

Multifunctional Farming System

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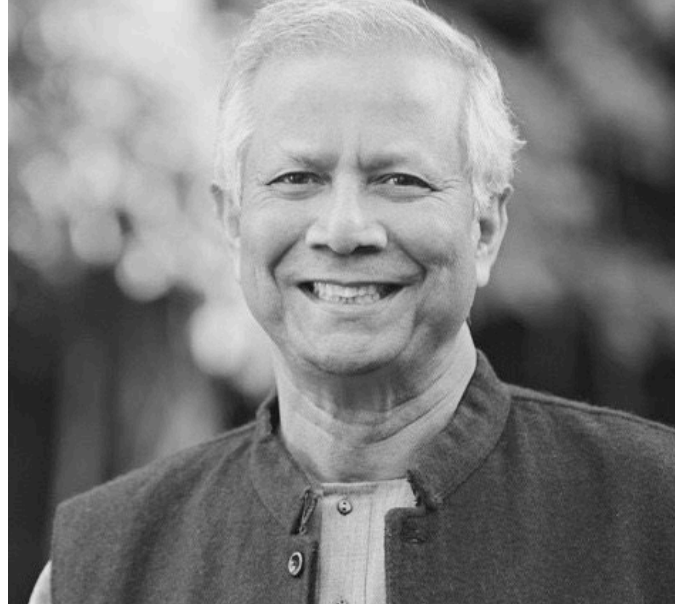
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Social Business: AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAPTURE THE BENEFITS OF MULTI-FUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE

Prof Muhammad Yunus
NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE 2006



Rude Awakening

We are living in a time of unparalleled prosperity, fueled in part by revolutions in knowledge, science, and technology, particularly information technology. This prosperity has changed the lives of many, yet billions of people still suffer from poverty, hunger, and disease. And now, food, oil price and financial crises have combined forces to bring even greater misery and frustration to the world bottom 3 billion people.

Sadly, however, we saw headlines reporting news of a sort many people assumed we would never experience again: skyrocketing prices for staple foodstuffs like grains and vegetables (wheat alone having risen in price by 200 percent since the year 2000); food shortages in many countries; rising rates of death from malnutrition and undernourishment; environmental threats to agricultural production; even food riots threatening the stability of countries around the globe.

Part of the problem has been the way in which globalization of food markets has been managed over the past three decades. I am a strong proponent of free trade; I believe that encouraging people and nations to exchange goods and services with one another will, in the long run, lead to greater prosperity for all. But like all markets, global markets need reasonable rules that will allow all participants an opportunity to benefit.

There is, indeed, a growing difficulty for farmers, particularly those in developing countries, to compete against large-scale producers in the increasingly global food markets.

It is a one-sided battle that, so far, has led to devastating results for the poor farmers of the world.

Increasing corporate control of agricultural resources is also harming farmers in the developing world. As large agribusinesses take near-monopoly control over seed

Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus is the father of both social business and microcredit, the founder of Grameen Bank, and of more than 50 other companies in Bangladesh. For his constant innovation and enterprise, the Fortune Magazine named Professor Yunus in March 2012 as "one of the greatest entrepreneurs of our time."

In 2006, Professor Yunus and Grameen Bank were jointly awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

Professor Muhammad Yunus is the recipient of 55 honorary degrees from universities across 20 countries. He has received 112 awards from 26 countries including state honours from 10 countries.

He is one of only seven individuals to have received the Nobel Peace Prize, the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom and the United States Congressional Gold Medal. Other notable awards include the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1984), World Food Prize (1998), The Prince of Asturias Award for Concord (1998), Sydney Peace Prize (1998) and the Seoul Peace Prize (2006). In Bangladesh he got President's Award in 1978 for introducing an innovative organisation in agriculture. He was awarded the Independence Day Award in 1987, by the President of Bangladesh for the outstanding contribution in rural development. This is the highest civilian national award of Bangladesh.

Professor Yunus was chosen by Wharton School of Business as one of 'The 25 Most Influential Business Persons of the Past 25 Years'. AsiaWeek (Hong Kong) selected him as one of 'Twenty Great Asians (1975-1995).'

Ananda Bazaar Patrika (India) selected Professor Yunus as one of "Ten Great Bengalis of the Century (1900-1999)."

In 2006, Time Magazine listed Professor Yunus under "60 years of Asian Heroes" as one the top 12 business leaders.

In 2008, in an open online poll, Yunus was voted the 2nd topmost intellectual person in the world on the list of Top 100 Public Intellectuals by Prospect Magazine (UK) and Foreign Policy (United States). In 2010,

The New Statesman (UK) listed him as one of "The World's 50 Most Influential Figures".

stocks as well as control over supplies of costly synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, more and more small farms are driven out of business, unable to afford the supplies they need to compete in the new global food market. The rising cost of oil is a significant factor here, too. For example, many fertilizers are petroleum-based, which means that every increase in the cost of a barrel of oil drives up the cost of fertilizer. The World Bank reports that, over the past five years, fertilizer prices have risen by 150 percent. Of course, high oil prices also drive up the cost of irrigation, running farm equipment, delivering goods to market, and shipping foods to and from processing plants.

Social Business: my experience with the Grameen Companies

Over the past three months, world leaders have been particularly focused on the emergency situation on the financial front only. But the present structure of economic system does not allow other dimensions of people, such as the human and social aspects, to play out in the market place. The human aspect of the financial crisis must be integrated into all policy proposals. With this in mind, I am proposing a type of business to operate in the same market along with the existing profit maximizing businesses. I call this new type of business 'social business', because it exists for the collective benefit of others.

A social business is a business whose purpose is to address and solve social problems, not to make money for its investors. It is a non-loss non-dividend company. The investor can recoup his investment capital, but beyond that no profit is to be taken out as dividends by the investors. These profits remain with the company and are used to expand its outreach, to improve the quality of the product or service it provides, and to design methods to bring down the cost of the product or service. If the efficiency, the competitiveness, and the dynamism of the business world can be harnessed to deal with specific social problems, the world will be a much better place.

The concept of social business is crystallized in my mind through my experience with the Grameen companies. Over the years, Grameen has created a series of companies to address different problems faced by the poor in Bangladesh. Whether it is a company to provide renewable energy, a company to provide healthcare, or yet another company to provide information technology to the poor, we were always motivated by the need to address the social need. We designed these businesses as profitable companies, but only to ensure their sustainability so that the products or services they provided could reach more and more of the poor - and on an ongoing basis. In all these cases, the social need was the only consideration; earning a profit was no consideration at all. That is how I realized that businesses could be built that way, from the ground up, around specific social needs, without relying on the motive of

personal gain. The concept of social business got international attention when Grameen Bank launched a joint venture with Danone, a multinational company from France. Grameen teamed up with Danone to bring nutritious fortified yogurt to the undernourished children of rural Bangladesh.

The aim of this social business is to fill the nutritional gap in the diet of these children. We sell the yogurt to the poor children at an affordable price, charging just enough to make the company self-sustaining. Beyond the return of the original investment capital, neither Grameen nor Danone will make any money from this venture, by agreement. We have one yogurt plant already operating in Bangladesh, and in time we hope to have 50 such plants throughout the country.

