

WADDEN SEA FORUM

THEMATIC GROUP AGRICULTURE

Meeting TG-A-3

Højer, 11 - 12 September 2003

FINAL MINUTES

1. Welcoming and opening of the meeting

The Chairman welcomed the participants, and he shortly mentioned the procedure for the meeting. It was agreed to change the order of the agenda points, so that the discussion of agenda point 5 and 6 was to be placed after agenda point 8. The agenda is in Annex 1. A list of participants is in Annex 2.

2. Adoption of final draft minutes TG 2-Agri (Assen)

The final draft minutes were adopted without any further comments.

3. Announcements

Mr. Frederiksen mentioned that until further notice, Mr. Stamp will replace the seat of Mr. Witt, representative of the Farmers' Union of Schleswig-Holstein (Bauernverband Schleswig-Holstein).

4. Report and evaluation TG-2 Workshop, Assen

Mr. De Jong commented that the meeting had been very positive and had founded the basis for the further discussions in the group concerning generic and specific scenarios.

5. Development of Scenarios

Mr. De Jong informed about the process of the development of the scenarios.

The process consists of four (five) steps:

1. Generic trends: elaborated at the Assen Workshop by the TGs and subsequently by the WSF-secretariat.
2. Generic scenarios: description of the "four worlds" (by the WSF-Secretariat)
3. Specific trends: considerations on specific conditions in the four worlds concerning agriculture (discussion at TG-3)
4. Specific scenarios (by the WSF-secretariat) to be included into the generic scenarios.

And finally:

5. Development of strategies/policies: based on the specified conditions and complied with the expected development, in order to secure sustainability (TG-4/5).

5.1 Evaluation of Generic Scenarios

Mr de Jong summarised that at the TG-2 in Assen, the factors EU-development and Economic Growth were regarded the most important trends, shaping the future in the north-western part of Europe until 2020. However, mobility, globalisation, technological innovation were also important trends. Therefore these have been mixed in different ways (always with two of the factors being "high" and two being "low"), resulting in four different worlds.

Moreover, it was agreed that considerations on effects of climate changes can be included where relevant. Sea level rise will happen in any case, and it will affect all Four Worlds in more or less equal levels up till 2020.

TG-Agri was missing the following aspects in the Generic Scenarios:

- Migration from rural to urban areas
- Ageing – in relation to mobility and health
- Perspectives for the islands as contrary to the mainland
- Life style and values among youngsters
- Life style and perception of the landscape
- Realisation of the Wadden Sea Plan

TG-Agri raised the following questions and pointed out possible discrepancies concerning the Four Worlds:Cautious World

- Will unemployment be higher than today and will wages be lower than today?
- Discrepancy between “global market” and “low trade?” (low mobility?)
- Is there a relation between low mobility and high energy prices?
- People in new EU-member states are different from the way they are described (in the elaboration of the generic scenarios)
- Nature perception should be part of life style

Future Unlimited

- Where is the limit?
- Environmental issues are missing
- Is an active and individualised life style not in contradiction with more working hours? Does this mean fewer holidays? Or more and shorter holidays?
- What is the share of poor people in the society?
- What are the driving forces for economic growth (education and provision of capital is also to be considered)

Satisfied Citizens

- Are the blocks trade blocks or political blocks? Are the given combinations logical?
- Can this economy really work?
- How about bulk products (more detail)

Challenging World

- Is high mobility plausible?: Economic situation forces mobility
- Is copying technology really technological innovation?
- Is it the people who do not want globalisation?
- Reasons for regionalisation?
- Are there only national markets?

The comments will, together with the comments of all other TGs, be discussed within the Team meeting (chairs and secretaries of the TGs). On the basis of the decisions of the Team meeting the WSF-secretariat will amend the scenarios.

5.2 Identifying Specific Trends and Brainstorming of Sector Strategies

5.2.1 Specific Trends

The summary of the discussion and the findings are in Annex 3.

Draft specific scenarios would be distributed by the WSF-secretariat in due time before the TG-4 meeting (i.e. before Christmas). In the course of November preliminary drafts would be sent to “sparring partners”: Anky Woudstra, Gerrit Nijboer, Kristen Fromsejer, Erich Hinrichs and Beatrice Claus.

5.2.2 Sector Strategies

Mr. de Jong introduced the item by mentioning the aspects to be considered in the discussion of development of strategies (in TG-4)

- Official rules and regulations
- Management (by the sector)
- New products
- New markets
- Research and development needed for implementation of new technologies.

