

DELTA IN PRACTICE SESSIONS: EXTENDED WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Theme 5: Food security and the rural landscape

DP 5.1 Towards a climate adaptive integrated approach of the food chain .....1

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Deltas in Practice Theme 5. Food security and the rural landscape  
DP 5.1 Towards a climate adaptive integrated approach of the food chain  
Friday 26 September, 10.45-12.00 Goudriaan Room II

As illustrated in the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in February 2014, climate change will have a major effect on food access and utilisation and price stability. Due to climate change, the global malnourished population will increase by 49 million people in 2050 (+11%). The number of undernourished children under the age of 5 will increase by 20 to 25 million in 2050 (+17-22%). It is clear action needs to be taken, both by the small producers as by the multinational food producers.

A large proportion of the world’s food resources is produced in deltas heavily influenced by climate change. Deltas are often the most densely populated areas and ask for a consistent and vast food supply. Vulnerability to climate change of food producing deltas like the Mekong Delta, the Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta and the Karnataka Delta will further increase volatility of food prices in the future. Multinational companies in these markets are faced with serious challenges to stay the preferred food supplier of their clients while guaranteeing consistent food quality and availability. There is a tipping point between safeguarding current investments and produce at increasing resources prices and transferring the production of their resources to less vulnerable locations at huge initial investment costs. The challenge of food security in times of climate change lies in the whole value chain from grain to consumer.

In this session, leaders from the industrial, NGO and scientific sector will discuss the transition towards a climate adaptive, integrated food supply chain. Cross-sectoral and intercompany collaboration is crucial. The panel discussion will unite business leaders involved in food security and in climate change to exchange ideas, best practices and to identify barriers to make sure people living in vulnerable areas will have access to enough, qualitative and affordable food in the future.

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