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| <b>FAO/OECD Expert Meeting on Greening the Economy with Agriculture, Paris, France<br/>5 - 7 September 2011</b> |
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| <b>SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING</b> |
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### **Purpose of the meeting**

This Expert Meeting was being convened as part of the preparatory process of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to be held in Rio, Brazil, 4-6 June 2012. Within this framework, FAO has launched the Greening the Economy with Agriculture (GEA) initiative, while OECD seeks to extend its recent work on a Green growth strategy for food and agriculture to developing countries. FAO is currently investigating the potential and constraints of the food and agriculture sector under a green economy framework by examining the different links with food security dimensions, including food availability, access, stability and utilization. The scope of the FAO/OECD Expert Meeting was to technically review the corresponding GEA documents under preparation by FAO.

### **The Expert Meeting**

One hundred and forty-eight participants from 50 countries attended the Expert Meeting. These included experts from inter-governmental organizations, governments, farmers' organisations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia. The List of Participants is attached. The meeting was organised in six sessions, of which the first was devoted to an introductory debate on green economy, the following four sessions to each of the four food security dimensions (i.e. availability, access, stability and utilization), and the last session summarizing main GEA messages. In total, 10 presentations were given which fed four panel discussions and contributions from the floor. Panels included experts from government, farmers/non-governmental organizations, private sector and academia. The drafts of the four GEA Working Documents and a Synthesis Document were made available to participants on the RIO+20 website before the start of the Conference.

### **Highlights of the Meeting**

#### *Session 1: GREEN ECONOMY PERSPECTIVES*

This Session was chaired by Mr. Alexander Müller, Assistant Director General, FAO. Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator for Rio+20, United Nations recalled the scope of UNCSD and role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries as a nexus for sustainable development. Mr. Dale Andrew, Head of the Environment Division, OECD, presented the

OECD green growth strategy and the important role of agriculture for green growth, highlighting the need for monitoring progress in greening the agri-food sector. Mr. Asad Naqvi, Programme Officer, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP, made a presentation on scenarios towards a green economy mentioning that business as usual is not an option. Diverse solutions do exist for example to help all farmers increase productivity while reducing their ecological footprint. Mr. Ulrich Hoffmann, Head of the Trade and Sustainable Development Section, UNCTAD, explained that “sustainable farming can cost-effectively cool down the Earth”. He stressed the need to increase soil organic matter. Mr. Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President, Network of Farmers and Producers Organizations, Senegal, recalled the various constraints that agriculture had to face in Africa, including notably structural adjustments which lead to decreasing support and investment in agriculture. He advocated for countries’ food sovereignty. Several participants from the floor appreciated the opportunity to debate in this inter-agency cooperation and highlighted the need for a paradigm shift from current agriculture towards environmentally-friendly agriculture.

#### *Session 2: GEA and FOOD AVAILABILITY*

This Session was chaired by Mr. Bob MacGregor, Chief, Agricultural and Environmental Policy Analysis, Research and Analysis Directorate, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada. Main issues raised concerned the central importance of smallholders for greening agriculture and the need for an ecosystems approach to production intensification. However, such shared principles should be adapted to local contexts and needs. From a social perspective, solidarity and equity could replace aid. From an economic perspective, food must be conceived as a global good, not only of commercial value but also entailing socio-cultural dimensions. Polluter pays and provider gets principles should be promoted. In terms of governance, the democratization of food systems and reform of trade policies were highlighted.

#### *Session 3: GEA and ACCESS TO FOOD*

This Session was chaired by Barbara Burlingame, Principal Adviser on Nutrition, FAO. Main issues raised concerned access to food both for smallholder producers and for urban population. Access to food should be made possible even under catastrophic circumstances in each rural settlement by providing for food and water stock facilities or otherwise by guaranteeing the availability of infrastructures for food transportation. Agriculture is the largest employer sector; decent job salaries and conditions are a prerequisite for access to food both concerning the workers’ food purchasing power and the avoidance of work-related deaths, which is a direct cause for poverty and hunger. The price of food does not adequately reflect the externalities. Direct food production in urban areas should be promoted. Right to food is now being implemented in several countries through various initiatives and legislations and could be strengthened at national level; Rio+20 could establish an insurance mechanism for social protection. Access to markets is another issue that needs more attention by international bodies and national governments, which should enforce equitable international trade agreements respecting food sovereignty.