Grameen Danone is just the first social business we have launched. We also have built an eye care hospital on social business principles. And we have created a joint-venture with Veolia of France to deliver safe drinking water in the villages of Bangladesh. This joint-venture is building a small water treatment plant to bring clean water to 50,000 villagers, in an area of Bangladesh where the existing water supply is highly contaminated by arsenic. We will sell the water at a very affordable price to the villagers to make the company sustainable, but no financial gain will come to Grameen or Veolia. More and more companies now are coming forward to partner with us to set up new social businesses. We feel excited about creating a series of examples of social businesses, which, hopefully, will encourage others to join in.

Some people are skeptical when I describe the concept of social business. Who will create these businesses? Who will run these businesses? Why would anyone devote time, energy, and money to projects with no hope of personal gain? I always say that people give away billions of dollars every year. So do donor countries. Imagine if those billions could be used by social businesses to help people. These billions would be recycled again and again, and the social impact could be much more powerful. In the same way, money allocated by companies to corporate social responsibility projects could easily go into social businesses. Each company would create its own range of social businesses. We can also create Social Business Funds to pool funds from many sources and invest them in social businesses. The opportunities for launching social businesses are really limitless.

Microcredit for the poor, owned by the poor

Even profit maximizing companies can be social businesses if they are owned by the poor. This constitutes a second type of social business. Grameen Bank falls under this category of social business. It is owned by its poor borrowers.

The borrowers buy Grameen Bank shares with their own money, and these shares cannot be transferred to non-borrowers.

A committed professional team does the day-to-day running of the bank. Every year, dividend checks are sent to the borrowers, representing their share of the bank profits.

Bilateral and multi-lateral donors interested in supporting economic development could easily create social businesses of this type. When a donor wants to give a loan or a grant to build a bridge in the recipient country, it could create instead a "bridge company" owned by the local poor. A committed management company could be given the responsibility of running the company. Part of the profits earned by the company would go to the local poor as dividends, while part would go towards building more bridges. Many infrastructure projects, like roads, highways, airports, seaports, and utility companies could be built in this manner.

Social Wall Street, Social Bloomberg and Social Business Schools

To connect investors with social businesses, we will need to create a social stock market where only the shares of social businesses will be traded. An investor will come to this stock-exchange in order to find a social business, which has a mission to his or her liking, just as someone who wants to make money goes to the existing stock-market.

To enable a social stock-exchange to perform properly, we will need to create rating agencies, standardization of terminology, definitions, impact measurement tools, reporting formats, and new financial publications, such as, The Social Wall Street Journal, and new electronic media, such as, Social Bloomberg.

Business schools will offer courses and business management degrees to train young managers how to manage social businesses in the most efficient manner, and, most of all, to inspire them to become social business entrepreneurs themselves.

The Worst Crises Offer the Best Opportunities

The current mega-crisis should not distract donors and world leaders from the search for long-term global solutions. Instead, they should see this as a mega opportunity to address long-term problems in their integrated solution packages.

We can start introducing social businesses in the bail-out packages for the bottom 3 billion people, by creating a global social business fund to provide loans and equity for:

- Expanding microcredit programs
- Supporting other poverty reduction programs
- Providing technology infrastructure for the poor
- Improving agriculture in the developing world (through programs such as agricultural credit; local, national, and international marketing; storage; introduction of new technology; insurance; price and wage guarantees, and so on)
- Providing healthcare and health insurance
- Protecting the environment and providing renewable energy
- making globalisation work for the poor

You Can Make It Happen!

We are fortunate enough to have been born in an age of great ideas and great technologies. A lot will rely on you, asking yourself, "what use do I want to make of my creative talent?" "do you want to focus exclusively on making money?"

Alternatively, you could use your talent to change the world by harnessing the power of creative social business to address human and social needs.

You, the next generation, have to make a pledge that it will be your generation that will ensure the elimination of poverty from this planet. It is up to your generation to decide that the world you choose to live in will not contain the scourge of poverty, hunger, and disease.



More than just a terrace: A PAST PERSPECTIVE ON THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE OF KONSO, ETHIOPIA

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Terracing can be visually stunning. Your eye is drawn to follow the lines, contours and colours of what is visible today. But the focus on the framed picture of the here and now, whilst beautiful, tells little of how this terraced landscape came to be. It misses the evolution of these terraces over generations and the interconnectedness of the terraced landscape with other parts of the agricultural system.

Most farming systems are multifunctional in nature with roles and functions that are social, economic and environmental in nature but these have also changed over time. Using an archaeological example from Konso, Ethiopia, the EU-funded projects of Archaeology of Agricultural Resilience in East Africa (AAREA) (www.aarea-project.eu) and tRRACES: Resistance and Re-silience of ancient agricultural soils, are exploring how understanding these changes across time and space can help us to unpick the mechanisms that drive an agricultural system's growth.

Konso

Located in southwest Ethiopia, the Konso highlands are an impressive terraced landscape that is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, covering some 200km², primarily with drystone walled terracing and walled towns. Based on genealogical evidence these terrace systems are thought to have been in existence for around 500 years. With much of Ethiopia's agricultural land being situated above 1500m, terraced agriculture is economically significant, but equally the steepness of the topography, in combination with the high erodibility of the soils, means maintaining soil fertility is a perpetual problem. Terracing offers a way to get the most from this topography in terms of managing soil erosion and maintaining higher yields.

Traditional view of terracing

However, Cruz Ferro-Vázquez, Co-Investigator of the tRRACES project, says "It's a mistake to assume that whole of the area was terraced at the same time, and just conjecture to suggest that the function of the terracing has remained the same."



Caption: Terrace system in Yunnan, China.
Photo: Jialiang Gao, www.peace-on-earth.org (Original Photograph)
[GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>), CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)]

Based on ethnographic research and traditional knowledge it has generally been assumed that a system of bench terracing had been employed, whereby soil was dug out and put upslope, with a retaining terrace wall being built into the hole below. However, previous work by Tesfaye Beshah in 2003 found that although the Konso terraces were still maintained none of the current community had been involved with the building of the terraces. The AAREA project set out to understand how exactly the terraces had been constructed initially, and used subsequently.

Archaeological information

Although the area and the terrace system have been subject to previous anthropological, geographic and agronomic research, the recent research undertaken by the AAREA and tRRACES projects has been the first work that attempts to understand the construction of the terraces. Archaeology has the advantage of being able to 'reverse engineer' the terrace construction by recording the order in which sediments are deposited and structures are built.

As well as stratigraphic information obtained through archaeological excavation, samples were also taken for soil micromorphology and geochemistry. These techniques allow the changes in the soil structure and composition to be assessed over time giving an indication of how the soils have formed and their likely provenance.

