



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture

GLOBAL
FORUM OF FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE

Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2020

Food for all! Trade for Secure, Diverse and Sustainable Nutrition.

Summary of the results

#GFFA



bmel.de  

Dear Readers,

This year's Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin was all about trade: roughly 2,300 guests from Germany and abroad held in-depth discussions about how international agricultural trade can contribute to a secure, diverse and sustainable nutrition.

And with success! In their final communiqué, **72 agriculture ministers** strongly advocated fair, rule-based and value-oriented trade. They thus took a stand for increased sustainability in trade **along the entire value chain** and for fair rules in agricultural trade. They also spoke out in favour of **international standards**, advocating particularly the development of international standards in the field of sustainability as well as taking into consideration the concerns of agriculture and especially those of smallholder farmers. Together, we pledged additional support in adhering to and applying international standards for developing countries and committed ourselves to reliable international structures and rules as provided for by the World Trade Organization (WTO).



And decisive progress was made with another project – the idea of **establishing an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture**, which was proposed during the GFFA 2019: the Agriculture Ministers approved of the concept proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This means that the road is now clear to bring the Digital Council into being quickly.

I hope you find this brochure an interesting read!

Yours,

Julia Klöckner
Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture

Content

1

About the GFFA 04

2

Kick-off Event 08

3

High Level Panels 12

4

Expert Panels 16

5

FAO Side Event Digital Council 26

6

Innovation Market 30

7

Science Slam 34

8

International Young Farmers' Forum 36

9

Agriculture Ministers' Conference 40

1

About the GFFA

The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture



#GFFA

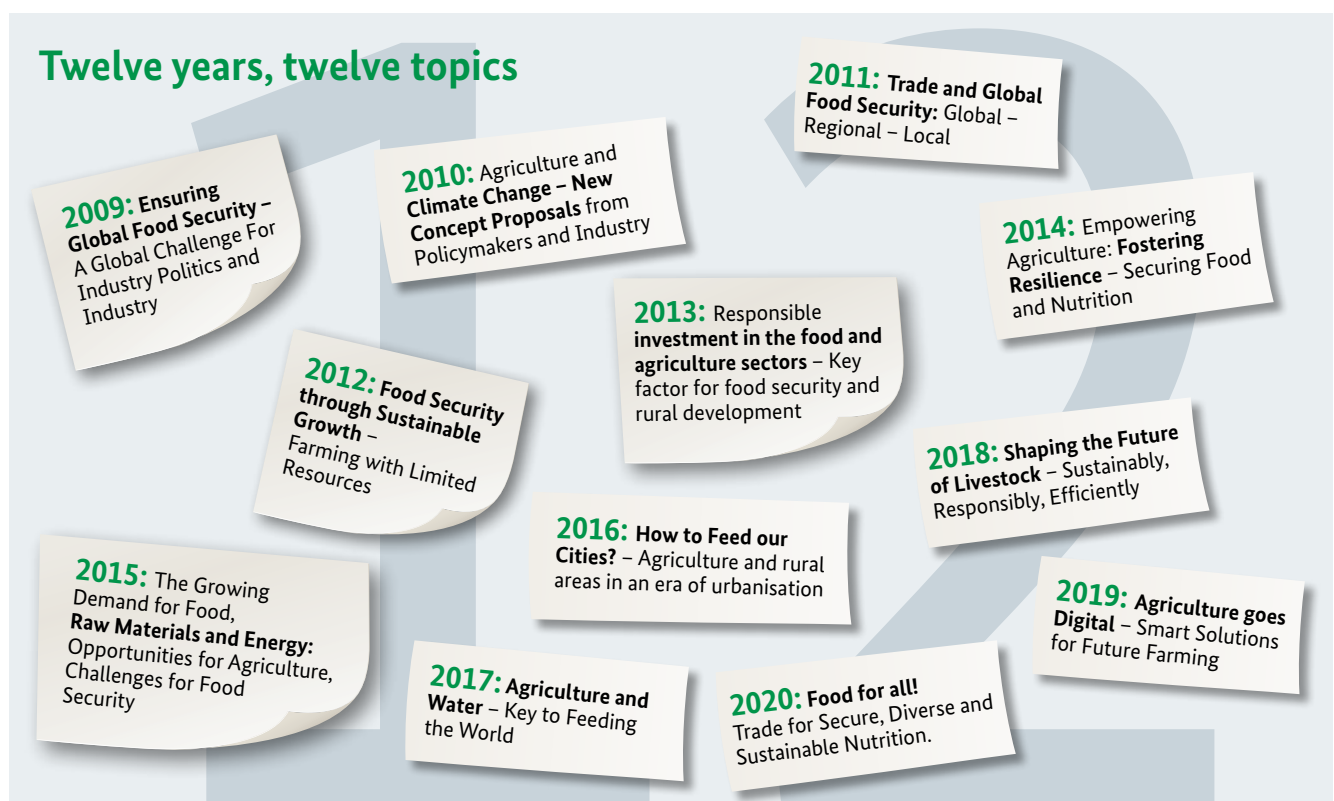


The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) is held over four days and represents a unique platform; the opportunities it offers for discussions and meetings are seized each year by around 2,000 international guests from politics, industry, academia and civil society.

The GFFA takes place every year in Berlin at the beginning of the International Green Week and is organised by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in cooperation with the Berlin Senate, Messe Berlin GmbH and GFFA Berlin e.V..

It features a large number of events that discuss in depth the main theme chosen for that year. In addition to the high-profile kick-off event and two high-level panels, there are also 15 expert panel discussions, side events and a science slam.

Spread over the three levels of Messe Berlin’s CityCube, exhibitors and start-ups can also present themselves to an international specialist audience from more than 100 nations at the Innovation Market. A partnering system, which enables exhibitors and participants to contact each other in advance and arrange meetings during the GFFA, offers superb networking opportunities.





Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel at the GFFA 2019



Panel discussion at the GFFA 2020

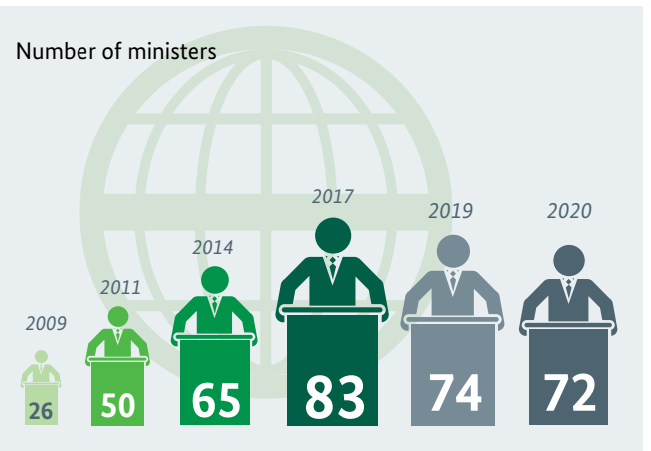
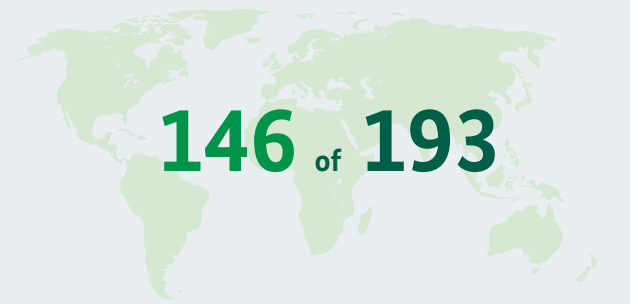
High-level guests, such as **Prince Charles**, **Ban Ki-moon**, **Angela Merkel** and **Josefa Sacko**, have enriched the GFFA in recent years with keynote speeches.

The political highlight of the GFFA is the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference at the Federal Foreign Office, which is not open to the public. Attended by around 70 ministers of agriculture and their representatives, it is the largest conference of Agriculture Ministers in the world. High-level representatives from more than ten international organisations, such as the FAO, OECD, WTO and World Bank, also attend the conference.

The agriculture ministers adopt a final communiqué at the conference which contains a joint political position and solution concepts relating to the GFFA topic.

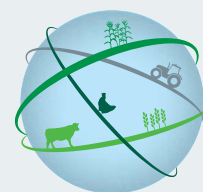
At the invitation of the BMEL, up to 20 young farmers from around the globe meet at the GFFA Young Farmers' Forum in order to also draw up a joint declaration. The declaration is handed over to the agriculture ministers at the Federal Foreign Office. The discussion in the forums and the agreements in the GFFA final communiqué provide impetus for further agricultural policy discussions – both nationally and internationally.

Countries whose delegations have already participated in the GFFA



Agriculture Ministers' Conference at the Federal Foreign Office

Programme GFFA 2020



Wednesday, 15 January 2020

- International Young Farmer's Forum

at BMEL

Thursday, 16 January 2020

- Kick-off Event
- Senior Officials' Meeting
- 5 Expert Panels
- FAO Side Event: Digital Council
- Innovation Market
- Business Lounge

at CityCube

Friday, 17 January 2020

- 2 High Level Panels
- 11 Expert Panels
- Science Slam
- Innovation Market
- Business Lounge

at CityCube/Hall 23a

Saturday, 18 January 2020

- Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference

at Federal Foreign Office

2

Kick-off Event

Introduction to the GFFA





“We need international trade.”

Uwe Feiler

Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture

In front of 500 guests, the Kick-off Event introduced the topic of the GFFA 2020, “Food for all! Trade for Secure, Diverse and Sustainable Nutrition.” Trade plays a key role in global food security. More people than ever before are suffering from undernutrition – and also from overnutrition and malnutrition. So how can international agricultural trade be made fair, secure and sustainable and be used for agricultural development at the same time?

