



ASIA
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Asia-Europe Environment Forum track II series in Poznan, Poland: Successful adaptation and mitigation in agriculture crucial to ensure global food supply

Climate change is putting growing pressure to adapt on the agriculture sector to ensure global food security. In order to maintain current levels of agricultural productivity and food supply and at the same time mitigate the effects of climate change, an integrated approach towards adaptation and mitigation measures should be considered.

This was the message from the Asia-Europe Environment Forum side-event during the UNFCCC COP14 in Poznan, Poland on 4 December 2008, titled “Towards integrated mitigation and adaptation measures in agriculture”.

Experts from Asia and Europe discussed the impact of adaptation and mitigation measures on agricultural production and identified potential synergies of an integrated approach of mitigation and adaptation. There are a number of measures that can have a mutual beneficial impact, helping both to adapt to climate change and at the same time cut emissions from the agricultural sector, which amounts to almost 15 % globally.

Examples from Poland showed that due to less precipitation in winter and less snowfall the level of snow-melt flooding is decreasing, which in turn leads to less water storage in soil. The adaptation challenge to maintain productivity levels of Polish farmers is to strengthen the effectiveness of water use. One successful adaptation measure is to install shelter belts in the landscape, which have a beneficial effect on the water regime in the area. This adaptation measure also has a positive mitigation effect as it adds to carbon sequestration in the soil, and can thus help to achieve the aim of “more crop per drop” as one of the presenters put it.

In Asia, the increasing frequency of extreme weather events puts considerable stress on agriculture to deal with more floods. Floating vegetable gardens are a way to adapt to climate change and ensure survival. In combination with the cultivation of less CO₂ intensive crop, this is also a successful example of an integrated approach in agriculture.

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Clearly, there are potential synergy effects of mitigation and adaptation measures. The remaining challenge is how to measure the level of effectiveness, and to find a location-specific, integrated approach.

The presentations were followed by a panel that addressed a number of questions about the challenges and possibilities to implement such an integrated approach. From the policy side, more efforts to successfully implement both adaptation and mitigation measures are required. Further, greater financial incentives and technical support, especially in the developing countries in Asia, will be necessary if adaptation and mitigation measures are to achieve sustainable results and ensure productivity levels. Another key message was that more efforts to raise awareness among the local population are needed. Moreover, greater stakeholder integration into adaptation and mitigation measures is crucial to increase their knowledge about the effects of climate change, and thus successfully implement strategies.

To adjust to climate change and limit the green house gas emissions from agriculture, a combined effort of both Asia and Europe is needed. In the global negotiations, a first step would be to agree on a common position and ensure agriculture is included in a post-Kyoto agreement.

The presentations and background materials can be downloaded [here](#). For more information about the Asia-Europe Environment Forum, please visit our website: <http://www.env.asef.org>

The **Asia-Europe Environment Forum** is a platform for dialogue and debate on sustainable development issues. It serves as:

The only multi-stakeholder forum on environment between the two regions;

- A recognised reference point for Asia and Europe consensus on sustainable development;
- An interface between government and civil society for policy recommendations;
- An Asia-Europe network on sustainable development; and,
- A contributor to the agenda of the ASEM Environment Ministerial and other Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) fora.

The forum was initiated in 2003 by the Asia-Europe Foundation and is co-organised with the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies of Japan and the United Nations Environment Programme. The Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA) came on board as a co-organiser in 2006 and Korea Environment Institute in 2008.

The **Asia-Europe Foundation** was created by the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) between Heads of States in 1997. ASEF works for intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchange among our member-countries in Asia and Europe. In particular, the Intellectual Exchange Department aims to contribute to policy debate and strategic thinking on themes of current and future inter-regional importance between Asia and Europe. For more information on ASEF programmes, please visit <http://www.asef.org>.

**Asia-Europe Environment Forum
Track II Series****Towards integrated adaptation and mitigation measures in agriculture****Side Event | EU Pavillion***Please also check the CCTV screens for room details!*

UNFCCC COP 14

Poznan, Poland | 4 December 2008

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Agenda

10h30-10h35	<p>Welcome: Andrej Kranjc Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia</p> <p>Opening Remarks on behalf of the ENVforum: Toshiro Kojima Special Advisor, IGES</p>
10h35-11h35	<p>Chair: Ismid Hadad President, KEHATI Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interactions of mitigation and adaptation strategies in the agricultural sector (10min + 5min Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuri Okubo, University of Zurich 2. Opportunities and obstacles of enhancing synergies (10min each + 5 min Q&A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zbigniew Kundzewicz, Professor of Earth Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences: Case studies from Europe • Masanori Kobayashi, Coordinator IGES: Case studies from Asia
11h35-12h25	<p><u>Panel Discussion: Successful governance instruments for an integrated approach</u></p> <p>Moderator: Axel Michaelowa, Perspectives GmbH</p> <p>This panel discussion will discuss the topic in the context of the broader challenges that development decision-makers face to achieve low carbon emitting and climate resilient development and identify the capacities, research and possible cooperation between Asian and European countries that will be required to address these complex problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Klein, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute • Xu Yinlong, Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) • Suruchi Bhadwal, Fellow, Centre for Global Environment Research, The Energy Research Institute (TERI)
12h25-12h30	<p>Closing Remarks: Sol Dorotea Iglesias, Assistant Director Intellectual Exchange, ASEF</p>