Participants briefing

As part of the SDG conference (see next pages), under the theme of governance and the SDGs, we are organizing a *Roundtable on sustainable forest/tree commodity value chains.*

We welcome your comments on this draft of the roundtable and also suggestions for invited participants!

Aim of Roundtable

Forest and tree-based commodities such as oil palm, cocoa, coffee, brazil nuts, shea butter and many timber species, sold globally and traded as food, medicine and energy locally these products and landscapes they originate from are often controversial. They share common features which set them apart from many agricultural commodities: slow growing, the major production regions often located in developing countries in the tropics with specific climate and ecosystem requirements. They often have high social, economic and cultural values and many are often grown or managed by small holder farmers and harvesters. This combination has been associated with highly contentious debates about competing with forests and other crops, their impacts or alleviation of poverty, on climate change, increasing yields and profits, and social impacts such as inclusiveness of the supply chain, (un)desirable labour practices. Consumers, companies, governments, civil society organisations and researchers are concerned about product sustainability and landscape changes as increased demand for these commodities results in forest and biodiversity degradation and disappearance. Views differ on how to deal with the high dependence upon these products, poverty, food insecurity, and climate change. Conflicts about how these products and the landscapes they originate from governed and used, and who benefits, are increasingly common. Tensions also arise when landscapes and their products are governed in different ways, by different people and organisations, from different places, and with divergent aims.

The last decade has seen a plethora of efforts to increase the sustainability these commodities: landscape approaches, voluntary sustainability standards, public-private partnerships, trade agreements such as the timber Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. These efforts and alliances have increasingly moved from addressing issues at the farmer/harvester/production stage of the supply chain to entire chain. Given that many of commodity chain sustainability alliances are situated in complex institutional and policy environment of multi-sector policies, we will explore the multitude of governance approaches which seek to address the related issues of food security, sustainable development diplomacy, rights based approaches to food sovereignty, sustainable supply management and nexus approaches.

This roundtable will focus on sustainability along the chain by asking:

1. How have alliances between conventional and unconventional partners enabled sustainable solutions that include multiple SDGs and help avoid adverse impacts for both individuals and communities?.
2. What approaches have been effective? and which not? (learning from success and failures).
3. How can the academic community further support these processes?

Participants

- Moderator: Verina Ingram, Wageningen UR verina.ingram@wur.nl
- Rapporteur: student, Wageningen UR

Invited participants - In a duo (reflecting the partnership theme of the roundtable)

- *Labour organisation*: Corrie Roeper, FNV + *NGO*: WWF Sandra Mulder
- *Commodity trader/buyer*: Jan Kees Vis, Unilever + *Certification organisation*: Lucas Bakker, Rainforest Alliance

- *Service provider*: Jan Willem Molenaar, AidEnvironment + *Farmers organisation*: Warren Sako, World Cocoa Farmers Organisation & Farmgate Cocoa Alliance (FCA)
- *Platform/Network:* IDH + *Academic* + *Government*

Audience
The audience is invited to respond and ask questions about the presentation after each round. The speakers will also have an opportunity to react to the presentations after the final round. Please be polite and to the point when asking questions or raising issues.

Supporting data
- Speakers bios- 1 paragraph on paper- not to be presented verbally
- Duo PowerPoint presentations- to be sent at least **28 August**
  Please avoid slides that are charged with text from the left corner above to the right corner below and please avoid reading out what is written on the slide. The presentations may be provocative and, if you feel fine with it, have some humour. If you want to show a video, please let us know in advance. In general videos take a lot of time and bring technical hazards may interrupt with the flow of the roundtable and take time off your presentation. General information about your organisation/company should be minimised.

Format & timescale (90 minutes)
The key participants are asked to team up into a duo and answer the above questions in a brief presentation, these will then be debated with the audience, in the following format:
1. Introduction – Moderator 5 minutes
2. 5 minute presentations (4 slides max)- by each of 4 partner DUOs 30 minutes
3. Summary of main points – Moderator 5 minutes
4. Debate: in fishbowl format – partners in centre ring of seats with 3 extra seats for people to jump in and out of a moderated debate 30 minutes
5. Wrap up of main points from debate – rapporteur 10 minutes

Output
- Brief report of the debate
- Tweets by rapporteur/student assistants pre & during conference
- Post conference blog

Technical support
- Microphones and sound system
- Laptop and beamer for presentations or short video's

Before the Conference
Using these notes as a basis, invited participants are encouraged to interact prior to the conference to exchange ideas. The moderator will contact you to get information on your presentation. You will be given the participants short bio's prior to the conference.
Please send your presentation to verina.ingram@wur.nl before **28 August** and add your *cell phone* number so we can text you in case of any urgency.
On the day of the conference you are invited to join your fellow panellists at 10.00 during the coffee break in the appointed room and the moderator in a short preparatory meeting, to get to know each other and to have a first exchange of views on the topics.

General information on the Conference

The conference Towards Zero Hunger brings together key stakeholders to discuss their views and contributions for achieving the SDGs, and to take action towards reaching the targets and partnerships. The focus for presentations, dialogues and actions is: "Evidence base for healthy, sustainable and inclusive food systems", "Balancing synergies and trade-offs between SDGs", and "Governance and SDGs".

The conference will take place in Wageningen, the Netherlands, on 30-31 August 2018. The conference centres around Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG2) and create partnerships (SDG17).

The outputs of these three themes lead into "Foodsystem transformation Pathways to achieve the SDGs". These pathways will be developed through an interactive process with the participants of the various stakeholders.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and underlying targets are interdependent. SDG2 Zero Hunger, is strongly related to other goals and underlying targets like SDG1 Zero poverty, SDG3 Health, SDG6 Water, SDG11 Urbanisation, SDG12 Sustainable consumption, SDG13 climate action, and SDG14 and 15 Life on land and water. Understanding the different interactions among SDGs and their targets is key to unlock their full potential at multiple-scales, and to ensure progress in some areas is not made at the expense of others.

Venue

The conference will take place at the Orion Building, Wageningen Campus of which the address is Bronland 1, Building 103, 6708 WH Wageningen, The Netherlands. Wageningen Campus offers sufficient (free) parking places situated around the Orion building.

Overview programme

Click here for an overview of the conference programme.

General conference contact sdg.conference@wur.nl
Website: https://www.wur.nl/en/Research-Results/Sustainable-development-goals/SDG-Conference-Towards-Zero-Hunger.htm