

# Country<sup>side</sup>



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## 9<sup>th</sup> Forum for the Future of Agriculture

**Achim STEINER**

*Under Secretary General of the United Nations  
and Executive Director of the  
UN Environmental Programme (UNEP)*





# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

## Contents

- 3** The Sustainable Development Goals implementation: no time for business as usual

---

- 3** Welcome message by BAN Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

---

- 4** The environmental dimension of the new agenda for sustainable development

---

- 5** Breaking the silo mentality

---

- 8** Five interlocking challenges for global agriculture

---

- 9** From farm to fork: changing societal attitudes to food systems

---

- 10** Reconnecting food systems and governance for better innovation

---

- 11** A new global contract for a global challenge

---

- 14** Landownership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

---

- 15** Launch event of RISE Foundation's report on nutrient recovery and reuse in European agriculture

---

- 16** Diary dates

### **FFA2016: Work Together or Hang Separately**

*There is no time for business as usual if we want to achieve food and environmental security. That is the clear message we heard from speakers and the audience at our FFA2016. As a species and as a planet we are in trouble, as the challenge of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals show. To change our trajectory towards a sustainable society will be difficult, but it is clear that it must be done.*

*In order to achieve this, we must first break through our silo mentality. We can no longer afford to have agriculture and the environment seen as different government policies, or that they are in a separate department from human health and well-being. The problems we face today are interconnected, and they can only be overcome if we connect our best thinking and stop seeing each other as adversaries. When it comes to our environment, we are all partners.*

*Second, the problems the European and global countryside faces cannot just be solved by farmers and foresters. As long as consumers are unaware of the true cost of their standard of living, or when these externalities are not priced in, we will remain locked in a system with eventual negative outcomes.*

*Our members have done better and they will do even more, but it is neither fair nor right that they should do it alone. Society must acknowledge that it cannot place more burdens on us without better compensation. For the future of the planet, we will either work together, or hang separately.*



# The Sustainable Development Goals implementation: no time for business as usual



This annual Forum is an initiative of the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and Syngenta. The FFA brings together a wide and diverse range of stakeholders to inspire new thinking on how European and global agriculture needs to respond to the major challenges of delivering both food and environmental security.

The Forum was created in 2008 in response to the belief that many of Europe's agricultural and environmental policies focused on solving yesterday's problems such as overproduction. The FFA instead deals with the challenges and market opportunities of the future. These include: feeding a growing world population, demands for a higher quality diet, developing renewable sources of energy and changing weather patterns. With limited arable land available globally, there is a need to maximize production on existing cultivated land, but to do so in a sustainable manner.

The agenda this year focused on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: No time for business as usual. Luminaries from various leading international institutions, such as the UN Environmental Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the European Commission, NGOs, and businesses from every sector presented their diverse views to a packed auditorium.

The discussions in Brussels will continue during the FFA2016 regional events, taking place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June in Austria and in October in France.

The FFA Team

For full videos of all sessions, additional interviews and more, please visit [www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

The FFA is an initiative from



## Welcome message by BAN Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

"I am pleased to greet all participants at this important forum. Sustainable agriculture will help us realise agenda 2030; our universal vision for a better future. The 17 SDGs are a declaration of interdependence. The food chain is a perfect example of how people's fates are linked in this globalised world.

We can only end hunger if we change how we grow, process, distribute and consume food. We also have to better manage our natural resources, land and water. We have to preserve the world's rich biodiversity. True progress demands new food systems that focus on health, protect the environment, promote social justice, empower women, and advance development in communities. These food systems should give opportunities to young people and support smallholder farmers. Your forum can bring us closer to realising agenda 2030. I urge you to confront the hard questions and come up with solutions. Thank you for your leadership and commitment".



Achim STEINER, Stephen SACKUR

FFA2016 OPENING STATEMENTS

## The environmental dimension of the new agenda for sustainable development

*“What on earth is the UN up to again?”* asked Achim STEINER, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), as he began his opening keynote to the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum for the Future of Agriculture. In his view, the UN’s Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals were necessary in order to overcome the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Among these, he described the use and input of natural resource, waste, obesity and malnutrition, pollution and soil as the major challenges in the *“central debate on that will dominate our view of development in social, economic and environmental terms for the next 30-40 years”*.

In his view, it was necessary to match these crucial challenges to a sustainable future not just to the farmer, but to the whole agricultural economy including the upstream and downstream economies such as providers of farm inputs like fertilizers and agri-chemicals, but also supermarkets and retailers. This,

Mr. STEINER said, is because *“farming is very often no longer the choice of the farmer. It is the outcome of a series of regulatory, economic, market forces and offered products. In this complexity a farmer has to earn a livelihood”*.