The archaeological data from Konso has revealed a strikingly different story of development. The terraces were not originally built to increase the amount of cultivatable land, but were a complex system of sediment traps. The main agricultural land was in the valley bottoms, in areas called yela, where alluvial soils were captured. Whilst soils were certainly eroding from the surrounding slopes, the initial construction of the terraces was to keep this material back from the more valuable yelas below. The yelas are still regarded as important today, but the link between the terraces and yela, and understanding the initial reason for terrace construction had been lost until this current work was undertaken.



Hillside terraces (left) and the yela sediments traps (right - foreground) in the Sahayto area of the Konso Highlands (Photo: Cruz Ferro-Vázquez)

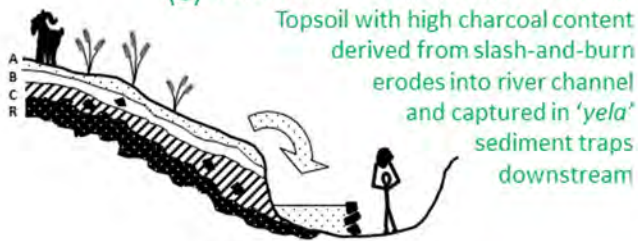
(1) Pre-disturbance hillside



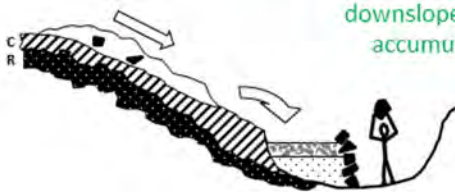
(2) Vegetation clearance by slash and burn, probably for cultivation



(3) Deforestation of hillside causes erosion. Topsoil with high charcoal content erodes into river channel and captured in 'yela' sediment traps downstream



(4) Severe soil erosion leads to loss of all topsoil and most subsoil. Exposed saprolite and bedrock starts to erode downslope, some of which accumulates in the yela.



(5) Need to protect yela fields from stoney colluvium leads to construction of terraces at base of slope, some founded directly on exposed saprolite. Further hillside terraces built progressively upslope, eventually helping to create new soils. Yela continues to be heightened by controlled accumulation of material from the slope and the river.



The present and the future – taking a landscape perspective

If we broaden our perspective from the terraces and associated yelas in the river valley, to the historical grazing grounds of the Konso people, then we can start to see how activities in the wider landscape may also affect the terrace system in the future. Construction of government irrigation schemes for increased arable activity in the historic grazing grounds around the Sagen River has led to mass migration and daily commuting from the Konso area. This change in agricultural activity led to the lack of maintenance of terraces and yelas in the main Konso area. Archaeologically we can see that the Konso terraces have been abandoned before, so this event is not 'new', but arguably the more important point is recognising that the landscape is a system, and if one element changes it will affect other elements. "It remains to be seen whether the move to the Sagen irrigation scheme is a wise decision, it comes about from a complex equation, one that requires us to recognise that moves of essentially this type have almost certainly occurred multiple times in the past", says Cruz Ferro-Vázquez.

Konso - a multifunctional farming system

The terraces that are visible today have been cited by the FAO as offering important "lessons from the past", however, to project this relatively static image of the landscape from the past into the future is too simplistic. Agriculture operates within a complex system today and did so in the past, and this system operates over a landscape scale with many interlinked elements. The archaeological evidence has demonstrated that both a close-up and wide-angled perspective of these processes, in the past as well as in the present, is important for understanding the mechanisms that drive a system's evolution. It's important too to recognize that the function and role of these terrace systems have changed through time and will continue to do so in the future.

The full research that this article is based on is currently in press with the Journal of Environmental Management.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE FROM AN ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

Dr Rafael Trueta

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Introduction

It is important to clarify the concept, strictly related to semantics, of multifunctional agriculture, because otherwise it can easily lead to misunderstandings in different countries and cultures. For example, in several Latin American countries food security (harmless food, also known as "inocuidad"), in Spain is known as food safety and, in the former, food security refers to sufficient food supply, these two are completely different concepts.

Being a relatively new concept, it is advisable to review some of the definitions found in the literature on the subject. From a linguistic point of view, the Orthodox definition of multifunctional agriculture, is: "Agricultural activity, which uses modern techniques for the production of multiple outputs". This definition matches most of the references of the current literature.

According to OECD, "Multifunctionality, or multifunctional agriculture are terms used to indicate generally that agriculture can produce various non-commodity outputs in addition to food.

The working definition of multifunctionality used by the OECD associates multifunctionality with particular characteristics of the agricultural production process and its outputs.:

(i) the existence of multiple commodity and non-commodity outputs that are jointly produced by agriculture; and that

(ii) some of the non-commodity outputs may exhibit the characteristics of externalities or public goods, such that markets for these goods function poorly or are non-existent (OECD, <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp>).

Some authors describe it as: "a concept in which several farms are integrated to respond to the requirements of everyday life". It is clear that the word "farming" is applied to many activities that are different from agriculture such as fish farming. In some cases, other "functions" are used as adjectives of agriculture but in strict sense, they are not and, in those cases, agriculture "...denies its very nature to resemble to other industrial activities". Some examples are given to clarify the issue: if a group of tourists visits an archaeological site the activity is called archaeological tourism and not touristic archeology. In the same vein, tourists visiting a farm are doing agricultural tourism and not touristic agriculture.

However, there are non-commodity outputs of agriculture such as landscape conservation, or the so-called educational agriculture, which means bringing students to learn about the work undertaken by the farm, and even practicing agriculture and farming therein; or the well-known social agriculture which applies to agricultural activities conducted by inmates in a prison.

Many of the functions taking place in a farm are generally complementary with each other. For instance, the cultivation of Alfalfa, (also called Lucerne), to feed cows in a dairy farm.

Nowadays it is common to give new names to old activities, and this is the case of: "Multifunctional agriculture".

Commercial producers vs. Subsistence producers

To address the theme of this article, a double-track approach will be applied, combining two different perspectives: the economic, and the types of producers.

In the context of economic development, we should remember, that the functions provided by agriculture are the following:

- i. Providing food for the population;
- ii. Providing labor to other sectors of the economy;
- iii. Providing foreign currency;
- iv. Buying equipment from the industry;
- v. Contributing to the net formation of capital for non-agricultural sectors.



From the perspective of the types of producers, it is important to recall the difference between "commercial" producers and the so-called "subsistence producers" (also called self-consuming farmers). Although none of these producers can be found in a chemically pure state, it is useful to distinguish them as such.

A commercial producer buys of all the inputs used for the production from the market and sells all products to the market. For ampliale, if a commercial producer of corn, wants to eat corn one day, he will go to the store to buy it. Obviously for this type of producer, the most important resource is capital, which is obtained from the sale of production and used for the purchase of inputs. Therefore, the main important goal for commercial producers, as well as for all types of producers, not only farmers, is the optimization of the use of capital that results in the maximum possible profit.

In the case of subsistence producers all the resources used for production are generated by the family, in the farm, and all products are consumed by the family (except crops, such as coffee and tobacco). The surplus is sold in the market to acquire goods or services, (i.e. Chemical pesticides, industrial agricultural implements, or for loan repayment).

