

Wednesday , 14 October 12:30– 14:00

Iraq Room

Why food must move to feed hungry world #40

ORGANIZERS

Cargill

FAO

IFAD

Abstract: Cargill would like to hold a side-event to discuss how the public & private sectors can work together to address how honoring comparative advantage and trust-based trade can support food security and nutrition. We will explore the role of partnerships to see how collaboration between all stakeholders can work to find solutions to hunger; ensuring safe, nutritious and affordable food for all. The following questions will be addressed: How can farmers be best supported to satisfy their household food and nutrition security needs as well as yield food in the most economically and environmentally sound way planting crops best suited to their growing conditions & then trade the surpluses? If we face climate-related disruptions, how can trade address the impact? How can policy support functioning markets, allow farmers to increase agricultural production and incomes, promote responsible use of natural resources and maintain affordable consumer food prices? What are the roles of the public and private sectors to support these factors? Chair: USA Ambassador to the FAO, H.E David Lane will be the host of our session, making the introductory and closing remarks. The panelists are: Harold Poelma, Business Unit Leader for Cargill’s refined oils business. Harold will bring the private sector perspective and share insights and examples of Cargill. Siobhan Kelly, Agribusiness Officer, Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division, FAO will share her experience of FAO helping farmer’s honor comparative advantage and support functioning markets and comment on the role of both public and private actors in the supply chain to provide market linkages for farmers. We expect a panelist from the Ag4Impact/Montpellier Panel (Agricultural research institution) to join our side-event, but will only be able to confirm the name in the coming weeks.

KEYWORDS: Food security and nutrition , Trade , Partnerships , Comparative advantage , Farmers

Languages: EN

Summary: The event, “Food must move to feed a hungry world,” focused on the key principles of honoring comparative advantage and trust-based trade. The panelists provided insight into how farmers can be better supported to plant the best crops for their growing conditions and then trade the surpluses whilst ensuring their own household food security and nutrition. Cargill provided insights into trade and support needed for farmers and that we need to think about efficient ways to move food around the globe. Only 16 percent of food crosses borders, but that will have to increase as global population growth is skewing toward areas that are not blessed with the natural resources required to produce food. Global agriculture and international trade play a vital role in ensuring areas blessed with good soil and climate use their potential to become a supplier to places of demand where they are most needed. FAO talked about how local food systems are critical for poverty reduction food security and nutrition. Urbanization and population growth in developing countries is increasing the demand for locally produced and processed food. This provides small poor actors (farmers, processors, traders etc) with income generating opportunities by adding nutritional value locally and catering to local tastes and eating habits. At the same time local actors create rural employment, generate income, and contribute to the growth of a domestic and inclusive agribusiness sector. IFAD stated that food must indeed move, but it must do so most importantly between the farm gate and the nearest market, and it must do so on terms that are favourable to productivity growth on small farms. There are three high-priority areas for policy action: (1) addressing imperfect competition that limits market opportunities for smallholders; (2) high transaction costs, especially transport and handling costs; and (3) lack of finance for smallholders considered to be too high-risk for most financial institutions. There is a role for partnerships spanning private, public, and civil society sectors to help smallholders and other marginalized groups overcome these challenges and thereby be better able to exploit emerging opportunities in rapidly transforming agrifood value chains driven by rapid urbanization and technological change, and thereby enter into the mainstream of growth processes. All the speakers agreed that we need farmers to be successful. That requires creating a market for their product and supporting farmers in developing countries through training, farm inputs and financing. Corporate social responsibility needs to be based on sustainable business models and partnerships need to be leveraged more so that can benefit farmers by helping to raise their level of sophistication, provide access to technology and help reduce costs that farmers have to incur.