Forward Thinking Platform: what perspectives and what action plan for 2013?

Conclusions from GCARD 2012 and the Foresight Exchange Workshop, October 2012
This report summarises the main results of GCARD 2 (Punta del Este) and of the Foresight Exchange Workshop that was held just before GCARD 2. The results of the Foresight Exchange Workshop (see list of participants in Annex 1) mainly consisted in working group papers to be published, and in synthesis reports to feed various sessions of the GCARD2 on foresight (see GCARD2 documents at http://www.egfar.org/our-work/shaping-future-together/global-foresight-hub/publications).

The Foresight Exchange Workshop in Punta del Este and the preparation of the working group papers were the main activity in 2012 for the Forward Thinking Platform, operating in the framework of the Global Foresight Hub. Taking into consideration these first achievements, the participants discussed further projects for the future, and under what conditions they might develop in 2013 and beyond. This discussion resulted in a proposal for an Action Plan presented thereafter.

I. Results of the Foresight Exchange Workshop and outputs of GCARD 2

The 2nd Foresight Exchange Workshop held on 27th and 28th of November 2012 in Punta del Este provided the dynamics to:

- Include new participants in the process engaged since the preparation of GCARD 1
- Discuss the three papers prepared by the working groups, so that their authors will be able to revise them before posting them on the Global Foresight Hub website (hosted by GFAR) as three contributions made available to all GFAR stakeholders (CGIAR system, regional fora and national research systems, CSOs and Farmers organizations, international organizations, etc)
- Prepare a presentation for GCARD 2 session F1 on “Improving our visions of the future” about the principles and operation of the Forward Thinking Platform (see Annex 2)
- Prepare a presentation for GCARD 2 session F22 on “Foresight guiding research at global level” on the main findings of the three working papers (see Annex 3)
- Identify possible collaborations with regional fora and other global initiatives.

The foresight sessions of GCARD 2 led to many other results. Some are particularly relevant for the Global Foresight Hub and the Forward Thinking Platform (FTP):

- Regional fora committed to mutually learn, exchange lessons and methods for foresight across regions and globally through the GFH;
- CGIAR’s SRF update in 2013 should take into account existing foresight efforts (among which the three papers produced for GCARD 2 by the Forward Thinking Platform, but also foresights developed by the ISPC or other initiatives); CGIAR acknowledges the importance of the FTP for foresight, the usefulness of CGIAR centres and CRPs contributing to it [these results taken from the CEO’s conclusions in the closing session];
- Farmers organisations (FO) and Civil society organisations (CSO) will facilitate and build “grassroots foresight” for GCARD 3 in 2014, which means developing scenarios and visions explicitly rooted in farmers’ perspectives; CSOs and FOs would be happy to obtain advice from the FTP during the process of developing these visions;
- For capacity building purposes, the GFH was asked to develop a common corpus of definitions, to be used as reference.
II. Perspectives and proposal for an action plan of the Forward Thinking Platform

Based on these results and on the discussions during a meeting on the FTP’s possible action plan held on Monday 29th of October in the evening, the following activities seem of interest for the participants to the FTP. They are presented following the five FTP missions (next steps and action highlighted)

1) **Produce and disseminate knowledge**

- **Publish ‘policy briefs’ as a think tank on agricultural research future challenges**

The three papers prepared for GCARD 2 will be revised by their authors or other participants willing to collaborate, based on the discussions held in Punta del Este, and finalized to be posted on the website of the Global Foresight Hub (hosted by GFAR), before the end of 2012. These papers are still not in the state of policy briefs, they rather are “working papers”.

A fourth paper, based on the first discussions about transversalities/commonalities across the three themes held during the Foresight Exchange Workshop and first ideas presented during session F22, and on the inventory, will be prepared (coordinators of this work: H.de Haen, H. Herren, B. Hubert, S. Treyer, but all participants are welcome to contribute).

