



SESAME

Water and food security in the Mediterranean: issues and perspectives

150 experts and decision makers from around the Mediterranean will be meeting at Agropolis International in Montpellier, on 21 and 22 February 2013

Global changes – globalisation of economies, socio-demographic trends, degradation of natural resources, climatic change – all give cause for concern about the world's food security.

The G20, under French Presidency, has expressed the need for worldwide thinking on this question, which is at the heart of the issue of global risk. On the occasion of the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012, the CGAAER, together with a number of partners and the FAO, prepared a report on water and food security in the face of global change (<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/FME-Presentation-EN>), highlighting the challenges to be addressed as well as numerous examples of solutions.

The situation is particularly worrying in the Mediterranean, a region that combines problems of urban pressure with water scarcity, the overexploitation and degradation of natural resources, rural instability and ecosystems that are vulnerable to climatic change.

The 2007-2008 food crisis must be seen as an early warning, urging the search for solutions at local, national and regional levels, namely to secure and add value to the production base for rain-fed and irrigated agriculture and to ensure the food security of the populations concerned.

Mediterranean countries on the northern, southern and eastern shores not only share common problems and assets, they are also highly interdependent and their destinies are intrinsically linked.

Aims of the event

In this context, and in the continuity of the thinking that began in the framework of G20 and the World Water Forum, the Montpellier seminar will focus on the Mediterranean region to foster the emergence of a shared vision.

Expected outcomes

- Creation of a think-tank to feed into public policies
- Publication of a first investigative report

On the seminar programme

Four working sessions:

- "The Mediterranean situation seen in the perspective of global issues"
- "Field approaches for sustainable management of water resources"
- "The "water and food security issue in various Mediterranean countries: (Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey)? Which priority issues at the national and international levels?"
- "Water and food security in the Mediterranean, what vision for the future?"

Consult the detailed programme:

<http://www.agropolis.fr/actualites/2013-sesame-eau-securite-alimentaire-mediterranee.php>

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Organizers

This seminar is organised at the initiative of the General Council on food, agriculture and rural areas (CGAAER) and the General Council for Moroccan agricultural development (CGDA) in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Agropolis International, the Plan Bleu, the CIHEAM, the NGO "Echanges méditerranéens", the Mediterranean Water Institute (IME), the French Water Partnership (PFE), the General council for the environment and sustainable development (CGEDD), with funding support from the Languedoc-Roussillon Region and the Water Agency for the Rhône, the Mediterranean & Corsica.



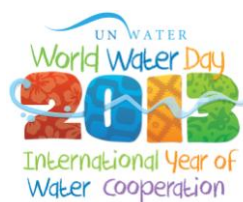
Participants

This event will bring together 150 leading figures, experts, scientists, public organization managers and decision makers, from the northern, southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

As a Mediterranean region, the Languedoc-Roussillon is highly implicated in the issues of water and food security, particularly via the research and higher education organizations present in the region: IRD, Cirad, IAM.M, Montpellier SupAgro, Inra...federated by Agropolis International, and its interface structures such as the "Water competitiveness cluster".

An event in the framework of "2013, United Nations international year on water cooperation".

To mark the occasion of the seminar, the exhibition "Les territoires de l'eau : irrigation et partage de l'eau en Méditerranée" will be held at the Institut de Recherche pour le développement (IRD).



<http://www.ird.fr/la-mediathèque/expositions/expositions-disponibles-en-pre/les-territoires-de-l-eau>