For each continent and country, the Under Secretary General said, the challenge would be different; *“farming in Europe and Kenya faces different risks”* but he noted that there are also broad similarities in the shape of the challenges that are underlined in the Sustainable Development Goals. In a broad-ranging address, Mr. STEINER provided three components of combining food and environmental security.

The first action he urged the agricultural and environmental sectors to take was to lead by example by integrating policy development and landscape management. Mr. STEINER noted that it was *“no longer possible to take [...] farming, livestock, or fishing in isolation”*, as issues like water were cross-cutting between all these sectors. Transport, he said, would also need to break through different silo’s to enable currently existing technologies which *“could save \$2 trillion in a decade”*.

Turning to Europe, the head of the UNEP urged the EU and Member states to *“lead by example”*. Government purchasing power, he said, could have a tremen-

dous influence on achieving sustainable practices in the food chain. If EU governments demanded sustainable sourcing of palm oil, he noted, then this could have a huge and positive impact *“on the producers in the far corners of Borneo or Ghana”*. He also noted that the UN itself still needed to make the best use of its own purchasing power to create more sustainable solutions.

Finally, Mr. STEINER urged the audience to *“encourage and accelerate the shift in private sector practices”*. He noted that private sector commitment in sectors such as rice production were already having a positive influence that, if broadened sufficiently, could have a hugely positive influence on global agriculture. Mr. STEINER further stated that *“we need to amplify our thinking across all areas [of innovation] where the private sector has something to offer”*. Technology and new practices, he said, would allow humanity to reduce its footprint and work with nature, rather than against it.

*“The 2030 agenda is one of the greatest expeditions that humanity has ever undertaken”*, the keynote speaker said in closing, and stated that these challenges are about *“managing complexity against a backdrop of rapidly escalating problems”*. Finally, he warned that the facts and figures of these problems cannot be answered by *“we need to produce more food”*.

## SESSION 1

## Breaking the silo mentality

*“Old fashioned silo thinking will not help us manage the Sustainable Development Goals” said FAO Director General José GRAZIANO DA SILVA, setting the tone for the first session of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture. Set around the theme of transforming the agricultural model in order to achieve the SDGs, the speakers and respondents agreed that what would be needed above all is a breakthrough in terms of cooperation between different stakeholders and nations. However, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil HOGAN, the second keynote speaker of the session, noted that “without meaningful implementation on the ground, these goals will remain aspirational in nature.”*

The import and export of high volumes of agricultural goods also raised the

question as to whether or not enough food was currently being produced, or whether a growing global population would require more, as *“800 million people are still hungry”*, according to Mr. DA SILVA. In conversation with Commissioner HOGAN, The FAO Director General further noted that *“there is enough food produced for all, but it is about access to food”*. The Commissioner agreed with this, noting that *“we waste or lose upwards of 30% of our production”*. Both keynote speakers and the responding panel noted that the quantity of food should not be the only measurement, but that it is as much about providing much-needed quality and nutrition in order to combat both hunger and obesity, which are currently seen as by-products of our food system.

The Commissioner also confirmed that the SDGs will be integrated into *“the Common Agricultural Policy, into our agricultural research and innovation policy, and into our agri-trade policy”*, ensuring that the global goals will have European follow-up. The CAP, according to Commissioner HOGAN, was already making

strides to ensure SDG 2: zero hunger, by eliminating barriers to market access and orienting the European agricultural sector towards the global market. This was accompanied, he said by *“prioritising sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices to improve the [EU’s] ecological performance”*. By balancing environmental and agricultural concerns, the EU itself also seeks to eliminate silo thinking. However, the Commissioner also noted that *“governments cannot do it alone”* and that there needed to be an equally strong reaction to the SDGs from the private sector.

Especially in terms of climate change, it was clear that the keynote speakers and responding panel agreed that a global effort was needed. Jon PARR, Chief Operating Officer of Syngenta, noted that *“agriculture represents one-third of all global greenhouse gas emission and this makes us responsible”*. He emphasized that his company’s *The Good Growth Plan* helps farmers meet the challenge of feeding the world sustainably while using resources respon-



José GRAZIANO DA SILVA, Phil HOGAN, Stephen SACKUR



Jon PARR, Bernard GIRAUD, William ROLLESTON, Giovana BAGGIO DE BRUNS, Tim BENTON, Stephen SACKUR

6

sibly. The panel clearly stated that climate change represented a threat to the planet and global agriculture; *“one of the biggest things we are starting to realise is how destabilizing climate is and how it interacts with our water and food supplies”* said Prof. Tim BENTON, the UK’s Global Food Security Champion. To combat this, Commissioner HOGAN noted that *“nearly half of the EU-budget for rural development programmes is spent on a series of measures benefitting the environment or the fight against climate change”*.

