



Final Communiqué 4th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit on 21 January 2012

“Food Security through Sustainable Growth - Farming with Limited Resources”

At the invitation of Federal Minister of Agriculture Ilse Aigner, Ministers of Agriculture from 64 countries exchanged knowledge and experience on global food security and the alleviation of poverty, focusing on farming with limited resources and sustainable growth. They picked up on the insights acquired at the three preceding Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summits, took note of the G20 action plan on price volatility and agriculture and formulated the following contribution towards a successful Rio+20 United Nations Conference in the summer of 2012.

The agriculture ministers assembled in Berlin:

regard agriculture as a key economic sector for creating a "green economy" which will assist in achieving, at both national, regional and global level, the common goal of sustainable development;

consider the strengthening of agriculture and rural development to be a central element in securing food supplies for, and alleviating the poverty of, the growing global population;

emphasise the necessity to encourage sustainable agriculture at national, regional and global level by enhancing structural conditions.

They

1. *note* that limited resources, the increasing impact of climate change and the growing demand for foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials mean that the process of protecting biodiversity and using agricultural land and soil more efficiently and sustainably must be accelerated;
2. *underline* the responsibility of each country to ensure that its soil is well utilized and protected to ensure that its soil can function properly; this applies in particular in respect of the countries' arable land;

3. *emphasise* that the future of mankind depends crucially on managing water resources in regions at risk sustainably, on recycling water, and on using water efficiently;
4. *consider* it essential to improve water efficiency at all stages of agricultural production and processing;
 - 4.1 *agree* that links between water, energy, food and agriculture should be taken into consideration;
5. *acknowledge* that the secure access of small-scale farmers, marginalised groups and young people to land and water for agricultural use is a key prerequisite for ensuring their food security;
 - 5.1 *underline* the necessity of having corresponding national and regional arrangements and international agreements while respecting the sovereignty of each nation;
6. *stress* that increases in agricultural production must be made in a sustainable way, to meet food security needs and improve the income of farmers;
7. *acknowledge* that, in order to solve the food security problem, it is necessary to develop and implement site-adapted, sustainable agricultural production systems;
8. *advocate* that knowledge and scientific advances (e.g. relating to breeding, animal husbandry, plant protection, farm management) should be adapted to local circumstances in a participatory manner and be transferred into practice more quickly;
9. *emphasise* in this regard that there must be sufficient public and private investment in agricultural research, in particular in crop and livestock research, and in rural advisory services, in particular in respect of the training of young people in rural areas;
10. *note* that, in order to alleviate poverty and to improve global food security, it is vital to make extensive use of traditional, in particular indigenous, knowledge as well as of new research findings and innovative products and processes in production, processing, marketing and infrastructure;
11. *underline* the necessity of improving the capital resources of the agricultural sector and increasing investments in rural areas;
12. *are of the opinion* that investments in sustainable agricultural production systems, and in infrastructure, research, training and extension, are necessary in order to generate and maintain sustainable growth;
13. *underline* that such investments must respect existing rights of ownership and use and must provide mutual benefit;
14. *draw attention to the fact that* voluntary guidelines may provide suitable direction for the responsible governance of land and other natural resources and for sustainable investments in the agricultural sector for the benefit of the local community;

15. *want* to mobilise the potential of farms, including small family farms, to use sustainable methods to secure an adequate and nutritious supply of food and to generate income;
16. *stress* that mutual forms of organisation in production and processing, adequate infrastructure, and training and extension are suitable instruments in order to tap this potential and alleviate poverty;
17. *acknowledge* the central role of women in the agricultural sector in many regions and *emphasise* the need to secure their access to resources and productive economic opportunities, both in law and in practice;
18. *point out* that, on the one hand, approximately half of the world's population today already lives in urban areas and the urbanisation process is ongoing, while, on the other hand, three-quarters of all people suffering from hunger live in rural areas and depend to a large extent on agriculture;
 - 18.1 They *call* for action to increase food security in cities by introducing sustainable urban agriculture systems
19. *want* to slow urbanisation and reduce hunger by strengthening the agricultural sector and rural areas in order to improve food security, employment and living standards;
20. *underline* that rural and urban areas must be linked more closely by more efficient infrastructure in order to improve living conditions and access to markets (local, regional and global);
 - 20.1 agree that all stakeholders – from the public sector, the private sector and civil society - need to coordinate and intensify their efforts to achieve food security through the development of public-private partnerships.
21. *draw attention to the fact* that a considerable proportion of food produced worldwide is lost en route from producers to consumers;
22. *call for* adapted technologies and measures to reduce these losses to be introduced and disseminated;
23. *emphasise* that food should be treated responsibly and carefully in order, in particular, to reduce waste and consequently to lower the use of limited resources at all stages of the food chain;
24. *consider* sustainable cultivation of renewable resources in agriculture and forestry and better utilisation of waste and by-products, in particular for energy production, to be a contribution to climate stewardship;

- 25 *appeal* to commercial operators to use sustainable practices in the production of renewable resources as well in order to avoid a harmful impact on biological diversity and the ecosystem;
- 26 *agree* that criteria for the sustainable cultivation and use of renewable resources from agriculture should be respected, and supported by necessary infrastructures, technologies and policies;
- 27 *affirm* that sustainable food production is the core task of the agricultural sector, which policymakers should address through strong, coordinated and coherent agricultural policies, at national, regional and multilateral level

With reference to the above, the ministers hereby adopt the following resolution:

They

- a) *call for* the role of agriculture to be paid due regard in the resolutions of the Rio+20 Conference;
- b) *state their commitment* to renewed efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition;
- c) *undertake* to implement measures to significantly reduce the loss of agricultural land;
- d) *intend* to place a greater focus in agricultural research on sustainable agricultural production, and to expand international research cooperation;
- e) *support* the rapid adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (Committee on World Food Security)
- f) *state their commitment* to the promotion and protection of the rights of women;
- g) *call upon* the FAO to draw up concepts for reducing the loss and waste of food and to implement these in cooperation with countries, farms, the private sector and civil society.