

Organizers:



Faculty of Law, Economics & Social Sciences of Agadir



North-South Research Centre for Social Sciences

Official Partner



The German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

Other Partners:



Faculty of Sciences of Agadir



Ibn Zohr University of Agadir



High Institute of Technology of Agadir

## Call for Proposals

### The 2009 International Conference on:

**"The Integration of Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development, and Ecosystems in the Context of Climate Change, the Energy Crisis and Food Insecurity"**

Hotel Anezi, November 12-14, 2009 Agadir (Morocco)

The Conference is organized jointly by the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Agadir, the North-South Center for Social Sciences (NRCS), and the High Institute for Technology of Agadir in partnership with the in partnership with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the Faculty of Sciences of Agadir, Ibn Zohr University, and the Young Professional's Platform on Agricultural Research for Development (YPAD)



## Boards of the Conference

Conference Coordinator:	
Dr. Mohamed BEHNASSI	Researcher Professor in Global Sustainability Politics (Ibn Zohr University of Agadir) & Director of the North-South Research Center for Social Sciences-NRCS

Scientific Advisory Board	
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Dr. Lorena AGUILAR	Global Senior Gender Advisor, The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Dr. Mark A. Williams	Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Agricultural Science North, United States of America.
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Dr. Mohamed BENNANI	Professor, Hassan II Hassan II-Aïn Chock University of Casablanca, Morocco
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Dr. Mousa AL FAYAD	Coordinator of the regional Medicinal & Aromatic plants Network Secretariat in the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North-Africa (AARINENA), Jordan
Dr. Oliver OLIVEROS	Senior Officer, Agropolis Foundation, France
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Dr. Roland W. SCHOLZ	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich, Institute for Environmental Decisions (IED), Natural and Social Science Interface (NSSI), Switzerland
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Dr. V. HENSON-APOLLONIO	Senior Scientist, Project Manager, The Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property (CAS-IP), Bioversity International, Italy
Dr. Zhihua YE	Professor and Director General of the Institute of Quality Standards & Testing Technology for Agri-Products, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), China

### Members of the Steering Committee:

Dr. El Hassane El MAHDAD	Professor at Ibn Zohr University, and Dean of Faculty of Law, Economics & Social Sciences of Agadir, Morocco
Dr. Ali El Mouden	Professor at Ibn Zohr University and Director of the High Institute of Technology of Agadir
Mr. Mohamed BOUSSAID	Technical Adviser of the GTZ, Morocco & member of NRCS
Dr. Driss BOUZAFFOUR	Professor, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir. Executive Secretary of NRCS
Dr. Hassan ASSAKTI	Professor, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir, Morocco
Dr. Salma DAOUD	Professor, Plant Biotechnologies Laboratory, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir, Morocco
Dr. Chadli	Professor, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir, Morocco

### Background & Scope:

Food security is a human right, and its provision is a common responsibility. Recognition of this fundamental right by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) has been marked by a progressive evolution. After 20 years, the Global Agreement on Food Security has reiterated this common responsibility of humankind as well as the need for both moral engagement and cooperation. The World Declaration on Nutrition adopted by the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition laid out clearly problems of hunger, of malnutrition, and of nutrition-related diseases; and it highlighted the import of poverty, ignorance and lack of education as significant drivers of global hunger and malnutrition.

For the first time - on the global level - the issue of food security was addressed by national leaders during the 1996 Food Summit held in Rome. This event placed the issue within a global context by aligning its opportunities with elimination of poverty, attainment of peace, the rational and sustainable use and management of natural resources, conduct of fair trade, and the mitigation and the prevention of natural and man-made disasters. The 2008 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Global Food Crisis Summit resulted in a consensus statement and called on the international community to marshal aid to those countries and regions affected by soaring food prices. Apart from increasing global food production, the statement urged strengthening investments - both public and private sector - in agriculture, in agriculture-related business, and in rural development. Also, it called for re-evaluation of agriculture-related business restrictions, and for increased investments in bio-energy research. From this, donor nations and their international financial institutions have begun to forge a "balance of payments" response; in particular, for countries with limited capacities in food import.

Notwithstanding these high level deliberations to end food insecurity and malnutrition around the world, about 862 million people in countries of the "South" suffer, as yet in 2008. Long-term prospects foreshadow a continuation of this suffering - in fact, a worsening is seen on the horizon, in particular for Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. The consequences of the collapse of the latest World Trade Organization talks on the agricultural products trade - in light of the present international tensions relating to climate change - suggest that the food security issue may not resonate with the international community, in the short term.