The next steps for further work either on existing themes or on other questions to be discussed in the FTP for further policy briefs have not been identified yet. The working papers could already be transformed into shorter policy briefs. Some ideas may emerge from the finalization of the 4 papers, or from the preparation of next events (see next sections). A next meeting (teleconference, possibly) after the finalization of the 4 papers could identify possible themes for further work (already mentioned themes: land use and food (in)security; urbanization and the future of agriculture;... see also next session, possible policy dialogue forums).

The capacity to identify emerging, weak signals would be also key for the FTP. A process for gathering these emerging signals might be organised (either at FTP meetings, or through mail). This has to be decided in a further meeting.

- **Ensure academic visibility for the work accomplished in the FTP**

The papers will also be submitted for publication in journals. Different options have been mentioned:

- Publication in journals specializing in foresight, that could be interested in papers that review existing foresights (Foresight, Futures, Futures research quarterly, Technological Forecasting and social change, Technology assessment and strategic management...);
- Publication in journals read by the agriculture and food security community (Global Food security, Journal of food security, Food policy, International journal of Agricultural Sustainability, Global environmental change).

These publications could be tried separately or with the strategy to publish a special issue.

---

A next meeting should identify the strategy for publication, but the authors of the paper are of course invited to develop their publication strategy.

Specific sessions and panels could also be organised in the framework of academic conferences (for instance, a conference on global food security\(^2\): Sept 29\(^{th}\) to Oct 2\(^{nd}\) 2013, The Netherlands), but also other conferences (agricultural economics...). A next meeting should identify possible conferences.

2) **Produce and disseminate references**

- Continue building the FTP as a “community of practice”, with the ambition to be setting high standards for foresights in agriculture, rural development and food security.

The idea of a “community of practice” means that people participate to the FTP on the basis of their being practitioners of foresight or intending to be: it should be an inclusive forum, open to new participants, but where discussions on methods and approaches of foresight can be held.

The idea of a community of practices does not mean that standardization in methods should occur. The community of practice rather relies on processes, like review processes, recognizing the diversity of possible methodological options, to reach a common understanding of how methodological choices can be justified with respect to a specific situation (where and when to use what type of method, with what objective).

- Produce a glossary, a reference corpus of definitions, and a methodological paper setting the ambition of foresight in agriculture, rural development and food security

Based on the request by GCARD 2 participants, a reference corpus of definitions will be developed, and FTP members expressed their interest in having a discussion on methods and approaches, in order to set the ambition of what foresight should be, and also to set some boundaries of what could be considered as foresight and what could not.

Some proposals have been made for a joint paper on methods and approaches (see Erik Mathijs’ proposal, to which FTP members are invited to react or contribute), or to also have the methodological discussion at the favour of a teaching opportunity (a summer school, for instance, or any other occasion linked to the Foresight Academy). Such a paper will be particularly important to define and state clearly the potential impact of foresights, and also eventually to be able to show evidence of the impact of work done in the FTP.

A further meeting should make a decision on how to organize further methodological discussions.

3) **Contribute to or organize policy dialog forums**

As a think tank, the FTP could contribute to policy dialogue forums, with the example of the GCARD 2 (discussion of the three papers with research strategy decision makers).

- The next opportunity for such a policy dialogue forum could be the Africa Agriculture Science Week organised by FARA (Accra, 15\(^{th}\) to 20\(^{th}\) of July 2013), and the FTP could be contributing

---

for instance to the session on “Innovations to improve productivity and resilience”. Such a contribution would necessitate

- A confirmation of the invitation to contribute by FARA;
- The identification of the question and perimeter to be discussed by the FTP;
- Preparation work within the FTP during the first semester of 2013.

Another opportunity for policy dialogue concerns the establishment of guidelines for “national assessments” (following the work undertaken in the IAASTD on global and regional assessments) in the framework of the Committee for Food Security and Nutrition (cf. its mandate from Rio+20, § 1.1.5). These guidelines should take into account not only evaluation of the past, but also visions of the future, multiple context scenarios, and road mapping/back casting scenarios: a contribution of the FTP in discussing these guidelines would be very useful. Such a contribution would necessitate:

- To identify timelines of production of documents on these guidelines;
- To ensure the circulation of the FTP by people involved in the process for the CFS (e.g. Hans Herren).