TG Agriculture, in particular the sector representatives, were requested to send draft strategies to the WSF secretariat, preferably **before 13th of October**.

6. Note on Sustainable Agriculture

The Chairman proposed that the statements and conclusions in the note regarding Agenda 21 by Mr. Stamp should be included in the considerations on the strategies and therefore not be presented at the WSF-3 in October. *The meeting decided* to follow this procedure.

7. Regional Agriculture Trends

The paper by Mr. Hinrichs was positively received by the participants and it was the general opinion that it presented a very useful overview of the status and the perspectives of agriculture in Lower Saxony.

Mr. Frederiksen suggested that similar papers should be elaborated for Denmark, the Netherlands and Schleswig-Holstein. The meeting supported this proposal and Mr. Fromsejer agreed to elaborate a report for Denmark, Mr. Boesjes and Mr. Keurentjes would organise it for the Netherlands, and Mr. Stamp would be responsible for Schleswig-Holstein.

Further, it was agreed that similar regional studies on nature conservation issues (trends in nature protection in the agricultural areas of the Wadden Sea Region) should also be prepared. Ms. Woudstra (Wadden Sea Team) and Ms. Claus (WWF) were asked to take upon that task.

Contributions must be sent to the secretariat in Ribe not later than the **5th of December**.

8. Socio-Economic Studies

This point was postponed to the next TG-meeting because of time constraints.

9. Financial and Administrative Matters

No comments.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on the 13th/14th of January 2004 in the Netherlands.

Mr. Keurentjes thanked everyone for their constructive participation and especially he thanked Mr. Knud Hansen for his excellent efforts in connection with the arrangement of the meeting and also Mr. Therkel Pedersen for hosting the dinner at Ballum Slusekro.

Annex 1

**Wadden Sea Forum
Thematic Group Agriculture**

3rd meeting

AGENDA

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Adoption of final draft minutes TG 2-Agri (Assen)**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Report and Evaluation TG 2 (workshop Assen)**
- 5. Development Draft Scenarios**
 - 5.1 Evaluation Generic Scenarios**
 - 5.2 Identifying Specific Trends and**
- 6. Note Sustainable Agriculture**
- 7. Regional Agriculture Trends**
- 8. Socio-Economic Studies**
- 9. Financial and Administrative Matters**
- 10. Next Meeting(s)**

Annex 3

Summary of discussion and the Findings On Specific Trends

(Agenda points 5.2 and 5.3)

5.2 Identifying Specific Trends

As agreed at the TG-2 in Assen, the following aspects will form the framework for the elaboration of Specific Trends:

- 1: Market and Consumers
- 2: Society
- 3: Technology
- 4: State of the Environment

The following items were included:

1. Market and Consumers

*Consumers/farmers
Competition
EU-rules and regulations*

2. Society

*Ageing
Tourism
Nature perception*

3. Technology

*Gene modified crops
Energy*

4. State of the environment

At TG-2 the importance of climate change had been underlined. In the discussions about the state of the environment in the four world, the emphasis was, however, on nature perception and the status of nature.

5.3 Conclusions on discussion of Specific Trends in the Four Worlds

Future Unlimited:

1. Market

Consumers/farmers

- Less interest of people in production methods, especially among young people
- High demand for products of high quality

Competition:

- Efficient production
- Lower prices due to fierce competition
- Production on fertile marshland – what will the differences be in terms of soil quality DK/DE/NL?
- Primary producers have a weak position
- Good/bad conditions for niche production?
- High risks

The weak position of primary producers means that farmers must organise themselves, i.e., co-operate, in order to remain competitive.

It is to be considered what the differences will be between DK, NL and DE in terms of soil quality. For DK it can be mentioned that the region largely consists of sandy soil.

As to niche production, one can claim that at one hand it can help producers to survive in a world of fierce competition – if you cannot produce cheaply, you must diversify. On the other hand, if one sticks to the scenario “Global markets, Fierce competition”, it indicates, that niche production will be less likely.

2. Society

- *Nature perception: Country-site seen as “play-ground”*
- *Less interest for agriculture*
- *High demand for quality*

More demand for use of land: people will see the country-site as their “play-ground”.

This will be supported by a less strong bureaucracy of the EU. More efficient agricultural production will increase the amounts of land available for out-door activities. The location of industrialised farms (inside/outside the towns) will influence peoples urge to use the country-side as a place for out-door activities.

