

The Future of Sustainable Agriculture

Let's think about ... plant protection

Expert dialogue

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 | 14:00 – 16:30 CET | Berlin/virtual

Globally, agriculture is at the same time vulnerable to and a major driver of climate change and associated loss of biodiversity. In 2021, the UN Food Systems Summit and the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 underlined the importance of sustainable food systems and the necessity of profound transformation. In Germany, the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) provides additional impetus in early 2022. Therefore, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) convenes a series of expert dialogues on **The Future of Sustainable Agriculture** to discuss the building blocks of globally sustainable agriculture with experts from science, policy, civil society and private sector. The event on plant protection is the second dialogue in this series.

Plant protection is indispensable for any agricultural activity and a key issue on the way to food security. Changing climatic conditions and global trade have raised the pressure on crop health, which is likely to increase in the future. While agricultural intensification, including the use of pesticides, has allowed for growing yields over the past decades, environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity have been the price to pay. At the same time, the use of pesticides has shown to cause negative health effects on farmers and farm workers as well as consumers. Through strategies such as the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, which is at the heart of the European Green Deal, the EU has embarked on a process to transform the agriculture and food sector in order to have a neutral or positive environmental impact, reverse loss of biodiversity and ensure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food.

So, how can we ensure human health and food security within the planetary boundaries and as well contribute to the Agenda 2030 (SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 15)?

While many experts would agree that agricultural production systems need to become more sustainable and less reliant on pesticides, there has been a controversial debate on the appropriate approach. Some argue that responsible use of pesticides in an integrated pest management system is a viable way forward. Others opt for organic production and again others propose an agroecological transition, with or without the help of biotechnology. However, given the urgency and scale of the necessary transformations, we cannot afford business as usual. Different viewpoints need to be understood, priorities to be set, and pragmatic action pathways developed.

To this end, in this event we will look at current challenges and opportunities, draw inspiration from practical experience and identify priorities towards a sustainable approach to plant protection.

Draft Agenda

From 1pm arrival
facilitator, staff, participants in the studio

Time	Agenda point and objective	Responsible
13:45	Opening of the waiting room for participants	Studio Berlin
14:00 – 14:10	Welcome and introduction Objective and program of the event	Dr. Tanja Busse , Facilitator Birthe Lappe , Advisor Sector Project Agriculture, GIZ
14:10 – 14:15	Opening remarks Provide political context and rationale for the expert event on plant protection.	Sebastian Lesch , Head of Division, Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains, International Agricultural Policy, Agriculture, Innovation, BMZ
14:15 – 14:45	Keynote speeches Set the foundation for discussion with current, evidence-based insights from political and biophysical science. Q&A	Macro perspective – big picture on worldwide plant protection Prof. Dr. Christian Borgemeister , Executive Director Department of Ecology and Natural Resources Management at Center for Development Research at University of Bonn – ZEF, Germany Agroecological based Integrated Pest Management – an African perspective Dr. Samira Faris , Senior Scientist, The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology – ICIPE, Kenya
14:45 – 15:10	Highlights from the field Illustrate alternative approaches to plant protection from different geographies. Q&A	i. Potential of Farming with Alternative Pollinators (FAP) for pest management Dr. Stefanie Christmann , Senior Scientist International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas – ICARDA, Morocco ii. Digital solutions for targeted plant protection measures Dr. Srikanth Rupavatharam , Senior Scientist, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics – ICRISAT, India iii. Agroecological pest management of fall army worm in maize Dr. Simon Fonteyne , Research Platforms Coordinator, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center – CIMMYT, Mexico
15:10 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 16:20	Panel discussion Elaborate different perspectives on challenges and identify priorities towards sustainable plant protection. Q&A	Dr. David Amudavi , Director, Biovision Africa Trust – BvAT, Kenya Frank Le Bris , General Director, Elephant Vert, Côte d'Ivoire Dr. Roger Day , Global Plant Health Advisor, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International – CABI, United Kingdom Dr. Buyung Hadi , Agricultural Officer – IPM, Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO, Italy Sarojeni Rengam , Executive Director of Pesticide Action Network for Asia and the Pacific – PANAP, Malaysia
16:20 – 16:25	Concluding remarks Reflection and political implications for German development cooperation.	Sebastian Lesch , BMZ
16:25 – 16:30	Vote of thanks and next steps	Dr. Tanja Busse