Uwe Feiler, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, launched the Kick-off Event. He stressed that the exchange on pressing issues of agricultural and food policies are more important now than ever before. He went on to explain that we all are affected by the consequences of climate change – even if to extremely varying degrees – just as we are all affected by the scarcity and uneven distribution of our natural resources. Conditions for the production of agricultural goods vary greatly on a global scale. Only a multilateral, rule-based and equitable trading system can exploit the potential of trade to contribute to solving humanity’s problems of the future.

Next to address the audience was State Secretary for Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination **Margit Gottstein**. She noted that every year, a third more calories are produced than are theoretically necessary to

feed the world’s population. In addition, roughly a third of food production is lost or discarded.

In addition to the panel members, two young farmers who had been invited to the International Young Farmers’ Forum also had the opportunity to speak and present their views.



“We are all responsible for sustainable agricultural trade.”

Margit Gottstein

State Secretary for Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination, represented the Senate of Berlin as partner of the GFFA



Conclusions from the discussion:

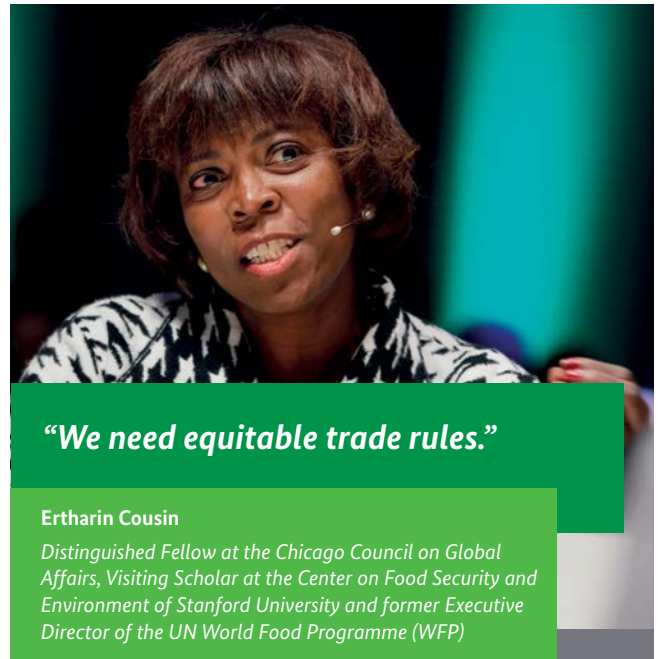
- › Trade is a driver of economy but also requires accompanying policies. There is great potential for trade to improve the situation since trade increases economic



“We are in favour of more consumer awareness.”

Jan Bock
Head of purchasing at Lidl Germany

opportunities and provides poorer countries in particular with the chance to raise their gross domestic product. It is, however, problematic that many companies primarily invest in cash crops that do not contribute to fighting hunger, according to **Ertharin Cousin**.



“We need equitable trade rules.”

Ertharin Cousin
Distinguished Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Visiting Scholar at the Center on Food Security and Environment of Stanford University and former Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP)

- › Consumers also have a responsibility. As a representative of the retail sector, **Jan Bock** from Lidl Germany explained that working and cultivation conditions partly depend on suppliers – but primarily also on consumers. It is ultimately down to the individual buyer to determine supply through demand, i.e. what products are on offer under what conditions. Representing academia, **Joachim von Braun** emphasised that individual consumers are not always capable of recognising the entire environmental footprint and clarified that it is up to governments to act.
- › Sustainable production growth requires investment and innovations. **Ertharin Cousin** stressed that many of the 821 million people suffering from hunger live in places that are most heavily affected by climate



change. Agriculture needs innovations, and there are already many positive examples. **Joachim von Braun** emphasised that agriculture has already demonstrated that sustainable production with simultaneous expansion is not a contradiction. Trade often wrongly takes the blame for problems associated with insufficient sustainability.

- › Basing trade on science. The panel members agreed that scientific insights must be the basis for increasing and improving production. This was particularly emphasised by **Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias**, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil.



“We need to empower small-scale farmers.”

Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of the
Federative Republic of Brazil



“A world in climate crisis needs to trade more not less.”

Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun
Director of the Department of Economic and Technological
Change at the University of Bonn’s Center for Development
Research (ZEF), President of the Pontifical Academy of
Sciences and Vice-President of Welthungerhilfe

In order to evaluate the role of trade, parties and stakeholder bodies must come together, international organisations must be heard – and science should be to the fore in all of this.

Result

The panel guests agreed that

- › trade can have positive effects on food security
- › this requires fair rules of trade
- › investments are necessary to integrate small-scale farmers in markets
- › consumer awareness of sustainable products must be raised
- › actions should be based on science.

3

High Level Panels

The discussion sessions begin





Parliamentary State Secretary Uwe Feiler holding the welcoming address at the WTO and FAO panel

Every year, the two High Level Panels are among the highlights of the GFFA and once more attracted a large and interested audience this year. This year's High Level Panels were organised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Commission of the European Union (EU).

During these panels, the GFFA topic was discussed by ministers and international experts from a variety of perspectives. As in previous years, the results of the discussions were fed into the Agriculture Ministers' Conference, at which the high representatives of the host organisations presented key findings.



Harnessing trade for achieving SDG 2



Organisers

- › World Trade Organization (WTO)
- › Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

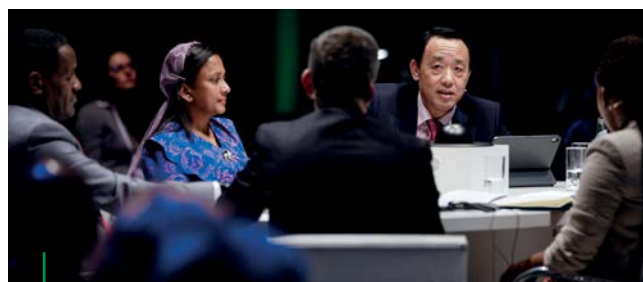


The High Level Panel under the headline “Harnessing trade for achieving SDG 2” was organised jointly by FAO and WTO. The panel had the format of a fishbowl discussion led by **Dr. Qu Dongyu**, Director-General of the FAO, and **Mr. Alan Wm. Wolff**, Deputy Director-General of the WTO, and **Mr. Oumer Hussien Oba**, Minister for Agriculture of Ethiopia, **Ms. Zaha Waheed**, Minister for Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture of the Maldives, **Mr. Chris Forbes**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada and **Ms. Beauty Manake**, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Botswana. The aim of the panel was to discuss how international trade can help to contribute to achieving SDG 2.

In his welcome speech, Parliamentary State Secretary **Uwe Feiler** from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture emphasised the importance of trade for agricultural development and food security.

Conclusions from the discussion:

- › The panel touched upon the links between trade, nutrition, climate change as well as digitalisation. During the discussion, the panel members spoke about the role of trade in addressing challenges in their respective countries, such as feeding the increasing population and appropriate responses to natural disasters, and also other type of challenges they face such as privacy and data ownership issues.
- › The panel members also shared their achievements and best practices. For instance, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Canada presented Canada’s advancements in digitalisation, while the Deputy Min-



Oumer Hussien Oba (left), Zaha Waheed (second from left) and Dr Qu Dongyu (fourth from left) during the panel discussion

ister of Agriculture from Botswana introduced her government’s nutrition programmes in the primary schools of rural areas.

- › Both the Director-General of the FAO and the Deputy Director-General of the WTO talked about the role of their respective agencies in terms of harnessing trade to end hunger and malnutrition using innovative approaches.

Result

Most importantly, the High Level Panel facilitated a dynamic discussion on feasible solutions and their implementation. The positive implications of digitalisation on trade, e-commerce and innovations were emphasised. In addition, it was suggested to join forces with other UN agencies and stakeholders, as well as to share the advantages across the countries.

The Development Potential of Agri-Food Trade: A win-win Opportunity for Africa, EU and the World



Organiser

- › European Commission

The High Level Panel was organised by the European Commission at the request of the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture (BMEL). The event, hosted by **Janusz Wojciechowski**, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, benefited from the participation of **Ms. Josefa Sacko**, the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, **Mr. Luis Eugenio Basterra**, the Argentinian Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, **Mr. Oumer Hussien Oba**, the Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture, **Ms. Anna Ndahambelele Shiweda**, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Namibia, and **Professor Johan Swinnen**, the Director-General of IFPRI. Approximately 400 participants attended the event: politicians and researchers as well as representatives of agri-business, farmers' organisations, international organisations and NGOs.

Conclusions from the discussion:

- › Agri-food trade: international and intra-African trade. Deeper intra-regional integration across the continent is essential to benefit from trade opportunities by improving infrastructure, facilitating customs procedures, implementing predictable and coherent policies, backed by strong political commitment. Regional and continental cooperation in economic, social and political spheres should be enhanced, also through trade integration.
- › The relationship between trade and domestic food security in Africa is crucial to create mutual beneficial solutions for everybody. Increased cooperation between African countries is expected to provide a clear way for trade to enhance food security and support investment policies in the agri-food sector.
- › Promoting and implementing responsible agricultural investment in Africa are essential tools for sustainable agricultural and food supply chain development which could improve and stabilise farmers' income. Expanding value chains will allow producers to specialise in processed or specific products.
- › Strengthening policy dialogue on agriculture with Africa is one of the political priorities of the European

Commission. Rural areas are of vital importance for Africa's economic growth. As Africa's No. 1 partner, the EU is at the forefront of promoting sustainable agricultural development on the continent with a special focus on smallholder family farming, women and youth.

- › Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures (SPS) and AU food safety measures are being introduced to drive regional and international trade forward. Strengthening an appropriate food safety governance across Africa and agreeing on SPS issues would be an important step and an essential element for the whole continent to expand agri-food trade and as preparation for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Result

The High Level Panel stressed the decisive significance of international and intra-African trade. However, it also emphasised the importance of investing in agriculture in Africa and strengthening the political dialogue with Africa.