Currently, the food issue has re-emerged vigorously and has been placed at the highest level of national and international (political, scientific, economic, and advocacy) agendas in a context dominated by such factors as: the soaring prices of basic food products; a decrease in non-renewable energy resources; alarming scenarios of climate change; and widespread domestic and international migration. Concerns now focus on the ability of the planet to feed its 6.5 billion inhabitants, especially in some southern countries where malnutrition and food insecurity are still relevant challenges despite scientific and technological progress and the genetic revolution.

It may seem unnecessary to remember that food insecurity is a result of the combined effects of many factors such as poverty, inadequate food production, degradation of natural resources (that is, the quality of air, land, water, and biodiversity), weather hazards, low incomes of farmers, debt service, the overvalued exchange rate and inflated human population growth. All of these have amplified pressure on the environment and on available natural resources. In addition, distortion and fluctuations in international agricultural markets—in particular the concentration of agricultural production in some exporting countries recognized by their protectionist trade policies—weigh

heavily on food security deficits within many countries. Finally, the liberalization of world agricultural trade is also worsening the already deteriorated situation of the poorest countries.

As a response, it is generally recognized that food production will have to increase to meet the constantly increased global demand. In these circumstances, the pressures that will be placed on agriculture to meet this demand require additional innovative solutions. In this perspective, we do not hesitate to consider sustainable agricultural development as a strategic choice to achieve food security. But the generic and cross-cutting nature of the concept of sustainable agriculture requires precaution in its use, country by country, and continent by continent. In other words, any strategy or policy development could now embrace the goal of sustainability, but the implications of such choices are numerous, particularly with regard to: food sovereignty; air, freshwater, and land use and management; biodiversity; social justice; ethics; and local or global governance. Addressing this specific cross-cutting characteristic of sustainable agriculture, therefore, is very crucial.

Differences between contextual frameworks and objectives often confuse and complicate the decision-making process. Without a clear understanding of the purposes and expected outcomes of sustainable agriculture with reference to sustainable rural development, compromises on strategies and policies to be implemented would be less productive. Although agriculture is an activity integral to human life and that of societies, and given that it marshals and consumes significant resources (that is, financial and technical, natural and human), the choices adopted at different political, socio-economic and scientific levels, there is -as yet- no consensus on the future of agricultural economy, food systems and rural areas. The current global food crisis, however, can be considered at this point as overwhelming evidence.

A focus on agriculture raises other political and scientific debates on land use, technology, redistribution mechanisms, public health, biodiversity, sovereignty and collective security. Exacerbation of the current world food and energy crises and the human and environmental impacts of globalization and climate change (especially on the world's poor) call for a rethinking of development in an holistic manner - and agricultural and rural development in a particular way. Hence the need for a holistic approach - addressing problems with all their recognizable complexity, in a spirit of economic, social and environmental sustainability, equity and solidarity. This calls for a new paradigmatic approach to address the multiple dimensions of the issue area, interrelated with the overarching theme of this international scientific meeting.

### **Conference Objectives:**

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This Conference, as the outcome of joint efforts, is aimed at independent research organizations, universities, government agencies, policy-makers, public policy advocates, nongovernmental organizations (NGO) and corporate representatives from developing and developed countries. All of these stakeholders are interested in looking critically at the ways in which research is - and can be - used to create change worldwide. This Scientific Meeting will endeavor not only to share research results, but also to identify future research prospects, challenges, issues and concerns. Moreover, the organizers of this Meeting would like to generate innovative thinking in agricultural and rural development and to identify elements of a longer term research agenda to fill critical gaps in knowledge on these issues - through rigorous, defensible data collection, analysis interpretation and communication. They also would like to develop research projects and networks in these fields involving researchers from both developed and developing countries: believing that partnerships among researchers are critical components of any meaningful effort to develop synergistic research and change agendas.

At the heart of these intellectual concerns there is also the expectation of accomplishing a high visibility scientific event that will share knowledge, skills and successful experiences, while proposing new ways for concrete actions and strategies associated with any policy of sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Conference will provide an opportunity for participants to identify obstacles and constraints across specific regions of the world, and from lessons learned and

best practices shared. As the remit of the Conference is global, experiences and issues from any part of the world are welcome.

## **Conference Themes:**

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### **I. Conceptual Referential**

- Sustainable development: New Approaches
- Concept of Food Security
- Concept of sustainable agriculture
- Food Security, Human rights and justice
- Food security, quality and sovereignty
- Food Security and energy crisis
- Climate change and energy crisis as threats to global security
- Impact of climate change and energy shortage on agricultural development
- Sustainable agriculture and corporate social responsibility (CSR)

### **II. Agriculture and World Trade**

- World trade in food and agricultural products
- Food and agricultural policies in the context of trade liberalization
- Regulatory framework governing international policies and trade in agricultural products
- Food insecurity and global fight against poverty
- Funding of national and international programs for sustainable rural development and food security

