

Panel VI: Public-Private Approaches for Feeding our World and safe-guarding our environment

Short Description:

The panel of experts will explore energy, water, chemicals, land, and ecosystem-based avenues for integrating or scaling up sustainability in the value chains of key commodity crops.

This event will feature the Sustainable Rice Platform (www.sustainable-rice.org) as an innovative UN-Environment-hosted and co-founded with the International Rice Research Institute Public-Private partnership. Also, it will discuss ways to finance these initiatives by bringing in Rabobank and other finance facilities being developed by UN Environment.

Background:

The way we produce and consume food is causing major environmental and human health problems, and must be brought in line with the holistic approach of the Sustainable Development Goals. Prevailing food and agricultural policy, a strong and dynamic agri-food industry and global food consumption trends fuelled by the growth in the global middle class have created an entrenched food and agriculture system that is dominated by only a few commodity crops. Food must be produced, distributed, consumed and disposed of in ways that optimise resource use, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, avoid the use of chemicals that are harmful to ecosystems and/or human health, and stop further conversion of natural habitats. Food systems need to be transformed in a way that on the one hand restore degraded land and soils and on the other provide a nutritious and healthy diet for a population estimated to reach 10 billion people by 2050. Solutions for the required transformation to sustainable agriculture and food security exist and are ready to be scaled up. In this way, agriculture can mitigate and adapt to climate change, and support biodiversity conservation. And it can improve livelihoods through the creation of meaningful and rewarding jobs, and improve human health through nutritious food.

Key Questions to be answered in this session:

- Can truly private sector partnerships help to bring innovation to the field and policy?
- How can scientists interact with the private sector for good of food security and nutrition?
- Can finance be a force for good in shifting commodities to more sustainable models that are also deforestation free?

Objective: To provide concrete examples of innovative public-private approaches to sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Possible outcome: Build consensus around the role of the private sector in scaling up and out science and sustainable agricultural practices.

Moderator – UN Environment (TBC) (5 minute welcome and setting the tone)

Philip Lymberry – Compassion for World Farming will set the scene around the key challenges in our food and farming sectors (10 minutes)

International Rice Research Institute (Co-convenor of Sustainable Rice Platform) – journey from idea to impact – building consensus between public, private and civil society interests (10 minutes)

Panellists

HiVOS – will speak on maize dominated landscapes

Rabobank representative

Jamie Morrisson – Food systems Strategic Objective Lead

Joao Campari – WWF – Food Practice Lead

Rotterdam Convention or CBD

Bamboo and Rattan Organisation

Interactive discussion with audience and panellists (40 mins)

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