



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Agricultural leadership in a water scarce world

High Level Panel

Friday, 20.01.2017, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm - CityCube Berlin

From California to China's Eastern provinces, from Jordan to the Southern tip of Africa, significant parts of the world are struggling with water scarcity. In 2016, the World Economic Forum ranked water crises as the risk of highest concern for the next ten years – with significant implications for people and the global economy. Depending on how we manage it, "water" can significantly contribute or impede the achievement of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As the largest water user globally and a major source of water pollution, agriculture holds the key to tackling the looming water crises head-on and to shift towards more sustainable water management. It also plays a crucial part in producing climate benefits. Appropriate responses to water scarcity cannot only be found within the water domain, but in all of the agricultural and food sectors, including crop production, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry.

Good agricultural practices, based on sound land, soil and water management, fertility and pest control as well as improved access to markets and services can lead to significant improvements in agricultural productivity, adapting to climate change with little impact on water resources. Other sub-sectors, like forestry, can play a critical role in regulating water flows and quality and influencing the availability of water resources. While most water is withdrawn at the production stage, water scarcity can also be addressed along food value chains and by consumers. Food losses and waste, for example, represent an unnecessary use of environmental resources and contribution to climate change.



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Water scarcity, however, is not just about physical scarcity – an excess of water demand over available supply. Water scarcity due to a lack of adequate infrastructure because of financial, technical or other constraints or scarcity in access to water services, because of the failure of institutions to ensure reliable, secure and equitable supply of water to users – can equally affect the availability of water. A strengthened focus on water governance for agriculture and food security is needed to address some of the underlying issues of water scarcity.

The High Level Panel will discuss different options to deal with water scarcity for sustainable food and agriculture systems. Recognizing that governments, private sector and civil society all have a role to play in addressing the issue, it will further explore what leadership different agricultural actors can offer in coping with water scarcity.



ORGANISERS

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

MODERATION

To be determined

PANELLISTS

H.E. Geraldine Mukeshimana,
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Republic of Rwanda

H.E. Han Changfu,
Minister for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, People's Republic of China

Mr José Graziano da Silva,
Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr Petteri Taalas,
Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Mr Itzik Ben David,
Senior Deputy Director-General, Foreign Trade, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Israel

Mr Kenneth M. Quinn,
President, World Food Price Foundation

Ms Elisabeth Atangana,
President, Platform of the Pan-African Farmers Organization