From left to right, clockwise: Johan Swinnen, moderator Peter Baader, Janusz Wojciechowski, Anna Ndahambelele Shiweda, Luis Eugenio Basterra, Josefa Sacko and Oumer Hussien Oba

4 Expert Panels

Exchange on experiences and knowledge

Fachpodien

Freitag, 17.01.2020 (9:30 – 11:00 Uhr)

09:30 – 11:00 Uhr

Saal A1

Freier und fairer Agrarhandel in und mit Afrika: Die Rolle des AfCFTA für die Ernährungssicherheit

Veranstalter: Afrika-Verein der deutschen Wirtschaft e. V., German Agribusiness Alliance, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ), Weltbankgruppe

09:30 – 11:00 Uhr

Raum M1

**Lateinamerika – Lebensmittelsicherheit und Nachhaltigkeit
Lateinamerikas Beitrag zur Lebensmittelsicherheit und Weg zu mehr Nachhaltigkeit**

Veranstalter: Lateinamerika Verein e. V. (LAV), Apex-Brasil

Raum M2-M3

ferketten



Opening of the expert panel entitled “Globalisation in transition: trade in times of climate change, new protectionism and economic uncertainty” by State Secretary Beate Kasch

The expert panels make up a large part of the GFFA programme. During the GFFA 2020, organisations and associations from politics, science, and civil society had the opportunity to host an expert panel on a topic of their choosing under the umbrella of the GFFA topic. A total of 16 expert panels took place in 2020, each with highly respected experts in their field.

The expert panels permit in-depth exchanges of experience and knowledge on the one hand, and controversial

discussions on trade on the other. The results of the individual expert panels are presented below.

Additional information, particularly on the panel guests, is available at www.gffa-berlin.de/en



Parliamentary State Secretary Uwe Feiler at the expert panel entitled “Trading, delivering trust: quality and transparency in international agricultural trade with Eastern Europe and Asia”

Globalisation in Transition: Trade in Times of Climate Change, New Protectionism and Economic Uncertainty

Organiser

› GFFA Berlin e.V.

Trade is a key element for promoting food security and nutrition. However, food systems have to adapt to changing global mega trends: climate change, protectionist tendencies and economic uncertainty due to increasing populism and diverse political crises are overturning previously accepted realities in the food value chains. In addition, the environmental footprint of food is becoming more and more important and simultaneously global consumers are demanding a constantly increasing, 24/7, high-quality supply of food with special standards and low prices.

The panel discussed the impacts of these changing realities on agricultural and food systems on a regional and global scale.

A rule-based, multilateral trade order remains essential. However, bilateral and plurilateral agreements will be-



From left to right: Jörg-Simon Immerz, Gustavo Alejandro Idigoras, Johan Swinnen, Mark Griffiths, moderator Sandra Navidi and Joe Healy

come more important in the future in order to be able to face many of the challenges more quickly.

Free and Fair Agricultural Trade in and with Africa: The Role of the AfCFTA for Food Security

Organisers

› German-African Business Association, German Agri-business Alliance, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), World Bank Group

With food demand in Africa already exceeding supply by 20% and demand expected to triple by 2050, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) could help create new markets and accelerate the shift from subsistence agriculture to a market-oriented one by supporting economies of scale. At a time of climate change, trade is crucial to diversify diets and strengthen food security. History has shown that free trade can play an important role in establishing peace and prosperity. African countries could use regional trade to further develop sectors in which they have a competitive advantage. A shift in domestic policies will be necessary to ensure that smallholder farmers can take full advantage of trade opportunities.

In this respect, boosting food security, upgrading infrastructure and training are critical. Key messages from the



The organisers together with panellists, moderator and keynote speakers Josefa Sacko and Maria Flachsbarth

session included a shared sense of optimism about the trade agreement: it could increase the continent's competitiveness, reduce dependency on imports, and promote regional integration and prosperity.

Strengthening the contributions of domestic and international markets to food security and nutrition

Organiser

- › Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The panel highlighted the importance of open markets for improving food security, noting that trade will become more important because the regions where population and demand are growing most rapidly are not the same as the regions where supply can be increased sustainably. However, farmers may struggle to achieve access to domestic and international markets for many reasons, such as a poor infrastructure, lack of credit, and trade barriers. The panel discussion focused on how to ensure a level playing field, so that policies in developed countries do not stifle development opportunities in developing countries; how to strengthen competition along the food value chain; how to provide an enabling environment for farm business development; and how to ensure responsible investment in agricultural supply chains. The key conclusions were that developed countries should avoid instruments that distort international markets, that core investments



From left to right: Johannes Sauer, Shivani Kannabhiran, Koen Deconinck, Alan Matthews and moderator Jonathan Brooks

in improving agricultural productivity are likely the most important factor in strengthening agriculture's contribution to global food security, and that agricultural investment decisions need to take account of wider effects across the whole food chain.

Ambition and Reality: Solutions for a Fair, Inclusive, Safe and Sustainable Soy Supply Chain

Organisers

- › Economic Committee on Foreign-Trade Issues at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Grain Club

In individual interviews, high-ranking representatives from business, agriculture, associations and research, representing the entire supply chain, examined the status quo, the perspectives and the challenges of agricultural supply chains using soy as an example. The focus was on supply security and the discrepancy between sustainability requirements and the actual market situation. It was emphasised that soybean is the most important protein feed and, after palm oil, the most important vegetable oil resource for human nutrition. Supported by corresponding demand from the EU, the share of sustainably produced soy in the world is increasing. Instruments such as the "Amazon Soya Moratorium" in Brazil contribute to this positive development. All panellists agreed that the entire chain must support sustainability efforts and that in the end consumers must be prepared to bear the additional costs of sustainability. Because of more favourable



From left to right: moderator Christoph Azone in discussion with one of the seven panellists, Benjamin Lammert

natural growing conditions in regions outside the EU, the importance of global agricultural trade was also highlighted. This requires clear rules at multilateral level.

Trade agreements for food security and sustainable development

Organiser

› Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)

In his introduction, **Prof. Thomas Cottier** defined food security as a common concern of humankind, which cannot be achieved on a national level and therefore depends on global trade based on international agreements and standards. Two approaches were then presented: the Article “Information, dialogue, reporting” on sustainable food systems based on SDG 2 in the EFTA-Mercosur Trade Agreement and the explicit wording to promote sustainability in Free Trade Agreements by New Zealand. In the discussion, FTAs were considered important for food security and the importance of involving all actors in the value chain was underlined. The view was also expressed that a shift to fair trade is necessary, including sustainability, but also the internalisation of environmental and social costs. It was agreed



From left to right: Thomas Cottier, Theo de Jager, Martina Fleckenstein, moderator Tanja Busse, Jürg Maurer and Martin Schüller

that collective action is needed to achieve sustainable development in agriculture, food systems and trade. Questions from the audience related to the possibility of addressing these issues multilaterally (in the WTO).

Addressing food security successfully in global supply chains: the Food Security Standard

Organisers

› Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V., WWF Germany, Center for Development Research of the University of Bonn (ZEF)

Through the shift from petroleum-based to bio-based economies, there is a growing international demand for agricultural commodities. In the producing countries, food security and production for export often compete. Despite persisting hunger in countries producing global agricultural commodities, food security has hardly been addressed in sustainability standards and certification schemes. The Food Security Standard (FSS) closes this gap and provides a set of practicable and measurable criteria and audit tools that can be incorporated in existing sustainability standards. It is based on the human right to adequate food.

Dr. Eva Müller (BMEL) pointed out that the FSS translates principles and guidelines into concrete actions. Certainly, certification cannot replace the responsibility of governments to fulfil the right to adequate food.



From left to right: Jan Henke, Michael Kitetu, Tina Beuchelt, Liliana Gamba and moderator Dr. Rafaël Schneider

Governments can also use the FSS criteria, adapt and implement them in national legislation.

By adopting the FSS, companies can demonstrate that they are truly committed to human rights and the SDGs and that they act with due diligence. The developers of the FSS recommend that the Food Security Standard should become a legal requirement in global agricultural supply chains. The FSS was tested in five different pilot regions in plantations and smallholder settings and is now ready to be implemented.

Latin America – Food Security and Sustainability – Latin America’s contribution to food security and ways to improve sustainability

Organisers

- › Business Association for Latin America (LAV), Apex

Latin America and Brazil are increasingly making headlines with the EU Mercosur agreement, the clearing of the Amazon forest and the agri-food business in general. At the expert panel, the status quo with figures and data on the agri-food business in Latin America was presented and the status of small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises and crop areas were discussed.

“I believe that trade is crucial to the future of agriculture, including in helping to ensure food security”, stated

Mario Jales, economist at UNCTAD. He continued by saying that while the impact of trade is broadly positive, it can have negative effects via trade distortive practices, such as agricultural subsidies and dumping. According to **Hendrik Schulze-Düllo**, Senior Market Intelligence Manager at CLAAS KGaA mbH, only technological progress can guarantee food security. Schulze-Düllo concludes: “Our technologies help to protect these resources while we are able to increase productivity. Hardware like



From left to right: Hauke Will, Hendrik Schulze-Düllo, Alex Figueiredo, Helena Melnikov, Maria Beatriz Bley and Fernando Schwanke

rubber tracks for soil protection or Farming 4.0 for optimised use of inputs is our contribution to sustainability.” **Alex Figueiredo**, Chief Operating Officer of the Europe Office at Apex-Brasil added that trade is important not just from the exporter’s perspective. Importing agricultural goods from naturally endowed countries can guarantee availability and stability in food supply.