For this type of producers, the most important resource is labor and, consequently, it's more important goal is optimizing the use of labor.

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Multifunctionality of Agriculture: **THE AUSTRIAN PERSPECTIVE**

Nikolaus Morawitz
DIRECTOR PRAESIDIUM/EU AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The basic concept of multifunctionality goes back to the eco-social agricultural policy introduced by Austrian Agriculture Minister Josef Riegler in the late eighties and has become known as the “European Model of Agriculture” in 1998. The political commitment to make use of the rural development program has never faltered after accession to the European Union in 1995.

By definition multifunctional Agriculture comprises a multitude of functions in addition to its primary role of food production. Almost everything in our daily life has its origin in agriculture, ranging from ingredients for daily breakfast, lunch and dinner to mint in toothpaste, pyjama made out of cotton or wool, leather for shoes all the way to (fuel) electricity for cars. In other words the services agriculture and forestry provide become more demanding and diversified, taking into account its role in climate change mitigation or the ongoing shift towards a bio economy.

Agriculture is more than producing healthy and sustainable food to an affordable price. More than 60 % of the earth surface of the planet is used by agriculture and forestry. These economic sectors are highly important for our ecosystem.

In Austria agriculture and forestry is characterized by a wide scope of tasks that go far beyond its core function of providing food and land management. Being aware of this multifunctionality is not only important for Austrian mountain areas where a number of functions of agricultural activities demand increased attention and relevance. Farmers contribute through their land management to development and maintenance of characteristic cultural landscapes which are an important asset for tourism development and quality of life concerns of rural society. Around 4,5 Million nights are spent on approx. 4.800 Austrian farms annually thus contributing to farm income. The future of agriculture in mountain areas and the characteristic landscape strongly depend on the valuation and remuneration of these multifunctional services by politics and appreciation that society adopts towards the agricultural sector.

Multifunctional performance of agriculture Food production, education and health

Food production still is the main task of agriculture. But consumer knowledge about agriculture is at an all-time low and therefore little conception exists of how food is produced along a sustainable food chain. This knowledge gap contributes to a poor sectorial image, as it favours negative externalities, like e.g. noise and olfactory pollution on the basis of intensive agriculture farming systems, high nitrate concentration in groundwater

and monoculture crop production. At the same time the appreciation of sustainably produced high quality food is often missing and food waste is still common.

The only way out of this dilemma is increased communication between agriculture and consumers, society as a whole. When the consumers learn how food is produced, they will appreciate it. Basic education in the kindergarten and primary school is needed to teach the next generation how food is produced, how it tastes and how to eat in a well-balanced diet. Obesity and diabetes are fast becoming the most widespread diseases. People are losing their sense of taste and also their connection on how to prepare raw food for cooking. Fast food and convenience products are omnipresent. Flavour enhancer, food additives and E-numbers are in the most of those products. It is sad, but true that a lot of people already lost their naturally sense of taste. So when farmers producing food in a sustainable way they are laying the fundamental for human's health and a healthy nutrition for the citizens. This is why the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture has initiated the campaign “Gut zu wissen” (good to know) in order to make consumers reflect about what is on their plate and where it originates.

Biodiversity, well – being and jobs

Too often all the positive effects like creating and preserving recreation area, landscape conservation and supporting biodiversity are rarely noticed. Without that, skiing in winter would become impossible. In summer nobody would be able to go hiking in the mountains, because alpine pastures will transform into forests. Effects on tourism would be dramatic, as less tourists and citizens will come to enjoy nature and spend their time there.





Many vital goods like fresh air and clear water have only an indirect influence (human health, tourism) and can't get valued with money. Living with the nature and creating landscapes is for the most family farms apart from producing agricultural commodities their existence. That is why it is necessary, that people must change their perception and start thinking about what multifunctional agriculture means in their daily lives.

The more people care about environment – and the more people estimate it, the more people can stay and have their jobs in rural areas and don't have to daily commute into cities or even have to leave the countryside. In Austria 530.000 jobs depend on agriculture and forestry. Agricultural industries up and downstream comprise dairies, seed cultivation, agricultural engineering and contractors to name just a few examples. In this context also the terms urbanisation and rural exodus are worth mentioning. Less people have the possibility to find a job in rural areas and fewer children are born. As a consequence kindergartens and primary schools run the risk of having to be closed. Villages lose their social life, culture and customs. Farmers in many ways are the backbone of rural society by maintaining and preserving traditions.

Multifunctionality

In the past the multifunctionality of agriculture was often ignored and neglected. Yield, efficiency and quantity have been more important. Times have changed. Farmers are not only producing agricultural goods, they are also managing ecological systems which offer products and goods like water, soil and biodiversity. So when society is calling for flourishing landscapes there is only one solution to meet those expectations, farmers.

San Patrignano: HUMAN REINASSANCE THROUGH AGRICULTURE

Gabriele Domeniconi
COMMUNICATION OFFICER, SAN PATRIGNANO

Since its foundation in 1978, the Community of San Patrignano has always had a close connection with the land which has strengthened year after year. Labor has always been considered the best cure for self-recovery, offering young people who join the community every year, a means to solve their drug addiction.



A mutually beneficial relationship: While cultivations provide the necessary recovery tools for the guests, they also sustain the community. The cultivated products are, in fact, utilized to prepare meals for the community or sold.

Disused and abandoned agricultural areas have been restored by the Community of San Patrignano. These lands are now cultivated respecting the principles of biodiversity environmental and protection. To date, the vineyards are spread across the hills in clean, symmetrical lines.

Reconciling life through nature. Learning to respect the rhythms of the Earth. Learning the art of perseverance and waiting. At San Patrignano, nature offers a space for teaching and educating. The Farming sector in particular, provides a community training project divided into three interrelated units: floriculture, olive cultivation and horticulture. Discovering an intimate connection with nature during the recovery path means, developing a new self-awareness after a past of drug addiction and marginalization.

San Patrignano is surrounded by nature. Most of the land is covered by native vegetation and traditional agricultural cultivations such as vineyards and olive groves. A green hill overlooks the Adriatic Sea where the natural vocation has always linked the history of the area with that of these ancient plants. For this particular reason, farming has been one of the principal activities at San Patrignano, followed by wine-making, and olive tree, vegetable and flower cultivations.

Projects based on the reintegration of young people hosted in the community, were developed and implemented over time. These projects were conceived considering the "do it yourself" philosophy, while also allowing young people to build on their talents through specialized training courses.



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Projects based on the reintegration of young people hosted in the community, were developed and implemented over time. These projects were conceived considering the "do it yourself" philosophy, while also allowing young people to build on their talents through specialized training courses.

Olive cultivation. The Farming sector currently includes about 30 men and women, including the project managers. Seeding and harvesting plans are developed with the support of consultants and experts in the field. Decisions are made on which tools are required for farming, and on which courses to follow. In a short period of time, olive cultivation has yielded great results. Two types of oil have, in fact, been produced: Evo and Paratino. Both oils originate from the crop fields located in Coriano, home to the San Patrignano Community, and Cecina, an

estate which was donated to the community several years ago. With regards to respecting the nature and the environment, San Patrignano applies principles of organic farming for the olive groves. The olives are harvested by hand with the help of combs and small electric tools.