3. Technology

- Gene-modified crops
- Hormones
- Less nuisance
- Bio-mass energy
- Everything is possible

An increase in production of gene-modified crops will take place, the use of hormones will be extended. Measures will be taken to decrease obnoxious smells. Energy will be generated in a more sustainable way by use of bio-energy and closed systems, i.e. everything is recycled.

4. State of Environment

Agricultural and recreational areas will be separated – Will there still be nature in agricultural areas?

- Agenda 21 – doubling of food production
- Use of hormones, loose barns
- How about the cultural aspects?

It was discussed whether or not more land would be available for nature areas in the “Future Unlimited”. At one hand, the necessity of doubling the world’s food production in order to keep up with the increase in population (stated in Agenda 21) gives rise to the expectation that more space will be needed for agricultural purposes. On the other hand, more efficient agriculture will probably decrease the need for land. It was in this respect also remarked that the envisaged increase in global agricultural production, will to a large extent happen in the developing countries themselves (f.e. China).

Cautious world:

1. Market

Consumers/Farmers

- Low consumption
- Poor country-side

Competition

- Difficult to survive global competition - only the most efficient farmers will survive
- Also possibilities for local production – shorter chains of distribution

EU-rules and regulations

- Low EU support
- Restrictions
- Diversification: also possibilities for local production

2. Society

Ageing

- Fewer people working with farming

Tourism

- Farm house holidays
- Travelling over shorter distances
- Part time farming

In this world it is imaginable that people will choose to travel over shorter distances, when they go on holidays. They are passive and community orientated, and mobility is low. A tendency towards increase in farm house holidays is foreseen. There may be a decreasing number of farmers, because of the fierce competition – young people will be less willing to take over inherited farms.

3. TechnologyEnergy

- Implication expensive energy
- Small-scale innovation
- Energy production

Because of lack in resources, there will be low technologic innovation. However, people will be creative, and make innovations on a small scale. People are afraid of new technologies, this leads to forbidding. Will there be sufficient technology for sustainable development? Only well-known technology is used.

4. State of the Environment:

- Chaotic/unregulated nature administration
- There will not be sufficient money for administration and nature conservation.
- Will this lead to lower quality nature or to higher diversity?
- Increased polarisation

Satisfied Citizens1. Market:*Consumers/farmers:*

- Local production
- Niche markets
- Traditional food products
- Organic food
- High-quality products
- Support for agriculture in combination with local demands (f.e. landscape protection)
- High risks?
- Market pressure low and demands high

EU-rules and regulations

- National subsidies instead of EU subsidies
- Will there be a Wadden Sea coalition?

In this world, the nations are strong, and bi- and multilateral co-operations dominate. Therefore, subsidies must be obtained on a national level, which would probably mean fewer subsidies for farming. The social systems will be characterised by protectionism, but commerce will be relatively unregulated.

There will be a preference to traditional food, niche production has good conditions – people want diversification in the choice of consumer goods. Farmers will go into niche-production, but at the same time, they will produce more efficiently.

2. Society:

- Identification with history
- Regional and local orientation, politically passive people
- Social situation farmers worse or satisfied farmers?

Tourism

- Package solutions
- Increased use of trains and busses
- Shorter holidays

People are community orientated and have a “romantic” approach to life, their background and

historical roots are important to them. People will go on short vacations from 1-2 days to one week, they will increasingly prefer package solutions and the use of public transport to the working place or on holiday will increase.

Nature perception

- Well-organised administration of nature

3. Technology:

- Similar as in "Cautious World"

4. State of Environment:

- More or less similar as in "Cautious World"

Challenging World

1. Market:

Competition

- Uncertainty – "Trial and Error"
- Low propensity to invest
- Direct selling
- Budget prices

There is an informal market, which makes direct selling increase, which again concentrates commerce on the regional markets.

2. Society

Was not explicitly covered

3. Technology

Innovation will be small scale. Because of low economic growth there is only little money for investments, and when investments are done, the result is unpredictable. Investors must simply take chances. Probably most innovation will be in the processing industry. Effects on processing industry always affects primary producers.

A related question is the role of multinationals in this world, especially with regard to technology transfer.

4. State of Environment

- Little concern for nature
- Regional differences, no common policy
- No continuity in policies
- Danger to nature because of many (potential) changes

Because of a weak economic growth, and strong EU nations, people will not be concerned with the environment, and there will be no co-ordinated efforts for improvement of the environment.