#### *Session 4: GEA and STABILITY OF FOOD SYSTEMS*

This Session was chaired by Yianna Lambrou, Senior Officer, Gender and Sustainable Development, Economic and Social Department, FAO. Main issues raised concerned how to achieve more resilience and to enhance the nutritious value and health of food and feed; several studies indicated that food has become less nutritious. Several participants advocated countries’ sovereignties in protecting domestic markets from subsidised imported food and restricting exports. However, there was no consensus on trade directions. Resilient

agroecosystems are knowledge-intensive due to their diverse nature. Farmers knowledge should be enhanced through revitalized extension services, farmers' networks and better understanding of traditional farming systems throughout all continents through participatory research.

*Session 5: GEA and FOOD UTILIZATION*

This Session was chaired by Dale Andrew, Head of Environment Division, OECD/TAD. The main issues raised concerned environmental sustainability coupled with adequacy of diets. Biodiversity, as the ecosystem, the species within the ecosystem and local varieties, along with under-utilised species/varieties and traditional foods, can indicate directions for future improvements in human diets. Emphasis on building the evidence base, and examples of data on nutrient contents of biodiversity, provide support for the premise of sustainable diets. Nutrients for human consumption should be considered in the context of ecosystems services. The definition of sustainable diets links food and nutrients with environmental sustainability. Consumers' demands require that retailers make available food variety in the appropriate quantity, quality and safety, according to global standards. Efficiency in food chains and systems is needed to improve diets and livelihoods, including increasing consumption of micronutrient-rich local food species and varieties, and considering micronutrients per unit of resource input or land area. Major importance was given to providing infrastructure for decreasing post-harvest losses in developing countries, changing diets and food for decreasing waste in developed countries. Life cycle analysis of food, including processing and logistics can be useful in this regard. Local food systems, including local initiatives supporting child feeding programmes, should be promoted, together with educational programmes directed to consumers.

*Session 6: GEA MESSAGES AND PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION*

This Session was chaired by Frode Lyssandtrae, Senior Advisor, Department of Agricultural Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway (Chair of the OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment). FAO summarized the key aspects of the draft GEA Synthesis Document, amended with the Expert Meeting contributions on the 4 sessions that discussed the 4 GEA Working Documents. The key GEA messages for moving from the current 'business as usual' model towards GEA implies environmental, social, economic and governance interventions that should "keep producers nurturing", including: (i) pursuing the green economy and agriculture as mutually supportive; (ii) promoting a dignified peasantry for Earth stewardship; (iii) applying full-cost pricing of food by internalizing the environmental and social costs/benefits; (iv) inclusive implementation and cross-sectoral cooperation. In order to realize these key GEA objectives, the following dimensions should be addressed: (i) knowledge: ecological science and trans-disciplinarity for low-footprint food systems; (ii) culture: decent rural livelihoods, awareness and informed consumer choices; (iii); finance: fair markets and payments of public goods for resilient landscapes and smallholders; (iv) institutions: responsibility, accountability and integrated policy, planning and management. Participants noted that traceability would play a key role in the successful implementation of GEA, together with extensive capacity building for all stakeholders, particularly at the producer level (e.g., producer cooperatives, water user groups, extension services). Also, GEA transition costs and investments for sustainable agriculture need to be identified. The Chair concluded the discussion by acknowledging that the GEA Synthesis presented by FAO received a lot of support but that more consideration was recommended on the following aspects: developed countries situations; forestry and landscape goods and services; fisheries and the blue economy; gender and farmers cooperatives specificities.