Olive pressing takes place during the day at a nearby mill, to better preserve the characteristics of the various cultivars. Today, there are developments in the design of this sector: Thanks to Klorane and the "An olive tree for life" project, an additional of 1,000 olive trees will be planted in Coriano, which already hosts 2,588 trees. This will increase the oil production of San Patrignano and, consequently, the commercialization of the oil. As is the case for other products, this will contribute to raising the income of the community and help finance free-of-charge services and activities for young guests.

Viticulture. The vineyards are spread across more than 100 hectares of land. From the selection of clones and the best grape for winter pruning, from harvesting to wine-making, from storing to wine to distributing it, the residents of San Patrignano are the key protagonists. The passion and the attention dedicated to all stages of wine processing, carried out together with the support of the oenologist Riccardo Cotarella, has allowed the Community of San Patrignano to obtain the highest quality recognition in the framework of the Italian and International wine awards and competitions

BOX FOCUS: Exploring the Community of San Patrignano

San Patrignano is a home, a big family for young people who are afflicted by addictions or social exclusion to regain their own way through a program of recovery that is primarily a path of love.

Founded by Vincenzo Muccioli in 1978, the community has welcomed more than 25,000 people. It has offered them a home, legal and medical assistance as well as the opportunity to study and learn a job. Thereby, changing their lives and returning to be fully respected members of the society.

The work of San Patrignano is completely free-of-charge and does not require any kind of contribution from families or State funding.

San Patrignano is currently home to 1,322 young men and women. It is a social business model achieved through exemplary dedication, self-sacrifice and the strong will of thousands of young men and women who have regained dignity and respect for themselves.

San Patrignano creates for every young man and woman the opportunity to choose, between different types of training, the one which is closer to their personal capacities.

The rural vocation of the land, where the community is situated, has always supported small-scale crops and livestock production. Today, the estate of the community extends to 240 hectares. However, it continues to be inspired by values of healthy life and the respect of nature.

A short value chain, based on the principles of craftsmanship and quality, perfectly matches this landscape. Here, you can find cheese, cured meats, wines, oil, honey and baked products.

In this community ancient links between man and his land are preserved: animals are treated with respect, nature offers its products without any constrictions and only organic farming techniques are used. Animals are fed using non-GMOs. Anything that is grown through, livestock, cultivation and manipulation, is processed with particular care, commitment, and passion by all the young men and women living in San Patrignano.

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL, INTEGRATED FARMS DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH & IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Andrew Medicott

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, LATIN AMERICA &
CARIBBEAN AT FINTRACT, FARMING FIRST SUPPORTER

Achieving prosperity in the poorest corners of the world hinges on transitioning smallholders from subsistence to farming as a business. At Fintrac, we specialise in making this happen. As a result of our work in 2015 alone, 800,000 smallholders applied new technologies and climate-smart practices, achieving 530 million in sales.

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Our success achieving scalable impact is rooted in a multi-functional approach to agricultural development – one that focuses on on-farm productivity and climate adaptation and mitigation, value-addition, and household health and nutrition. Expanding economic opportunities for women and youth also figure prominently in all activities.

Fintrac has helped smallholder families all over the world end the cycle of poverty in their communities by implementing this integrated approach. The farmers we work with have seen productivity, incomes, and business opportunities rise, and household malnutrition fall. From the water used in homes and in the fields, to the technologies that expand high-quality production and processing capabilities, Fintrac works with local partners to ensure rural communities can access the knowledge and critical resources needed to sustainably improve their resilience.

Our work with subsistence corn and bean farmers in Honduras as part of the USAID-ACESSO project (2011 to 2015) offers a prime example. By introducing basic production technologies corn and bean yields doubled and tripled, at no additional cost. Technologies included: seed selection, basic land preparation, proper plant spacing, weed control, and improved fertilizer use and application. The increased yields in basic grains not only demonstrated the impact of these basic practices and technologies, but also provided farmers with the confidence to begin growing new, higher value crops. Subsequent diversified production helped families earn substantially more income than just the improved corn and bean sales.

These same families received simultaneous training in ways that their new income might be invested into household improvements to benefit children's health, such as purchasing eco-stoves and converting to concrete floors to decrease lung ailments and parasites. Production technicians assisted with establishment of household plots to increase household consumption of green leafy vegetables and other nutritious crops; and livestock specialists helped families improve or expand small-scale livestock farming with chickens, goats, or cattle – again with little or no upfront costs – to increase milk, egg, and protein production for sale and home consumption.

Honduran business owners: Glendy Nery Medina (left) and Lourdes Medina Hernandez started their own banana chip processing business in 2013. Thanks to technical assistance from Fintrac, their monthly sales have increased by nearly 1,000 percent and they have a steady stream of clients from surrounding towns.





Nutrition: Maria Elena feeds her daughter Cristel at an inaugural training event at a Fintrac-supported health center. "Thanks to this program, Cristel's weight greatly improved. She is happier and more active."

This integrated approach and technical support at the household level provides multiple solutions to the complicated problems associated with hunger and poverty. Over four years of implementation, client households in Honduras, for instance, reported a 50 percent reduction in underweight children under 2 and a 55 percent drop in child stunting. And under this same project, net income for 30,000 households increased by more than 40 million.

Maria Elena Carbajal, of Yaruconte, Copán, saw her one-year-old daughter, Cristel, move from the bottom percentile of weight to a healthier weight category in just six months after following Fintrac-promoted feeding guides and recipes – and reported that she was also more alert and active, indicating healthy cognitive growth.

Meanwhile, in Santa Bárbara, Fintrac helped two young women to grow their small plantain processing business. They purchased raw plantains from Fintrac-supported smallholders previously only growing corn and beans, and received technical assistance in product development, packaging, and labeling.

Today, these successful entrepreneurs are supplying large regional buyers and processing 1,500 plantains a day, investing profits into their business and their households.

Ever since our first project in Honduras began 16 years ago, water has been integral to our multi-functional approach. Low-cost irrigation systems, for example, conserve this precious resource while also allowing for crop diversification and year-round production. It also ensures that families have reliable access to clean drinking water, and that communities can sustainably manage their water supply.

We are currently working with thousands of members of irrigation districts to manage and maximize efficiency of small-scale drip irrigation systems, and the high-value produce they are planting (e.g. tomato, cabbage, cucumber) is opening up new streams of revenue while also improving diets.

"I used to cultivate only maize and beans until [the project] convinced me to try something new...now I have an irrigation system and am growing many vegetables," said Víctor Lopez of Morazán, Copán.

Multi-functional farms are critical to meeting sustainable development goals. We must ensure improvements not just in on-farm productivity but also in climate adaptability, health and nutrition, and wider economic activity stimulated by small businesses. Ensuring all members of the household are well-equipped to be productive and successful further guarantees sustainability and smooths the path toward meeting other SDGs.

