

The seminar intends to focus on poverty reduction through agriculture in development countries. It wants to look at the issue in a holistic way taking into account both the needs and the actors, and scrutinise the potential of development partners to contribute to pro-poor agriculture development. The seminar will set out to bridge the gap between administrators and professionals of different backgrounds, and to use both practical experience and theoretical models as a basis for discussion.

Target group

Representatives of development partners and implementing agencies
Representatives of international organisations
Authorities of Belgium and neighbouring countries
Authorities and experts of Asia, Africa and Latin America
Representatives and experts of partner countries of the Belgian Development Cooperation
Representatives of municipalities
Academics and think tanks
NGOs

Formula

The formula will entail inviting 3 internationally renowned keynote speakers per session to give presentations of the relevant concepts and challenges and outline potential solutions in a concise manner. These presentations will be followed by plenary discussions facilitated by a discussant.

Language

All keynote speeches will be in English, French or Spanish. Simultaneous translation toward English and French will be provided.

Date

16-17 December 2009

Venue

The International Auditorium
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 2240254
<http://www.theinternationalauditorium.be>

Contact

For further information, please contact seminar2009@btcctb.org

Belgian Technical Cooperation

BTC is the Belgian agency for development cooperation. On behalf of the Belgian government, BTC supports developing countries in their fight against poverty. Apart from this public service, BTC also executes contracts on behalf of other national and international organisations that work toward sustainable human development.

BTC manages more than 200 projects in more than twenty countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The agency employs 650 people; 180 at headquarters in Brussels and 470 in the countries where projects and programmes are executed. BTC has 17 country offices abroad.

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

AGRICULTURE AS A MOTOR OF PRO-POOR GROWTH

5TH INTERNATIONAL BTC SEMINAR
16-17 DECEMBER 2009

In keeping with its annual tradition of organising an international seminar bringing together field experts, academics, think tanks and authorities to exchange views and experiences, this year the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) is hosting a seminar entitled "Agriculture as a motor for pro-poor growth".

Context

The Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) has launched a tradition of organising a yearly international seminar, uniting field experts, academics, think tanks and authorities to exchange views and experiences. In collaboration with the Directorate General of Development Cooperation of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation a new international seminar will be organised on 16 & 17 December 2009, entitled: "Agriculture as a motor of pro-poor growth".

Agriculture plays an important role in ensuring pro-poor growth of development countries. The sector provides the majority of employment and is a major source of national income and export earnings. The impact of growth in agriculture on GDP has shown to be much greater than that from similar growth in manufacturing or services.

Over the last decades, agriculture has become an orphan sector of development cooperation. Since a few years it has regained an important place in development programme support by the donor community. However the setting has changed. Rural households face different challenges and a new development agenda for agriculture in relation to pro-poor growth is necessary. International good practices such as defined in the Paris Declaration (2005) under the auspices of OECD/DAC are ambitious attempts to increase the impact of aid but putting these principles into practice in the sector where the government, civil society and private sector all have an important role to play, remains a challenge. Development partners can financially contribute to the sector, but aid should also aim at capacity development both at the individual, the organisational and the institutional level.

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2009

09.00 **Welcome address**

09.10 **Opening address**

Charles Michel, Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation

THEME 1: AGRICULTURE AND PRO-POOR GROWTH: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Chairperson: Paul Verle, BTC / Discussant: Sofie Van Waeyenberge, BTC

09.20 **Challenges in agriculture development in a changing global context**
IFPRI, Washington (tbc)

09.40 **Agriculture as a motor of pro-poor growth – how and what?**
Steve Wiggins, Overseas Development Institute - ODI, UK

10.00 **Progress made from an African perspective**
African Union Commission / NEPAD (tbc)

10.20 *Coffee break*

10.50 *Discussant*

11.10 **Plenary discussion**

13.00 *Lunch*

THEME 2: AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR PRO-POOR GROWTH

Chairperson: Marcus Leroy, DGDC, Belgium / Discussant: Gert Engelen, NGO Vredeseilanden, Belgium

14.00 **Revisiting the agricultural policy architecture**
Luc Christiaensen, World Institute for Development Research, United Nations University (UNU-WIDER), Finland

14.20 **Role of farmer organisations in pro-poor policy processes**
P. Chengal Reddy, Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations - CIFA, India

14.40 **Development partners and support to pro-poor agricultural policies**
Lars Christian Oxe, DANIDA, Denmark

15.00 *Coffee break*

15.30 *Discussant*

15.50 **Plenary discussion**

16.45 *Conclusions of the day*

17.00 **Drink**

DAY 2: THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2009

THEME 3: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND INNOVATION

Chairperson: NN / Discussant: Piet Vanthemsche, Boerenbond, Belgium

09.00 **Challenges of pro-poor agricultural research and innovation for Africa**
Monty P. Jones, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa - FARA, Ghana

09.20 **From lab to farm: Enhancing demand-driven agricultural services for smallholder farmers**
Bertus Wennink, Royal Tropical Institute – KIT, The Netherlands

09.40 **Down to earth: innovation into practice**
French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development - CIRAD, France

10.00 **Innovation in the dairy sector in Vietnam**
Raf Somers, BTC Vietnam

10.15 *Coffee break*

10.40 *Discussant*

11.00 **Plenary discussion**

13.00 *Lunch*

THEME 4: GETTING AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MOVING

Chairperson: NN / Discussant: Béatrice Gakuba, CEO Rwanda Flora, Rwanda

14.00 **Increasing agri-food exports and its development implications**
Miet Maertens, KULeuven, Belgium

14.20 **Support to value chain development: case study of cashew nuts in West Africa**
Albert Engel, GTZ, Germany

14.40 **Challenges to improve access of smallholders to local and international markets**
Guillermo Maraví, BTC Peru

15.00 *Coffee break*

15.30 *Discussant*

15.50 **Plenary discussion**

17.00 **Conclusions**
Carl Michiels, BTC