



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

**GLOBAL**  
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**GFFA Communiqué**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit 2016**  
**16 January 2016**

**How to feed our cities? –  
Agriculture and rural areas in an era of  
urbanisation**

dated 16 January 2016

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**GFFA Communiqué 2016**  
**"How to feed our cities? –**  
**– Agriculture and rural areas in an era of urbanisation“**

**Preamble**

**We, the agriculture ministers of 65 nations**, who have assembled on 16th January 2016 for the 8th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit during the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA),

- **are aware** that as much as three-quarters of the global population will live in cities and urban agglomerations by 2050;
- **are concerned** that rapid urbanisation in some countries is driven by social and economic disparities between rural and urban areas;
- **emphasise** that food security is a prerequisite for political and social stability and crucial for planning and managing the urbanisation process successfully;
- **are concerned** that the national and international debate on urbanisation is not paying sufficient attention to food security;
- **wish to make** food security for cities an international priority and underline the role of sustainable agriculture in its three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) plays in urbanisation processes;
- **highlight** the capability of agriculture in rural, peri-urban and urban areas to supply urban agglomerations not only with food but also with a wide range of public goods and services;
- **are determined** to provide the world's growing urban population with adequate, safe, balanced and affordable food, to ensure the right to food and that all people have access to this food, and thus to tackle one of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 adopted by the UN General Assembly;
- **are aware** that increased demand and changes in consumer lifestyles and eating habits in the growing cities could provide agriculture and rural areas with new opportunities for value creation and for safeguarding rural jobs;
- **see an opportunity** to raise the awareness of urban populations about the value of a prospering agriculture and vibrant rural areas as a prerequisite for their own well-being with regard to the availability of and access to food, a healthy diet and other social and ecological benefits;

- **underline** that agriculture should contribute to reaching the objectives of the December 2015 Paris Agreement (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC) in line with our responsibility of ensuring food security;
- **emphasise** the importance of the “Milan Urban Food Policy Pact” as an outcome of the EXPO 2015 in raising awareness on food security issues in cities;
- **acknowledge** the critical role that trade plays in feeding cities and achieving global food security;
- **are convinced** that, in order to play our part in food security for cities and rural areas, we must address three key challenges:

**a. Productive and sustainable agriculture**

Agriculture must be made more sustainable, more productive and more profitable in order to keep step with growing demand, to conserve biodiversity and to use the increasingly limited natural resources efficiently. It must be made more resilient in order to cope with the impacts of climate change, with market shocks and with social and structural upheaval. It must be made more diverse in order to accommodate changes in eating habits. Recognition must be given to the role urban food production can play in food security and to the socio-cultural and ecological significance of this type of production.

**b. Efficient and reliable supply and value chains**

Efficient and reliable supply and value chains must be reinforced and, where necessary, established in order to connect urban demand with rural supply. The access and active involvement of stakeholders, farmers and smallholders in particular to and along supply and value chains must be guaranteed. It must be ensured that adequate capacities are in place for the storage, processing and transport of affordable, healthy and nutritious food. Food losses and waste must be minimised and opportunities for the recirculation of nutrients maximised.

**c. Vibrant rural areas**

Rural areas must be made attractive places to live and work in. Poverty, social and economic disparities between urban and rural areas must therefore be reduced and more rural-urban linkages established. The huge importance of the role played by women and young people for the vibrancy of rural areas must be acknowledged and remunerated appropriately. Rural areas must be supported in accordance with multilateral trade obligations. Rural transformation must be accompanied by thorough planning and management. Only then will people opt to live in rural areas. This is also an important condition for developing agriculture and securing food production. To minimise rural depopulation and migratory pressure on cities, rural areas must offer a good quality of life.

## Call for Action

**We, the agriculture ministers assembled at the GFFA 2016**, regard it as our duty to strive to create the political, economic and social framework for

... productive and sustainable agriculture:

We want to:

1. promote legally secure **access to land and financial means** for farmers in line with the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land (VGGT);
2. support **investment in innovation** and infrastructure and enable farmers – in particular smallholders – to have adequate **access to the fundamentals of economic activity**, such as capital and financial services, education, training, inputs, technology, services, extension services and market information;
3. **make agriculture more resilient**, building on the 6th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit at the GFFA 2014, and provide producers with fundamental knowledge, methods and means on how to increase the productivity, diversity and sustainability of agriculture and avoid losses during harvests and storage;
4. further improve the fertility of farmland, reduce soil-sealing, promote responsible water management and use **natural resources sustainably**, in particular soil and water, in the face of urban expansion, thereby building on the measures adopted at the GFFA 2014;
5. promote the potential of **urban food production**, ramp up research and development on viable and innovative concepts and share research results and experiences internationally;
6. improve **databases** and the use of **statistical data** as a basis for political decisions.