### **III. Rural Development and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources**

- Sustainable management of water and air resources
- Preservation of land resources
- Diversification of renewable energy resources
- Dynamism of rural areas
- Biodiversity, agriculture and food security

### **IV. Sustainable Rural Development, Food Security and Governance**

- Sustainable agriculture and global/local governance
- Global governance of food security
- Food security and sustainable agriculture: State of science and technology
- Sustainable rural development and participatory approach
- Public-public and public-private partnership for global food security
- South-South and North-South partnership

### **V. Promotion of World Food Security**

- State of food security and sustainable development across the world
- Key requirements of food security and sustainability
- Sustainable agricultural development as a strategic choice for food security
- Food insecurity and collective security
- Required Infrastructure to develop agricultural production/trade and food security
- Dependence of strategic food products to global market
- Sustainable agriculture and global market mechanisms
- Food security indicators

- Responsible Consumption

## **VI. Promotion of Sustainable Rural Development**

- Land Systems and Sustainable Agriculture
- Research and technology in sustainable agriculture
- Preservation of rural expertise and know-how
- Agricultural productivity and agricultural and rural sustainability
- Human resources for sustainable rural development
- Environmental and Social impact assessment of rural development programs
- Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment

## **VII. Main Areas of Rural Development Policies**

- Socio-spatial integration (housing, schools, clinics, centers for agricultural education)
- Integration into agriculture of non-agricultural activities
- Improvement of integration between agricultural, industrial and service sectors
- Promotion of sustainable tourism
- Prevention of forced economic and ecological migration

## **VIII. Future Research Agenda related to the Conference Themes**

- Developing Relevant and Validated Indicators of: Sustainable Development, Rural Development, Agricultural Development, Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Socio-spatial Integration.
- Identifying Best Practices for Synthesizing Findings of Assessments on Climate Change, the Energy Crisis and Food Security for Use in Formulating and Implementing Policies, Decisions and Management Actions on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Measuring the performance of management actions through expected and measurable outcomes for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Assuring the effectiveness of communicating knowledge from syntheses (that is, integrated assessments) to a variety of attentive audiences (that is, scientific; policy, rulemaking and management; and lay audiences).
- Investigating social science approaches for participatory decision-making (since decisions are made at all geospatial levels [that is, global, regional, national, state and provincial, local, and individual]).
- Suggestions on Other Future Research Agenda Items Are Welcome

### **Review Process:**

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#### **Abstracts:**

The abstract shall be self-contained and citation-free and shall not exceed 150 words. Abstracts are also expected to contain the title of the paper, name(s) of the author(s), affiliation(s), contact information, 5 keywords, and biographical notes of author(s). Authors are also required to indicate the conference theme pertained to their proposals (from I to VIII). All abstracts are anonymously evaluated by the Conference Scientific board.

Please use the abstract form which can be downloaded from the following link: <http://2009-international-conference.synthasite.com/resources/Abstract%20form.doc>

#### **Final papers:**

The papers shall be evidence based and can be theoretical, empirical or policy oriented, and can approach the issues from a range of disciplinary perspectives. The papers submitted will be peer reviewed and evaluated based on originality, technical and/or research content/depth, correctness, relevance to conference themes, contributions, readability. Moreover, papers shall be unpublished,

present findings from original data analysis, fill critical gaps in knowledge or policy, analyze a fundamental problem of significant scale, an emerging issue or presents a robust analytical model.

All papers shall be submitted according to these instructions: max 7000 words or 20 pages, A4 Word, one column, 12pt Times New Roman font, margins width (2 cm if possible). The line spacing should be 1. Papers shall include the following:

- Title of the paper (Title of the paper in 14pt bold)
- Full name(s) of the author(s)
- Full contact details of the author(s)
- Biographical note(s) of author(s) (max 100 words)
- Abstract (200 words): This abstract will be also published in the conference abstract handbook
- 5 Keywords.

**Conference languages:**

Papers can be written in English, French, Spanish or Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation will be eventually provided for delegates during the Conference.

**Plenary/Special Sessions:**

A number of special sessions and workshops will be held alongside the general program during the three conference days. The special sessions and workshops are chaired by experienced scholars in all the fields covered by the Conference.

Each topic includes a keynote plenary lecture and numerous parallel sessions. It is open to all interested researchers. The Steering Committee seeks proposals for plenary sessions and workshops on foundational and emerging topics in areas relevant to Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. The Conference workshops provide a challenging forum and vibrant opportunity for researchers and practitioners to share their research positions, original research results and practical development experiences on specific new challenges and emerging issues. The workshop topics should be focused so that Participants can benefit from interaction with each other and the cohesiveness of the topics.

Abstracts and final papers will be accepted only by electronic submission. All submissions should be sent according to the schedule below to Prof. Mohamed BEHNASSI, Coordinator of the Conference, at: [conference.agadir@gmail.com](mailto:conference.agadir@gmail.com). The submitting author takes responsibility for the paper during submission and peer review.