4) **Provide technical support / advices to foresight initiatives**

- Discuss foresight projects ex ante for advice and recommendations

**PROCISUR** (Emilio Ruz) is preparing a foresight project, that will be submitted to the FTP for advice and recommendations (before December 2012), particularly for what concerns the dimensioning of the work.

**Oxfam** (Gine Zwart) is launching a project on the ‘Future of agriculture’, with an online discussion beginning on 3rd of December 2012. They would be interested in getting advice from the FTP members.

**The GCARD’s FO and CSO process to develop grassroots vision and scenarios for 2014** will need methodological advice. Such a contribution by the FTP necessitates:

- To identify the organization who will be coordinating this exercise
- To identify the timelines in which the project will be developed.

**APAARI** (S. Mruthunjaya) has expressed its interest to exchange on the capacity of its “research prioritization” approaches, focusing on the needs of research beneficiaries, to integrate approaches and methods enabling to look at long term future needs of the beneficiaries. The capacity of foresight, and particularly global or regional foresights, to really influence national research decision makers, is a key question that APAARI would be interested in discussing in the framework of the FTP (Global Fora can be useful for their legitimacy for national decision makers).

**ARINENA** (M. Ben Zanat) has expressed its interest in a discussion on how regional or global fora can really influence national decision makers.

The Global Futures Project (CGIAR/IFPRI) is also interested to continue the discussion on methods and approaches.
- Review and discuss results of forward looking exercises and foresights

FAO’s next set of projections will be based on a work including scenarios. FAO (P. Conforti) is interested in debating these approaches and their results in the framework of the FTP.

CCAFS work on scenarios could also be submitted to review by FTP members.

Other exercises like the food security components of UNEPs Global Environmental Outlook, or of the IPCC new Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs, that might be discussed particularly in the framework of the EU granted research project “FoodSecure”), could be proposed to undergo a review or a discussion by the FTP.

To ensure the visibility of the FTP (for its legitimacy and for members to be able to devote time to it), such review processes should be explicitly mentioned in the publications that would have undergone discussions in the FTP.

5) Build joint projects

Members of the FTP could use the FTP to identify new partners for the projects that they are building.

Building a joint project might be useful to be able to justify the time devoted to work within the FTP for some of the participants. A further meeting should identify the possibility and necessity to build a joint project to earn more resources for the functioning of the FTP.

III. Planning

These various activities can be organised in the following plan:

1) Short term

- Participants to the FTP confirm their willingness to contribute to the work for and with FARA
- Confirm with FARA the invitation to contribute to the Africa Agriculture Science Week, and possible themes of interest for FARA (Robin)
- Discuss PROCISUR’s foresight project (comments expected before the end of November, to be sent to Emilio)
- Advise Oxfam’s “Future of agriculture” project (Gine)
- Obtain more information on CFS national assessment guidelines (Hans)
- Organise (Sébastien) a next meeting (possibly tele- or visio- conference) to:
  - Decide of further steps concerning the two possible policy dialogue opportunities
    - FARA Africa Agriculture Science Week
    - CFS national assessment guidelines
  - Identify further steps on methodological papers
  - Identify a publication strategy for the different papers
  - Identify a strategy concerning the contribution to academic conferences
  - Identify possible processes for the watch on emerging, weak signals
  - Identify and select possible themes of work for policy briefs
Discuss the possibility or necessity for the FTP to consolidate through a structured plan of activity and corresponding resources (in the form, for instance, of a project to be submitted to funders)

- Revise the three papers prepared for GCARD 2 (authors of the paper)
- Prepare a fourth transversal paper (Hans, Hartwig, Bernard, Sébastien, Benoît)
- Discuss Erik Mathijs’ paper proposal on methods and approaches (comments to be sent to Erik)
- Identify what is the follow up given by FO and CSO to their proposal to develop a “grassroots vision/foresight” exercise to 2014 (Robin)