Decent Work in Agricultural Value Chains – Precondition for Sustainability and Development

Organisers

- › Catholic Movement of the Rural People, International Rural Development Service, German Commission Justitia et Pax

Based on an ethical foundation that focused on the right to decent work and the right to food, the event highlighted the relevance of agricultural trade. This was challenged by a reality check on the violation of these rights by existing trade regulations and procedures and social standards being widely neglected. The reasons for this are found in the difficulty to reconcile the different interests of market actors. Policy coherence for development is difficult to achieve even on the level of the EU. German development cooperation continually addresses these difficulties and tries to overcome them through voluntary initiatives on standards and multistakeholder approaches.

For civil society, especially for church organisations, it is a great challenge to raise awareness of the need to



From left to right: Andreas Lob-Hüdepohl, Lali Naidoo, Nicole Podlinski, Leonard Mizzi, Maria Flachsbarth and moderator Hildegard Hagemann

reconcile these interests and to promote dialogue and advocacy of social standards. Voluntarism does not seem to be an appropriate tool to improve working conditions. Legal regulations and standards are on the way, for example a law on supply chains. Labour inspections must be improved and the violation of workers’ rights must be prevented.

Tropical agriculture: innovation for inclusive, sustainable and safe value chains

Organiser

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

The expert panel brought together young farmers with representatives of different stakeholder groups, including FAO, GIZ, government and farmer organisations, to discuss agricultural innovation and its role in supporting inclusive, sustainable and safe value chains in the tropics. The importance of using multi-stakeholder processes to develop and support these value chains was underlined. Multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the FAO-supported Tropical Agriculture Platform and the GIZ network of Green Innovation Centres, can play an essential role in supporting the development of national capacities to innovate for food and nutrition security. Governments, the private sector and farmer organisations all have an important part to play in strengthening these capacities, including development of technical, business and functional skills. Special attention needs to be given to young



From left to right: Nikki Pilonia, Erick Martínez, Ruramiso Mashumba, Selvaraju Ramasamy and Hlamalani Ngwenya

farmers so they have the enabling environment, including access to financial support, appropriate technologies and a favourable land tenure system, which will allow them to innovate, engage in value chains and build their future in agriculture.

Soy from Brazil, chicken scraps to Africa – which rules on sustainability and protection do multilateral and bilateral trade agreements with developing countries need?

Organisers

- › Bread for the World, German Forum on Environment and Development

The negative effects of EU agricultural trade relations with developing countries were the focus of the exchange between experts. Using the example of extensive soy production in Brazil, the experts explained that family farms worldwide are rarely the winners of export-oriented agriculture. The globalisation of food markets has exposed developing countries in some agricultural sectors to unfair competition with subsidised import products from industrialised countries. All over the world, farming families defend themselves against the globalisation roulette. However, successes, such as in Brazil, are cancelled out by governments when they speculate solely on income from world markets.

Experiences with market restrictions such as import bans on chicken parts in West Africa show that such measures successfully contribute to the creation of income and jobs in agriculture. It was also noted by the panel that consumers in poor countries can benefit from cheap EU imports. Finally, there was consensus governments should



From left to right: Karin Ulmer, Yvonne Takang, Antônio Inácio Andrioli, Leonard Mizzi and moderator Cornelia Wills

make greater use of existing trade policy space to protect small-scale agricultural production. The EU is willing to play its part in the dialogue with African governments and farmers, but also with South America, to ensure that their feed requirements, but also their agricultural exports, are regulated in such a way that they do not cause damage. However, the audience remarked that this would also require changes of the existing EU trade agreements (EPAs, Mercosur) and WTO rules in order to protect small farmers' production in a flexible way and to respect human and environmental rights.

Trading, delivering trust: Quality and transparency in international agricultural trade with Eastern Europe and Asia

Organisers

- › German Agribusiness Alliance, German Eastern Business Association, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)

Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan are positioning themselves on the global market as key exporters of cereals and other agricultural goods – primarily for exports to China. Uzbekistan is focusing on increasing exports of cotton, fruit and vegetables. The panellists focused on the importance of transparency and generally recognised standards in international agricultural trade with Eastern Europe and Asia. Representing the German Federal Government, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture **Uwe Feiler** reaffirmed Germany’s commitment to free trade: “We want to contribute to enforcing quality standards and reducing trade barriers at global level.” The participants discussed prospects for further advancing trade as a cornerstone of global agricultural value generation. Ukraine’s Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade **Taras Kachka** underlined the efforts taken



From left to right: Kristian Möller, Jamshid Khodjaev, moderator Julia Hamal, Taras Kachka, Britta Gallus and Lena Kuhn

by the Ukrainian government to promote transparency and trust on the agricultural market. He said that the planned land reform was part of these efforts: “We want to know where our cereals come from”, he stated. Minister of Agriculture **Jamshid Khodjaev** pointed out the challenge of farmers lacking know-how: “We want our farmers to become more independent. To enable this, we have to build bridges between trade and farmers.”

Women’s empowerment in international trade – An agricultural perspective

Organiser

- › Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

“Inclusive agricultural trade ensures a rise in women’s income and is therefore indispensable for reducing poverty and hunger”; this thesis was confirmed by the panellists and the participants in the expert panel discussion. The subject of women’s empowerment is ubiquitous in current debate, to the extent that usage of the term is almost inflationary. But what is behind this term and what does it mean with regard to international agricultural trade? With this new focus, the discussion, featuring panellists from production, trade and international organisations, produced new and interesting views. The discussion highlighted access to loans, the increased use of the advantages of digitalisation and formal and informal networking. **Dr. Marion Janson** (ITC) also stressed this in her keynote speech: “We need to foster the involvement of women in formal and informal business networks that are crucial to acquiring the knowledge for



From left to right: Marion Jansen, Linda Kelly, Aniecea Wiggan, Anoush der Boghossian, Julia Nielson and Maria-Johanna Schaecher

trade.” She said that networking and knowledge transfer were extremely important in order to increase the participation of women farmers in agricultural trade and to ensure equitable profit along the global value chain in the agricultural and food industry.

Contribution of cooperatives to fair value creation in international trade

Organisers

- › German Raiffeisen Association, German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Association

Representatives of international cooperatives from different product areas and target countries discussed how trade influences agricultural development and which role cooperatives play.

Help for self-help, empowerment for production and the connection to value chains characterise the advantages of agricultural trade when conducted as a cooperative. Producers can collectively generate quantities with which they can become competitive and participate in certification systems. The added value is created locally and benefits the cooperative and each individual member. Practical examples showed what exactly determines the success of cooperatives. The speakers shared and discussed their experiences from the product areas of meat (**G. Kronsbein**, Westfleisch SCE mbH), fruit/vegetables (**T.**



From left to right: Mohamed Ferhi, Hendrik Grevelhörster, Gustav Kronsbein, Wiebke Schwarze, Franz-Josef Holzenkamp and Thomas Schlich

Schlich, Landgard Obst & Gemüse GmbH & Co. KG), soy/animal feed (**H. Grevelhörster**, AGRAVIS Raiffeisen AG) and pistachios (**M. Ferhi**, agricultural cooperative SMSA Magel Bel Abbes, Tunisia).

Food waste reloaded for inclusive agri-trade supply chains

Organiser

- › United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

The expert panel discussed how the food loss and waste challenge can become an opportunity for all supply chain actors. Globally, about 14 percent of food is lost despite sufficient food being produced for all. Experts indicated that tackling food loss and waste contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and improves food security, nutrition, productivity, economic growth, bio-diversity, and resource efficiency while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

It was stressed that corrective policies need to be aligned with country priorities and contexts. They emphasised that bringing the lost, invisible food back into supply chains via alternative solutions based on innovative digital technology is key and generates big data desperately needed for policy decisions.

UNECE has developed a Smart Food Loss Management System, a digital supply solution that traces and system-



From left to right: Kristina Mattsson, Thomas Heim, Okisegere Ojepat, Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab and Máximo Torero Cullen

atically analyses supply and losses at all stages and is integrated with a marketplace that makes the missing food available to buyers. The panel agreed that international standards were part of agri-trade, to avoid food loss, alternative supply chains, local markets, value additions need to absorb this produce.

Trading safely: protecting health, promoting development

Organiser

- › Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

Meeting international standards is crucial to monitor and control animal diseases and plant pests, improve agriculture production levels, and reduce the burden of foodborne diseases.

The panel session covered experiences from Africa, Asia and all over the world of how building Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) capacity in agricultural value chains improves production, secures livelihoods and drives trade.

The panel emphasised that investing in SPS capacity is a global public good because of its impact on food security, productivity, jobs, trade revenue, health and the environment. Sustainable and impactful public-private partnerships can drive SPS capacity and help to control and eradicate animal diseases prior to any outbreak. Reviewing the way of doing business at national level helps to break down producer costs, from information gaps to knowing SPS regulations in global markets. Connecting supply chains with harmonised policies,



From left to right: moderator Melvin Spreij, Martha Byayima, Jean Philippe Dop, Loraine Ronchi and Suresh Ellawala

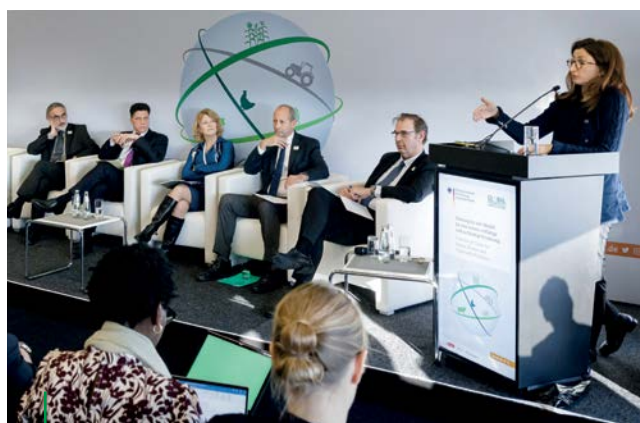
including on SPS measures, requires political will in the context of the new African Continental Free Trade Area. The panel concluded that investing in SPS capacity in developing countries is crucial to protect health and facilitate trade.

