

**Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2017**

and

**International Green Week 2017  
„Agriculture and Water – Key to Feeding the World“**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2017 Berlin, Germany**

**REPORT**



January 2017 SWG Head Office/Secretariat

*The participation at the Global forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2017 was co-financed in the framework of the European Union funded project “Fostering regional cooperation and balanced territorial development of Western Balkan countries in the process towards EU integration”. The contents of this report are sole responsibility of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South-East Europe and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.*



**Date and venue:** 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017, Berlin, Germany

**Participants:**

**SWG Delegates/Ministry representatives present from:**

- Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration – Republic of Albania (Ms. Brisilda Pullumbi);
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations - Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mr. Dusan Neskovic);
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mr. Ostoja Sinik)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development – Kosovo\* (Mr. Bekim Hoxha);
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy – Republic of Macedonia (Mr. Gorgi Bozinov, Mr. Ljubo Penov);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – Montenegro (Mr. Milos Kusovac);

**The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE:**

- SWG Secretariat (Ms. Bogdanka Leveska Gjorshoska, Ms. Katerina Spasovska, Mr. Oliver Pop Arsov);

**Program for the event**

**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

- Arrival of the participants

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**14:00h – 15:15h Kick-off event, CityCube Berlin – Hall A2**

The conference begins on Thursday with a kick-off event. The Kick-off Event is held to mark the official start of the discussions between high-level experts of the global agri-food sector from politics, industry, science and civil society. It aims to give an introduction to the topic, outlining its manifold aspects and paving the way for the discussions hosted by the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in cooperation with the Berlin Senate, Messe Berlin GmbH and the GFFA Berlin Association.

**All the SWG Delegates are registered to participate at the Kick-off event. Please be noted that you have to be at City Cube at 13:30h in order to take the entrance ticket with your name tag on the registration desk.**

**15:30h – 17:30h Expert Panel Discussions, CityCube Berlin**

The expert panel discussions provide an informative platform to illustrate different perspectives and exchange views with an interested expert audience. There are 5 various Expert Panel Discussions organized at the same period. The SWG Delegation have been registered for participation at the Expert Panel Discussion 2, since there wasn't a possibility for multiple choice. Please be noted that you are free to attend additional panel discussion according to your field of interest.

**1. FROM TOILET TO TABLE: HOW WASTEWATER CAN CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY - CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M2/M3**

**Organizer**

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia; UN-INWEH; UNESCO-IHP; Leibniz Research Alliance Food and Nutrition

**2. EVERYTHING FLOWS? WATER AS DECISIVE RESOURCE AND FACTOR FOR AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA - CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M4/M5**

**Organizer**

German Agribusiness Alliance, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations  
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)

**3. WATER STRESSED WORLD – THE BURDEN OF AGRICULTURE - CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M8**

**Organizer**

Bread for the World; Forum fairer Handel; FuE; Agrarbündnis; Misereor; Waterlex

**4. INNOVATIVE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL APPROACHES TO EFFICIENT WATER USE IN AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA - CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M1**

**Organizer**

German-African Business Association  
German Agribusiness Alliance

**5. BLUE PLANET BERLIN WATER DIALOGUES: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR WATER AND FOOD PRODUCTION - CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M6/M7**

**Organizer**

Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety  
Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Research, Berlin; German Water Partnership e. V.

**18:00 - Official Opening of the International Green Week 2017**

- *SWG registered the SWG Delegates for attending the Opening Ceremony of International Green Week 2017. For this purpose, the entrance tickets will be provided to all of you on the first day of arrival in order to be able to attend the Opening Ceremony and Evening reception.*

**20:00 - Evening reception for Foreign Guest of Honor**

- *SWG Delegates will be provided with entrance tickets for the Evening reception;*

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**10:00h – 12:00h Expert Panel Discussions, CityCube Berlin**

The expert panel discussions will continue on the next day as well. There are 5 various Expert Panel Discussions organized at the same period. The SWG Delegation have been registered for participation at the Expert Panel Discussion 7, since there wasn't a possibility for multiple choice. Please be noted that you are free to attend additional panel discussion according to your field of interest.