2) Mid term: 2013

- Organise a contribution to the Africa Agriculture Science Week policy dialogue (paper or papers + meeting in Accra)
- Contribute to the CFS’ national assessment guidelines (product to be determined)
- If necessary, a joint project to obtain resources is developed.
- One meeting of the FTP to be organised (e.g. in relation with the Accra conference)
- Publication of the papers (on the 3 themes, on the transversal issues, on methods)
- Advice to PROCISUR, Oxfam, FO and CSO’s grassroots vision projects
- Academic publications and contributions to academic conferences
- Possible discussions of foresight products of FTP members: for instance, CCAFS scenarios or FAO scenarios...
- Links to UNEP’s GEO, FoodSecure (FP7 project) and their use of IPCC’s Shared Socio-economic Pathways, other global foresights...

IV. Resources and budget

In order to continue to be involved, participants expressed different types of needs:

- To justify their time by being able to show academic publication but also the impact of the work done in the FTP (and its visibility)
- To have budget for participating to meetings
- To identify a project funding source for time allocation justification of some of the participants.

Resources might be allocated through GFAR, but a grant from research funders might also be of interest as a complement and also for more legitimacy.

In this action plan, three different types of expenses can be considered:

- Meeting costs (one or two meetings in 2013, around 40 participants)
- Time spent by members on the work done in the FTP (either through a specific research grant for a longer term project, or at least on the basis of time spent to prepare papers)
- Coordination time for the FTP (secretariat of the FTP could be ensured inside or outside the secretariat of GFAR in one of the member’s institution, or at least a specific resources on top of Robin’s help for our collective functioning)
Annex 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Business Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ait-Aissa</td>
<td>Myriam</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Action Against Hunger/EFARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert</td>
<td>Sylvie</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Agropolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albuquerque</td>
<td>Ana Christina</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Embrapa/CGIAR Research Program on wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baum</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>ICARDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Zanat</td>
<td>Mahfouz</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>ARINENA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisht</td>
<td>Sonali</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>INHERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourgeois</td>
<td>Robin</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>GFAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conforti</td>
<td>Piero</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>FAO/ESA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Simon</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>CGIAR ESA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Lattre-Gasquet</td>
<td>Marie</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Cirad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Haen</td>
<td>Hartwig</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Univ Göttingen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derevier</td>
<td>Alain</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Ministry for Foreign affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaz Bonilla</td>
<td>Eugenio</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>CIAT consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duponcel</td>
<td>Marc</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>DG Agri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ekboir</td>
<td>Javier</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>ILAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eriksen Hamel</td>
<td>Nikita</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>CIDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabre</td>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>CIRAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis</td>
<td>Judith</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Millennium Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herren</td>
<td>Hans</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>AgroParisTech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habib</td>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>INRA, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoste</td>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Agreenium and EFARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubert</td>
<td>Bernard</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Agropolis International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kusano</td>
<td>Eiichi</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>GFAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labbouz</td>
<td>Benoit</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>AgroParisTech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapeyrie</td>
<td>Frédéric</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Ministry for Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathijs</td>
<td>Erik</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>KU Leuven, SCAR FEG3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mora</td>
<td>Olivier</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>INRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mruthyunjaya</td>
<td>Siwa</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>IFPRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Gerald</td>
<td>US</td>
<td>CGIAR - Global Futures Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obörn</td>
<td>Ingrid</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>SLU/ICARDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O'Brien</td>
<td>Lance</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>TeaGasc, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requillart</td>
<td>Vincent</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>INRA, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruz</td>
<td>Emilio</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>PROCISUR and FORAGRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sette</td>
<td>Cristina</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>ILAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shantiko</td>
<td>Bayuni</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>COluPSIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaterashvili</td>
<td>Oleg</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>CACAARI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sivi Njonjo</td>
