

World Water Day 2012

Water and Food Security: Call for Solutions

Wednesday 24th August - 09:00 -12:30 - Room K21

The World Water Day in 2012 is intended to draw the international attention on the relationships between water & food security. "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" and water is one of the fundamental input factor to the food production.



Food security has been raising the international political agenda following the peak prices of 2008 and the financial crisis of 2009. Since then, the raising commodity price level continued volatility have destabilized food security in several countries. Future population growth, urbanization, changing diets and development pressure on land and water (including resources allocated to biofuel production) and energy cost increase are all conducive to a progressive and severe water scarcity that will in turn undermine the food security. At the same time, climate changes are expected to impact the most food insecure populations first.

The Workshop will address the status and prospects for food security and will illustrate the water-related implications. A call for solutions will be brought into discussion with the audience and will be further animated by a panel of experts. It is envisaged that the conclusions of the Seminar will provide key messages and promising solutions to form the basis of the campaign for the World Water Day 2011, coordinated by FAO on behalf of UN-Water members and partners.



Seminar Programme

Chair: Mr. *Alexander Müller* (Assistant Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Department, FAO)

Co-Chair: Ms. *Alice Aureli* (Chief, Groundwater Resources and Aquifer Section, UNESCO/IHP)

Moderator: Mr. *Johan Kuylenstierna* (Centre Director, SEI Stockholm)

Rapporteur: Ms. *Domitille Vallee*, (Land and Water Division, FAO, Rome)

09:00 Welcome and Introduction. Mr. *Adeel Zafar*, Chair UN-Water, UNU Canada

09:10 Water and Food Security: Feeding the world in a sustainable way. Mr. *Alexander Müller*, Director, Natural Resources and Environment Department, FAO Rome

09:30 Water and Food Security: Which solutions? Mr. *Tony Allan*, (King's College London)

10:00 *Coffee Break*

10:30 **Panel and Audience debate**

The debate will start with short statements made by the panelists, representing different stakeholder perspectives (e.g., farmers, private and food-chain companies, scientific research, environment, youth, diets and nutrition specialists) and expressing opposing views about solutions addressing water and food security (e.g., innovation vs tradition, intensification vs greener agriculture, small-holder vs large-commercial farming, increasing food production vs reducing food waste and adopting sustainable diets, food import vs self sufficiency; present vs future generations). This will provide discussion points to the Audience that will further intervene into, and enrich, the debate. The moderator will ease the dialog between Audience and Panelists. The debate should be seen as a highly interactive platform for discussion, bringing-in a whole set of different voices that will provide key messages for the World Water Day 2012.

12.00 Summary and Conclusion

12.20 Closure

Speakers & Panelists



Mr. *Adeel Zafar*,
(Chair UN-Water,
UNU Canada)



Mr. *Alexander Müller*
(Assistant Director General,
Natural Resources and Environment
Department, FAO)



Mr. *Johan Kuylenstierna*
(Centre Director,
SEI Stockholm)



Alice *Aureli*
(Chief, Groundwater
Resources and Aquifer
Section, UNESCO/IHP)



Tony *Allan*
(King's College)



Ms. *Domitille Vallee*,
(Land and Water
Division, FAO)



Kebede *Ayele*
(Director IDE-Ethiopia;
Value Chain Development)



Mr. *Jan Lundqvist*
(SIWI)



Thomas *Farrell*
(Water for Food Institute,
University of Nebraska)



Lifeng *Li*
(WWF)



Alice *Bouman-Dentener*
(President, Women for
Water Partnership)



Mohamed *Ait Kadi*
(Chair Technical Advisory
Committee, GWP)



Julia *Bucknall*
(Water Anchor,
World Bank)



Saba *Loftus*
(International
Council of Youth)



Er. M. *Gopalakrishnan*
(Secretary General, ICID)