MULTI-FUNCTIONALITY OF FARMING IS AN ANSWER FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN NIGERIA

John Agboola

YPARD NIGERIA, COMMUNICATION CHAMPION AND
TEAM LEAD AGRINDUSNETWORK

In the Stone Age, agriculture is mainly viewed as food production where farmers has the knowledge and the integrity to continually cultivate and produce food on a particular land with less consideration of what the adverse effect will be on the soil fertility and nutrients. So often, the farmers failed to enhance their soil management practices through the promotion of agrobiodiversity and agroforestry.

Having born and bred in the agrarian community, I have studied farmers on the basis of scaling up their production, depleting the soil without effective approach to replenish it, lack or minimal knowledge of protecting the environment and ultimately, lagging behind in terms of information, technology and marketing for livelihood improvement. Thus, an expression in rural proverb ascertained that the horse at the front serve as a lead-watch for the one at the back. This connote that the youth in the rural areas only practice agriculture by stepping into the farming approach of the forefathers, fathers and the elderly ones. Hence, they tend to be weak and migrate into the cities for menial jobs.

Changing the face of agriculture requires the integration of multifunctional farming system as the best way to attain pro-poor agriculture, particularly in Nigeria and other Africa countries where this approach is less apply. Multifunctionality of farming system is ideally an answer for a sustainable agriculture, where agricultural production is not only exploring the food and fiber system but also different non-market commodities such as food and system but also different non-market commodities such as

In spite of the different and conflicting people's perspective to the causes and the solutions of the world biggest challenges, there is a general harmony that the global food system and food security is in serious crisis. Several studies from research bodies and institutions working to address this issue in the agricultural sector has identified some externalities factors such as the threat of climate change (land degradation and encroachment, erosion, flooding, gas emission etc.) and the increasing population with less of young people having interest and less involvement in agriculture.

Far from assumption, agriculture in Nigeria and other Africa countries was previously tagged as a poor sector. This is evident from the holistic views of smallholder farmers whose operations are limited to subsistence approach of farming. They basically have less or no concern for a multifunctional farming system.

food security, environment and landscape, biodiversity and ultimately, improve socioeconomic and standard of living.

In context, Nigeria is regarded as the giant of Africa in term of increasing population and resources, particularly, agricultural productivity (domestic food production) but the fundamental point of concern is inconsistent agricultural policies, unemployment and the low percentage of youths in agriculture. To some extent, there is an increase in number of young people in agriculture. This is evident from YPARD, GFAR partnered project, Young Agricultural Project (YAP) and IITA Youth Agripreneur program.

Two most significant observations about multifunctional farming system as it relates to youths, is the drive to attain food security, environmental protection and nutrition through organic farming and conventional farming system.

In Nigeria, youths who are involved in vegetable farming are mostly into the practice of organic farming. In southwest and eastern part of Nigeria, young people organically grow their vegetables and fruits with the aim of enabling multifunctionality by securing agricultural functions in term of social, environmental and economic functions.

A close study is OpeFarms which is a youth lead organic farms having its concentration not only on vegetables but also in beekeeping and animal husbandry as practice that aims to support multifunctionality in terms of social, environment and economic. The impact of this farming approach and idea is substantial to bringing youths, especially women, into agriculture and agribusiness, and also, using local materials for construction of greenhouse for their farm operations.

It is a gain saying that multifunctional farming system has the potential to empower rural dwellers. From beekeeping perspective, research has proven that beekeeping is more lucrative in rural areas through organic means when compared to conventional farming. The effect of a properly organized beekeeping community will result to reduction in rural-urban migration and generation of jobs along the value chain. This will also conserve the biodiversity and invariably enhance sustainable environment. This also has the potential to open up new industries particular in Nigeria and other Africa countries where other resources of the hive are not yet harnessed.

Along the value chain, especially at the production phase, there is always an addition of chemical synthetics, and other materials to manage weeds and pest.

This is the most used approach farming system in Nigeria

and other Africa countries where a farmer believes in boosting productivity and controlling the weed through the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

In the agricultural sector, the problem will continue to persist if smallholders are left behind on the train of agricultural transformation and if youths are not involved in policy formulation and stakeholder dialogues. In the same vein, incubation, empowerments, information accessibility and training if strengthened could lift up the face of agriculture and solve the problem leading the agricultural sector to a greater level.

Many young people are consistently constrained by lack of finance to build their agricultural ideas and to explore the multifunctional farming approach. I strongly believe that networks building through youth forum in agriculture (YPARD as an example) and engagement in groups or innovative agricultural meetings where knowledge and experience are exchanged can help to fill the gaps for young people in agriculture. That is, upscale the interest of youths in agriculture.

From both on-farm and off-farm experience as a youth, I have come to conclusion that the youth are energetic and sharp-minded people who cannot continue to do agriculture with hoes and cutlasses as well as a mono approach of farming. Hence, there is need for government of each country to encourage the young people into agriculture through a joint enhancement effort to make the youth acknowledge and understand that agriculture is no more just tilling the land, but it's business because the youth are money driven.



CAPACITY-BUILDING, KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO MULTIPLY THE BENEFITS OF AGRICULTURE IN CANADA

Debra Pretty-Straathof
DIRECTOR, ONTARIO
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE (OFA)

Agriculture operates within complex eco-systems: economic and cultural systems within a myriad of laws, regulations, customs and competing interests for finite resources. Sharing and transferring agricultural knowledge, science and technology and best management practices will help the agri-food sector to reach shared global goals by 2030.

Eliminating hunger and poverty; improving human nutrition and livelihoods in a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable manner are goals in which progress is occurring but more needs to be done.

Agriculture is multifunctional in its nature: multi-functionality refers, indeed, to the inter-connectedness between agriculture's different roles and functions. It is also a multi-output activity producing not only commodities, but also environmental services, landscape amenities and the expression of cultural heritage, therefore a multifunctional approach to education in the agricultural sector is an effective approach to knowledge and technology transfer.

In Canada, we have experienced a variety of multifunctional approaches to education in the agricultural sector. This successful exercise was a way to maximize the knowledge and technology transfer for farmers and the wide audience. We have developed a number of educational institutions, organizations and implemented a series of programs designed to educate and disseminate information about agriculture and its benefits, beyond merely providing food for our tables.

We are a very fortunate society and sometimes take many of our advantages for granted. There is a massive lack of awareness about what the agriculture sector does to benefit society and with today's social media many negative myths are accepted as fact but farmers also use this communication tool to spread their positive story to the world.

Our population, as well as those in most parts of the world, is very urbanized and having agriculture understood as a multifunctional benefit to society is a massive challenge. However, we have a number of tools to choose from, depending on the recipients.

For example, farm organizations are quite good at issuing commentaries about farming issues to the general media.

They organize events specifically for the politicians and the public to learn about agriculture. We have **Farm and Food Care Canada** (farmfoodcare.org) which "connects farm gates to dinner plates, helping people make informed decisions with accurate information."