<td>Katindi</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Institute of Economic Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tollens</td>
<td>Eric</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>ICRAF/KU Leuven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treyer</td>
<td>Sébastien</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>IDDRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vervoort</td>
<td>Joost</td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Oxford, and CRP of CGIAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>von Kaufmann</td>
<td>Ralph</td>
<td>FARA</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zwart</td>
<td>Gine</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Oxfam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Other persons in the Forward Thinking Platform who could not join:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ait Kadi</td>
<td>Mohamed Morocco Conseil général de l'agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caron</td>
<td>Patrick France Cirad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixon</td>
<td>John Australia ACIAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorin</td>
<td>Bruno France Cirad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fengying</td>
<td>Nie China Chinese Acad. Agricultural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godfray</td>
<td>Charles UK Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jikun</td>
<td>Huang China CCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Tim EU European Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henrichs</td>
<td>Thomas Germany EEA / Integrated assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Guy France CGIAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hichert</td>
<td>Tanja South Africa Institute for Futures Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutton</td>
<td>Jon UK UNEP WCMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juech</td>
<td>Claudi Germany Rockefeller Fdation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingiri</td>
<td>Ann Christian Austria African Centre for Technology Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauk</td>
<td>Christian Austria Institut for Social Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malingreau</td>
<td>Jean Philippe EC JRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millstone</td>
<td>Erik UK Sussex/ STEPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miranda dos Santos</td>
<td>Marcio Brazil CGEE and ISPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Müller</td>
<td>Christoph Germany PIK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obersteiner</td>
<td>Michael Austria IIASA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petit</td>
<td>Michel France IAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribeiro</td>
<td>Teresa Portugal EEA / Scenarios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarfatti</td>
<td>Paolo Italy IAO/AGRINATURA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Jessica UK UNEP WCMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toulinmin</td>
<td>Camilla UK IIED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valceschini</td>
<td>Egizio France INRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van der Mensbrugghe</td>
<td>Dominique Belgium/USA FAO / ESA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Den Berg</td>
<td>Maurits Netherlands Joint Research Centre EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Vliet</td>
<td>Jasper Netherlands Wageningen University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Vuuren</td>
<td>Detlef Netherlands PBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wegner</td>
<td>Lucia Italy Wageningen Centre for Devt Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkinson</td>
<td>Angela UK Oxford (SSEE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamson</td>
<td>Duncan UK WWF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wongdeethai</td>
<td>Angkarn Thailand APEC Foresight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surname</td>
<td>First name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcântara Santos</td>
<td>Luisa Maria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boly</td>
<td>Hamidou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiwona Kartun</td>
<td>Linley Shakuyoba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntirushwa Rukazambuga</td>
<td>Daniel Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nwalozie</td>
<td>Marcellus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy-Macauley</td>
<td>Harold Ransford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Kaufmann</td>
<td>Ralph Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson</td>
<td>Norman Reuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holder</td>
<td>Keeley Macaro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Sharon Denise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Viliamu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Norah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giulani</td>
<td>Alessandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoste</td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Didier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van der Mheen</td>
<td>Jennie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmier</td>
<td>Harry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpson</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trotman</td>
<td>Adrian Ricardo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uphoff</td>
<td>Norman Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bascombe</td>
<td>Keron Andre David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis</td>
<td>Judith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2
The Role of the Global Foresight Hub

Hartwig de Haen
University of Göttingen

Content

• Background and history
• Principles
• Three components
• Actions taken to date
• Achievements: inventory and three key issues
• Next steps
The Role of the Global Foresight Hub

Background and history

• GCARD 1 (2010, Montpellier)
• The Roadmap: foresight - an input to set research priorities
• The Global Foresight Hub
  • Official recognition
  • Three components

Principles

• Facilitate interactions between different foresight approaches/institutions
• Identify controversial visions to appreciate range of plausible futures
• Create synergies by bringing together different approaches
• Open debates about the future and related needs for AR4D
• Integrate all stakeholders’ perspectives (local, national, regional, international)
The Role of the Global Foresight Hub

Forum with three Components

GFH

Forward Thinking Platform
Policy Dialogue Platforms
Global Foresight Academy

Aims:
- Promote exchanges and collaboration among foresight practitioners on agriculture and rural development, food and nutrition security
- Identify common findings, controversies, out-of-the-box perspectives and limits to current knowledge, “face realities”
- Initiate and develop joint foresight programmes