## **Conclusions and follow up**

Several OECD representatives welcomed the collaboration between FAO and OECD. Participants noted appreciation for the importance given to both environmental and social issues, and the prominent role and value given to food producers in GEA. Participants added that further discussions needed to be held and consensus reached on matters relating to trade, low-input versus high-input production systems, and balancing competition and collaboration in the agri-food sector. One point of agreement reached regarding technologies was that all types of agriculture (small and large) must be considered in order to transition towards more sustainability. However, not all types of agriculture are currently supported equitably and there is need for supportive policies to existing alternative models.

The Expert Meeting discussions on the GEA papers will assist in revising and finalizing the GEA technical documents. Subsequently, FAO will prepare a policy document, based on the Expert Meeting outcome, for its member countries discussions at the 143<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council in November 2011. The ultimate outcome will represent the FAO contribution to the UNCSD. The GEA documents and speakers interventions will be made available on the FAO website ([www.fao.org/rio20](http://www.fao.org/rio20)) in due course.

## Annex 1. List of participants

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## Annex 2. Agenda and Timetable

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|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>08:00 – 09:00</b> | Registration  |
| <b>09:00 – 09:05</b> | Welcome by Ms. Carmel Cahill, Senior Counsellor in OECD's Directorate for Trade and Agriculture, OECD   |
| <b>09:05 – 09:15</b> | Introduction and scope of the meeting by Mr. Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, FAO |
| <b>09:15 – 09:20</b> | Welcome by Mr. Francois Pythoud, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland  |

### Session 1: GREEN ECONOMY PERSPECTIVES

**Chair:** Mr. Alexander Müller, FAO

- How can the Rio+20 process strengthen food security in its work on the Green Economy Roadmap?
- To what extent does the green economy achieve food security and distributional equity?
- What is the perspective of developing countries' farmers on the green economy?

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| <b>09:20 – 09:40</b> | Scope of UNCSD and role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries - Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator for Rio+20, United Nations  |
| <b>09:40 – 10:00</b> | Towards a green growth strategy in OECD - Mr. Dale Andrew, Head of the Environment Division, OECD   |
| <b>10:00 – 10:40</b> | Questions from the floor  |
| <b>10:40 – 11:10</b> | <i>Coffee break</i>   |
| <b>11:10 – 11:30</b> | Towards a green economy - Mr. Asad Naqvi, Programme Officer, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP   |
| <b>11:30 – 11:50</b> | Regenerative agriculture on the road towards Rio+20 - Mr. Ulrich Hoffmann, Head of the Trade and Sustainable Development Section, UNCTAD                                      |
| <b>11:50 – 12:10</b> | A farmer's perspective on the green economy - Mr. Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President, Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa, Senegal |
| <b>12:10 – 12:30</b> | Questions from the floor  |

### Session 2: GEA and FOOD AVAILABILITY

**Chair:** Mr. Bob Mac Gregor, Canada

- Food production will need to grow till 2050 in a context of natural resources scarcity: to what extent can technological progress assist facing this challenge and what is achievable in the short- and medium-term?
- Is it feasible to establish targets for energy and nutrient flows in food and agriculture systems? If yes, how can targets on resource use be applied and enforced at the landscape level?

- What incentives do poor farmers, pastoralists, fishers and forest dwellers require for improving the eco-efficiency of their production system while sustaining their immediate food and income needs?

- 14:00 – 14:20** Presentation of the GEA paper “Food availability and natural resource use in a green economy context” by Ms. Nadia Scialabba, Senior Environment and Sustainable Development Officer, FAO
- 14:20 – 15:30** **Panel on Availability:**
- Ms. Nadine Brisson, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, France
  - Ms. Mirna Cunningham, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Nicaragua
  - Mr. Luca Ruini, Barilla, Italy
  - Mr. Nikolai Fuchs, Organic agricultural expert, Germany
- 15:30 – 16:00** *Coffee break*
- 16:00 – 17:30** Open discussion and questions from the floor

## TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2011

### Session 3: GEA and ACCESS TO FOOD

**Chair:** Ms. Barbara Burlingame, FAO

- Given the increasing pressure and competitive use over productive resources (such as land, water and biodiversity), how can access over resources and good environmental governance be secured?
- For the green economy to promote access to green jobs and decent livelihoods in rural areas, what local capacity enables people to effectively participate in socio-economic development?
- What social protection and upfront investments are needed to avoid short-term livelihood losses for producers in the transition towards a green economy?