Digital Acceleration of Agriculture and Food Transformation

Organisers

- › World Bank Group, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Digital technologies are tools with high potential to facilitate trade, reduce poverty and improve livelihoods, health and environmental outcomes in agriculture and food. Examples from Argentina and Morocco demonstrate that online data can facilitate access to real time information in ways that benefit farmers' and exporters' competitiveness and bottom-line. There is significant scope for governments to learn from each other in this area. As digitalisation changes trade patterns significantly, consistent rulemaking at the national and international level will be crucial to maximise the positive impacts (such as better access to markets and early warning systems for producers) and mitigate the risks (such as faulty data protection or asymmetrical information). Consumers, in particular, would benefit from greater



From left to right: Luis Eugenio Bastera, Christian Forwick, Ann Tutwiler, Ken Ash, Martien van Nieuwkoop and Abir Lemseffer

transparency on the origin and footprint of food to increase the availability of more sustainable and nutritious products.

5

FAO Side Event

Digital Council



Director-General of the FAO Dr. Qu Dongyu during his keynote speech



Friedrich Wacker, Director-General at the BMEL, giving his welcoming address



Director-General of the FAO Dr. Qu Dongyu during his keynote speech

During the GFFA 2020, the FAO organised a side event to present its concept for the establishment of the International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture.

In his welcoming address, **Friedrich Wacker**, Director-General at the BMEL, emphasised the significance of the Digital Council for intensifying international collaboration and information exchange in order to support countries in making their agricultural sector future-proof in terms of the digital transformation. The methodology and the content of the concept note were presented by **Dr. Qu Dongyu**, Director General of FAO, who stressed that it was developed with the involvement of all important stakeholders.

The presentation was followed by a panel discussion with experts on digitalisation and agriculture: **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), **Ken Ash**, Director of OECD Trade and Agriculture, **Máximo Torero Cullen**, Assistant Director-General of the FAO, **Michael Hailu**, Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), and **Prof. Engel Hessel**, Commissioner for Digitalisation at the BMEL participated in this panel discussion. In the following open discussion, the panellists had the opportunity to interact with the audience.

Main messages from the discussion:

- › First, the digitalisation of agriculture can have a positive impact on the whole of society.

- › Second, data management is a paramount issue to drive this process.
- › Third, coordination and commitment of policy-makers are key to embrace the digital revolution.

Result

All participants were in favour of establishing the Digital Council and stressed the importance of intensified cooperation between all involved in the agri-food sector in order to drive digitalisation forward. Following up on this event, the FAO intends to continue its efforts to establish the Digital Council.

Additional information on the Digital Council is available on the following websites:

<http://www.fao.org/3/ca7485en/ca7485en.pdf>

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1257921/icode/>



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Overview of the FAO concept



Through the GFFA final communiqué 2019, the 74 Agriculture Ministers and high-level representatives from international organisations called FAO, in consultation with other international organisations, to develop a concept for establishing an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture. The following organisations were included in the working group that was subsequently set up: African Development Bank (AFDB), CTA, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ITU, OECD, World Bank (WB), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and WTO. This work was made possible by financial contributions from the Federal Republic of Germany.

The final concept is the result of an open and inclusive consultation with approximately 355 stakeholders from more than 100 organisations who actively contributed to its development. Numerous officials of development banks, government agencies, government authorities, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and civil societies also contributed to this concept note.

The concept note proposes the creation of a new body, an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture (referred to as Digital Council) to enhance international cooperation and the exchange of ideas and experiences across borders, creating synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts.



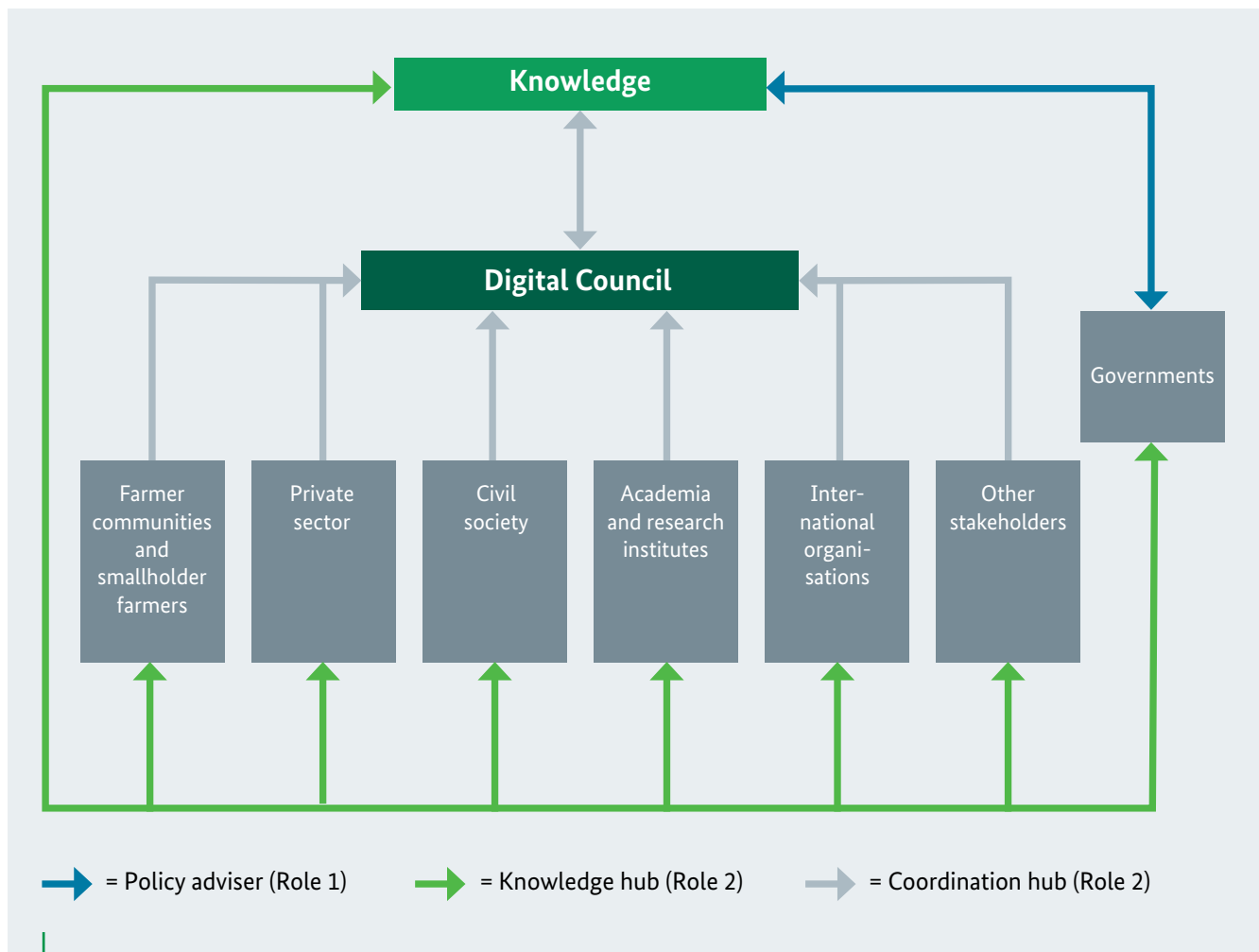
From left to right: Prof. Engel Hessel, Ken Ash, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Michael Hailu and moderator George Rapsomanikis (FAO)

The Digital Council will strive to keep pace with rapid developments in digitalisation, working with new digital tools and the highest expertise available. In line with this, it will help to tackle challenges of food security, hunger, health, inclusiveness for stakeholders and sustainability in the agri-food system at national, regional and international levels.

With this approach, the Digital Council would provide structured and strategic agricultural policy recommendations on digitalisation to governmental and non-governmental actors, and strengthen international cooperation in agri-food systems to identify challenges and possible solutions. Examples of activities include organising international forums to share best policy practices, and promoting interaction among farmers’ associations from different countries and between national and international stakeholders.

In their final communiqué GFFA 2020, the agriculture ministers of 72 nations thanked the FAO and other international organisations for developing the concept note for the establishment of an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture as requested in the final communiqué GFFA 2019. They recognised the FAO’s efforts in coordinating the process of drafting the concept note and called upon the FAO’s governing bodies to support the process for its establishment.

In welcoming this responsibility, FAO Director-General **Dr. Qu Dongyu** said, “It is essential that policy makers establish good macro-level frameworks so that civil society and the private sectors can contribute to shared goals such as the eradication of poverty and hunger”.



FAO concept for the International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture

Start-up
#GFFA2020

6 Innovation Market

Start-ups and companies





The Innovation Market kicks off



Federal Minister Julia Klöckner during her tour

This year's two-day GFFA Innovation Market offered stakeholders from industry, academia, associations and start-ups the space and opportunity for dialogue and an exchange of experiences as well as the option of presenting practical examples, innovative solutions and scientific insights concerning the priority topic of the GFFA and the opportunity to talk with the exhibition audience.

This year, the exhibition focused on how international trade can contribute to global food security and sustainable development.

During their tours, Federal Minister **Julia Klöckner** and Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of

Food and Agriculture **Uwe Feiler** visited selected stands and showed great interest in the products and projects presented.

In order to encourage exchange between GFFA participants and exhibitors, the GFFA 2020 was the first to offer individual discussions organised via an online partnering system that permitted guests to schedule meetings at dedicated meeting points located in the Business Lounge.

Almost one hundred meetings were scheduled between companies and organisations, during which they exchanged experiences and established new contacts with potential partners from Germany and abroad.



