



Conference
WORLD FOOD CRISIS
Are the CAP and other EU policies coherent with food security
in the Global South?

8th-9th December 2011, Warsaw, Poland

The conference is organized under the auspices
of the Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Marek Sawicki.



Introduction

Among the consequences of the international crisis are not only the higher inflation rates and the increase of the national debt of the European Union countries and the United States, as well as the decline of the standard of living and the higher unemployment rates, but also – or perhaps most of all – the sufferings of billions of people worldwide, whose economic situation does not allow them to fulfil their fundamental human right – the right to a decent life. The crisis is also a threat to achieving MDG 1, i.e. eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Certain European policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), are partly responsible for this situation.

CAP, on the one hand, has enabled Europe to become self-sufficient in food production by guaranteeing stable prices, providing investments in agriculture and allowing farmers to increase their productivity. The European CAP is, therefore, seen as an interesting and positive example for the countries in the Global South aspiring to build their own agricultural policies with self-sufficient production and common market. On the other hand, CAP is blamed for causing the loss of biodiversity, water pollution, decline of family farms and for its negative impact on the right to food in developing countries, particularly the poor, net food-importing countries, which are in an especially vulnerable situation. The fact that nearly one billion people are still going hungry, the majority of them farmers and their families, is the reason why EU policies should be coherent with the fight against hunger, support family farmers and respect the principles of food sovereignty.

The conference organized by Polish Ecological Club, Polish Green Network and French Committee for International Solidarity aims to link the international debate on social and environmental impact of the CAP reform for 2014-2020 with the discussion on the implications of CAP and other European policies for food security in the Global South countries. Among the key questions the conference would like to answer are:

Are developing countries able to feed themselves?

What is the impact of the CAP on food security and agriculture in developing countries? What improvements do we expect from the reformed CAP?

What are the links between the CAP and other European policies (e.g. trade policy) and their impact on food security in developing countries?

How could the EU policies be more coherent with food security in developing countries? What should be the role of Polish policy-makers and CSOs?



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday 8th December 2011

Venue: Palace of Culture and Science, Rudniew Hall (Sala Rudniewa), Plac Defilad 1, Warsaw

08.30 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.15 **Welcome and opening words:** Jarosław Wojtowicz, *Undersecretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

09.15 - 11.00 Panel I: **The EU's Common Agricultural Policy and its impact on food security in the Global South**
(*simultaneous interpretation in French, English and Polish*)

Chair: Jarosław Wojtowicz

1. Andrzej Gąsowski, *First Counsellor, Agriculture and Fisheries Section, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU*
The shape of the new CAP. Is CAP oriented on the sustainable agriculture and family farming, which do not harm farmers and the environment in the Global South?
2. Sebastien Bainville, *researcher, Institut des Régions Chaudes, SupAgro, France*
Free trade, EU and US subsidies and its impact on food security and family farming in Africa. Situation and recommendations.
3. Nadjirou Sall, *Deputy General Secretary of CNCR – the national platform of farmer organisations in Senegal*
The impact of cheap food imports on the food production in Africa. The case of onion in Senegal.
4. Gabriele Zimmer, *Member of the European Parliament*
How do CAP and trade policies impact on family farming and the environment in the Global South? What should the European Parliament do for a CAP coherent with the development of family farming in the Global South?

Discussion

11.00 - 11.20 Coffee break

11.20 - 12.40 Panel II: **How could the EU policies better support food security and family farming in Africa?**
(*simultaneous interpretation in French, English and Polish*)

Chair: Gabriele Zimmer

1. Jean Feyder, *Ambassador of Luxemburg to the UN in Geneva*
The role of the Official Development Assistance in ensuring food security and supporting family farming in the Global South.
2. Leopold Lokossou, *President of PNOPPA – the national platform of farmer organisations in Benin*
Can African farmers feed African people: the rice case in Benin. What policy recommendation for the EU and Poland?
3. Pascal Erard, *French Committee for International Solidarity*
How should the EU and its members states improve the coherence between their policies and food security in developing countries?

Discussion

12.40 - 13.40 Lunch break

13.45 - 15.15 **Policies impacting on agriculture and food security in developing countries**

Workshops:

A) What is the impact of soy and agrofuels production on development and food security in developing countries?

(simultaneous interpretation in French, English and Polish)

Chair: Janusz Wojciechowski, *Member of the European Parliament*

Speakers: Gabriele Zimmer, Sebastien Bainville, Susan Nakacwa (*SEATINI Uganda*), Mute Schimpf (*Friends of the Earth Europe*), Pascal Erard

The workshop will introduce debate on the following topics:

- social and environmental impact of export monocultures
- the problem of GMO
- the need for sustainable agriculture in Europe which ensures food security and does not harm local family agriculture and markets in developing countries (animal feeds based on local agricultural production instead of imported GMO soy)
- problems caused by the incoherencies of the EU policies concerned with agrofuels.

B) Feeding the world: factory or family farming?

(consecutive interpretation in French and Polish)

Chair: Jerzy Chróścikowski, *Chairman of the Senate's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee*

Speakers: Jean Feyder, Nadjirou Sall, Mieczysław Babalski (*Polish farmer*), Leopold Lokossou

The workshop will debate the dangers for food security in Europe and Africa caused by policies giving priority to factory farming. Family farming will be discussed as an alternative which ensures employment in rural areas and food sovereignty.

15.15 - 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 - 16.00 **Workshops results presentation and discussion**

16.00 - 16.15 **Closing words**

Friday 9th December 2011

07.00 - 16.00 **Study trip for the conference participants to sustainable agriculture examples in the Mazovia region**

07.00 Departure from Warsaw (from hotel Atos, Mangalia Street 1)

08.45 Lutobrok (90 km), traditional smokehouse

10.30 Kruszewo (40 km), breakfast

11.00 Visiting Kwietniak family's organic farm and vegetable and fruit dryer

12.30 Rososz (15 km), visiting Jadwiga Farat's organic farm and poultry slaughterhouse, presentation of activities in the local community

13.30 Lunch

16.00 Expected arrival back to Warsaw (100 km)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The conference will be held in:

Palace of Culture and Science, Rudniew Hall (Sala Rudniewa), Plac Defilad 1, Warsaw

Registration:

Please send the completed registration form before **1st December 2011** to:

biuro@pkegliwice.pl

Accommodation:

Hotel ATOS

Mangalia Street 1

02-758 Warsaw,

tel./fax: +48-22 841 43 95; e-mail: atos@puhit.pl

Getting to the hotel:

from the airport – bus no. **148**

from the railway station – bus no. **501** or no. **519**

(you should get off at the **MANGALIA** bus stop)

Approximate cost of taking a taxi is 30-50 PLN, depending on the time of the day.

Example taxi companies: ELE taxi – tel. +48 22 811 11 11 or taxi Wawa – tel. + 48 22 1 9644

In case of any questions contact the organizers:

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Polish Ecological Club: + 48 32 231 85 91

Map:

A – Conference venue: Palace of Culture and Science

B – Hotel Atos

C – Railway station