As the panel demonstrated, issues such as climate change, changes in policy and providing nutritious food to a growing population represent real challenges to the current agricultural model. Fortunately, many solutions were also proposed.

As Professor BENTON noted, *“about three million Europeans die every year because of diet-related ill health”* – meaning that changes to the food model in the developed world. According to him, diversification of production, a move away from bulk commodities and an increased vegetable production would be some of the ways to counter health problems in the developed world. In such a scenario, however, price would still be a determining factor as *“many consumers are not interested in high-cost items”*, according to Bernard GIRAUD of Danone. Fortunately,

according to him, the supply chain will soon undergo a *“deep transformation”* that will enable customers to make better decisions on the basis of nutrition and traceability to demonstrate the sustainability of different products. Furthermore, added Mr. GIRAUD, *“there is enough knowledge and science to develop large-scale models which can make the difference”*.

While the panel acknowledged that there were huge opportunities in terms of science and research, many still questioned Europe’s commitment to new agricultural techniques, especially where it comes to plant breeding. FAO Director DA SILVA noted that *“agro-ecology is a promising concept, as well as biotechnology”* and hoped that the second and third generations of GM technology would enable additional food to come from existing hectares. In order to achieve this, however, Dr. William ROLLESTON of the World Farmers’ Organisation warned that *“[current] decisions made in the EU are looked at around the world, and its [negative] attitudes towards GM technology are infecting global opinions”*.

Many of the positive changes that are to be made could fortunately be achieved with relatively low levels of technology. As Mrs. BAGGIO DE BRUNS, Conservation Coordinator at The Nature Conservancy in Brazil said *“just increasing the number of cattle from one to three*

*per hectare in Brazil would make a huge difference in preserving the Amazon”*. Another issue that was touched on by many were the (perceived) unrealistic standards set for fruit and vegetables for sale in modern supermarkets. When asked by an audience member whether it was realistic that 40-50% of carrots grown in the UK were thrown away due to meeting duty standards, Jon PARR answered that he did *“not understand the requirement for identical vegetables either”*.

During the speeches of Mr. GRAZIANO DA SILVA, Commissioner HOGAN and the panel, it was clear that the challenges of agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century could not be seen as separate from those of the climate, the environment and consumer health. The increasing understanding of the interlocking nature of these systems allow for solutions to be better tailored, but also present the full complexity of agriculture and environment. In order to achieve the right solutions, the way forward is to break through the silo mentalities that have locked up progress and to *“invest and create new products, technologies, processes and friendlier business models to support them, improve their resilience and enable them to produce more in a sustainable way,”* in the words of FAO Director General GRAZIANO DA SILVA.

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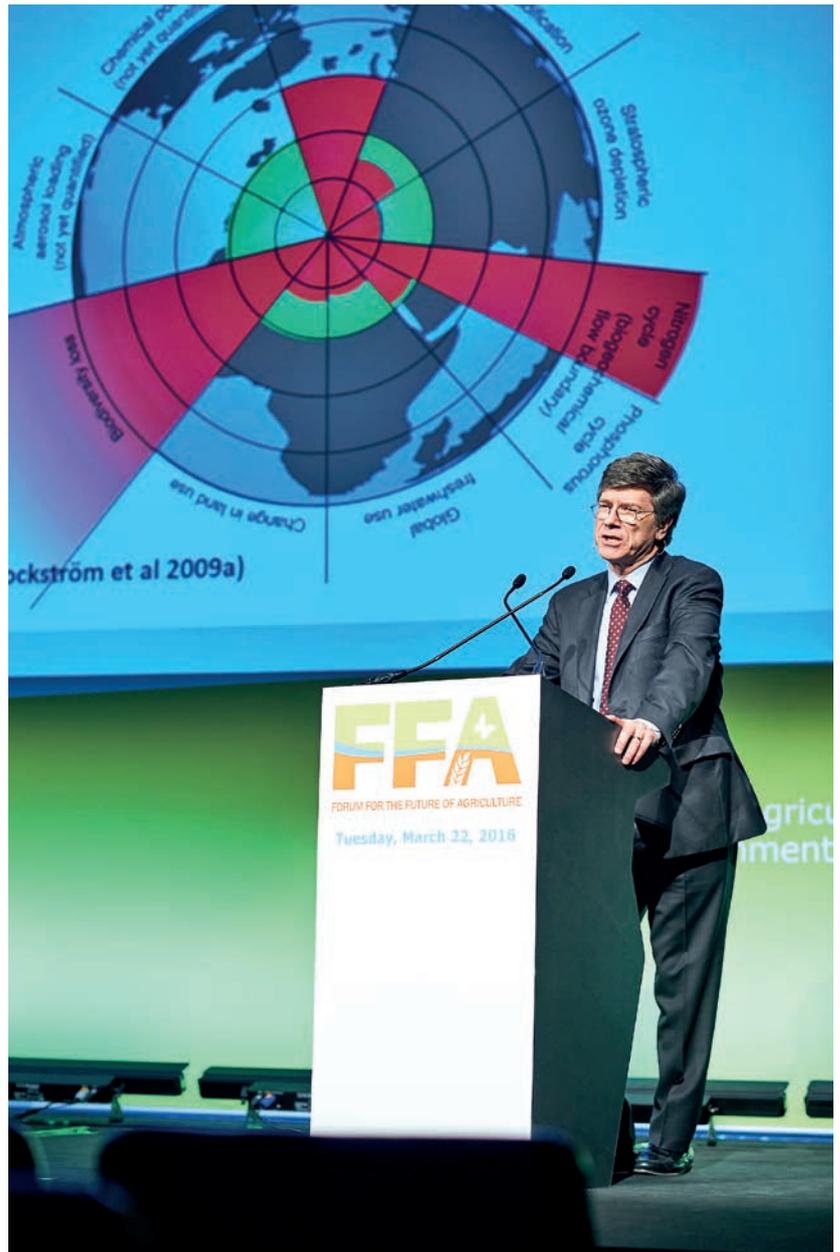
## Five interlocking challenges for global agriculture