Exchange between participants and exhibitors

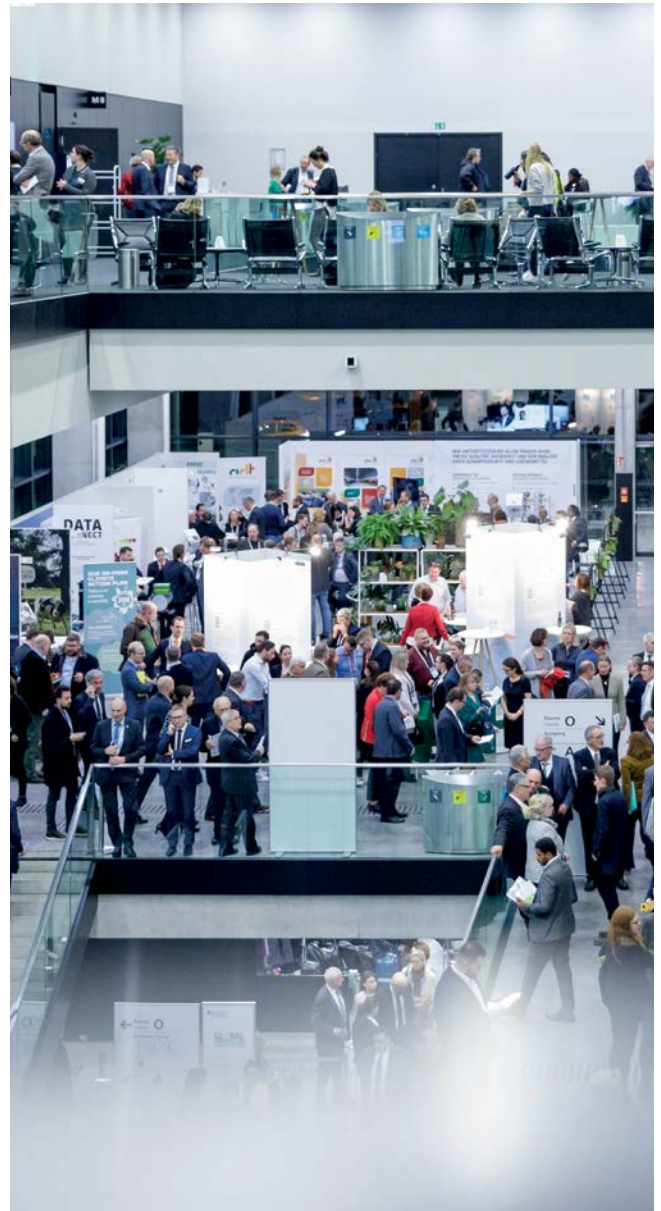


Networking opportunities

26 companies, associations and authorities presented their innovations and activities.

Exhibitors

ADT Project Consulting GmbH
AFC Agriculture and Finance Consultants GmbH
AHT GROUP AG
Apex-Brasil Brussels-Europe
Arla Foods Deutschland GmbH
Bundesverband DEULA
BVVG Bodenverwertungs- und verwaltungs GmbH
California Business Associates
DEULA-Nienburg
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
FAO
German Agency for International Cooperation (giz)
German–Russian Dialogue on Agricultural Policy
GFA Consulting Group GmbH
GRIMME Landmaschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG
Nuertingen Geislingen University
IAK Agrar Consulting GmbH
ICON-INSTITUTE GmbH & Co. KG
Indigo Agriculture
Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute
John Deere GmbH & Co. KG
Pöttinger Landtechnik GmbH
RIELA Getreidetechnik Karl-Heinz Knoop e.K.
SGS – Institut Fresenius
The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South Eastern Europe



Parliamentary State Secretary Uwe Feiler during his tour of the Innovation Market (second from left)

Start-ups



This year's GFFA was also the first to feature a special area for start-ups. Eight start-up teams from Ireland, the US, South Africa and Germany presented their innovative business ideas and their relevance for trade. One of these start-ups developed a digital trade platform for agricultural commodities to improve farmers' marketing prospects. Another has dedicated itself to reducing food waste during transport, and a third one brings buyers into contact with



Federal Minister Julia Klöckner in dialogue with an exhibitor

Start-ups

Agrometrics Inc

asurveyor.com

cropspot GmbH

Dropnostix GmbH

FarmHedge Ltd

Foodsupply FS GmbH

PIELERS GmbH

Vegshelf UG (haftungsbeschränkt) i. Gr.

food producers in order to make nutritious, innovative plant-based foodstuffs available to customers all over the world.

Further information such as brief portraits of the projects presented and contact details is available at www.gffa-berlin.de

7

Science Slam

Our science competition





The audience awarding points to the scientific talks

The role played by consumers in international agricultural trade is multifaceted. Four entertaining scientific slam talks on the topic of international agricultural trade and the role of consumers showed this during the second Think Aloud! – GFFA Science Slam.

The EU as a self-sufficient entity?

Ferike Thom from the Thaer-Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences at Humboldt-University Berlin emphasised the integration of the EU in the international agricultural market and described what EU citizens must prepare for if the EU decides not to import genome edited products.

Unwanted free-riders of global trade

Dr. Silke Steinmüller from the Julius Kühn Institute for National and International Plant Health illustrated the effects of international plant trade and presented the process of data research, and risk and impact assessments of the development of EU-wide regulations and standards.

Human liberty is inviolable

Theresa Hartmann from Department of Agricultural and Food Marketing, University of Kassel, gave an overview of the purchasing scenario of the average German, illustrating the internal dialogue between sustainable intentions and actual purchasing behaviour.

Everybody likes chicken

Collins Asante-Addo from the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute of Market Analysis illustrated poultry imports to Ghana and explained why they have positive effects indeed on Ghanaian consumers.

In small groups, the audience awarded points to the talks. This led to lively discussions on the scientific content as well as the way it was presented.



Award ceremony with Federal Minister Julia Klöckner: Theresa Hartmann (third from left) took first place

Federal Minister **Julia Klöckner** announced the result: **Theresa Hartmann** came first in the Think Aloud! – GFFA Science Slam and received a trophy from Federal Minister Julia Klöckner.



Ferike Thom from the Thaer-Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences



Dr. Silke Steinmüller from Julius Kühn Institute



Collins Asante-Addo from the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute

8

International Young Farmers' Forum

Young people in agriculture



Young farmers Aniecea Wiggan and Ragnar Viikoja presented the Statement of Young Farmers during the Agriculture Ministers' Conference



Federal Minister Julia Klöckner welcoming the young farmers at the Federal Foreign Office



Parliamentary State Secretary Uwe Feiler welcoming the young farmers at the BMEL

The International Young Farmers' Forum is an integral part of the GFFA. For the fourth session, young farmers from 15 different countries and five continents came together at the BMEL this year.

In addition to mutual exchange and networking, the objective of the meeting was drawing up a joint declaration outlining the young farmers' demands of agricultural policy in order to make trade sustainable, fair and inclusive. The intense exchange of experiences and knowledge made it possible to pool various perspectives from all corners of the world.

During the 12th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, this declaration was then presented to the agriculture ministers by **Aniecea Wiggan** from Jamaica and **Ragnar Viikoja** from Estonia as representatives of the young farmers. Afterwards, they presented the declaration to Federal Minister **Julia Klöckner**.

Young farmers play integral roles in shaping tomorrow's food supply. The forum offers them the opportunity to be heard at international level.



The young farmers pooling their expertise to work out the declaration on international agricultural trade



The young farmers meeting Federal Minister Julia Klöckner at the Agriculture Ministers' Conference

Statement of Young Farmers 2020 at the 12th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference



Intelligent Trade for a sustainable future

As young farmers, we acknowledge that one of our biggest challenges in the coming years is to produce enough quality food sustainably to feed the rising world population. We face many challenges including the effects of climate change, which make many regions of the world vulnerable to food insecurity. Fair trade should support sustainability in all its dimensions – ecological, economic and social.

We feel that trade is of paramount importance for food security at a national and global level especially in countries without a strong agricultural programme to feed its people or in countries suffering from extreme impacts of climate change. In order to have small or family farms integrated

into local, regional and international markets, farmers need reliable market conditions.

Some barriers to agricultural trade that we recognise include:

- › Access to financial capital or subsidies
- › Access to land
- › Lack of knowledge and skills
- › High input cost
- › Availability of labour forces
- › Unregulated market speculations
- › Unequal food and production standards

We the young farmers suggest that the following solutions be considered at international level:

- › Equip farmers, through training and education, with the necessary skills and knowledge in order to sustainably produce quality products to meet the standards of the markets locally and internationally.
- › Encourage farmers to develop cooperatives where their products are grouped together to gain better profits.
- › Strengthen farmers' position in the supply chain by improved regulations regarding market speculations enhancing transparency to ensure proper income for the farmers.
- › Policy to be made with producers, especially young farmers, and fact based knowledge involved in the decision making process.

In our opinion the implementation of the following measures, could guarantee safe, sustainable and inclusive food:

- › Universal traceability standards.

- › Food inspection guidelines and training to address the challenges that farmers have while implementing these standards.
- › Encourage a paradigm shift amongst all stakeholders to adopt the proactive implementation of a Regenerative Agricultural System.
- › Worldwide coalition to monitor the implementation of these measures.

We, the young farmers, feel that the implementation of these measures will ensure a Global Trade policy that addresses the challenges of food security. We urge the Ministers, assembled at the GFFA 2020, and all responsible policymakers to keep involving young farmers and their various representative organisations in the decision making process in the future.

Our sincere thanks go to the German Federal of Food and Agriculture for the invitation to the GFFA 2020 and for the opportunity to engage directly in the discussion among the agriculture ministers of the world.

