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'13

3-5 December
Johannesburg | South Africa
The 3rd Global Conference
ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Draft AFC press release

Topic: The purpose of the conference

12 November 2013

Hed: Defeating hunger – an urgent priority

Food and nutrition security is everyone's business. Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Unless useful ways to support food security are found globally, and especially in Africa, there will be no more food. Earth won't have the agricultural capacity to feed us all. The silos will be empty, and the shelves of supermarkets, bare.

Hunger is the single greatest obstacle in the way of development, progress, prosperity and peace in the world. It dictates. It defines. It divides. And history has shown to what extent hunger destabilises and destroys both governments and economies. "This is the most consumer-relevant theme at the 2013 Global Conference on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change to be held in early December in Johannesburg. As it affects everyone, and is a directly experienced, everyday event in people's lives. Imagining no food on the shelves of shops highlights this concern," says Dr Shadrack Moephuli, president and chief executive officer of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa.

Africa has 60% of the Earth's uncultivated arable land. The aim of this this Conference is to build on the progress already made and to concentrate on ways to alleviate poverty, to find new ways to feed the world and deal with the impact of climate change. " *Refiloe Joala, a master's student in development economics and international project management at the Université Paris-Est Créteil in France said this about the South African situation: "We speak of poverty in very abstract terms. In our on-going dialogue about the face of poverty in South Africa, we focus on housing, service delivery, unemployment and inequality. While these factors are a real part of the struggle of poverty in the country, chronic hunger presents an even more haunting reality"*.

This conference will focus on plotting out an implementation plan from the finding/progress made during the previous conferences and take concrete actions to address issues affecting food and nutrition security.

The first Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security, and Climate Change was held in The Hague, in 2010. The conference, organised by the government of the Netherlands in close cooperation with the governments of Ethiopia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, and Vietnam, the World Bank, and the FAO, was the first global conference of its kind to bring together the agendas of agriculture, food security and climate change. Participants hailed from 80 countries including 60 government ministers, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, farmers' organizations and the scientific community.





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In 2012, the second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change was held in Vietnam. The second Global Conference took stock of developments over the previous years, including proposals for implementation. It also set new and more concrete priorities for action while demonstrating early action on climate – smart agriculture as a driver for green growth. The Conference identified what needs to happen for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, related land use, and water management to deliver on increased productivity, reduced emissions, increased sequestration, environmental sustainability, better livelihoods and food security.

The purpose of the 2013 Conference is:

- Promote a Climate – Smart Agriculture Alliance
- Promote the mainstreaming and up-scaling of climate-smart agriculture within the broader development goals
- To implement concrete action linking agriculture-related investments, policies and measures with the transition to climate – smart agriculture
- Build global partnerships for resilience of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to climate change
- Promote the application of scientific solutions
- Explore and share knowledge

The themes will include:

- Food and nutrition security in the face of climate change
- Improving food security and poverty alleviation through production systems
- Understanding the link between agriculture-related investment, policies, and measures with climate smart agriculture

The 3rd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change, will be held between 3- 5 December 2013 at *Emperors Palace* Hotel Casino Convention Resort, alongside OR Tambo International Airport in Kempton Park, Johannesburg.

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Side Bar: Quotes

"Australia has many similar environments and challenges common to African agriculture. Our expertise in agriculture can help play a role in achieving food security in Africa, including developing more nutritious food," said Mellissa Wood, director of the Australian International Food Security Centre.

"While overall malnourishment has improved relatively all over the world, it has become worse in Africa. This is the only region that where agricultural productivity growth has been slow or declining. Farming is mostly done women who work in smallholder farms, as well as older populations while the unemployed youth is shunning farming. The regions suffer from poor infrastructure, low input use and weak institutions," says Professor David Zilberman who holds the Robinson Chair in the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics at UC Berkeley.

FACTS

- Farming families may benefit from higher food prices—as long as they earn more from their crops than they spend on food. But many small-scale farmers actually spend more on food than they earn from selling food (Hertel and Rosch 2010).
- Climate shocks like droughts and floods impact how people access food through work, trade and transfers, such as from relatives who live in other climates (Devereux 2007).