*"We need goals in this world, because we agree on almost nothing"* said Professor Jeffrey SACHS, keynote speaker and Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University. He agreed that achieving the SDGs would be difficult, but that there would be no chance of success in their absence. They are, he acknowledged, *"a way to raise the human spirit"* that would allow global society to prosper in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

However, Professor SACHS warned, *"no government in the world is organised right now in such a way as to achieve the SDGs"* due to a lack of integration between different ministries and ways of thinking. This problem, he said, was not just confined to national governments, but also held true for university departments and the European Commission. In order to rise to the challenges laid out by the UN, the first action to take would be to overcome these organisational challenges – this would enable the conditions that would allow humanity to overcome five key challenges of sustainable agriculture: addressing rural poverty, achieving nutritious diets, climate resilience, living within planetary boundaries, and feeding a global population that is now projected to reach 11.2 billion people by 2100.

The renowned economist warned the audience that these challenges represented *"a whole menu which we must take in order to achieve sustainability in the agricultural sector"*. The first, reducing rural poverty, which he termed *"the dominant form of extreme poverty in the world"*, is mostly represented in Africa and Asia.

In terms of nutritious diet, there are both 1 billion people with nutrient deficiencies and 1 billion suffering from obesity, according to the keynote speaker. In total, he stated, there were seven billion people who did not have access to a good diet, which is *"rather shocking and sobering"*. Making all this worse are the worsening effects of climate change, with *"last February being the warmest month ever, with the greatest deviation of all months since the beginning of counting"*. Food supplies, he said, would not do well in this context.



Professor Jeffrey SACHS

*"We are already impinging on the earth's physical systems [...] and agriculture affects everything about the earth's systems"*, with it being the mayor user of water, land and resources in the world. Thus, the current production systems are already pushing past planetary boundaries according to Prof. SACHS, and this overloaded system, he warned, would be hit by climate shocks while already underperforming in terms of delivering human nutrition. The last challenge, that of population growth, would absolutely need to be brought under control, as the earth could not, according to the speaker, handle a population of 11 billion; *"don't try that on planet Earth"*.

In order to overcome these challenges, the speaker noted, *"we need to be systematic, but our politicians are not"*. The need therefore, he said, was for long-term institutions that would integrate government, business and civil societies. This, he warned would not be easy, but *"we must solve these problems, and doing so requires planning, foresight, expertise and democratic engagement. Not one of these is solvable on a time horizon of less than a generation. This is not about an election cycle or a quick win; it's about transforming a world economy which is enormously productive."*

## SESSION 2

## From farm to fork: changing societal attitudes to food systems

The changes demanded of our global food production system by the SDGs are not only the responsibility of the farmer, agreed the participants in the second FFA session on changing societal behaviours. As Ursula HUDSON, President of Slow Food Germany, pointed out, there is a “*rift between consumers and producers*” which will need to be mended in order to achieve sustainable food systems.

One of the best ways to do this, agreed the panel, was through better consumer education, which would allow them to make better, more sustainable choices. As Allan BUCKWELL, Director of the Nutrient Recovery Project at the RISE Foundation, noted, this will have to begin early with “*in schools so that we can help children understand where food comes from and how it is produced*”. However, such an education might lead to stakeholders needing to transmit messages about their consumption of sugar and the “*unsustainable ratio of converting grain to meat*”, as pointed out by Tim BREITMEYER, Farmer and Deputy President of the CLA. Obviously, these are not messages that the consumer will necessarily want to listen to, and, according to Mr. TRAMONTIN, “*it is the role of the supermarket to sell the shopping experience, not to portray negatives*”.



