

Seminar on Hot Topics in Agriculture

12 to 14 July 2010, Brussels

The purpose of the seminar

This seminar aims to provide EC staff involved in the sector with a greater understanding of the current issues in agriculture and rural development with a focus on how to make this development most effective in reducing (rural) poverty. An increased understanding of key issues and latest thinking will enable participants to become more effective contributors to and supporters of agriculture for poor. This may be by a more informed contribution to the policy debate, but it may also be by supporting certain innovations, certain actors or focussing on certain areas or linkages of intervention. By the end of the seminar, participants should be able to:

1. Be informed about key issues and latest thinking in agricultural policy and development
2. Have acquired an analytical framework on these issues to guide further learning and inform future work

Participants

The seminar is for EC officials working in delegations and headquarters working with agriculture sectors, economic development, agro-industries and agriculture development policies.

Total number of participants is between 25 and 35.

Duration and structure

Duration of the seminar is 3 days during which 7 sessions discuss a range of current and relevant issues in agriculture.

Each session starts with an overview presentation by an expert, followed by case studies of operations supported by the EC. Participative sessions further deepen the issues and stimulate participant exchange: These can be in the form of panel discussions, round table discussions or group work (for the module on pastoralism and on farmer organisations).

The last half day is set-aside for a 'wrap-up' of discussion findings

Venue

The seminar is held in the EC building on 54 Rue Joseph II - close to the metro station Art Loi. The room number is 01/01 (on the first floor). In order to enter the J54 building you have to bring your ID with you (passport, drivers licence).

Programme outline

Day 1	Monday 12 July
	OPENING
09.30	Word of Welcome by Jean Pierre Halkin, Head of Unit Natural Resources - E6, AIDCO
	INTRODUCTION
09.45	Introducing the seminar
10.00	Introduction of participants and a discussion on critical issues faced in delegations
10.30	Tea / Coffee
	SESSION 1 - SETTING THE SCENE
11.00	<i>The Role of Agriculture in Development</i> Dr van der Ploeg, Wageningen University, Netherlands
11.30	<i>Agriculture: The Awkward sector?</i> Steve Wiggins, Overseas Development Institute, London
12.00	Panel discussion with Dr van der Ploeg and Steve Wiggins
12.30	Lunch
	SESSION 2 - PASTORALISM
14.00	<i>Pastoralism : Issues and challenges</i> Michele Nori, E6 - AIDCO
14.30	Role Play
15.30	Tea / Coffee
16.00	<i>Case study: effective pastoral resource management in Northern Kenya</i> Daoud Abkula, Kenya
16.30	Group work: Why and how pastoralism is to be put back on the development agenda? → Implications for agriculture policy and EC support to agriculture
17.30	WRAP-UP

Day 2	Tuesday 13 July
09.00	Recap and introduction to today's programme
	SESSION 3 - AGRICULTURAL GROWTH AND SOCIAL TRANSFERS
09.15	<i>Social protection & social transfers: An overview of operations supported by the EC</i> Hervé Busschaert, AIDCO E6
09.30	<i>Agriculture growth and social protection - synergies and contradictions</i> Nicholas Freeland
10.00	<i>Case study on cash transfers: Ethiopia</i> Hervé Busschaert AIDCO E6 + Eshetu Mulatu, EC Delegation Addis Abeba
10.30	Tea / Coffee
11.00	<i>Case study on cash transfers: Bangladesh</i> Koen Duchateau, Head of Rural and Social Development, EC Delegation, Dacca (TBC)
11.30	Panel discussion: Nick Freeland, Hervé Busschaert, Eshetu Mulatu, Koen Duchateau and Hjördis Ogendo (E3)
12.30	Lunch
	SESSION 4 - SUPPORTING FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS
14.00	<i>Role of Farmer Organisations in development and EC support to FOs</i> Wim Olthof, DG-DEV
14.30	<i>Supporting Farmers Organisations: the View from the Ground</i> Mamadou Cissokho, President of the Network of Farmer Organisations and Producers of West Africa (ROPPA)
15.00	Panel discussion: Wim Olthof, Mamadou Cissokho, Marek Poznanski (CSA) and Yves Leenaerts (E6)
15.30	Tea / Coffee
16.00	Case study from Ivory Coast, Yves Gillet Delegation Abidjan
16.30	Group work on how to better support Farmers' Organisations → Implications for agriculture policy and EC support to agriculture
17.30	WRAP-UP

Day 3	Wednesday 14 July
09.00	Recap and introduction to today's programme
	SESSION 5 - CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE
09.30	<i>Climate change: Impact on agriculture and costs of adaptation</i> Alessandro de Pinto, Research Fellow, IFPRI
10.00	<i>From Copenhagen to Cancun and beyond: implications for EC cooperation</i> Jean Pierre Halkin/Paul Renier AIDCO E6
10.30	Tea / Coffee
11.00	<i>Global Climate Change Alliance: where do we stand; examples from the field</i> Paul Renier AIDCO E6
11.30	Panel discussion: Agriculture and climate change, Alessandro de Pinto, Jean Pierre Halkin and/or Paul Renier
12.30	Lunch
	SESSION 6 - EXTENSION
14.00	<i>Review of Rural Extension Services, Experiences in the field and best practices</i> Isabel Faria de Almeida AIDCO E6
	SESSION 7 - CAPACITY4DEV
14.30	<i>A new EC platform of exchange and information: the capacity4dev network</i> Chantal Symoens, AIDCO-E6
14.45	Break away into groups - One group per session to answer the questions: (i) What are the main highlights / lessons of the session; (ii) What are key policy implications for the EC and (iii) What gaps still need to be filled?
15.30	Tea / Coffee
16.00	CONCLUSIONS
16.30	CLOSING OF THE SEMINAR