**6. AGRICULTURE AND GROUNDWATER-FEEDING BILLIONS FROM THE GROUND UP, CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M6/M7**

**Organizer**

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

**7. INTEGRATED LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT – CORNERSTONE TO A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER, CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M4/M5**

**Organizer**

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**8. FROM WORDS TO ACTION – ALIGNING AGRICULTURAL AND WATER POLICIES TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M8**

**Organizer**

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V.; Katholische Landvolkbewegung (KLB)

**9. WATER AND AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH ASIA: STRATEGIES FOR INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND REALISTIC WAYS OF MANAGING WATER RESOURCES, CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M2/M3**

**Organizer**

German Agribusiness Alliance at OAV – German Asia-Pacific Business Association

**10. THREE SIDES OF ONE COIN: AGRICULTURE AND WATER IN CHINA, CityCube Berlin, Level 3, M1**

**Organizer**

German Agribusiness Alliance at OAV – German Asia-Pacific Business Association; Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO); German-Sino Agricultural Center (DCZ)

**14:00h – 16:00 Two High Level Panels hosted by international organisations**

*SWG registered the SWG Delegates for attending the High-Level Panels.*

- High Level Panel of FAO - **Agricultural leadership in a water scarce world**, Friday, 20.01.2017, 14:00h – 16:00, CityCube Berlin – Hall A1

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.

- High Level Panel of the European Commission - **Meeting the Twin Challenges: Food security and water management**, Friday, 20.01.2017, 14:00h – 16:00, CityCube Berlin – Hall A2

Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development will host this ministerial level debate. It will feature a roundtable policy discussion between ministers in the midst of the audience – using the “centre court” format. This panel focuses on an active engagement with all participants and the audience with the aim of identifying appropriate policy responses and best practice examples in view of tackling enormous global challenge of water and sustainable agriculture.

### **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 09:00-17:00h Cooperation Market**

The Cooperation Market is part of the GFFA and will take place on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 from 9:00-17:00h in the CityCube Berlin. Associations, companies, universities and the BMEL will showcase their work in the agri-food sector.

The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE will be also presented at the Cooperation Market with a stand and promotional materials together with a number of international organizations and institutions which is going to be held within the International Green Week and the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin 2017 (GFFA), on **20<sup>th</sup> January 2017** in Berlin, Germany. The **stand nr. 4** is booked for the SWG and will be meeting point for the SWG delegation members. **Your participation** at the Cooperation Market is **highly appreciated and obliged**.

**Please be noted, that you have to be at the Cooperation Market at 08:45h in the morning on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of January!**

#### **VENUE:**

##### **CityCube Berlin**

Entrance: Messedamm 26  
14057 Berlin  
Germany

### **Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January**

#### **09:00 – 12:30h 9th Berlin Agricultural Ministers Conference – (by personal invitation only)**

The political highlight of the GFFA is the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, which takes place in the Weltsaal of the Federal Foreign Office.

#### **12:30 – 13:30 International Press Conference - (by personal invitation only)**

A final communiqué representing the common position of the ministers provides impetus following the GFFA for international discourse on agricultural policy.

***14:00 – 16:00 International Business Panel Discussion hosted by GFFA Berlin - (by personal invitation only)***

On Saturday afternoon the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture Berlin e.V., which brings together the German agri-food sector, hosts the International Business Panel Discussion in the Deutsche Telekom Building in Berlin.

***16:00 Evening Reception hosted by GFFA Berlin - (by personal invitation only)***

***SWG will attempt to provide the Entrance tickets for the side events for the SWG Delegates and will be delivered to you on the first day of arrival.***

**Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017**

- Departure of the participants

*\* 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.*

## **Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2017**

Traditionally, the International Green Week was organized this year again. Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) is an international conference that focuses on central questions concerning the future of the global agri-food industry. It gives representatives from the worlds of politics, business, science and civil society an opportunity to share ideas and enhance understanding on the current topic on agricultural policy.