... efficient and reliable supply and value chains:

We want to:

1. use the potential of **peri-urban regions** that results from their geographical proximity to urban consumers - in particular for the production and efficient marketing of fresh food and for the establishment and development of supply and value chains;
2. promote links between national supply and value chains and international trade flows in order to avoid seasonal supply shortages and limit regional scarcities;
3. establish and strengthen supply and value chains and make them **accessible to all producers and other stakeholders**, irrespective of their size and location, and foster opportunities for employment and income across the supply and value chain;
4. establish and expand **storage, packaging, cooling and transport capacities**, including the necessary power supply, particularly in developing countries, and connect these capacities with one another;
5. open up additional **opportunities for producers to sell agricultural products to urban areas** and improve the producers' market position by ensuring they are able to both set up and have access to cooperatives;
6. overcome **institutional barriers** and provide support for **infrastructure** (roads, energy, information and communication technologies) in order to improve the

- exchange of goods between rural and urban areas;
7. strengthen responsible **investment** in supply and value chains in line with RAI and VGGT, thereby building on the resolutions of the 5th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit at GFFA 2013;
  8. encourage our enterprises to observe the **FAO-OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains** to the fullest extent possible and take action to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in line with FAO Resolution 4/2015 and the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR;
  9. intensify **research and development** and facilitate the transfer of innovation to optimise value chains;
  10. actively support the **platform for reducing food loss and waste** initiated by the G20 agriculture ministers in cooperation with the FAO in 2015.

...vibrant rural areas:

We want to:

1. improve **participation** of rural dwellers in general economic, social, political and cultural developments;
2. promote **responsible investment** in agricultural and non-agricultural jobs in order to create livelihood opportunities;
3. foster general and professional **education** and vocational **training** in particular on agriculture, food and nutrition to provide job opportunities, in particular for the young;
4. strengthen rural areas' capabilities and self-government by establishing functioning **institutions** that support bottom-up and participative planning;
5. stress the need to enhance the **economic** and **social infrastructure** of rural areas;
6. make greater use of the potential of vibrant rural areas and ensure they remain functional in order to reduce **migratory movements** in the long term;
7. use **information and knowledge exchange** to support, in accordance with regional capabilities, mutual **understanding of the needs** of urban and rural populations.

## Conclusion

**We, the agriculture ministers,**

- **are convinced that successful urbanisation needs agriculture!** Agriculture and rural areas are, as vital suppliers of food and ecosystem services, key to the food security and quality of life of urban populations. To play its role, agriculture needs to be productive and sustainable, to be an integral part of an efficient and reliable supply and value chain, embedded in a rule based trade system and to be supported by vibrant rural areas.
- **urge urban and rural areas to cooperate in planning and managing urbanisation!** This allows agriculture to fully use its potential for feeding cities and contribute to sustainable food systems. We need new models of cross-sectoral and inclusive governance to foster the cooperation between urban and rural areas and for this we need enhanced networking between local, regional, national, and international actors. These concepts must focus on the sustainable development of urban and rural areas as an

interconnected process and distribute resources between them appropriately. The planning of expanding cities must take account of the specific needs of rural areas and agriculture in order to strengthen the vital and symbiotic interactions between villages, towns and cities. We want to use best-practice examples from across the world and the principle of Good Governance to plan and manage urban and rural development.

- **call for urban food security to be made a priority on the global agenda!** To this end this communiqué provides important stimulus for
  - a. the development of a "New Urban Agenda" by UN HABITAT III (October 2016 in Quito/Ecuador);
  - b. the discussions on food security that are being conducted for the forthcoming G7 and G20 processes;
  - c. the work of the Committee on World Food Security on rural transformation and urbanization;
  - d. the implementation of the "Milan Urban Food Policy Pact" goals, an initiative of over 100 cities that aims to promote sustainable and socially equitable food and nutrition policies;
  - e. national implementation of:
    - the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (SDGs);
    - the Paris Agreement of the 21st UN Climate Conference (COP 21); and
    - the G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems.