

18.01.2014

Final Communiqué of the GFFA 2014

"Empowering Agriculture: Fostering Resilience – Securing Food and Nutrition"

We, the Agriculture Ministers of 65 states of the world, assembled here in Berlin on the 18th of January 2014, at the beginning of the "International Year of Family Farming", for the 6th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit, which is taking place during the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA),

regard the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and the realisation of the human right to food, as one of the greatest goals in the world and declare that we are committed to achieve this. We reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. Agriculture is pivotal as it lays the foundation for producing an adequate supply of healthy food.

We therefore declare it our mission at the GFFA 2014 in Berlin to highlight how fundamental agriculture is in contributing towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

We know that we are facing immense challenges:

The progressive scarcity of natural resources, the negative impacts of climate change, extreme natural disasters, and the loss of genetic diversity and soil fertility prevent agricultural potential from being fully realised.

Economic and financial crises, and excessive volatility on agricultural markets, are causing uncertainty. This is endangering further agricultural investment which may in turn reduce the efficiency of the entire food system.

Moreover, the difficulties in coping with these challenges are exacerbated by a number of other factors, such as insufficient know-how or access to education and capital; poverty; unequal participation of women and men, and insufficient social security provision in the face of rapid population growth and demographic change.

Meeting these challenges requires deeper national and international cooperation and partnership: Government, civil society, the private sector and academia – all must share responsibility to achieve our goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

We are convinced that we must enable agriculture to adapt to new conditions, deal with risks and recover quickly from crises. Particular attention needs to be given to family-owned farms and smallholders, because of their important role in feeding the global population.

We agree that our core task is to develop an efficient, adaptable and resilient agricultural sector which builds on three fundamental and equal pillars: **diversity, sustainability and productivity**.

Conserve and use diversity

Conserving and using diversity helps to increase the efficiency, adaptability and resilience of agriculture, lay the foundation for producing a diverse range of foods, and consequently contribute towards securing an adequate supply of sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

We, the agriculture ministers assembled at the GFFA, undertake to

- promote diversity of agricultural production systems reflecting geographic and climatic conditions;
- strengthen support to research, and provide resources, in order to advance the conservation and sustainable use of plant varieties and animal breeds that are adaptable to local conditions;
- transfer existing knowledge about crop-growing methods and different production structures into practice;
- promote the diversity of agricultural production to enhance dietary diversity to meet nutritional needs which in turn makes people more resilient;
- promote the breeding of animal and plant varieties that have improved nutrient and water efficiency as well as higher stress tolerance;
- support global efforts to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources (on farm, in situ and ex situ) and the sharing of the benefits arising out of their use in order to ensure that future generations have access to the necessary diversity for breeding;
- use, protect and, where necessary, strengthen diversity in agricultural ecosystems;
- support the diversity of operational and production structures in order to reduce risks ("risk management").

Ensure sustainability

Sustainable farming must be economically sound, ecologically compatible and socially responsible. It must use natural resources, in particular soil and water, in a manner which preserves them for future generations. Priority must be given to water and its use as an essential resource for food security. Conservation and efficient use of resources are important elements in improving the resilience and adaptability of agriculture, particularly with regard to climate change. Sustainable agriculture provides relevant and ongoing contribution towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the world as well as a stable basis and secure income for those working in agriculture.

**We, the agriculture ministers assembled at the GFFA,
undertake to**

- promote strategies and measures to adapt agriculture to climate change and to reduce its emission intensity in accordance with nationally defined priorities, contexts and needs;
- recognize the range of values provided by ecosystems as a basis for the sustainable use of resources;
- work towards reduction of soil degradation;
- maintain soil fertility and productivity by sustainable management;
- reduce the loss of agricultural land;
- support efficient water use and resource-conserving, sustainable irrigation systems and water recycling;
- establish and protect tenure rights to land, forests and fishing grounds as well as water rights for all - in particular vulnerable people - as a basic prerequisite for sustainable farming in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Increase productivity

Globally, agriculture must increase its production in a sustainable manner and reduce losses, in order to meet the demand of the growing global population; with resources becoming more scarce, productivity must be increased. This requires technology, innovation, know-how and investment.

**We, the agriculture ministers assembled at the GFFA,
undertake to**

- support access to education and training for men and women alike in order to enable those working in agriculture, particularly the smallholder farmers, to apply current knowledge;
- ensure access to services, technology, capital and markets;
- support the transfer of know-how regarding improved crop-growing and livestock production methods and the proper use of adapted technology e.g. by promoting and encouraging networks to share information and knowledge;
- expand cooperation between government and private sector and other relevant stakeholders, inter alia with the assistance of adapted financing models;
- increase responsible investment in agriculture, and strengthen value and marketing chains, as adopted at the 5th Berlin Agricultural Ministers' Summit on 19th January 2013 in the recommendations for "Responsible investment in the food and agriculture sectors";
- support the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in its negotiations on principles for responsible agriculture investment;
- support systems and technologies which avoid losses during harvest, storage, processing, marketing and consumption of agricultural produce and thereby reduce food waste;
- ensure food safety, animal and plant health.

Setting a course that will allow us to achieve diversity, sustainability and productivity requires political commitment and decisiveness. We therefore advocate an integrated, cross-sectorial policy approach at all levels. We will promote this approach in the international discussion processes and in our national policies.

The International Year of Family Farming is an opportunity to promote and strengthen family farming.

In addition to this, we underline our commitment to establishing healthy food systems that build on a strong agricultural sector and that ensure both access to food and the availability of food.

Early-warning systems, which help to ward off crises and facilitate earlier recognition of crises, are also improving the resilience of agriculture. We note that greater market transparency and open, rule-based and therefore fair trade are necessary to meet and combat economic and economy-related political crises and the risk of extreme price volatilities on global agricultural markets at an early stage. We therefore encourage the full implementation of the G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture, in particular the expansion and efficient use of international early warning and information systems such as the global Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) or the earth observation system Geo-Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM).

We note that it is not only policy-makers who bear responsibility; broad-based social commitment is needed to draw closer to our goal. We therefore call upon international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society, private sector and academia to share this responsibility and join us in our efforts.

We, the Agriculture Ministers assembled at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2014 in Berlin, are taking on our responsibility and making our contribution towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition and are committed to promote this issue in international fora.

We will incorporate the results of the GFFA into the current discussion within the United Nations (UN) on the post-2015 agenda, embracing the UN Secretary-General's "Zero Hunger Challenge". The eradication of hunger and malnutrition should in this context be considered of utmost priority.

We therefore appeal to the international community to anchor "food security and nutrition" as a central element in this process.