Another example is **Ontario Agri-Food Education** (www.oafe.org) which has recently changed its name to **AgScape** and they have a mission to build awareness and understanding of the importance of agriculture and food system. They have been providing resources for teachers for 25 years. They do it because "the lack of consumer knowledge about food and farming systems is a contributing factor to the economic challenges facing the Ontario agriculture-food industry." They provide tech transfer to teachers in the classroom and encourage critical thinking. (Ontario is the province where I live on a dairy farm.)

We also have **Ontario Agri-Food Technologies**, an organization that "focuses on ensuring the Ontario producers have access to the latest technologies to compete globally and to develop new opportunities, many of which are beyond food." (www.oaft.org)

We also have many fine colleges and universities which facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology to students and farmers alike.

At the workshop the Canadian farm representatives learned that "in Japan agriculture contributes to flood prevention and the preservation of cultural elements such as the traditional cultivation of rice."

In the EU, at that time, there was a focus on preserving rural life, land use planning, and protecting landscapes that attracted tourists.

Agriculture's role in the protection of wildlife habitats, and in carbon sequestration mechanisms that reduced the quantity of greenhouse gases was also noted."

This was the first time many of us had heard the term "Multi-functionality" and it was an education to learn of its use in programs to meet government objectives. Some of the tools they used included "training and placement of young farmers, financial support for disadvantaged areas or areas subject to environmental constraints and support for diversification beyond agriculture." It was also noted that "these measures can be adapted to local conditions, and managed in a decentralized way through local projects."

At that time Canada supported "the inclusion of farm soil in the Kyoto Protocol and the creation of a market for the reduction of carbon emissions that would enable farmers to reap the economic benefit from a service they provide to society." (We're still waiting, but actively encouraging this development under a Cap&Trade system with agriculture providing offsets.) This workshop was focussed on trade issues but it raised the concept of multi-funtionality to a new level in Canadian agriculture. (*The Multi-functionality of Agriculture: Summary of The Canadian Federation of Agriculture Conference, prepared by Frederic Forge, October 23, 2000*)

In November, 2013, a Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan, entitled **Ecosystems Goods and Services: Where are we?** was presented by Professor Ken Belcher, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics, School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan. "

The premise was that EG&S provides valued goods; that balanced ecosystems enable human survival; that they also provide cultural value through spiritual, heritage, recreational and tourism benefits and that our natural systems provide the previous three through organic matter recycling, photosynthesis and the carbon cycle. He pointed out that farming is dependant on soil, nutrient, pollination, etc. and that developing approaches to encourage EG&S depends on understanding the trade-offs acceptable to society. The elements are essential to both society and agriculture and he explained that policy measures are needed but that they have developed at different rates in different counties."

Another successful application of the participatory approach has been initiated by Dr. Sally Humphries PhD at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada (ids.uoguelph.ca). Dr. Humphries "has an interdisciplinary nature to her studies, generally focussed on rural and agricultural development in Latin America. She initiated a pilot project in farmer participatory research with the hillside farmers.



Today in Honduras there are 105 farmer research teams, involving over 1,100 farmers...(who) have been engaged in generating new technologies, including new plant varieties...They have also acquired a strong sense of the value of biological conservation."

Dr. Humphries has also worked with farmers in Mexico, and is currently participating in a large multidisciplinary research project supported by CIDA and IDRC on food security (CIFSRF) in South Asia."

At researchgate.net an article by Chandra Gurung and Scott Justice on "**participatory technology development in agriculture mechanization research.**" It was reported that projects "aimed at strengthening equity access, poverty reduction and gender orientation in current (2001) rural mechanization in Nepal and South Asia resulted in a combined participatory action research and extension project in Nepal where farmers and scientists from the International Wheat and Maize Improvement Centre and National Agriculture Research Systems worked towards equitable access to new resource conservation technologies. The tillers could be paid for after the harvest which is a traditional financial arrangement."

They noted in the article that men started helping women in household responsibilities and that in turn gave women time for farming. Their harvest increased by 5-15 percent which lasted months longer than it normally did. Once these small farmers realized that the tillers could also be used for hauling goods and that they weren't just for zero to minimum till they started buying them in much greater numbers. The authors concluded that the participatory technology development approach could be useful in many ways.

A multi-functional approach to agriculture education and the multi-funtionality of agriculture is as complex and varied as the industry, its farmers, customers, governments and the weather. However, by using the participatory methods demonstrated by some of these examples much success has been reported from many projects in a number of countries. We have a motto in a rural youth program called 4-H: Learn to do by doing. It seems to apply to the participatory, multifunctional methods of agricultural education.

NEWS **In Argentina, WFO Board Member meets with UN Secretary General**

On 8 August, 2016 WFO Board Member, Luis Miguel Etchevehere, was in Buenos Aires for the High-level Conference hosted by the Argentine Council of Foreign Relations (CARI), focusing on Argentina and United Nations in a changing world.

He had the chance to discuss with UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, about the critical role of WFO in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition. <http://wfo-oma.com/news/in-argentina-wfo-board-member-meets-with-un-secretary-general.html>

**First phase of the global eradication of peste des petits ruminants is taking shape**

The first five-year phase of the global programme to eradicate Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) has taken a step closer to finalization, following a two day strategy session (11-12 July) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) -Rome hq - that brought together animal health experts, government Representatives, livestock professionals and other stakeholders from around the world.

<http://wfo-oma.com/news/first-phase-of-the-global-eradication-of-peste-des-petits-ruminants-is-taking-shape.html>

**European Commission - New support package worth €500 million for EU farmers**

The European Commission has presented on 18 July a new package of measures worth €500 million from EU funds to support farmers in the face of ongoing market difficulties, particularly on the dairy market. <http://wfo-oma.com/news/european-commission-new-support-package-worth-500-million-for-eu-farmers.html>

**"An empty stomach does not listen to any policy" said WFO President at ECOSOC HLPF**

Noting that food producers represent the majority of the world's hungry, WFO President Evelyn Nguleka, on behalf of the World Farmers community, stated that farmer's community is composed of 1,5 billions of women, man and youth, for a total rural community of 3.2 billions of people, that every morning wake up and work tirelessly with the ambition of providing food and nutrients for the planet, to engage in the overall process of preparation of the 2030 agenda.

<http://wfo-oma.com/news/an-empty-stomach-does-not-listen-to-any-policy-said-wfo-president-at-ecosoc-hlpf.html>

Cooperatives have a critical role to play - Leaving No One Behind

On July 11th, a special celebration was organized by the Committee for the Promotion and advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN Nations, as a side event at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, currently held at UN HQ in New York until July 20th.

