

UTILIZING GEOTHERMAL ENERGY IN THE SERVICE OF FOOD SECURITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Woman worker cultivating cucumbers in a greenhouse heated by hot spring water

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A SIDE EVENT OF THE
23RD SESSION OF COAG

IRAN ROOM
FAO HEADQUARTERS – ROME

22 MAY 2012

The Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs invites you to a side event of the 23rd Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG). The side event, entitled *Utilizing Geothermal Energy in the Service of Food Security in Developing Countries*, will take place in the Iran Room at FAO Headquarters from 12:30 to 14:15 hours on Tuesday 22 May 2012. The side event is being organized in cooperation with the FAO Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries (AGS) and Climate, Energy and Tenure (NRC) Divisions.

New policies, approaches and ideas are needed if the world community is to address the challenge of one billion men, women and children suffering from hunger and malnutrition. These should be in line with the submission of the Rome-based UN agencies to the outcome document for the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which calls for a full use of agro-ecological processes, modern technology development and investment in human capacity. The utilization of renewable energy such as geothermal sources is of importance in an increasingly resources-constrained world where agriculture must become more productive and sustainable.

A number of developing and in-transition countries are endowed with geothermal resources which they can exploit to strengthen food and nutrition security and increase resilience in vulnerable communities, while at the same time contributing to the green economy. Iceland has developed its geothermal resources for almost a century and has gained considerable experience in utilizing low-heat sources in a cost-effective way for community purposes as well as for industrial use. Drawing from this experience, the side event will demonstrate the newest technology and developments in geothermal energy utilization. It will also draw attention to opportunities for utilizing geothermal energy in attaining sustainable global food and nutrition security through increasing crop and fisheries production, better food preservation and storage, reduction of losses and waste along the food chain, as well as income generation in non-food production activities in rural areas.

THE PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:

- 12:30 Welcome and introduction by Minister Guðni Bragason, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the UN Organizations in Rome.
- 12:35 Geothermal energy utilization in the agro-food sector – Olivier Dubois and Divine Njie (FAO).
- 12:45 Role of geothermal energy in economic development: Iceland's experience and lessons for developing countries – presentation by Mr Benedikt Höskuldsson, Director of Energy Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland.
- 13:10 Question and answer session, and plenary discussion on the way forward.
- 13:30 Drinks and sandwiches offered in the Iran Room lobby.

Interpretation services will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

