



**7th Forum for the Future of Agriculture- Regional Event  
Copenhagen, September 30, 2014**

**Meeting the food and environmental challenge: How to  
sustainably produce more with less and trade better**

For the 7th consecutive year FFA satellite conferences took place in two different EU regions. On the 30th of September in Copenhagen, ELO and Syngenta, in association with the Danske Godser og Herregårde, Sveriges Jordägareförbund, Yara SA/NV and RISE Foundation organized the satellite conference for the FFA. The objective of the event was to stimulate the debate on how improve food and environmental security, both at international and local level, the speakers have focused their attention on three main axes during round table debates: Global vision: responses to Climate change and other global challenges; European vision & Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture and Regional vision on practical & political approaches.

Anne Sophie GAMBORG, Danske Godser og Herregårde and Niels TRESCHOW, Sveriges Jordägareförbund welcomed and opened the debate.

Jan LAUSTSEN, Director of Trade, Market & Nutrition of Danish Agriculture and Food Council, in his keynote speech addressed the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), analysing its impact on global competitiveness. He noted the differences in the approach: Europe being focussed on the environment and efficiency, USA more on new technologies. The Partnership with the Canada could serve as a model, as they have fully accepted the SPS agreement (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures). If the Canadians have done it, why not the USA? He concluded by wondering if the TTIP would be the funeral of the WTO?

Johan SCHNURER, Professor and Vice-Chancellor of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, explained how universities can respond and organize themselves to meet global challenges, including climate change, to improve the competitiveness of European Agriculture. Anders NILSSON, Research Advisor of the same University, explained the biotechnology and GMOs and its connections to the competitiveness. He reported comparative numbers of the use of GMO on farm net income.

The debate focused on the use of new technologies not only for economic reasons but especially as assets in order to increase the biodiversity. The participants underlined that they don't feel comfortable with the TTIP because they don't really know what its real implications will be - can Europe defend herself from the power of the American food industry?

Lars OLSSON, Head of the Agriculture Department, Ministry of Agriculture of Sweden, introduced the next session. He pointed out that even if in Europe we don't see the growth of the middle-classes, this phenomenon is taking place in countries like Asia and even Africa. For that reason, we have to increase the production while preserving biodiversity and decreasing nutrient loss. We have to act and to think globally: competitiveness in a global context or we will not be able to export agricultural products. We need new production methodologies; new innovations for new products, in new markets. And those new techniques should be exported.

Mogens NIELSEN, YARA Project Manager DWS Nitrogen in Danish Arable production, emphasised that we have to search for the right model for sustainable intensification: help growers to produce more crop on the same land and with less environmental impact. This is crucial to mitigate climate change and to protect biodiversity and natural habitats.

As the precedent speaker, Matthew PICKARD DKCH, Syngenta Nordics, argued that we have to produce more in a sustainable way. He explained the Good Growth Plan and its 6 objectives i.e. to rescue more farmland, to improve health and to reduce poverty among smallholder farmers, to improve worker safety. He emphasized the two most important for Scandinavia: make crops more efficient and help biodiversity flourish. The challenge is being able to provide complementary technologies, he gave some examples as the Multifunctional



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Field Margins, the Fair Labour Association or the Kenya Horticultural Competiveness Project with USAID.

Gustav HAGEMANN introduced the Wildlife Estates Label, a project conceived by ELO in 2005 in order to promote biodiversity conservation in the face of emerging political, economic and social concerns. It helps the owners that have this recognition to be in contact with authorities and the public, and to proof that they have well-managed estates.

Natalie PAUWELS, Member of Cabinet to EU Environment Commissioner Janez POTOČNIK, introduced the last session focussed on Europe. She stated that sustainable intensification is the inevitable pathway towards reconciling the need to meet the demand for food and protect the environment. The solutions based on nature are needed! How we produce, but also where! Our European vision is that our agriculture is the most efficient. The challenges that we face are land abandonment and liberalization of trade. For Annika ÅHNBERG, Former Minister for Agriculture of Sweden, the question is that future Europe can't be an enormous touristic park. We need to produce more, not the 100 % of what we consume but to produce a 100% of what we can produce, and count with the trade. We have also to develop really high quality products, because this is what we can propose to global markets. The challenge is to lower the collateral damages to European nature, and for that we need innovation and more cooperation between farmers and innovators.

Trying to imagine a cleaner environment by improved agricultural productivity, Mogens ERLINGSON, Yara Head of Strategy and Business Development, focused first on global challenges that we face. He mentioned Eutrophication and Climate change – and the necessity to reduce negative environmental impact; limited availability of new arable land – and the necessity to grow more on existing arable land; and growing population towards 9 billion – and the need to meet rising food demand. Sustainable intensification could be the solution: optimal production with less environmental impact. The society needs to realize the limits to the reduction potential in agriculture, and the need for increased production in the future. The implementation rate in agriculture has to increase. This requires a collective farmer industry effort (farmers, advisors farmers' organizations, machinery suppliers and fertilizer companies).

The last speaker was Prof Allan BUCKWELL, the ELO Board Adviser on CAP, who disagreed with some of the precedent speakers, pointing out that we don't have to produce the 100% of what we consume. There is an international market and we can buy in other countries what we don't produce. He underlined that Sustainable Intensification is a question of production and farmers, not of consumption. He reminded that Europe has the most intensified agriculture, but as people mostly disagree with the word "intensification" instead of speaking about "Sustainable intensification" we should focus on "environmental performances".

The day after was followed by a field visit to Jordberga (Sweden) hosted by Otto von ARNOLD. At the farm the owner and his son Carl-Adam, presented the history of the farm, as well as the Tullstorp Stream restoration project: From Source to Sea; explaining the objectives, the method, and the biodiversity existing there. The whole group visited also the Biogas plant from Jorberga, and Sven-Erik SVENSSON, Head of biogas research on crops at Swedish Agricultural University in Alnarp, explained the influence of a biogas plant on the agriculture.