Provisional schedule of the Conference	
End of August 2008	Announcement of the Call for Papers
January 15, 2009	Dead line for abstract/proposal submission
February 15, 2009	Notification of Acceptance
May 31, 2009	Dead line for submission of full papers to be published in the conference proceedings and to be considered for publication in a book and specialized scientific journals
July 15, 2009	Notification of Acceptance
July 20, 2009	Dead line for authors' registration
August 25, 2009	Invitation letters and preliminary program of the Conference are communicated to authors
September 30, 2009	Deadline for submission of the video-conference & for the optional submission of a PowerPoint presentation of the communication
November 12-13-14	Date of the Conference

### Registration Fees:

All attending conference participants must pay the registration fee and at least one author per paper must attend. Conference registration fee varies depending on the origin and quality of delegates. Two options are available: either registration to participate on-site or registration to participate by a 20 mn video-conference without attending the Conference. This last choice is provided by the Steering Committee to minimize travelling financial and ecological costs, and to encourage more researchers to participate in the Conference (for more details about the technical criteria of this type of participation, please contact the Conference Coordinator).

Registration fees must be received by July 20, 2009 to assure conference participation. In case of delay, other registration fees are applicable.

**Delegate registration includes:**

- Admission to the Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Admission to all sessions
- Conference bag with materials (includes conference abstract handbook, Conference proceeding on CD, sample copies of relevant journals published by the Faculty, etc.)
- Lunch and Coffee / refreshments at the venue during the conference
- Admission to dinner on the first conference day
- Admission to Agadir City Visit

	Registration Options	Early-bird rate 3-25 September	Late Registration September 26- October 15	On-site
<b>Registration fees without hotel reservations</b>	Delegates from Northern countries	200 euros	230 euros	250 euros
	Delegates from Southern countries	170 euros	200 euros	230 euros
	PhD Students Fee*	150 euros	170 euros	200 euros
<b>Other registration fees</b>	Submission of a Video-Conference	120 euros	150 euros	180 euros

Authors will be provided with receipt of payment and a letter/certificate of participation upon registering at the conference venue. Please note that we are unable to provide any financial assistance for attending the conference due to limited resources. This applies to all authors, including participants from developing countries.

\*A proof of PhD student status (either a valid student card or a letter from the university) shall be presented to the Conference Coordinator either by e-mail: [conference.agadir@gmail.com](mailto:conference.agadir@gmail.com) / [behnassi@gmail.com](mailto:behnassi@gmail.com) or by fax +212 28 232 820.

**Cancellation Policy:**

Provided written cancellation is received before the end of September, the full payment minus 20 % for bank charges and handling will be refunded. From 1 to 15 October, 50 % of the fees will be refunded. No refunds will be given after 15 October. The cancellation policy applies to all reservations made. The cancellation must be submitted in writing, emailed or faxed to the conference Coordinator (please use the contact information below).

### Attendance fees:

Participants from developed countries	200 euros
Participants from developing countries	170 euros
PhD Students	100 euros

Registration includes the following: admission to the opening and closing Ceremonies and to all sessions; Conference bag with materials (includes conference abstract handbook, Conference proceeding on CD, sample copies of relevant journals published by the Faculty, etc.); Lunch & Coffee / refreshments at the venue during the conference days.

### Proceedings & Publication:

The refereed conference proceedings will be published prior to the conference in CD-ROMs and distributed to all registered conference delegates. Selected papers will be considered for publication in a set of collective books (by Springer) and in accredited scientific journals.

### Conference venue:

The Conference will be held on a specific location to be declared later in Agadir City, an attractive touristic area which has a pleasant weather in October and November. International flights land Agadir Airport which is not far from downtown and the expected Conference venue. Delegates wishing to extend their journey to visit the Agadir City are invited to contact the Conference Coordinator for any additional information. More details will be displayed on the Conference Homepage.

### Contact Information:

For any information about the Conference, please contact the Coordinator, Prof. **Mohamed BEHNASSI**. Authors are invited to check regularly the Conference Website for news and updates.

Mailto:	<a href="mailto:conference.agadir@gmail.com">conference.agadir@gmail.com</a>
	<a href="mailto:behnassi@gmail.com">behnassi@gmail.com</a>
Mobile:	(+212) 68 46 64 47
Mailing Address:	Faculty of Law, Economics & Social Sciences of Agadir, PO. 8658, 80000, Morocco
Websites of the Conference:	French: <a href="http://congres-international-2009.synthasite.com">http://congres-international-2009.synthasite.com</a> English: <a href="http://2009-international-conference.synthasite.com">http://2009-international-conference.synthasite.com</a>