Plan:
- Holding regular inclusive meetings
- Foresight exchange workshops: Montpellier, Beijing, Punta del Este
The Role of the Global Foresight Hub

Policy Dialogue Platforms

Aim

❖ **Raise awareness** of policy makers and other stakeholders about possible positive and negative implications of alternative future scenarios and policy options

❖ Facilitate **dialogue on future perspectives** for food, agriculture and rural areas between scientists, policy makers and civil society

❖ Identify **societal needs/demand** for additional foresight work

Plan

❖ Dialogue events at international, regional and national levels

❖ **GCARD 2012 - a foresight policy dialogue platform**

---

The Role of the Global Foresight Hub

Global Foresight Academy

Aim

❖ **Support** foresight activities on high-priority issues in agriculture and rural development **across GFAR constituencies**

❖ **Build capacity** of all stakeholders in forward thinking

  ✓ Special focus: skills and capabilities of **young professionals**

Plan

❖ Region by region, upon request from regional fora

❖ **First initiative: FARA for Africa (see session F3.2)**
The Role of the Global Foresight Hub

Achievements

- Global inventory of foresight in food and agriculture
- Foresight Academies: Africa 2011; Latin America planned
- Three interconnected topics under exploration…
  1. Farming patterns of the future, the future of farming patterns
  2. Towards sustainable consumption through sustainable production
  3. Land use changes, looking for agricultural land
     ➢ refer to session F2.2 (Tuesday morning)

Value-added

Foresight inventory
- Filling an information gap, thus facilitating cooperation and synergy

Foresight work
- Addressing emerging societal concerns that continuation of trends is undesirable (risks for food and nutrition security, overuse of resources, etc)
- Proposed three topics are not adequately documented and poorly covered in current foresight
- Suggest realistic perspectives as well as out-of-the-box visions
- Promote public debate about options and urgency of action
- Identify research priorities
The Role of the Global Foresight Hub

Next steps

➢ Serve as forum for expanded dialogue among research and development community about foresight and its implications for research
➢ Need to increase participation from other regions
➢ Formalisation of GFH ? How far ?
   ➢ Ensure continuation, funding, commitment
   ➢ Develop ownership of GFH by its users (through GFAR)
➢ Action plan under development (ref.: GFAR steering committee)
➢ Specific suggestions for the Global Foresight Hub ?
Annex 3
How a Forward Thinking Platform can improve our understanding of future challenges

Sébastien Treyer, IDDRI

A component of the Global Foresight Hub
**Aim:**

- Use existing foresights to **capture future challenges** to help focus research and innovation strategies.
- **Exchanges and collaboration** among **foresight practitioners** on agriculture and rural development, food and nutrition security.
- Identify **common findings, controversies, out-of-the-box perspectives** and limits to current knowledge.
- Initiate and develop **joint foresight programmes**

Holding regular inclusive meetings

- **Foresight exchange workshops: Montpellier, Beijing, Punta del Este**

**Principles and methods**

- Create synergies by **bringing together** and **confronting different foresight approaches** (modeling, scenarios, mixed approaches...)
- Integrate the **diversity of stakeholder’s perspectives** (from global to regional, national and local).
- Identify **common findings** but also **controversial visions** to explore the range of possible futures.
- Accept and identify **divergences among approaches and worldviews** because they reveal key questions and problems for research.
- Each foresight approach has a **specific framing**, and therefore excludes some dimensions: confronting approaches enlarges collective scope.
- **Think out-of-the-box**, being open to emerging issues.
The Foresight Thinking Platform: how did it work?

