could be more fun than that? The beach? Looking after their Head of State? I don't think so!

2014/2015 – Ocean Cycle

- Oceans and seas
- Marine resources
- Small Island Developing States
- Disaster management and vulnerability

With Oceans being such an important part of Rio+20, it is only right to build on this. Of course 2014-2015 will most likely be used for informal discussions for the 25 year review of Agenda 21, the JPOI and the Rio+20 outcome document.

2016/2017 – Rio+25

Now only five years away!

If governments do not set up a new forum for sustainable development, then we will be looking at an overall appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcomes from Rio+20.....so be warned!

Victoria Johnson
nef (new economics foundation)

During the second day of discussions under the new Brazilian-led process, the green economy group's discussions were dominated by the text of paragraph 64 - knowledge sharing platforms and toolboxes. Approximately an hour into the discussions, a small break out group left to redraft and streamline the ideas in this paragraph. Once back in the room, the group proposed a much shorter version of the text that seemed to receive much support.

The importance of meeting financing, technology, capacity building and national needs for sustainable development and the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, invites the UN system in cooperation with relevant donors and international organisations to coordinate and provide information upon request on:

- matching interested countries with the partners best suited to provide requested support;
- tool boxes and /or best practices and applying policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at all levels;
- models or good examples of inclusive green economy polices and sustainable development;
- methodologies for green economy and sustainable development policy evaluation; and
- existing and emerging platforms that contribute such input.

Whilst the EU and Australia supported the new text, Korea felt that it was 'mundane' and 'lacked specificity', and wanted revisions to 64 (e) to specifically refer to 'inter alia' green growth knowledge platforms.

In addition to discussions around the wording of paragraph 64, Korea, US and Australia argued the text had too much of a negative tone and could be more aspirational, by, for example celebrating positive examples. The EU also highlighted the need for more encouraging language towards business, specifically in paragraph 67, 68 and 69, particularly given that all businesses, from small enterprises to large corporations, have a role to play in the green economy. The US called for references to ecosystem services to be reinstated into the text.

By the end of the session, it seemed that consensus could be met once the text had been reshaped and presented to the group today ■

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