- 09:00 – 09:20** Presentation of the GEA paper: “Decent rural livelihoods and rights in a greener environment” by Ms. Yianna Lambrou, Senior Gender and Sustainable Development Officer, FAO
- 09:20 – 10:30** **Panel on Access:**
- Mr. Tewolde Egziabher, Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia
  - Ms. Svetlana Boincean, International Union of Food workers, Moldova
  - Mr. Kung Wai Ong, CertAll, Malaysia
  - Mr. Gaëtan Vanloqueren, Right to Food expert, Belgium
- 10:30 – 11:00** *Coffee break*
- 11:00 – 12:30** Open discussion and questions from the floor

### Session 4: GEA and STABILITY OF FOOD SYSTEMS

**Chair:** Ms. Yianna Lambrou, FAO

- In the face of macro-economic and natural shocks, how can food systems made more resilient? How could production systems deliver food security, economic development and climate resilience?
- Is recent and future prospect of higher and volatile prices a valid reason for developing countries to invest more resources into increasing domestic production and decreasing reliance on food imports?
- How likely are we to see the emergence of global governance mechanisms that improve to functioning of global markets? If collective action can produce greater overall welfare, why is it not happening?

**14:00 – 14:20** Presentation of the GEA paper: “Stability of food security in a green economy environment” by Ms. Leslie Lipper, Senior Environmental Economist, FAO

**14:20 – 15:30** **Panel on Stability:**

- Mr. Chang-Gil Kim, Korea Rural Economic Institute, Korea
- Mr. Teava Iro, Titikaveka Growers Association, Cook Islands
- Mr. Thomas Kützemeier, mcongressconsult, Germany
- Ms. Shuhao Tan, School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, China

**15:30 – 16:00** *Coffee break*

**16:00 – 17:30** Open discussion and questions from the floor

### WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2011

### Session 5: GEA and FOOD UTILIZATION

**Chair:** Mr. Dale Andrew, OECD

- Which are the most urgent dietary transitions that need to take place towards low-footprint food systems and which investments are required to trigger those changes?
- Export of nutrients to towns and through exports results in nutrient surpluses everywhere: which are the major challenges in cutting nutrient and food waste by 50% globally?
- How can the present globalized food system and trend towards localized food systems be mutually enforcing? How can the food system ensure sustainable consumption and production?

**09:00 – 09:20** Presentation of the GEA paper: “Improving food systems for sustainable diets in a green economy” by Ms. Barbara Burlingame, Principal Adviser on Nutrition, FAO

**09:20 – 10:30** **Panel on Utilization:**

- Ms. Harriet Kuhnlein, Indigenous People Nutrition and Environment, Canada
- Mr. Juergen Matern, Metro, Germany
- Mr. Ian Crute, Food and Farming Foresight expert, UK

**10:30 – 11:00** *Coffee break*



**11:00 – 12:30** Open discussion and questions from the floor

**Session 6: GEA MESSAGES AND PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION**

**Chair:** Mr. Frode Lyssandtrae, Norway

- What are the requirements for scaling-up good practices for GEA and food security?
- What are the institutional changes required for GEA at global, national and local levels?
- What are the transition costs, financing sources and investment requirements for GEA?

**14:30 – 15:00** Presentation of the outcome document: “GEA Synthesis Document” by Ms. Nadia Scialabba, Senior Environment and Sustainable Development Officer, FAO

**15:00 – 16:00** Discussion and questions from the floor

**16:00 – 16:30** *Coffee break*

**16:30 – 17:45** Final discussion

**17:45 – 18:00** Closing remarks by FAO and OECD representatives