Three themes have been selected and investigated through:
- a review of existing foresights
- and discussions among diverse foresight practitioners

1. Farming patterns of the future, the future of farming patterns
2. Towards sustainable production through sustainable consumption?
3. Land use changes: looking for agricultural land

... and they have to be interconnected

First theme
Farming patterns of the future, the future of farming patterns

- A societal concern: Who will nourish the world, and how?
- What do we find in existing foresights?
  - Foresights about “how to feed the world” generally omit to clarify who will nourish the world
  - No explicit discussion of future farming patterns
    - implicit assumptions about how farm structures will evolve in the future
    - implicit ideal models of what farms should look like in the future
    - many other implicit assumptions about the future…
First theme
Farming patterns of the future, the future of farming patterns

- An encompassing concept to think of many possible future changes

**Farming pattern**: combination of activities practiced on a given farm

- Not limited to agricultural activities; not limited to land-based farming
- Includes by whom these activities are put into action
- Includes farm size, resource use, demographics, employment, power structures
- Links technical/technological, social and economic dimensions
- ‘*Farming patterns*’ : diversity among farms; distribution / embeddedness / combination and interaction in a multifunctional landscape
- Possible collective structures (like cooperatives), structure of the farming industry, connection to the upstream and downstream industries

First theme
Farming patterns of the future, the future of farming patterns

- Questions to be addressed by further research

  - Identify and better document, in most regions, **past and current trends and changes** of farming patterns
    - Systemic interactions of different evolution processes
    - Dependence on external context : links to **cities** and their attractiveness; other sectors of employment; trade and markets
  
  - Develop **approaches and methods to assess the implications of their transformation** for food security, poverty alleviation, and the management of natural resources
First theme
Farming patterns of the future, the future of farming patterns

- Questions to be addressed through foresight: 2 complementary types of work
  - Exploring different forecasting scenarios (and not just one BAU) of how drivers of change can combine in shaping the evolution of farming patterns
  - Building visions and roadmapping exercises
    - Creating the conditions for a dialogue about what could be desirable futures of farming patterns (what visions? what criteria?)
    - Multi-stakeholder fora at the relevant (national?) scale + structured analysis of the credibility of the different visions

Second theme
Towards sustainable production through sustainable consumption?

- A societal concern: continuation of current trends leads to unsustainable futures
  - Westernization of consumption patterns, wastage, losses could lead to resource scarcity, environmental degradation and health problems

- What do we learn from existing foresights/research
  - A robust BAU scenario of converging consumption patterns, with little space for deviation, although there are also emerging alternatives, whose future is still quite open
  - The role of the industry (process + retail) in shaping consumption patterns is often not covered
  - Importance of heterogeneity (of consumptions patterns, of enterprises in the processing sector, of products and raw materials)
  - Some scenarios for innovative business models are produced in the industry
Our focus:

- The way consumer behaviour will or can influence production is not sufficiently investigated
- Sustainable consumption: quality of product/diet + process sustainability along the supply chain
- Open the range of drivers of future changes in consumption patterns
  - Prices, preferences and values,
  - Transformations in the food supply chain (social and technological processes…),
  - Other…?
- Policies can influence both consumption patterns and the way they are linked with production, but what can be their real impact?

Questions to be addressed by further research

- Research on the heterogeneity of consumption patterns changes (exceptions, divergences)
- Inequalities and cost of integrating externalities: Are consumers willing and able to pay for more sustainable production and better nutrition?
- Effectiveness of policies to change consumption patterns and reduce waste
- Constraints and opportunities in the food industry: compatibility of the current technological and organisational model with always new additional constraints, and the challenge to deal with more heterogeneous agricultural products
- Other stakeholders have levers of change in their hands: consumer organisations, marketing specialists, …
- Lack of data on past and current trends: waste, losses, but also description of past and current transformations of food supply chains
Second theme
Towards sustainable production through sustainable consumption?

- Questions to be addressed through foresight
  - Scenarios of co-existence / co-evolution of heterogeneous, differentiated patterns of consumption and of diverse supply chain business models
  - What possible scenarios for integration of farmers in supply chain, and of change of the power structure in the industry?
  - Represent the social costs of the convergence scenario? Particularly the differentiated effect on different types of consumers?
  - Assess the effect of integrating externalities in the price of food
  - Involve actors all along the food chain in the foresight process, to learn about their innovative scenarios, and to influence their strategic processes

Third theme
Looking for agricultural land? Land use change in foresights

- A societal concern:
  - Increase in agr.demands can lead to agricultural area expansion at the costs of sustainability
  - “Landgrabbing” – Is access to land endangered?