The focus of the 2017 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture was on “Agriculture and Water – Key to Feeding the World”. The aim of GFFA was, in a series of expert panel discussions, working meetings and an international panel, to identify ways and means of sustainably meeting the diverse and growing demands that are being made of the agricultural sector.

The GFFA was organised by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMEL) in cooperation with GFFA Berlin, the Senate of Berlin and Messe Berlin GmbH. Specific aspects of the GFFA's main theme were exploring in more detail in different event formats. The GFFA was held during International Green Week (IGW) and took place in its current shape for the ninth time.

## **International Green Week 2017**

IGW is the origin of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA). This is where over 60 international ministries and food producers meet – their displays reveal the fascinating world of the food and beverage industries. Many various sectors such as renewable resources, organic agriculture, gardening and the future of rural development continue to gain importance at the International Green Week.

At the International Green week, numerous exhibitors were represented from all over the world. The new partner country of the Green Week 2017 represented with many special offers was Hungary. SWG Delegation had the opportunity to visit the Green Week and made productive discussions with many Ministry representatives in respect to future collaboration.

## **Kick-off Event**

The Kick-off Event was held to mark the official start of the discussions between high-level experts of the global agri-food sector from politics, industry, science and civil society. It aims to give an introduction to the topic, outlining its manifold aspects and paving the way for the discussions hosted by the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in cooperation with the Berlin Senate, Messe Berlin GmbH and the GFFA Berlin Association. The opening event in 2017 outlined the key issue and explain how it will be addressed by the various GFFA events.

## **Expert panel discussions**

The expert panel discussions provided an informative platform to illustrate different perspectives and exchange views with an interested expert audience. There were ten (10) various Expert Panel Discussions organized by various organizations in the period 19<sup>th</sup> January – 20<sup>th</sup> January in the City Cube which discussed specific topics and regional perspectives.



## High Level Panels

The main events were the High Level Panels, the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference hosted by the BMEL, and the International Business Panel Discussion hosted by GFFA Berlin.

Two High Level Panels hosted by international organizations - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and European Commission (EC) have been organized.

The High-Level Panel of FAO discussed 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.

Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development host this ministerial level debate. It featured a roundtable policy discussion between ministers in the middle of the audience. This panel focused on an active engagement with all participants and the audience with the aim of identifying appropriate policy responses and best practice examples in view of tackling enormous global challenge of water and sustainable agriculture.

## Cooperation Market

The Cooperation Market is part of the GFFA and took place on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 from 9:00-17:00h in the CityCube Berlin. Over 30 exhibitors of associations, companies, universities and the BMEL were represented this year at the Cooperation Market 2017, which showed their work in the agri-food sector.

The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in SEE was also presented at the Cooperation Market with a stand and promotional materials together with a number of international organizations and institutions held within the International Green Week and the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin 2017 (GFFA). The Cooperation Market provided an ideal possibility for SWG to get into conversation with numerous visitors related to its field of work.

Officially nominated delegates from SWG member country/institution participate at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2017 in Berlin, Germany. SWG Secretariat have presented its work and the projects that have been implemented in the Western Balkans in the area of agriculture and rural development. SWG via its Area Based Development Approach (ABDA) exhibited the facilitation of the regional cooperation, and economic growth in the Western Balkans through in the four rural cross-border areas Drina-Tara; Drina-Sava; Prespa and Sharra.

Since the Cooperation Market provided space and opportunity for dialogue and exchange of experiences, SWG Secretariat along with the Ministry representatives had the opportunity to conduct many bilateral talks and discussions related to certain topics and regional perspectives. Many contacts and fruitful discussions in respect to the future collaboration have been made with several organizations such as Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMEL), German International Cooperation (GIZ), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GFA Consulting Group, Universities of Agricultural Sciences, Institutes of Agricultural Development and Farmers Associations.