Ursula HUDSON, Francesco TRAMONTIN, Tim BREITMEYER, Allan BUCKWELL, Tanya BECKETT

As one of the mayor contact points between the consumer and producers, the role of the supermarket was examined by the panel as well. “*We have too much food in our supermarkets*” said Mrs. HUDSON. With the growing interconnected nature of global food supplies, it is clear that supermarkets and mayor producers and brands “*depend on a steady supply of quality products*”, noted Francesco TRAMONTIN, Director of Public Affairs for Europe at Mondelez, which provides opportunities to both farmers and consumers.

The power of the supermarket in setting the prices paid to farmers remained a concern to Mr. BREITMEYER, however, who noted that “*we must remind ourselves that the average farmer income in Europe is 16.500 euro and we are expecting them to become more sustainable, which can only happen if they are profitable*”.

Many on the panel agreed that their demand for uniform products was a cause of waste, both in terms of nutrients and in terms of products. “*Perfect carrot syndrome*” as it was called by Tim BREITMEYER “*is a waste of the food that is produced, but also a waste of the natural resources such as water that have gone into making them*”. The glob-

al increase in diets and income has increased the amount of nutrients used, and we are wasting a lot of them, said Mr. BUCKWELL, who urged the audience to “*close the loops*” and prevent so many of the current nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen from leaking out of the system and into our water and air systems. However, Mrs. HUDSON warned that “*there is waste in the food system before it is even planted; we overdo it to compensate for weather and market conditions, which breeds waste into the system*”.

Overall, the panel agreed that the interlocking system of farming, food chains and consumers would be difficult to redesign in order to meet the SDGs. One of the biggest remaining questions was that the role of the consumer would not only need to change, but that their education would be difficult to achieve, not least because some of the measures needed to achieve sustainability will depend on reducing meat and sugar consumption and perhaps even raising food prices. However, as Allan BUCKWELL warned, “*it is a brave government that raises the price of food*”.

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Humberto DELGADO ROSA, Ana Paula TAVARES, Maelenn POITRENAUD, John INGRAM, Tanya BECKETT

SESSION 3

## Reconnecting food systems and governance for better innovation

Innovation was the key theme of the final panel of the day, which was opened with an address by Professor John INGRAM, food systems programme leader at the University of Oxford. During his speech and in the panel, it became clear that the need for innovation was not just in terms of new technology, but in the reinvention of governance in order to allow innovation, as well as being able to create connections.

These would be necessary not just between different stakeholders, but also between what Prof. INGRAM called “food systems” and consumers. As he noted, the global rise of the middle class had been accompanied by “we, the over-consumer” and that this model was unsustainable. Furthermore, the panel also demonstrated that many technological changes, especially for smallholders, would not rely on high-tech solutions, but on more basic improvements.

Such simple solutions, demonstrated Ana Paula TAVARES of the Rainforest Alliance which is currently working with over one million smallholders, mean “using mobile technology, using visuals rather than texts [for illiterate farmers] and making content available offline”. While such solutions would certainly make a difference, there are also many steps that still needed to be taken in terms of utilizing current waste streams to recover nutrients and better manage resources. Such solutions were demonstrated by Maelenn POITRENAUD, research team manager at Veolia Environment, who demonstrated her company’s work on water purification and resource management.

Many of these technological changes would be easier to come about when there was a more integrated and structured approach to innovation governance. “A more interdisciplinary understanding is important” is vital, according to Prof. INGRAM, who noted that the achievement of the SDGs needs an interdisciplinary approach between different governing structures. Humberto DELGADO ROSA, Director for mainstreaming adaptation and low carbon technology at DG Environment, agreed, saying that “there is the embryo of a shared vision, but we need to under-

stand each other’s angles”, noting that new concepts such as the circular economy provided a way forward. However, as Prof. INGRAM warned in his opening address, “there isn’t a simple fix and no simple answers” when it comes to realigning governance structures to achieve the SDGs and promote innovation.

Governance alone, however, would not be enough to make the necessary changes; according to the panel this would also require a realignment of current food systems and consumers. As Prof. INGRAM noted: “one billion people go hungry, two billion are satisfied but have nutrient deficiencies and two and a half billion people have too much food”, which he said had led to malnutrition becoming the new normal. This ‘recoupling’ of food systems would help reduce waste and could also inspire further innovation.

Finally, the panel agreed that many of the needed changes would begin with ourselves. As Mrs. TAVARES asked: “What is the real cost of the food we buy, not just in terms of the price we pay in the supermarket but the true cost?” and asking the audience who among them fully lived up to the ideals of sustainability.