- What do we find in existing foresights? A large and useful diversity of approaches and questions
  - Land use management at local scale, biophysical processes
  - Role of institutions (tenure, governance) and human impact of acquisition and land use change
  - Approaches linking global scale (trade) and local social, economical and ecological processes
  - Combined qualitative scenarios and modelling to simulate possible future land use change
Third theme
Looking for agricultural land ? Land use change in foresights

- Convergences in existing studies help specify the main issues about LUC
  - **Productivity gains** key to avoid future LUC, even though local gains might create incentives for more expansion in some cases
  - **Risk of impairment of ecosystems functioning** if un-checked land use expansion
  - **Clear/enforceable rights and access to land** are key for human welfare
  - **Landscape approach** is useful to account for multiple functions, services and products
  - A **very uncertain system**, from global to local scales, affected by various sectorial policies
    - How to **design policies** for such an uncertain context?
    - Maintain **flexibility**, avoid **irreversibility**, learn and evaluate from past changes

- Questions to be addressed by further research
  - How much **land** is really **available**?
    - Depending on ecological processes, technological changes, but also changes in practices, and existing or future social uses
    - Are different land use types **substitutable**? Ex: crops, pastures, forests, …
    - How **intensively** can land be used (tradeoffs with resources, ecosystem)
  - Land use implications of **livestock systems** (intensive and extensive)
  - The **dynamics of urbanisation** and their link to LUC in rural areas
  - The degree to which **large-scale land acquisitions** are taking place and their consequences
Third theme
Looking for agricultural land? Land use change in foresights

- Questions to be addressed through foresight
  - Future land use changes could be very different from the past
  - Innovative approaches to link global assessments with local processes of land use change
    - Many methodological issues, from quality of data to validation or interdisciplinarity
    - How best to represent complex mixed land use systems?
  - Develop scenarios of animal production systems and their impact on land use (pastures, feed...)
  - Could innovative production systems decrease the pressure on land (in vitro, outer space, algae..)?
  - What leverage will policy have in different regions on land use change?
  - How do we include the perspectives of investors in foresight process?

Necessity to interconnect these themes, at different scales

- Global trade
- Land use change and landscapes
- Resources and ecosystems
- Food supply chains and consumers
- Farming patterns
- Cities, Other sectors of the economy...
Transversal challenges necessitating integrated thinking

➢ Need a **global picture** (global trade, global public goods), but also **localised and contextualised** understanding

➢ **Heterogeneity** will be (should be ?) key in future pathways : heterogeneity of patterns of consumption, of products, of supply chain structures, of landscapes, of farming patterns
   ➢ Can we integrate heterogeneity in our models, and in our mental models ?
   ➢ Diversity as an asset : conditions for coexistence, coevolution, what strategies for diversity ?

➢ Do we follow changes or can we lead changes ? Foresight can help **identify leveraging points to influence direction of changes**

➢ Crucial issues at the heart of the 3 themes should not stay implicit : examples
   ➢ Diversity of links between cities and rural areas…
   ➢ Policies, values, collective behaviours…

Global foresight hub: what links to research strategies and implementation ?

A contribution in the process of regularly revisiting research strategies

• Identify future issues as **research gaps** to take into account in the ranking of research priorities

• **Avoid lock-ins** : take into account long term social processes of research and innovation implementation, and other future changes

• As we *don’t know the future*, foresight helps focus an **active strategy to keep options open**
  • **Small pilot projects** to test assumptions on which research programmes are based
  • Keep a reserve of resources to react to **emerging information**
  • Organise flexibility in re-arranging research programmes

• Processes of **involvement of stakeholders** : policy dialogue forums

• Opportunity to **connect agricultural research to other sectors**

• The need for foresight about how **science** itself is changing and will change in the future