

PRESS RELEASE

EP Public Hearing on “Food Safety & Security”

Wednesday, 10 December 2008

European Parliament, Brussels



On 10 December, EISA*, the European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture, initiated an EP-hearing on “Food Safety and Security”. The continuous growth of the world population, estimated to increase by 50% to 9 billion in about 40 years, further degradation of fertile land, increasing demand for animal protein in emerging markets, growing demand for bio-energy and last but not least increasing environmental obligations puts enormous pressure on agricultural lands. Availability of productive land will decrease from about 2 700 m² in 1990 to roughly 1 700 m² per head of world population in 2025. According to EISA, Integrated Farming as a high yielding, efficient, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable production system is a major answer to these challenges.

During the opening of the hearing, patroned by MEPs Horst Schnellhardt and Robert Sturdy, Mr Sturdy said: “Europe is number one in the world in terms of agricultural sustainability and we must continue to raise our already high standards in vital areas such as energy efficiency, waste disposal and water course management”.

In his presentation on EISA activities and Integrated Farming, the EISA chairman Tony Worth made clear that Integrated Farming is a decisive tool to achieve high quality products at affordable prices due of the quality and potentials of the production process. “This helps towards food safety and security”, Mr Worth pointed out. “Integrated Farming is based on a holistic approach, and by looking at the specifics of a given site and situation, allows for a high resource use efficiency”, emphasised Andreas Frangenberg, Technical Director of EISA in his speech. During the subsequent discussion MEP Christa Kläß supported the approach towards Integrated Pest Management as an important element of Integrated Farming.

* EISA, is a European farmers association composed of national Integrated Farming associations from 6 EU Member States (Au, Fr, De, Lux, Swe & UK). They all pursue the holistic approach of Integrated Farming and develop and promote this concept.