## A new global contract for a global challenge

Thoughts from  
FFA Chairman  
Janez POTOČNIK

*“Today, we must ask ourselves what it is we need to do in order to achieve the SDGs. Make no mistake; if we are to provide a truly sustainable world, then we will all need to do more”* warned FFA Chairman and former EU Commissioner for the Environment, Janez POTOČNIK in his opening address. This challenge would need to be answered by everybody and at every level. Farmers and foresters, he acknowledged, would be asked *“to do more to protect the environment as well as provide healthy, safe and nutritious food”* but so would the whole of society.

Such a commitment, he said, can be seen in the ideas of the circular economy such as increasing nutrient use efficiency in order to reduce pollution as well as closing input loops *“in order to guarantee that future increases in food production do not cause further environmental damage”*.

The SDGs, the Chairman said, demonstrate that caring for the environment is everybody’s job, and that no-one should rely only on the state or on the NGO community to do the work for them. He urged all those present to take their responsibilities seriously. This, he noted, *“means no longer treating our limited natural capital as a free resource, but to be honest and to price in those externalities that we are currently ignoring”*. Such a change in attitude and long-term thinking would be embraced by land managers everywhere, as long as the costs for this shift were borne by the whole of society, and not just its farmers and foresters.

During the introduction, Mr. POTOČNIK also invited all stakeholders to *“reach out and work together”*. Too often, he said, the oppositions between different parties have led to a lack of solutions. The achievement of the SDGs, he said, would not be possible without breaking through *“old, rigid ways of thinking”* and shouting from the sidelines.

Consumers, too, would need to play a serious role in achieving the SDGs and a sustainable society. This, the Chairman said, meant not just being aware of the environmental costs of their consumption, but also of the negative externalities that are currently not being priced into our production systems. 100 million tonnes of food are still being wasted across the food chain. This waste, he noted, was not just in terms of food, but also in terms of the natural resources that went into their production.

Innovation will play a key part in the answer to these challenges, but *“it*



Janez POTOČNIK

does not just mean new, high-tech solutions". Indeed, many of the proposed solutions "are quite basic in nature" and would require bringing better practices and better knowledge to many places where farming had not yet seriously been changed. Furthermore, said Mr. POTOČNIK, it would involve reinventing the way our society is structured.

Wrapping up the day, Mr. POTOČNIK first called for a minute's silence for those who were injured or died in the attacks in Brussels on the day of the FFA.

Interdependence, said the Chairman, is the "very crux of the issue" and, echoing the words of UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon, "the food chain is the perfect example of how we are all linked" in a complex system with a local reality and a global context. In such a system, there is a vital role to play for both small farmers and big actors in the private sector in order to deliver a reinvented agriculture.

After summarizing the day, the for-

mer Commissioner for Environment called upon all present to be part of a "new kind of society, One based not just on what values we wish to see in each other, but one that places a great value and dignity also on our environment. A pledge not to see our planet as a resource that we can consume and throw away, but as our shared home. There is no other choice; we still have found no other place like Earth. For now, our future is here, or there is no future."

Central to this, he said, would be "a new global contract for a global community. In return for our very existence, we should take care of our home. Just as a good farmer takes care of the long-term health of his or her soil, water and air, so should we nurture and support our planet. This is not just for our benefit, but for the future of every living thing on this earth.

We are now in the process of rewriting our contract with the planet. It can no longer be an old, colonialist model of over-exploitation and over-extraction. As citizens of a rapidly changing world,

we must live within planetary boundaries, whether they are resources or climate. The new SDGs already state seventeen goals that form the requirements of both us, and the planet: strong ecosystems, enough food for all, sustainable cities and communities and more. These goals we have globally agreed on. Now we must do the hard work of making the SDGs a reality. In order to survive, we know what we have to do, but the changes we seek to make are hard. In order to be truly sustainable, they require us to change our way of life and to reorganise our communities. It is a transformation so radical that we have not seen the like since the Industrial Revolution changed the face of the earth in a single generation.

