



Agenda

U.S. Farm Bill and the EU Common Agriculture Policy at Crossroads - A Global Dialogue on U.S., Canadian and EU Agriculture policies

U.S. and EU agriculture policies at crossroads

Both in the US and the EU, reforms of the agriculture policies are under way. In the US a new farm bill will most likely be decided upon in 2007, in the EU a review of the existing Common agriculture policy (CAP) will start in 2008. Agriculture policies in these countries/regions have led to a deep crisis in farm prices, corporate concentration, unsustainable environmental practices, poor food quality, and rural unemployment or low waged work. On both sides of the Atlantic, progressive groups are engaging in policy work, mobilization and campaigning to shape future US and EU farm policies, in the interest of farmers, consumers and the environment – both for its own populations as well as those in the South.

This two-day meeting will offer groups active in both regions – farmer groups, environmental and consumer organizations, and development organizations a space to start a dialogue across the Atlantic. It will assess the negative impacts of existing farm policies in the respective regions, and examine specific proposed alternative solutions to address the clear failures of existing policies. Finally, the meeting will offer a space to begin a discussion of the need for a more broad based approach towards developing a sustainable future for all of us who have a stake in agriculture around the world

Objective of the meeting:

- To gain a better understanding of agriculture policies in the U.S., Canada and EU based on the sharing of experiences and the examination of impacts for farmers, food workers, consumers, environment in these countries/regions
- To examine key policy reform proposals and processes in the 2007 Farm Bill and CAP Review through the mapping of potential problems and challenges with regard to farmers income, food security, environment (biodiversity, water, etc.), consumers (quality of food/health, consumer prices etc.) in these countries/regions and worldwide. A special emphasis will be given to the emerging issue of biofuels.

- To define key challenges and objectives of agriculture and food policies that should guide agriculture and food policies: From “global” competitiveness and export orientation to securing access to healthy and safe food for all, to viable farm incomes and sustainable farming and food processing
- To Build an agenda of joint work and collaboration among North American, European and Southern groups working to effect positive change on agriculture and trade policies in the U.S. and the EU

Date: 14 and 15 May 2007
Venue: Charles Sumner School
1201 17th Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20036

With the support of:



Monday 14 May 2007

8.30 to 9.30

Welcome of participants, setting the context and introduction to objectives of dialogue and agenda of meeting

Alexandra Strickner, IATP

Welcome notes of Co-sponsors of the meeting

Coordination Sud, French Embassy, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Action Aid US, Agribusiness Accountability Initiative, Germanwatch

9.30 to 11.30

The reality of U.S. Farm Bill, Canadian Farm Bill and the EU Common Agricultural Policy at home. The impacts of agriculture liberalization on farmers, consumers and the environment in their own countries.

- **Daniel de la Torre Ugarte, Agriculture Policy Analysis Center (APAC), University of Tennessee**
- **Mark Muller, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)**
- **Justin To, Canadian Federation of Agriculture**
- **Roel A. Jongeneel, University of Wageningen, Netherlands**

Facilitation: Liane Schalatek, Heinrich Boell Foundation

11.30 to 12.30

The impact of U.S. Farm Bill and the EU Common Agricultural Policy in the Global South. Impacts of overproduction, Dumping, Food Aid and agriculture trade liberalization on farmers, food workers, consumers and the environment in the Global South.

- **Ana de Ita, Center for Studies for Rural Change in Mexico (CECCAM), Mexico**
- **Saliou Sarr, Western African Network of Farmers and Agricultural Producers Organisations (ROPPA), Senegal**
- **Tim Wise, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, US**

Facilitation: Arlene Alpha, GRET (Research and Technological Exchange Group), France

12.30 to 14.00

Lunch Break

14.00 to 16.30

US Farm Bill 2007 – Proposals for Policy Reform and Process

Aim of this session: understand the current reform proposals discussed, including the policy process in the US and critically discussing the potential positive and negative impacts of the reform proposals (which problems might be solved, which will remain – for farmers, consumers, the environment in US and in the world

General Overview on Farm Bill

Alan Guebert, Food and Farm File

On the National Family Farm Act

Kathy Ozer, National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC)

Energy

Dennis Olson, IATP

Competition

Gilles Stockton, Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)

Building Sustainable Futures

Karen Hansen Kuhn, Action Aid US

Facilitation: Robert Gronski, National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC)

16.30 to 17.00 **Coffee break**

17.00 to 18.30

European Common Agriculture Policy – Review 2008 – Perspectives and Policy Reform Debates

Aim of this session: understand the current debate, perspectives and processes in relation to CAP as well as the processes ongoing and critical discussion on the potential positive and negative impacts of these reform proposals

Overview on CAP review

Lucien Bourgeois, Assemblée permanente des Chambres d’agriculture (Permanent Assembly of Agriculture Chambers), France & Gerard Choplin, Coordination Paysanne Europeenne (CPE), Belgium

On Milk Quotas

Bernd Voss, Working Group for Peasant Agriculture (AbL), Germany

Rural Development

Gert Engelen, Vredeseilanden & Facilitator of the European Platform for Food Sovereignty, Belgium

Facilitation: Tobias Reichert, Germanwatch, Germany

Tuesday 15 May 2007

9.00 to 11.30

Biofuels – potential positive and negative impacts on agriculture and food security in the U.S., EU and Global South?

Aim of the session: to present the current debate/efforts in the U.S. around biofuels (20/20 initiative, biofuels in the farm bill etc.) and to discuss its possible impacts within the US and globally

Inputs by:

- **Daniel de la Torre Ugarte, APAC, University of Tennessee**
- **Mark Muller, IATP**
- **Pedro Christoffoli, Landless Movement (MST), Brazil**
- **Alejandro Villamar, Mexican Action Network against Free Trade (RMALC), Mexico**
- **Roel A. Jongeneel, University of Wageningen, Netherlands**

Facilitation: Alexandra Spieldoch, IATP

11.30 to 12.00

Coffee Break

12.00 to 13.00

Conclusions of the debates of the first one and a half days – assessment of the perspectives for change with current proposals and policy alternatives needed

Each stakeholder group, representatives will give a brief final assessment on the current proposals on the table as well as on policy alternatives needed.

- Farmers Perspectives
- Environmental Perspectives
- Consumer Perspectives
- Health Perspectives
- Development Perspectives

Facilitation and Conclusions:

Alexandra Strickner, IATP and Henri Rouille d'Orfeuil, Coordination Sud

End of Public Part

13.00 to 14.30

Lunch

14.30 to 18.30

Building an agenda for joint collaboration: Identifying interests and issues for enhanced dialogue and collaboration

In the light of the current agriculture reform processes in particular in the U.S. and the EU, the continuous push for further agriculture trade liberalization (with a potential US-EU Free Trade Area in sight), this session aims to identify issues that are hot spots and around which intensified dialogue and collaboration can support ongoing CSO processes that work towards alternative agriculture policies in the U.S. and the EU.

14.30 to 15.30

Review of the hot spots and main themes in the U.S. and the EU in the context of agriculture reform processes that were raised during the conference before

Summary by Karen Hansen Kuhn & Alexandra Strickner

Adding and Discussion

15.30 to 17.00

Potential working groups to identify first elements of joint collaboration and strategies for the future such as

- Managed agricultural production
- Market Concentration
- Biofuels
- Rural Development

17.00 to 17.30

Coffee Break

17.30 to 18.30

Presentation of Working Group results

Definition of next steps

Closing of meeting