Berlin, January 15, 2020



The declaration being read out at the Agriculture Ministers' Conference



Handover of the declaration

9

Agriculture Ministers' Conference

Political highlight





The Agricultural Ministers' Conference being presided over by Federal Minister Julia Klöckner, who is accompanied by State Secretary Beate Kasch and Parliamentary State Secretary Uwe Feiler

The political highlight of the GFFA was the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, which was not open to the public; it was held on Saturday, 18 January 2020 and was attended by 72 ministers and 12 high-level representatives of international organisations. The ministers adopted a final communiqué that contains recommendations for action and resolutions on the topic of "Food for all! Trade for Secure, Diverse and Sustainable Nutrition.". In it, the ministers voiced their support of measures intended to support trade in contributing to achieving food security for the world's increasing population, to help trade support agricultural development and to make food value chains inclusive, sustainable and safe. The ministers also agreed to reinforce fair rules in agricultural trade, support diversification and investment in education, infrastructure and extension services and empower women and smallholder farmers.

They also committed to encouraging the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) to develop voluntary international standards for sustainable agricultural supply chains.

In her opening address, Federal Minister **Julia Klöckner** stressed the following: "International trade fights hunger, protects resources and can play an important role in ensuring stability and peace! Without trade, there will be no global food security as some countries are unable to provide for themselves. To this end, we must foster trade and work hand in hand to ensure that the special concerns of agriculture are taken into account. Farmers, including smallholders, must be winners in trade. This requires fairness and transparency. We must ensure that all people benefit from trade, and not just a minority, so that everyone has access to food.



Commissioner for Agriculture of the African Union Josefa Sacko giving her opening speech



Ministers discussing the implementation of the final Communiqué



One of the four Break-out-Sessions held at the Stresemann Hall of the Federal Foreign Office



Lively exchange and discussions on the occasion of the Agriculture Ministers' Conference

Global trade requires global rules and reliable, value-based standards. It is therefore important that we exchange views on these issues at the GFFA. Nowhere else do so many agriculture ministers come together from so many States of the world; it is a unique platform.”

The opening speech was given by Commissioner for Agriculture of the African Union **Josefa Sacko**, followed by brief speeches by the organisers of the High Level Panels: the EU Commission, WTO and FAO.

Two representatives of the International Young Farmers' Forum, which is held during the GFFA, also participated in the first part of the Agriculture Ministers' Conference and read out their declaration.

In the four parallel discussion sessions, the so-called Break-out-Sessions, which are always held under the Chatham House Rule, the Ministers then discussed the practical implementation of the policy recommendations contained in the final communiqué.

During a second plenary, the heads of these discussion sessions then reported the major results. Afterwards, the ministers and high-level representatives of international

organisations had the opportunity to continue their discussions. Many contributions once more stressed the importance of trade for food security.

Subsequently, Federal Minister **Julia Klöckner** handed over the final communiqué to the representatives of the WTO and FAO as well as to the Kazakh Vice-Minister of Agriculture. Kazakhstan was to be the host of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nur-Sultan, which had to be rescheduled to June 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The agriculture ministers used the sessions and breaks for lively exchanges on the advantages of trade for sustainable food security and the necessary rules and resolutions.

After the Agriculture Ministers' Conference, an international press conference was held during which Federal Minister **Julia Klöckner**, Director-General of the FAO **Dr. Qu Dongyu**, EU Commissioner for Agriculture **Janusz Wojciechowski** and Deputy Director-General of the WTO **Alan Wm. Wolff** answered questions from the press.



Federal Minister Julia Klöckner speaking about an encounter with protesters in front of the Federal Foreign Office, during which she was presented with a milk can



The communiqué was handed over to representatives of FAO, WHO and Kazakhstan, the host nation of the 2020 WTO conference (rescheduled due to the global coronavirus pandemic)



International press conference with Federal Minister Julia Klöckner, FAO Director-General Dr. Qu Dongyu, EU Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski and WTO Deputy Director-General Alan Wm. Wolff

Senior Officials' Meeting



Negotiations on the communiqué at the CityCube

The Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), which is not open to the public, took place in Berlin shortly before the Agriculture Ministers' Conference. The meeting was presided over by **Friedrich Wacker**, head of Directorate 6 for EU Affairs, International Cooperation and Fisheries at the BMEL. The high-ranking delegates and ministers discussed at length how supply chains can be shaped in an inclusive, sustainable and secure manner and what measures are necessary in order to ensure that trade can contribute to sustainable development and welfare gains from trade can be distributed within and across countries as well as across all social strata in an equitable way.

The results of these discussions were summarised in the draft final communiqué of the Agriculture Ministers' Conference for decision by the ministers.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the FAO presented its concept for the establishment of an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture, which was also the subject of the FAO side event at the GFFA 2020. The FAO had been asked to draw up this concept in the final communiqué of the GFFA 2019.



In-depth high-ranking discussions



Chaired by Director-General at the BMEL, Friedrich Wacker

Final Communiqué 2020



Food for all! Trade for Secure, Diverse and Sustainable Nutrition.

I. Preamble

We, the agriculture ministers of 72¹ nations, have assembled here on 18 January 2020 for the 12th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference on the occasion of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA). We have discussed how trade in food and agricultural commodities and trade in services for agriculture can contribute to achieving food security for the world's increasing population, enhancing nutrition and human health, improving farmers' livelihoods and income, and achieving more sustainable food systems to preserve the planet.

We are deeply concerned that currently more than 820 million people suffer from hunger, and 2.5 billion suffer some form of micronutrient deficiency.

We should take urgent action to fulfil the right to food and to address the root causes of hunger: extreme poverty, inequality and crisis.

The world's population is growing fast. It is projected to reach nearly 10 billion people by the year 2050.

We are just as concerned that climate change is resulting in yield losses and declines in production in many parts of the world, with these being spread unevenly across regions, and is already affecting global food security and farmers' incomes and is hitting the poor and vulnerable hardest.

¹ For the final list of participants, see page 51.

The world's natural resources that are fundamental to agricultural production and biodiversity are finite; they are already under great stress and deteriorating over time. Fertile land and water endowments are not equally distributed globally and neither are other means of production, technology, innovations, know-how and capacities to invest.

We underline that the agricultural sector and food systems must produce adequate quantities of safe, nutritious and affordable food and reduce loss and waste to fight world hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, but that it must do so sustainably. We express our firm conviction that the agricultural and food sector can contribute very significantly to global solutions in all these areas.

Against this background, we emphasise the positive contribution that trade has made to meet the increasing demand for adequate, safe, nutritious and affordable food for consumers as well as to global economic growth and poverty alleviation, and thus to food security, political stability and peace.

II. Call for Action

We hereby jointly adopt the following resolutions with the aim of promoting the role of agri-food trade in ensuring sustainable agriculture and food systems for global food security, prevention of malnutrition in all its forms and inclusive development.

We believe that trade policies should form part of a larger integrated and coherent strategy towards improved sustainability of agriculture and food systems that includes a range of other domestic policies and investments.

In this regard, we are committed to the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the goals on "zero hunger" (SDG 2) and "partnerships for the goals" (SDG 17). We intend to meet the following four challenges:

1. Fostering trade for global food security

We underline that food value chains are increasingly integrated and global, with many final and intermediate food products and services from multiple origin countries.

We agree that trade is vital to connect producers and consumers and to supply countries, regions and communities that have a structural food supply deficit, and stress that this will become more acute as risks to food production and quality increase due to climate change and other environmental stresses.

We will therefore facilitate agricultural trade by strengthening trade rules and transparent and inclusive local, regional and global value chains and promote corresponding responsible investments, in particular in the poorest regions of the world.

We are convinced that trade contributes to better access to food for consumers and can create greater economic opportunities for all producers as well as much-needed jobs across food systems.

We will thus promote trade because it generates welfare gains by encouraging resource-efficient and cost-efficient production and by enhancing productivity and quality. Therefore the gains from trade can play a major role in the promotion of inclusive economic development and the alleviation of poverty, especially in rural areas. We stress the need for the benefits of trade to be widely distributed across society and emphasise the need to address the challenges in this regard.

We recognise trade-related issues as well as the role of trade in achieving globally-agreed nutrition objectives and in this regard we are attentively following the ongoing CFS process to develop "Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition".

We will promote the implementation of necessary supporting policies, e.g. capacity development and social safety-net measures, to ensure that trade contributes to sustainable development, to ensure

that welfare gains from trade are equitably distributed between and within countries across social strata, and to garner societal acceptance of trade, whilst respecting multilateral rules.

We emphasise that open and transparent markets can mitigate the risk of severe price spikes on both national and international markets and economies and reduce excessive price volatility with potential adverse impacts on the food security of low-income and vulnerable populations.

We will thus foster agricultural and trade policies that promote food security, reduce poverty and address global challenges in ways that avoid distorting production and trade. We will give due consideration to spill-over effects from national policies on other countries.

2. Making trade work for agricultural development

To harness the benefits of trade for sustainable agricultural development and create new economic opportunities, we commit to help farms, especially smallholders and family farms, become more efficient and resilient to shocks. We will therefore support diversification and the adoption of sustainable practices, promote risk management tools, strengthen land tenure rights and invest in infrastructure, innovation, training, education and extension services.

To meet future challenges, we will foster technological, organisational, social and entrepreneurial innovations in the agricultural sector by opening markets for innovative products and services. We emphasise the leading role of young entrepreneurs in advancing innovations. We will facilitate access to and promote the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to empower all stakeholders across food systems with timely and accurate information. We will promote digital data governance frameworks for data sharing and data re-use to foster sustainable and inclusive

development of food systems. We will furthermore provide the digital technology to enhance trade and to facilitate access to risk management opportunities for producers and we will encourage farmers to participate in electronic commerce. We will consider fostering the use of blockchain technologies in order to promote integrity and traceability of global value chains, taking into account possible challenges faced by small and medium producers and family farmers.

