

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE**

**RATIONALE**

Without exact specification of what should be sustained, for what reason, under what conditions and at what cost, the term ‘sustainable agriculture’ may be no more than a platitude that is of little help in deciding what is needed for the future of European agriculture. At the EURAGRI Members Conference in York, a number of significant challenges to, or drivers for, sustainable agriculture were identified, and some of these will be considered further, in terms of evidence needs during the next 20 or 30 years, at the Rome meeting.

*Economy and trade* - Europe needs to provide its population with a continuous supply of safe and healthy and top-quality food. But how will “sustainable agriculture” in Europe meet the challenges of EU enlargement and increasingly liberalized global trade and associated issues such as the increasing threat from animal and plant diseases and the potential for political instability. What prerequisites should the European food production chain comply with? Is the knowledge system providing the evidence to base a sound policy on? Is it providing the expertise and technology for industries to build a profitable business on?

*Environment and climate change* – How will “sustainable agriculture” face the challenges posed by climate change, the need to minimize adverse impacts on the environment, and the need to sustain natural resources? Is the knowledge system providing assessments and foresights to meet such challenges?

*Rural economy* - The shift of the EU policy framework towards rural development brings in the wider debate about the use of the countryside and the range of non-commodity outputs produced by agriculture as an asset for access, recreation, conservation, amenity, heritage and tourism. It also requires the effects of societal changes such as aging populations, the movement of people from rural to urban areas, etc. to be understood. If rural areas in Europe should acquire new vitality without agricultural production as its economic mainstay, but nevertheless keeping the land in ‘good agricultural condition’, what are the technical and economic options? What innovations in land use practices, production systems and nature management will be required? Is the knowledge system prepared to provide options for these innovations?

### Conference's objective

The objective of the conference is to consider for each of the themes:

- Economy and trade
- Environment and climate change
- Rural economy

The notion of 'sustainability' in terms of concrete demands for knowledge, expertise and technology of the stakeholders and what this might mean for research and development over the next 20 to 30 years. Additionally the use of present and future instruments for international cooperation and coordination (e.g. those in the Framework Programme) will be discussed in this respect.

### Conference's working mode:

There will be three working sessions, each dealing with one of above themes. Each theme will be presented by two or three authoritative scene-setting presentations. These will be followed by round table discussions in break-out groups (3). After each set of break-out group discussions, an example of how future evidence needs are being addressed will be presented by a relevant ERA-NET, Technology Platform or Network of Excellence coordinator/participant. Each session will end with a concluding debate.

**EURAGRI MEMBERSCONFERENCE XX    ROME 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2006 CRA-OFFICE    VIA NATIONALE 82**

**OVERALL PROGRAM**

Wed. 27-9	15h00-	Registration & Ice breaker
Thu. 28-9	09h00-10h00	Welcome and Opening Session
	10h00-10h30	Coffee break
	10h30-13h25	WORKING SESSION II
	13h25-14h40	Lunch break
	14h40-18h00	WORKING SESSION I
	20h30 -	Social event
Fry. 29-9	09h00-12h20	WORKING SESSION III ( 10h25-10h45 Coffee break)
	12h20-12h30	Closing session
	12h30-13h30	Lunch break
	13h30-14h15	EURAGRI Board Meeting
	14h15-	Field trip
	18h00	Hotels and/or Airport

**WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**REGISTRATION:** Registration desk is open Wednesday 27 September from 15h00 – 20h00 at the CRA Office, Via Nazionale 83.

**ICE BREAKER:** Welcome and ice breaking cocktails on Wednesday 27 September 18h30 – 20h00 at the CRA Office.

**THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**WELCOME and OPENING SESSION 09h00-10h00**

**CHAIR:** Mrs. Dr. Ida Marandola, EURAGRI President 2006

09h00	Welcome and opening address	Prof. Giuseppe D'Ascenzo, President of CRA	
09h15	Welcome and opening address	Prof. Gianni Mongiello, Vice Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forest Policies, Italy	
09h30	Opening key note	Dr. Vincenzo Pilo, Director General of CRA: <b>Mediterranean Agriculture: status, constraints, opportunities</b> (proposed)	