Nobody should be under the impression that this can be done by making only small changes to our existing systems. It is a whole-scale revolution that touches all the corners of our lives, jobs and societies. There is no choice and there is no real alternative. We must turn away from our current and wasteful linear models of production and towards an





*economy that rewards sustainability, longterm thinking and environmental consciousness. It needs to change your lives and mine. To pretend otherwise is to ignore the scale of the challenge that is written into our new global contract.*

*The SDGs are a great step forward and so is the Paris Agreement. But words and ceremonies are easier than deeds and hard decisions. I can tell you this as a former politician. Fulfilling the terms of our new contract will be among the hardest things our societies have ever done. And yet, I know that we are up to the challenge. We have advantages in innovation, in communication but above all in terms of organisation that we have never had before. Our younger generations are not just aware of what is happening locally, but they are growing up with a global perspective.*

*We can share our technologies and best thinking at the touch of a button. We can organise, come together, and demand change at a pace that would be unthinkable to even our own parents. There is extraordinary support for our global goals and I urge you all to use it". In closing, Mr. POTOČNIK invited the audience to come back next year and together see "whether we have upheld our end of the global contract".*



## Landownership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*On the eve of FFA2016, the ELO organised a workshop for its members and invited guests to discuss what it means to be a landowner today. This event, chaired by ELO President Christoph BÜREN gathered around 100 participants, among whom were ELO members, landowners, policy makers and others.*

Opening the event, Rodolphe de LOOZ CORSWAREM, President of European Historic Houses delivered a strong message on “Heritage and ownership; how to make our voice heard?” He reminded participants that Europe has 80% of the world’s castles and historic buildings, and that cultural tourism accounts to 40% of the EU total. This, he said, makes cultural tourism a key economic sector with many opportunities for future growth. Historic houses, with their old bricks and walls, were “a Club Med for bumblebees” and demonstrate the “out of the box” values and additions that the cultural heritage sector can bring.

Geoffroy de CANNIERE, Forestry Club de France, Cabinet Coudert, followed with “Forestry: a modern patrimonial asset”. As a member of the *Young Friends of the Countryside* (YFCS) and representing the next generation of landowners and land managers, he underlined the economic aspects of diversifying family portfolio in investing in forestry. Furthermore he also demonstrated the social and environmental benefits of well-managed woodland. Working in a company managed by the same family since 100 years and involved in the management of 60.000



Erik PAYEN, Cesar CHAPARRO YEDRO, Hubert ANDRE-DUMONT, Christoph BUREN

ha of forestry in France and beyond firmly established, he said, that being a “wood owner” means that you must be a manager of a company as well.

Hubert ANDRE-DUMONT, practicing attorney, partner in an international law firm and member of the *Friends of the Countryside* (FCS) developed his thinking on patrimonial assets by focusing on the “combination between a demanding primary professional activity and taking over an estate with agricultural activities which needs to be kept up and developed”. He explained some of the hurdles he had to overcome in maintaining and developing the estate in Southern Belgium which has been in the family since 1991. Based on his 35 years of legal experiences, he urged the audience to pay close attention to inheritance matters so that the next generation would be well-involved.

A different aspect of the main topic was presented by Cesar CHAPARRO YEDRO, Project Coordinator at the World Bank, who took a global approach through his talk entitled “Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA): a Tool for Comparing Regulations Globally and Identifying Opportunities for Reform”. A project of the World Bank Group, EBA focuses

on identifying, measuring and comparing agribusiness regulations globally in order to inform policy making. He presented the EBA16 report launched in January 2016 – and promised that this tool would soon be more widely available in Europe as well.

The panel’s presentations were closed by Erik PAYEN, Senior Originator, Food and Agriculture, Swiss Re Corporate Solutions who spoke about “The role of agricultural insurance in the times of climate change”. With his team he focus on daily bases on providing “a comprehensive array of innovative risk transfer solutions like crop shortfall covers, weather index, revenue hedges, to corporate clients along the agricultural supply chain.” As such, using the examples around the world (such as Peru) he explained how to use insurance as one of the tools to mitigate the consequences of climate change.

Last but not least a «Wildlife Estates Young Collaborator 2015» diploma was awarded to Baudouin SAVOIE DE PUINEUF to recognize his hard work for the Spanish Wildlife Estates team.

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## Launch event of RISE Foundation's report on nutrient recovery and reuse in European agriculture

*On March 21st, the RISE Foundation launched its latest report at an event held in Brussels with over 100 participants and chaired by Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI, CEO of the RISE Foundation.*

Among the audience were members of the European Commission, academics, company representatives, NGOs and members of nutrient platforms.

Janez POTOČNIK, Chairman of the RISE Foundation, opened the event with a speech in which he emphasised that while international agreements have been reached on climate and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, more will have to be done to create a resilient food system that guarantees future nutrient and food security. This will mainly involve increasing the efficiency of our current nutrient use, which, as the RISE report highlights, is still low in Europe.

Following the introductory speech, Allan BUCKWELL, Emeritus Professor and director of the study, discussed the main lines of action explained in the report which are needed to attain higher nutrient use efficiencies in Europe's agriculture and food production system. These are: increasing information, research and development; providing market stimulants (in the form of obligations, voluntary targets, investment and start-up grants, direct subsidies and fiscal reliefs); and introducing penalties and restrictions (namely taxes on nutrient surpluses or fertilisers and prohibitions or gate fees for landfilling and incineration).