<http://wfo-oma.com/news/cooperatives-have-a-critical-role-to-play-leaving-no-one-behind.html>





How Food Waste From The Coffee Industry Is Making Chocolate More Delicious

The fruits of the coffee plant used to be garbage. Now they are being used to create a nutritious, tasty flour that can flavor everything from pasta to candy. It tastes like fruit, not coffee, and can help reduce other ingredients, like sugar. Gram for gram, it has more iron than spinach, more fiber than whole wheat, and more potassium than bananas.
<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3061753/how-food-waste-from-the-coffee-industry-is-making-chocolate-more-delicious/2>



Agriculture must be at the centre of the debates during COP22 said U.S. Special Envoy for Climate

“Today, we must provide the necessary resources to support adaptation and encourage agriculture because it is one of the solutions to environmental problems,” he said. <http://www.wfo-oma.com/news/agriculture-must-be-at-the-centre-of-the-debates-during-cop22-said-u-s-special-envoy-for-climate.html>



CGIAR Announces New Elwyn Grainger-Jones as Executive Director

CGIAR, the world’s largest agricultural research for development partnership, today announced the appointment of Elwyn Grainger-Jones as Executive Director of the CGIAR System Organization – a pivotal part of the CGIAR System charged with overseeing the development and implementation of CGIAR’s Strategy and Results Framework.
http://www.cgiar.org/consortium-news/cgiar-announces-elwyn-grainger-jones-as-new-executive-director/?utm_content=buffera686f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign%20gn%20=buffer



Climate Refugees Are Leaving the Farm Behind

Forbes
Today, millions of the world’s most vulnerable people are fleeing from places where agriculture remains the backbone of rural economies, as the dire consequences of climate change—crop failure due to drought, for example—come into focus.
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/willyfoote/2016/07/20/climate-refugees-are-leaving-the-farm-behind/#39a7495b7cb8>

EVENTS //////////////////////////////////////

Asia-Pacific Conference: Transforming Official Statistics for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

24-26 August 2016 Bangkok (Krung Thep), Thailand



The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing this conference to promote collaboration among statisticians and development leaders in the region, with a view to improving statistical capacity to monitor achievements toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ESCAP Secretariat is cooperating with the Bureau of the UN Committee on Statistics and with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) on the organization of the conference. The conference is expected to produce a draft 'Collective Vision and Framework for Action,' which will be put forward for consideration by the Committee on Statistics at its fifth session, to be held from 14-16 December 2016.

<http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-conference-transforming-official-statistics-implementation-2030-agenda>



World Water Week

28 August - 2 September 2016, Stockholm, Sweden

World Water Week in Stockholm is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues. It is organized by SIWI. This year, the theme is Water for Sustainable Growth. It is also the 20th jubilee of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. In 2015, over 3,000 individuals and close to 300 convening organizations from 130 countries participated in the Week.

<http://www.siwi.org/>



Cork 2.0: European Conference on Rural Development

5th September 2016, Cork, UK

The theme is Sustainable Food Production: Livestock's Key Role. This is Europe's largest animal science conference and will feature 1000 presentations and 1200 delegates.

<http://www.eaap2016.org/programme/>



Sixth Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development

27-28 August 2016 Nairobi, Kenya

The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD VI) will focus on the theme, 'Advancing Africa's Sustainable Development Agenda: TICAD Partnership for Prosperity'. The conference will address six key areas from the TICAD-V Yokohama Declaration and Action Plan: boosting economic growth; accelerating infrastructure and capacity development; empowering farms as mainstream economic actors; promoting sustainable and resilient growth; creating inclusive society for growth; and consolidating peace, stability, democracy and good governance.

<http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/events/2016/ticad6.shtml>



2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress

1-10 September 2016 Honolulu, Hawaii

The 2016 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Congress will focus on the theme "Planet at the Crossroads". Among other objectives, the World Congress will launch the Hawai'i commitments: globally transformative and innovative conservation initiatives to meet the critical challenges and opportunities of our time, including the imperative to scale up action on biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/events/2016/ticad6.shtml>

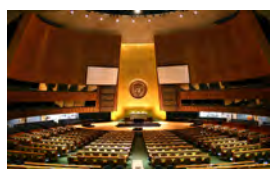


First Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue

12 September 2016 [tentative]

This first Dialogue will provide an opportunity to: review progress made by existing partnerships; share good practices, lessons learned and challenges and solutions from SIDS partnerships; and launch new partnerships for SIDS. The SIDS Partnership Framework seeks to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

<http://www.sids2014.org/sids-partnership-framework>



Opening of 71st Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 71)

13 September 2016, UN HQ, New York, USA

The 71st Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 71) will begin at UN Headquarters on Tuesday, 13 September 2016.

http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/26-July_President-elect-theme-of-71st-General-Debate.pdf



High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance

21 September 2016, UN HQ, New York, USA

The primary objectives of the meeting are to increase awareness, to summon and maintain strong national, regional and international political commitment, and to establish a long-term basis for moving forward in addressing antimicrobial resistance comprehensively and multi-sectorally.

<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/high-level-meeting-on-antimicrobial-resistance/>



UNGA High-Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants

19 September 2016, UN HQ, New York, USA

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) will convene a high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, immediately prior to the general debate of the 71st session. Per the UNGA resolution adopted on 22 December 2015 (A/70/L.34), the meeting will be convened within existing resources. The UNGA also requested the President to finalize organizational arrangements for the meeting, including on a possible outcome, "through open, transparent and inclusive consultations with Member States.

http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/14-Dec-2015_HLM-on-addressing-large-movements-of-refugees-and-migrants-14-December-2015.pdf

Leaders' Summit on Refugees

20 September 2016, UN HQ, New York, USA

US President Barack Obama will host this Leaders' Summit on the Global Refugee Crisis. The event will take place on the margins of UNGA 71 and will seek to galvanize significant new global commitments to: 1) increase funding to humanitarian appeals and international organizations, 2) admit more refugees through resettlement or other legal pathways, and 3) increase refugees' self-reliance and inclusion through opportunities for education and legal work.

<https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/summit-refugees-and-migrants>

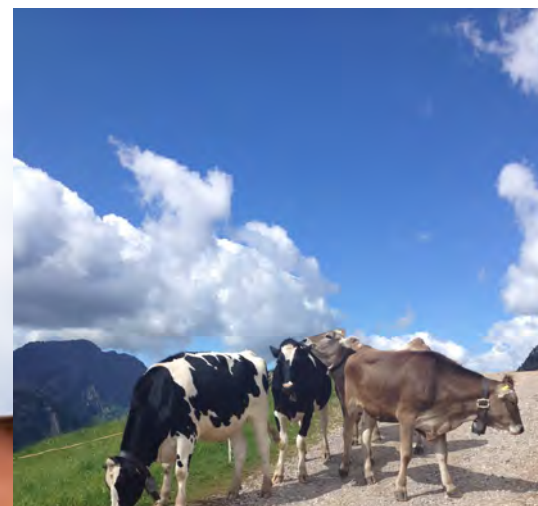


71st General Debate of UN General Assembly

20-26 September 2016, UN HQ, New York, USA

The General Debate of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 71) will begin on 20 September 2016 and will take place during "up to 9 working days" (para. 2, Resolution 57/301). As announced by UNGA 71 President-elect Peter Thomson, the theme of the General Debate is 'The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world'. The opening of the 71st Session of the General Assembly will take place on 13 September.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/info/meetings/70schedule.shtml>





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