Towards Sustainable Production Systems in European Agriculture

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The challenge

Food production must increase by at least 70% by 2050, because…

- World population will be over 9 billion
- Increased affluence in the developing world is driving consumption patterns towards protein rich meat based diets

While…

- Already today one billion people go to bed hungry every day
- Agricultural land is limited
- Competition for natural resources gets fiercer
- And still 40% of global food production are lost in the field and storage

Bioenergy demand: a wildcard for production, prices, & trade

How does this concern Europe?

Europe depends on food imports

- Approximately 10% of net consumption in 2008
- Imported the equivalent of 35m hectares of arable land in 2007/8
- Raw materials for world leading food industry

Food crisis has global consequences

- 2008 crisis forced European food prices up (+10-12%)
- Strong European purchasing power competes with weaker developing economies

Food scarcity is one of the two main threats to global security

- Encourages migration to more “secure” parts of the world like Europe
- Drives fight for and abuse of natural resources

What are the concerns in European agriculture?

Access to water increasingly threatened

- Urbanization drives water usage (use per capita, tourism…)
- Land use changes affect water tables
- Climate change affects weather patterns

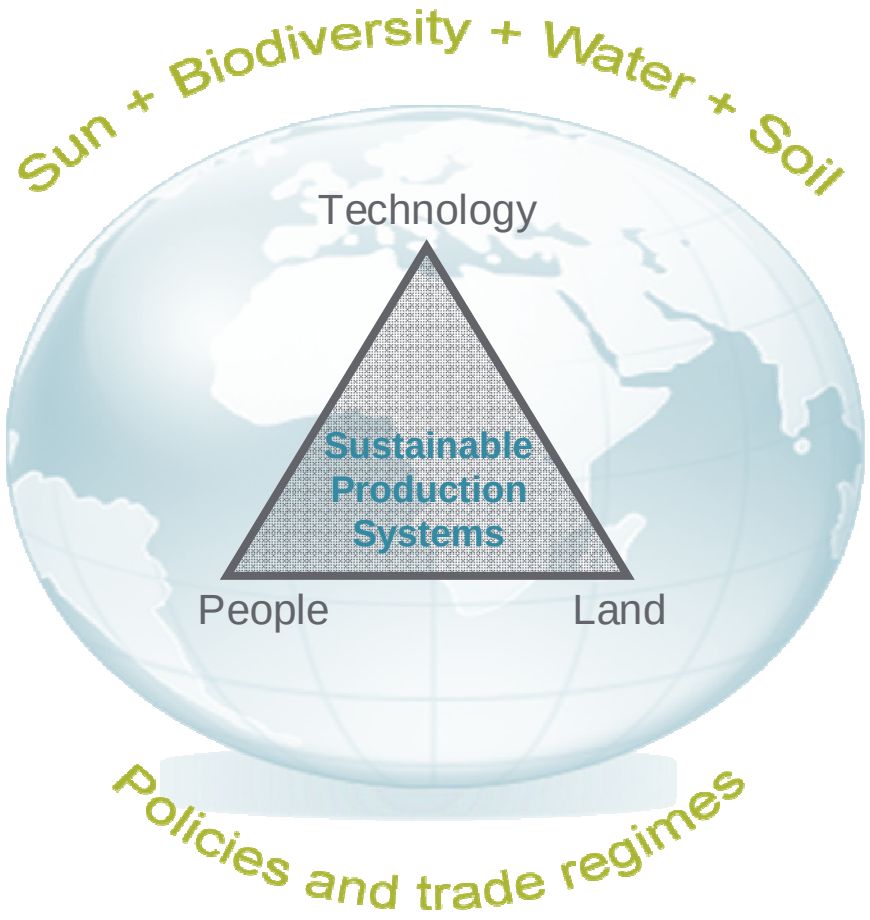
Spare land for agriculture is limited

- Global land reserves are around 20% of the 1.5 billion hectares currently farmed… not enough to meet the demand
- Land reserves in Europe is minimal and threatened by urbanization

Maintaining biodiversity & eco-systems is vital to food production

- Over 80% of European crops depend on pollinating insects… but pollinator populations are under threat
- More than 200,000 tons of top soil are lost every year in Europe

How do we meet the challenge?
Better food systems using fewer resources



The EU's role

Four principles that must guide the CAP Reform

Europe's role in food security
Responsibility in a Global context

Europe must continue to develop its agricultural capacity and capability

•0.5% annual increase in land productivity would lower arable land demand outside of Europe by c. 5m hectares

What policies are needed?

- Agriculture effectively respond to growing European and Global demand for food
- Extending agronomic expertise to help unlock potential in developing economies
- Political leaders recognizing their responsibility for food security in Europe and around the world

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Delivery of economic, social and environmental benefits
Through sustainable production systems

Properly planned and managed this supports

- **Farm productivity and competitiveness**
- **Development of rural areas**
- **Delivery of public goods (e.g. landscape management and biodiversity**

OPERATION Pollinator

What policies are needed?

- Promoting productivity & competitiveness of farmers
- Supporting holistic approach to integrated sustainable farm management
- Providing tools including Crop Protection for professional farm management
- Spatial planning at European, National, and Regional level

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Responsible use of natural resources
Efficiently increasing farm productivity

Maximising agricultural productivity on land already under cultivation enables the most responsible and efficient use of scarce natural resources, such as soil & water

What policies are needed?

- Policies impacting agriculture must be joined up
- Policies must be guided by an improved balance between productivity and natural resource management
- European land use concept

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Science & technology
Essential for sustainable production systems

Science and technology underpin advances in agriculture
They help balance productivity with the efficient and responsible use of natural resources

What policies are needed?

- Implementing Lisbon Agenda on science & technology
- Promoting agriculture based on sound scientific principals and evidence
- All stakeholders take great responsibility for building public trust and confidence in agricultural science & technology and the benefits it can deliver

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…and the role of the farmer?

Enable farmers to be productive & competitive…

…support them in making best use of natural resources

… encourage them to apply best knowledge and experience

…help them to respond to the needs of society and the environment

Conclusion

The CAP Reform Policy must recognize and support

- **Systems which can sustainably maximise agricultural productivity**
- **The farmer's role within it**
- **The benefit they provide**

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