

Organisation

Biovision – Foundation for ecological development

Biovision Foundation combats hunger and poverty, and is committed to the dissemination and application of ecological methods that sustainably improve living conditions in Africa whilst also conserving the environment. Biovision renders «help for self-help» and promotes ecological thought and action in both North and South.

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) – University of Bern

CDE is concerned with sustainable development in times of global change. We contribute to addressing global change by producing and sharing knowledge in close collaboration with partners in the global North and South, and by applying this knowledge in policy advice, outreach, and education.

SWISSAID – Swiss foundation for development cooperation

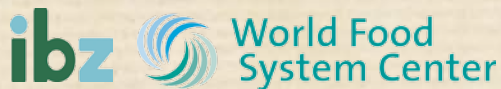
SWISSAID works to fight poverty and ensure food security in nine African, Asian, and Latin American countries. In Switzerland, SWISSAID influences policy-making on development. Aside from ecologically sound farming, activities focus on strengthening village communities as well as local farmers', indigenous, and women's organisations, enabling them to advocate their rights and interests by their own efforts.



In cooperation with:



Patronage:



Supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG).

Green Economy – Opportunities and Risks for Agriculture

Panel discussion

Wednesday, 23 May 2012, 15.30 – 19.15

Auditorium Maximum, ETH Zurich



Foundation for ecological development

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Inspiring courage.

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Background

Twenty years after the global UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio, the community of states is about to meet again in the Brazilian metropolis. A very vague concept – «green economy» – has come to dominate discussions. It is, however, highly controversial. Focusing only on «green technologies» to boost the economy is not enough to sustainably fight poverty and hunger.

Whatever shape this «green economy» takes, agriculture will have a key role to play. In this context, there is a high risk of agriculture being used to supply fossil raw materials. This will inevitably be at the expense of food production and biodiversity.

Achieving sustainable development and food security will require a change towards ecologically sustainable farming. The world's 525 million small-scale farms – the homes and sources of livelihoods of 2.6 billion people – produce 70 per cent of food worldwide. By adopting ecologically sound farming methods, they can increase their yields, in some cases drastically. At the same time, these methods can help to protect natural resources such as water, land, and ecosystems. Thus, there is a need for a fundamental change in agriculture and the various areas of the food sector – a need that has also been formulated by representatives of governments, the UN, the scientific community, farmers' organisations, and civil society under the heading of «Nourish Our People – Nurture Our Planet» in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference.

Women play an especially important role in this change. They do the major share of farm work, but have only few rights. Female small-scale farmers in particular need to be strengthened and supported with enabling conditions.

The panellists will explore these topics and issues, and discuss recommendations for the Swiss delegation to the Rio+20 Summit. Sufficient and healthy food for all and the conservation of the environment can be achieved through ecologically sustainable agriculture. Rio+20 must set the course for its implementation.



Programme

- 15.30 **Welcome address**
- 15.50 **Introduction**
Prof. Emmanuel Frossard, Vice-Chair, World Food Systems Center, ETH Zurich – co-patronage
- 16.00 **Which framework conditions for food security?**
Dr. Martin Dahinden, Director, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Green Economy – Opportunity, Risk, or Illusion?**
Carlos Marentes, Director of the Borders Agricultural Workers Center, Via Campesina, Texas, USA
- The land needs strong women farmers!**
Christine Bühler, President of the Swiss Union of Female Farmers and Rural Women
- Marginal or key actors? Small-scale farmers in a green economy**
Prof. Urs Wiesmann, University of Bern, Head of Department of Integrative Geography, Co-Director NCCR North-South
- 17.45 **Panel discussion:**
Green Economy – Opportunities and Risks for Agriculture
Dr. Sibyl Anwender Phan-Huy, Head of Sustainability and Economic Policy, Coop
Dr. Peter Bieler, Head of SDC Global Programme on Food Security
Dr. Hans R. Herren, President of Biovision; World Food Prize Laureate
Caroline Morel, Director of SWISSAID
Alessandra Silauri, International Sustainable Agriculture Unit, FOAG
- 19.10 **Closing remarks**
Dr. Angelika Hilbeck, Institute for Integrative Biology, ETH Zurich – co-patronage
- 19.15 **Refreshments**

Moderator: **Ruedi Küng**, InfoAfrica

Simultaneous translation: German-English-French

Participation is free of charge.

Please register at www.swissaid.ch/rio20