**COFFEE BREAK 10h00-10h30**

<b>THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2006 WORKING SESSION II 10h30-13h25</b>
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**THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE on the SUSTAINABILITY of AGRICULTURE.**

**CHAIR: Christian Patermann, CEU, DG Research. (invited)**

10h30	Christian Patermann	General introduction of the session's theme
10h35	Seppo Kallio, Finland	<b>The European perspective.</b> ( <i>provisional title</i> )
10h55	Zbigniew Kundzewics, Poland	<b>Climate change impacts – projections for the future.</b>
11h15	Christian Patermann	Presenting the frame of reference for the break out groups. Explaining the working mode of the break out groups
11h20	Moderator IIa	Group IIb: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions (to be prepared)
	Moderator IIb	Group IIc: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed. Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions (to be prepared)
	Moderator IIc	Group IIa: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed. Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions (to be prepared)
12h25	Walter Mueller, Switzerland.  John Ingram, UK.	Recent developments in the European Agri-Food knowledge system: <b>The EUROMAPPING project.</b> Recent developments in the European Agri-Food knowledge system: <b>The ESF Forward Look: European Food systems in a Changing World.</b>
13h00	Chair: Christian Patermann Animator: Jan Staman, NL.	Concluding panel with speakers and break out moderators

**LUNCH BREAK 13h25-14h40**

<b>THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2006 WORKING SESSION I 10h30-13h25</b>
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**GLOBALISED ECONOMY AND TRADE: CRADLE or COFFIN of SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE?****CHAIR: Dr. Stefano Bisoffi, Scientific Director, CRA**

14h40	Stefano Bisoffi, CRA, Italy	<b>General introduction of the session's theme</b>
14h45	Wilfrid Legg, OECD	<b>Challenges and opportunities for sustainable agriculture in a globalised economy. An OECD perspective</b>
15h05	Roberto Esposti, Univ Ancona	<b>The European perspective</b> (provisional title)
15h25	Stefano Bisoffi, CRA, Italy	Presenting the frame of reference for the break out groups. Explaining the working mode of the break out groups.
15h35		Tea break
15h50	Moderator Ia	Group Ia: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed. Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions (to be prepared)
	Moderator Ib	Group Ib: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed. Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions (to be prepared)
	Moderator Ic	Group Ic: Moderator, reporter, participants. Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions (to be prepared)
17h10	Lisbeth Munksgaard, Center Advanced Food Studies, DK	Recent developments in the European Agri-Food knowledge system: <b>Proceedings and experiences of the TP Food for Life</b>
17h30	Chair: Stefano Bisoffi, CRA Animator: Jan Staman, NL	Concluding panel with speakers and break out moderators

<b>FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2006 WORKING SESSION III 09h00-12h30</b>
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**CHANGES in the RURAL SOCIETY: NEW PERSPECTIVES for AGRICULTURE?****CHAIR: to be invited**

09h00	To be invited	General introduction of the session's theme
09h05	Laurent Van Depoele, Leuven University	<b>From the perspective of the Regions</b>
09h25	Gianluca Brunori, Univ. Pisa	<b>Sociological and cultural developments in the rural areas</b>
09h45	To be invited	Presenting the frame of reference for the break out groups. Explaining the working mode of the break out groups
09h55		Coffee break
10h15	Moderator IIIa	Group IIIa: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed. Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions. ( <i>to be prepared</i> )
	Moderator IIIb	Group IIIb: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions ( <i>to be prepared</i> )
	Moderator IIIc	Group IIIc: Moderator, reporter, participants to be appointed. Discussion on the basis of a set of questions and propositions ( <i>to be prepared</i> )
11h30	Peter Nowicki, ECNC, NL	Presentation of the <b>SCENAR 2020</b> project
11h50	Chair: to be invited Animator: Jan Staman, NL	Concluding panel with speakers and break out moderators.

**CLOSING AND FAREWELL SESSION****EURAGRI BOARD MEETING (details follow)****HOTELS and/or AIRPORT****12h20-12h30****13h30-14h15****18h00****LUNCH BREAK****FIELD TRIP (details follow)****12h30-13h30****14h00-**