

The Italian Cooperation at Expo Milan 2015

“Nexus: Food, water and energy”

Cascina Triulza, Auditorium

21st May 2015, 10 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Nowadays, still nearly one billion people lack access to safe drinking water, one billion people suffer from hunger and two and a half billion people have no access to modern forms of energy. These challenges will intensify in the future. As the world population rises to an expect 9 billion by 2050, the OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050 projects that global demand for energy and water will increase by 80% and 55% by 2050 respectively. To meet increased demand, FAO projects that global agricultural production in 2050 will be 60 per cent higher than in 2005/07. Population growth, economic development and climate change will accelerate competition for food, water and energy.

The 2014 United Nations World Water Development Report ,“Water and Energy” emphasized the importance of a water goal, as well as intimate integration of energy and water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Intensive crops and livestock consume large amounts of water. Of all freshwater withdrawn for human use, industrial and household uses account for 20 and 10 per cent respectively, while agriculture consumes on average around 70 per cent and much more in some locations. On the other hand, the food sector currently accounts for around 30 per cent of the world’s total energy consumption.

This pressure on resources creates growing concerns regarding the availability, accessibility, distribution and sustainability of water, food, and energy for all.

Globally, 60 to 80 % of water comes from the mountains and in dry areas this percentage can be up to 100% . The mountains are one of the ecosystems most vulnerable to the effects of climate changes that alter the hydrological cycle compromising the role of mountains as “water towers” of the world and the consequent availability of water.

Water, food and energy security are crucial for sustainable long-term economic growth and human wellbeing and there are strong linkage between all three. In the run-up to Rio+20, the Bonn 2011 Nexus Conference contributed to a better understanding of the interdependencies between the water, energy and food security and highlighted the need for more systemic thinking to identify synergies and trade-offs between different sectors, interest groups and development goals

In the final document of the Rio + 20 Conference, water, energy and land have been identified as priority areas: the efficient use of these natural resources, which contribute to food production, was recognized as a first step towards eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable economic and social development.

EXPO 2015 is the first Universal Exhibition that arises an issue of global solidarity , conveying in the theme of “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” the message that progress and sustainable development must involve the entire world community , not just a part of it.

The new narrative of the post-2015 agenda goes beyond the conventional division between donor and recipient countries. The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can make a difference if they are truly universal and if they are not only goals for the poor countries but define specific targets and responsibilities for the rich countries.

At this stage a crucial question is how well the nexus approach is integrated into the SDGs development. Expo 2015 may also be the occasion to strengthen co-responsibility for social development, promoting new corporate social investment in local community development and new mechanism engine tools of public- private partnerships . WAME 2015 experience aims to give resonance to these aspects, fostering an explicit commitment from business community to the post 2015 agenda.

Objectives

Suitable proposals to a systemic approach of the concerned themes will be addressed through the contribution of well-known experts, high level institutional representatives and professionals in development cooperation; threats, opportunities and implications for policies will be analysed in order to boost a renewed effort for an equal and sustainable economic development. Special attention will be devoted to the evaluation of already on-board experiences and to the specific contribution that the innovation technology can provide in detecting suitable, low-cost and effective solutions for the global development and the post-2015 agenda challenges.

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Description

Two sessions are foreseen to provide a scientific/academic overview of recent international outcomes on the relationship among water, food and energy and the efficient use of natural resources. More specifically, the issue will be debated on how the international cooperation, by embracing the new deals of sustainable development, could boost the systems resilience, even in inadequacy and scarcity of natural resources.

In each session, the expert group will be invited to debate on how the interchanges between water, energy and food products influence long-terms socioeconomic trends in multiple ways and how the nexus approach should be addressed to inform and follow through the on-going discussion on Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 agenda.

The role of science, technology, innovation in development cooperation projects will also be examined, with reference to the technology transfer, the adaptation of new technologies and innovation to local situations, the establishment of research networks and partnerships, the exchange of knowledge/know-how.

A key role will be addressed by the moderator who will stimulate the expert group placing one/two specific round questions and allowing the interaction with the public.

Partner

ENEA, WAME, FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNIDO, European Commission, CNR, CRA, WWAP, Italian Ministry of Environment

AGENDA

- 09.15 a.m. - 09.45 p.m. Entrance and registration¹
- 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 p.m. **Opening remarks**
Cristiano Maggipinto, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General at DG Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid
Jan Dusík - Director and Regional Representative UNEP Regional Office for Europe
- 10.30 a.m. - 10.50 p.m. **The Nexus in the post-2015 development agenda**
Francesco La Camera, Director General for sustainable development, environmental damage and relations with EU and international organization, Italian Ministry of Environment
Iain MacGillivray, Special Advisor to the President Office of the President and the Vice-President International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Panel 1:** **Moderator: Massimo Iannetta, ENEA**
- 10.50 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. **Mpoko Bokanga**, Consultant in planning agro-industrial development programs for governments
Laura Cozzi, International Energy Agency (IEA)
Alessandro Flammini, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Marcello Mastroianni, Italian Agricultural Research Council (CRA)
- 12.15 p.m. - 12.30 p.m. *Break*
- Panel 2:** **Moderator: Pippo Ranci, WAME**
- 12.30 a.m. - 2.15 p.m. **Harish Hande**, co-founder of SELCO, India
Arjen Y. Hoekstra, University of Twente
Rosario Lembo, Comitato italiano del Contratto Mondiale sull'Acqua
Hiromi Sugiura, Team leader of Climate Policy and Network Unit dealing with nexus issues (UNIDO)
- 2.15 - 2.30 p.m. **Conclusions**
Nicola Colonna, ENEA (rapporteur)
Pippo Ranci, WAME

¹ dedicated entrance at the West gate Triulza of the EXPO site. All participants must have a valid ID.