The report makes 16 recommendations to fully enable nutrient recovery and reuse and contribute to better nutrient stewardship.

Three respondents commented on the report. The first to speak was Ryan DERMOT, Senior Adviser and Communication Adviser to the European Commissioner for Agriculture. Mr. DERMOT welcomed the report, highlighted the coherence of nutrient recovery and reuse with EU policies and the important role that nutrient recovery can play in guaranteeing future nutrient supply security. He further underlined the importance of precision farming for EU agriculture and reducing food waste and reminded the audience that the Commission has already taken action with the Communication on the Circular Economy, the revision of the Fertilisers Regulation and new measures to prevent food waste.

Second, Marco CONTIERO, Greenpeace EU Policy Director on Agriculture, asked for action to reduce mineral fertiliser consumption, promote agricultural practices such as mixed farming and cropping practices that allow for environmental and societal benefits. In addition, he said that addressing changes in meat consumption patterns will require a societal change through policy actions and more research is needed on

how to do this. He also emphasised the need for a coherent approach to nutrient management which does not only look at end-of-pipe solutions.

The third respondent was Kees LANGEVELD, Vice President of Business Development at ICL, who explained the position of their company on phosphorus recovery from sewage sludge ash and other waste sources. Priority issues for them are quality, transparency to consumers, and safety of the products they produce. He insisted upon the need to take a risk assessment approach in legislation and on finding local approaches to nutrient recovery, adapted to available waste products and energy sources.

These interventions were followed by a lively debate in which several participants acknowledged that changing consumer behaviour will be a slow process, emphasised the role of soils in nutrient cycling and agreed with the need for local measures but reminded that an EU approach is needed to allow for the transport of nutrients due to the current concentrated distribution of livestock and waste.

To download the report visit:  
[www.risefoundation.eu/publications](http://www.risefoundation.eu/publications)



Ryan DERMOT, Marco CONTIERO, Kees LANGEVELD, Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI

The Editorial Team would like to convey special thanks to Robert de GRAEFF, Elisabet NADEU and Annabelle WILLIAMS for their contribution to this special CountrySide magazine edition.

## Diary dates

### 21 May, European Natura 2000 Day, all over EU

European Natura 2000 Day & Natura 2000 Award Ceremony - organised by the European Commission DG Environment  
[www.natura2000day.eu](http://www.natura2000day.eu)

### 26 - 29 May, Wolfsburg, Germany

19th General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside in Lower Saxony  
[www.friendsofthecountryside.org](http://www.friendsofthecountryside.org)

### 30 May - 3 June, Brussels, Belgium

Green Week 2016 "Investing for a greener future"  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/index_en.html)

### 14 June, Vienna, Austria

Forum for the Future of Agriculture regional event  
[www.forumforagriculture.com/ffa-regionals/](http://www.forumforagriculture.com/ffa-regionals/)

### 14 - 16 June, Brussels, Belgium

EU Sustainable Energy Week - building the energy union together  
<http://eusew.eu/>

### 15 June, Bratislava, Slovakia

ELO General Assembly  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

### 15 - 17 June, Mimizan, France

Forexpo - the European trade fair for forestry and logging  
[www.forexpo.fr](http://www.forexpo.fr)

### 22 - 23 June, Padova, Italy

Forest management and Natura 2000 in the alpine and continental biogeographical regions  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/events-upcoming/245-workshop\\_on\\_alpine\\_forest\\_management\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/events/events-upcoming/245-workshop_on_alpine_forest_management_en.htm)

### 22 - 23 June, Sofia, Bulgaria

EIP-AGRI seminar on Data Revolution; organised by the European Commission  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/Seminar\\_Data\\_Revolution](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/Seminar_Data_Revolution)

### 22 - 24 June, Villach, Austria

AgriFuture Days 2016  
[www.agrifuturedays.com](http://www.agrifuturedays.com)

## The FFA team and participants express their solidarity with Brussels

This year, the FFA2016 coincided with the brutal and horrific assaults that took place at Zaventem Airport and at the Maelbeek metro station in Brussels.

During the day, FFA staff and participants were kept up to date as these atrocities took place, and were asked by police not to leave as our venue was a safe place. These attacks were a shocking reminder to FFA participants that the world is not always kind or just.

On behalf of the staff, speakers, participants and all those involved in the FFA, we express our deepest condolences to those who lost loved ones in these attacks, and our best wishes of a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

To such unthinkable events, there are no easy answers or fast solutions, and for our part we can only do our best to preserve the planet and feed the world. Perhaps this, in part, will help prevent days such as these.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those in Brussels and around the world who were affected by these attacks.



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