



## ASSESSING THE POTENTIAL OF INSECTS AS FOOD AND FEED IN ASSURING FOOD SECURITY

FAO, ROME, ITALY  
23–25 JANUARY 2012

This expert consultation was jointly organized by FAO and Wageningen University of the Netherlands, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands. The meeting aimed to open a dialogue and foster an exchange of information and expertise on the potential benefits of using insects for food and feed as part of a broader strategy to achieve global food security.

A total of 37 experts from international agencies, scientific institutions and private sector stakeholders, together with staff from relevant FAO disciplines (nutrition, aquaculture, livestock, veterinary science, food safety, forestry, biodiversity and nature conservation) attended the meeting. These experts and entrepreneurs – specialized in different aspects of insect rearing, plant protection and food engineering – together mapped the state of the art and identified knowledge gaps along the following thematic topics: insect ecology and biology, farming insects, insects as livestock and fish feed, nutrition, processing and trade, food and feed safety, communication strategies, and policies to achieve food security. Critical baseline data for each of these thematic areas were compiled and reviewed through plenary presentations and through further discussions in working groups. In addition, participants proposed an action plan to move insects as food and feed sources higher on the agenda of [inter-] national food/feed related agencies.

The results and executive summary of the meeting can be obtained from the Web site of FAO's Edible Insects Programme  
[www.fao.org/forestry/edibleinsects/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/edibleinsects/en/)

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(Please see pages 32 and 66 for more information.)




## 9TH WORLD BAMBOO CONGRESS

ANTWERP, BELGIUM,  
10–13 APRIL 2012  
TOULOUSE, FRANCE,  
17–21 SEPTEMBER 2012

Every three to four years the World Bamboo Organization organizes a World Bamboo Congress (WBC) which is the culmination of the Organization's efforts physically to unite bamboo enthusiasts and professionals. The aim of WBC is to bring together people from around the world to meet, discuss, network, collaborate and exchange ideas with the intention of improving understanding and stimulating potential. Ever since its inception in Puerto Rico in 1984, each WBC has been uniquely informative, educational and culturally and intellectually challenging.

The 9<sup>th</sup> WBC will be a two-part event taking place between Belgium and France. It will focus on the future use of bamboo in Europe and innovations in bamboo development. Apart from a series of meetings and conferences, the schedule will also include field visits, a Trade Fair for bamboo products and allied wares (machinery, tools, etc.), and complimentary exhibit booths for "not-for-profit, non-profit or non-government" organizations (i.e. UNIDO, national bamboo societies, etc.).

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## SHEA 2012: SHARED VALUE

COTONOU, BENIN  
23–27 APRIL 2012

Shea 2012 will bring together leading stakeholders from across the shea value chain. Producers, researchers, processors and international brands will have opportunities to connect at business-to-business networking events and social forums. Experts on shea will present on such key issues as emerging innovations in processing technology, standards and certification, and supply chain logistics.

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(Please see page 41 for more information.)



## REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PROMOTING UNDERUTILIZED FOOD RESOURCES FOR BETTER NUTRITION

KHON KAEN, THAILAND  
21–23 MAY 2012

FAO, in close collaboration with Khon Kaen University, Thailand, and the National Research Council Thailand, is pleased to announce the convening of this regional symposium. The symposium will present case studies on the wealth of knowledge in indigenous communities in diverse ecosystems, the richness of their food resources, the strengths of the local traditional food systems and the circumstances of the nutrition transition in indigenous communities. It will present evidence on local and traditional food systems and their central role in public health improvement, and required policies at local, national and international levels for protection of food environments to ensure food security and nutritional quality.

The symposium will help to identify policy options to promote greater use of local food diversity addressed and recommended at national and international level; and proposals for concrete short- and medium-term measures for actions needed to support conservation and the sustainable use of indigenous and traditional foods to improve nutrition. This event will serve as the basis for future dialogue, debate and information exchange and facilitate wider support for an international movement committed to the implementation of effective, sustainable and long-term food-based solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

The themes covered will include the following.

- "Wild" indigenous plants and animals collected from uncultivated land and forests (e.g. leafy plants, roots, berries, small rodents and insects) and from aquatic environments (e.g. indigenous small fish, frogs and snails).
- Semi-domesticated indigenous plants and animals, for example gardening of indigenous plant species and culture of indigenous fish species in rice fields in Asia.

- Traditional cooking/preparation and preservation methods: a wide range of household-level, small-scale cooking and processing methods applied to improve food properties such as fermentation, soaking, drying and smoking, in particular of indigenous foods for enhancing nutritional value.
- Identification of new partnerships and areas of collaboration, particularly in the direction of advocacy, policy and public awareness, research and funding to support food systems that preserve and sustain diverse traditional food cultures in Asia.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANALYSIS, EVALUATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF LESSONS LEARNED FROM FORESTATION AND FOREST RESTORATION IN DRYLANDS**

**KONYA, TURKEY  
28-31 MAY 2012**

Organized by the Government of Turkey, Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs; the Turkish International Cooperation Agency; and FAO, the objectives of this International Workshop are: (i) setting the scene – sharing expertise from different countries/regions on forest restoration in drylands; (ii) identifying key elements of success and failure to improve effectiveness in forest restoration of drylands; (iii) contributing to the development of a comprehensive monitoring tool to guide implementers in the planning and implementation of field projects/programmes, assess success and facilitate the sharing of expertise; (iv) contributing to the development of operational guidelines; and (v) proposing recommendations on the next steps/process for the formulation of project ideas within the framework of existing cooperation initiatives.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: "SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET"**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL  
16-17 JUNE 2012**

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) will host this major international event immediately before the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is held in late June 2012.

"Solutions for a sustainable planet" will present a set of recommendations for action drawn from 40 years of work on sustainable development. It will showcase the expertise and perspectives of practitioners and researchers from around the world working to make sustainable development a reality in a diverse range of contexts. It will provide space for dialogue on current and emerging challenges in moving towards sustainability. And it will enable alliances of willing actors to explore how they can work together towards agreed goals, benefiting from mutual learning and accountability.

Solutions for a sustainable planet include: (i) means to pay for sustainable development; (ii) ways to live within planetary boundaries, particularly climate limits, while also addressing social and economic limits and aspirations; (iii) approaches for addressing rapid urbanization; (iv) a fair "green economy" that helps to reduce poverty; and (v) tools and tactics to promote business models that move us towards sustainable development.

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**2012 INBAR BAMBOO TOUR**

**ZHEJIANG, SICHUAN AND GUANGDONG, CHINA  
19-30 JUNE 2012**

The objective of the annual bamboo study tours is to share the experience of Chinese bamboo development and to promote bamboo development in other countries. The tours commenced in 2005 and have run annually since 2007. They are very popular and are targeted to those wishing to gain a better understanding of the potential and practice that bamboo-based development has to offer, based on the China experience. You can read reports of the 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 bamboo tours on: <http://world-bamboo.blogspot.it/>

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**3RD APIEXPO AFRICA**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA  
26-29 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The aim of ApiExpo is to showcase Africa's honey industry by creating awareness on market and business opportunities and demonstrating the relationship between beekeeping and other industries.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom.

*Francis Bacon*