

ECOFAIR TRADE DIALOGUE

ECOFAIR TRADE CONFERENCE

EcoFair Rules!

The new role of agricultural trade within the conflict area of the climate-, food- and economic crises.

Date

Tuesday, 12 January 2010

Venue

Beletage, Heinrich Böll Foundation
Schumannstrasse 8
10117 Berlin

Registration

Please register by filling in the electronic registration form at www.boell.de/veranstaltungen or by fax at +49 (0)30 28534-109.

Conference Languages

All conference presentations will be simultaneously translated from English into German and vice versa.

Project Management and Information

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Background

More than a billion people are facing severe hunger worldwide, three quarters of whom live in rural areas. The global food situation tragically illustrates how years of political mistakes and the current hunger, climate and economic crises hit the poorest of the poor the hardest.

The number of undernourished and starving people will probably continue to increase. The challenges facing agriculture throughout the world are enormous. Sufficient food must be produced for a rapidly growing world population on continually shrinking productive farmland with decreasing soil fertility, less available water and dwindling fossil resources. This is occurring under increasingly precarious and extreme climatic and economic conditions. Moreover, changing consumer habits and energy concepts will lead to more intense competition between food, animal feed and energy crops. Inequities in distribution will increase.

Current agricultural production, its markets and trade in agricultural goods are not able to cope with these challenges. Developments in food prices during 2007/08 provided a glimpse into the future, when average international market prices suddenly increased by more than 100 per cent and over 150 million more people were severely affected by hunger.

The sharp increase in food prices resulted in a range of reactions in global trade arena. While many international players pressed for the conclusion of the Doha Round as an essential step in combating hunger, major producing countries imposed ad hoc protectionist measures. Several countries suspended exports in order to safeguard food supplies for their own people, thus driving world market prices for basic staple foods, such as rice, even higher.

It is time to reconsider and redefine the regulation and flow of international agricultural trade against the backdrop of severe global crises (such as the climate, food and financial crises). Should existing political and institutional frameworks be adapted so that international trade relations within the agricultural sector do not intensify the current crises even further? What can agricultural trade contribute to solving the food crisis? What role can and should the WTO play in all these developments? What alternatives do regional trade agreements offer? How do the international climate regime and agricultural trade regulations interact?

The EU-funded EcoFair Trade Dialogue, a worldwide dialogue project between representatives of civil society organisations, the scientific community and governments which was initiated by the Heinrich Böll Foundation and Misereor, has devoted itself to these questions during the past five years. Within the frame of the project and as a follow-up to the three major events of 2009 – the World Food Summit in November and the WTO and climate negotiations in December – we would like to cordially invite you to evaluate, discuss and think further with us.

Draft Agenda

9:30 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Welcome

Josef Sayer, Managing Director and Chairman of the Board, Misereor, Aachen

**10:10 a.m. Introduction to the Conference Theme:
From Doha to Rome, Geneva, Copenhagen and beyond - were are we coming from and were are we going in international agricultural trade?**

Under what circumstances did the idea of the "EcoFair Trade Dialogue Project" originate and how has the situation changed to date?

Wolfgang Sachs, Head Berlin Office, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Wuppertal

10:30 a.m. Challenges of Agricultural Trade amidst Food, Economic and Climate Crises

Challenges and problems of agricultural trade in the face of the climate, food and economic crises

Keynote: Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Brussels

In Discussion with

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva

Rajeswari Raina, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, Member of the IAASTD

Moderation: **Barbara Unmüßig**, President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. Parallel Forums

Forum 1: Policies for Sustainable Production and Trade

What consequences does the worldwide economic crisis have for rural production and trade? How severely has agriculture in the developing countries been affected by the economic crisis? What policy instruments could provide a long-term framework for developing socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural production?

Introductory remarks from the EcoFair Perspective

Daniel de la Torre Ugarte, Professor and Associate Director, Agricultural Policy and Analysis Center, University of Tennessee

Mamadou Goita, Executive Director, Institut de Recherche et de Promotion des Alternatives en Développement (IRPAD), Bamako

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva

Thilo Hoppe, Member of the German Bundestag, Alliance 90/ The Greens, Berlin

Evita Schmieg, Head of Division, Globalization, Trade and Investment, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn

Moderation: **Tobias Reichert**, Head of Division, Trade and Food Security, Germanwatch, Berlin

Forum 2: Policies for Sustainable Consumption and Trade

How will food consumption patterns change and what impact will that have in industrialized, newly industrialized and developing countries? What institutional challenges will this pose for the agricultural trade regime? How will certification systems and labels develop and be incorporated into the international trade regime? What political framework can make food consumption sustainable in the future?

Introductory remarks from the EcoFair Perspective

Hannes Lorenzen, Adviser to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament for the Greens/EFA Group, Brussels

Michael Krawinkel, Professor for nutrition in developing countries, Justus-Liebig-University, Executive Director International Society of Tropical Pediatrics, Gießen

Jochen Dettmer, Executive Director, Neuland

Ulrike Höfken, Member of the German Bundestag, Alliance 90/ The Greens, Berlin

Moderation: **Jürgen Maier**, Director, Forum on Environment and Development, Berlin

Forum 3: Food Crisis and Agricultural Trade

How will food prices change in the future? Who profits from rising agricultural prices? Who pays more and why? What possibilities do producers have for reacting to rising prices? What institutional and political challenges are involved in overcoming the food crisis?

Introductory remarks from the EcoFair Perspective:

Arze Glipo, Executive Director, Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Philippines, Manila

Booker W. Owuor Ochieng, Rural/Agricultural Economist, Sower Solutions Limited, Nairobi

Olivier de Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Brussels

Klaus Schumacher, Head, Economics Department, Töpfer International, Hamburg

Moderation: **Heike Höffler**, Institute of African Studies, University of Leipzig

Forum 4: Climate Change, Agriculture and Trade – Policy Options for Mitigation and Adaptation in Agricultural Trade

What challenges confront an agriculture that endeavours to reduce fossil inputs (especially oil) and climate-damaging emissions? What possibilities does it have for combating hunger, particularly in Asia and Africa? What possibilities does it have for combating climate change? What institutional framework do we need?

Introductory remarks from the EcoFair Perspective

Oudor Ong'wen, Country director of Kenya, the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Nairobi

Rajeswari Raina, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, Member of the IAASTD, New Delhi

Hans-Christoph von Heydebrand, Head, Division 226 "Co-ordination of Environmental and Climate Change Affairs", Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Bonn

Bernard Kuiten, Head of External Relations, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva

Johannes Kotschi, Co-Founder and Board Member, Association for Agriculture and Ecology (AGRECOL), Marburg

Moderation: **Tilman Santarius**, Head of Division, International Climate and Energy Policies, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

4:00 p.m. Coffee Break

4:30 p.m. Presentation of the Results from the Forum Discussions
Facilitators of the forums report on the key questions in the plenum; the last will lead into the question of the closing panel.

5:00 p.m. Closing Panel
Facing the Crises – Agricultural Trade and Institutional Challenges
What international institutions do we need for sustainable agricultural development, and what role does the WTO play?

Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi

Sophia Murphy, Senior Advisor, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), Minneapolis

Hanns-Christoph Eiden, Director, Spokesman of Special Committee on Agriculture, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Bernard Kuiten, Head of External Relations, Information and External Relations Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva

Moderation: **Barbara Unmüßig**, President, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

6:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

Christine Chemnitz, Programme Director, International Agricultural Trade, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

7:00 p.m. Reception