Against this background, we reaffirm our commitment to the GFFA Communiqué of 2019 on digitalisation in agriculture and smart solutions for future farming, being convinced that digitalisation will fully contribute to achieving SDGs.

In particular, we, the agriculture ministers of 72 nations, hereby thank FAO and the other International Organisations for developing a concept for the establishment of an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture, as we requested in the 2019 GFFA Final Communiqué [<http://fao.org/digital-council>]. We welcome the FAO's efforts on the concept and call upon FAO's governing bodies to support a process for its establishment.

We will promote food and agricultural market transparency to mitigate risks of excessive price volatility and stress the value of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). In order for AMIS to function effectively, we encourage the active support and continuous engagement of all countries participating in this initiative.

We reaffirm that every country has the right to develop its own agricultural model, taking into account its own unique set of circumstances and objectives, to feed its population while respecting the needs of other countries and international obligations.

We highlight the fact that trade can accelerate the adoption of new technologies, nurture and increase entrepreneurial opportunities and make the food and agricultural sectors more attractive to a new generation of farmers.

3. Making food value chains inclusive, sustainable and safe

We note that, in many countries, small-scale agriculture is still the main source of food. Smallholders, family farmers and women farmers, in particular, continue to face severe difficulties in accessing markets.

Promoting inclusive trade

We will promote policies that enable all farmers to participate in trade. We are convinced that trade can have a positive impact on the economic empowerment of women. Women's empowerment in food systems can increase women's incomes and lift numerous families out of poverty. We will enable women farmers to benefit more equitably from agri-food value chains and will create better market opportunities for them by defending and improving their rights, promoting inclusion in decision-making, and providing access to resources and services tailored to their needs.

We will strive to integrate smallholders into markets, in line with the CFS policy recommendations on Connecting smallholders to markets, including by facilitating their engagement in cooperatives, which will help them improve market access and enhance their market power to forge links with downstream agribusinesses and improve value-added sharing in value chains.

We will promote access to different levels of financing for food sector activities, in particular those carried out by women and smallholders.

We will support the integration of trade as an essential component of domestic rural development strategies.

Enhancing sustainability

We are convinced that a sustainable increase in productivity can be realised in all geographical areas,

especially in areas with more favourable conditions. Policies must thus be developed so that trade delivers smarter contributions to meet global challenges, facilitates the sustainable and efficient use of water, land, biodiversity and energy and prevents overexploitation and degradation of land and natural resources. In particular, we will strengthen nationally appropriate measures to prevent deforestation and the drainage of peatlands, protect biodiversity, conserve natural resources and combat climate change that are respectful of international commitments, and will promote international dialogue and cooperation to achieve this goal. We stress the importance of direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, which vary between regions, and acknowledge that particular attention to these drivers is called for.

We reiterate the importance of fulfilling international commitments related to sustainable development, e.g. the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We will strive to take measures to reduce food loss and waste along food value chains. In particular, we will encourage cooperation with civil society and private actors to prevent food loss and waste at processing, retail, and consumer level as well as in the hospitality sector. We will also support the further development of platforms to share practices, technology and data regarding the reduction of pre-harvest and post-harvest losses, including the control of animal and plant pests and diseases.

We welcome efforts, including those by the private sector, to expand current markets to cater for agricultural products produced in a sustainable manner. We will promote efforts for the development of sustainable value chains consistent with UN guiding principles of business and human rights and the guidelines for responsible agricultural investments (CFS-RAI) and VGGT².

Certification and appropriate, non-deceptive labelling in line with WTO rules, in particular the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), can enable consumers to make sustainable food choices.

At the same time, we recognise the challenges that producers and exporters, including family farmers and smallholders, face in complying with a growing number of private standards and certification schemes. In this regard, we underscore the importance of transparency and of protecting consumer choices while avoiding unjustified barriers to trade.

We welcome efforts by the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) and regional organisations to develop standards for sustainable agriculture, such as the standard on sustainable cocoa, as practical steps towards transparency and informed consumer choices.

We will encourage ISO to consider, as appropriate, the development of voluntary, internationally agreed standards for sustainable supply chains in order to provide a clear, transparent and reliable framework as one possible element of sustainable rural development.

We also encourage initiatives to assist small-scale producers to thrive in more demanding but more lucrative new markets.

Ensuring food safety

We acknowledge that international food-safety as well as plant and animal health standards, based on the SPS Agreement, are essential for reaping the benefits of agricultural trade and for avoiding potential risks to human, animal and plant health. Unsafe food imposes an enormous burden on economies, aggravates malnutrition, leads to food insecurity and perpetuates poverty, putting already vulnerable populations at greatest risk. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) should be given due consideration and we refer to our respective commitments in the GFFA Communiqué of 2018.

We are also aware that unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions on food trade can exacerbate food insecurity and result in increased food waste and loss of markets and associated income.

We will facilitate trade in agriculture and in safe and nutritious food products by taking appropriate measures in accordance with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and international standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in order to protect human, animal and plant life and health while facilitating trade. We will further promote and strengthen the role that the three standard-setting organisations (CAC, OIE and IPPC) play within the sanitary and phytosanitary field of international trade. The 2020 United Nations International Year of Plant Health will provide the Member States with an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of plant health for global food security and safety as much as animal health is also essential to ensure the basis of healthy nutrition for all.

We are committed to provide adequate investments in food-safety capacity, infrastructure and governance and to foster member participation in these three international organisations.

We will continue to support the efforts of developing countries to improve risk-based food safety management systems and SPS measures in order to improve their human, animal and plant health status and their ability to gain and maintain access to markets. We therefore support the work of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and other entities devoted to building food safety capacity.

4. Strengthening fair rules in agricultural trade

We underline the crucial importance of the multilateral rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable trading system and reaffirm the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO in 1995 and the contribution that the WTO has made to strengthening the stability of the global economy.

We reaffirm the value of taking decisions through a consensus-based and member-driven process at the WTO and we remain firmly committed to this trading system and to ensuring the proper functioning of its dispute settlement system.

We highlight the need to update global trade rules to reflect market and policy shifts that have occurred in recent years and to address contemporary agricultural and food challenges.

We note that some progress has been made in reducing trade-distorting agricultural support in the past. However, we are concerned about increasing trade-distorting domestic support being provided by some countries and the negative effects this can have on farmers' income in other countries. Therefore, we strongly encourage the continuing discussions in this pillar.

We believe that WTO-compliant free-trade agreements can make a vital contribution towards opening markets to the extent that they are complementary to efforts being made at multilateral level to reduce trade barriers. Bilateral free-trade agreements can also contribute to sustainable development by incorporating ambitious sustainability chapters.

We stress that the WTO can play an important role in helping achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.

In the same way and in the spirit of inclusive development, we commit to provide special and differential treatment within the WTO framework to developing countries as appropriate, particularly to least developed countries, that have a deficit in their agricultural development in order that they can produce enough to meet their special needs.

We will work constructively with other WTO members in the lead-up to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nur-Sultan, with a view to achieving a positive outcome.

At the 2022 GFFA, we will discuss the progress made regarding the commitments in this communiqué.

List of participants

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01. Albania | 37. Kyrgyzstan |
| 02. Argentina | 38. Lebanon |
| 03. Armenia | 39. Lithuania |
| 04. Azerbaijan | 40. Luxembourg |
| 05. Belarus | 41. Malawi |
| 06. Belgium | 42. Maldives |
| 07. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 43. Mali |
| 08. Botswana | 44. Mauritania |
| 09. Brazil | 45. Moldova |
| 10. Bulgaria | 46. Mongolia |
| 11. Burkina Faso | 47. Montenegro |
| 12. Cambodia | 48. Mozambique |
| 13. Canada | 49. Namibia |
| 14. Chad | 50. The Netherlands |
| 15. Central African Republic | 51. Nicaragua |
| 16. China | 52. Nigeria |
| 17. Congo | 53. Norway |
| 18. Croatia | 54. Palestinian Territories** |
| 19. Cuba | 55. Poland |
| 20. Cyprus | 56. Portugal |
| 21. Czech Republic | 57. Qatar |
| 22. Denmark | 58. Romania |
| 23. DR Congo | 59. Russia |
| 24. Estonia | 60. Samoa |
| 25. Ethiopia | 61. Saudi Arabia |
| 26. Finland | 62. Serbia |
| 27. Georgia | 63. Somalia |
| 28. Germany | 64. Spain |
| 29. Greece | 65. Sri Lanka |
| 30. Hungary | 66. Switzerland |
| 31. Indonesia | 67. Thailand |
| 32. Italy | 68. Turkey |
| 33. Japan | 69. Ukraine |
| 34. Kazakhstan | 70. Uzbekistan |
| 35. Korea | 71. Yemen |
| 36. Kosovo* | 72. Zimbabwe |

Participating international organisations

01. African Union
02. Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)
03. Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
04. European Commission
05. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
06. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
07. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
08. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
09. World Bank
10. World Food Programme (WFP)
11. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
12. World Trade Organization (WTO)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

** This list does not prejudice Germany's position with regard to the status of the occupied Palestinian Territories.

PUBLISHED BY

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) Division 626
Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA),
G7/G20, Policies against Hunger
Wilhelmstraße 54
10117 Berlin, Germany

AS OF

August 2020

LAYOUT

BIOCOM AG
design.idee, Büro für Gestaltung, Erfurt, Germany

TEXT

BMEL, texts about the expert panels and High Level Panels written by
the organisers

PRINTED BY

BMEL

PHOTO CREDITS

BMEL/photothek.net/Thomas Köhler
BMEL/photothek.net/Thomas Trutschel
BMEL/photothek.net/Felix Zahn

**This publication is issued by the BMEL free of charge.
It may not be used by political parties or groups for
electioneering purposes.**

For further information, please visit:

www.bmel.de/en
www.gffa-berlin.de
@bmel
© Lebensministerium