

WADDEN SEA FORUM THEMATIC GROUP AGRICULTURE

Meeting TG Agri-1

Wilhelmshaven, 18 - 19 March 2003

Final Minutes

1. OPENING

*Documents: TG-Agri 1-1 Draft Agenda
TG-Agri 1-1.1 Composition of all Thematic Groups*

The chairman, Mr. Keurentjes welcomed the participants to the first meeting. Especially, he welcomed Ms. Charlotte Jensen, Anthropologist from South Denmark University and Mr. Verheij, chairman of the Thematic Group, Policy and Management, as additional observers. He informed the meeting that the Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) had established five thematic groups in its first meeting on 30. August 2002. The WSF and its thematic groups worked under a tight timetable. The Wadden Sea Forum is tasked to conclude its work by the end of 2004, in order to ensure a timely delivery for the Wadden Sea Ministerial Conference in 2005. The WSF and the five thematic groups will be facilitated by the secretariat of the Inter-regional Wadden Sea Cooperation and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.

After a round of presentation of the participants the meeting **adopted** the proposed draft agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 1**. A list of participants is in **Annex 2**.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman informed the meeting that Mr. Hansen and Mr. Petersen regrettably had announced that they would not be able to participate in the meeting and that Mr. Stamp substituted Mr. Witt. Furthermore, he emphasized that consistency in attending the meetings was absolutely essential for an optimum result of the work. Otherwise, this would jeopardize the work of the TG, as deputies would not solve this problem.

The chairman further informed the meeting that the draft minutes of the meeting would be circulated to the participants to allow for comments on the draft. On the basis hereof the final draft minutes of the meeting would be placed on the WSF homepage.

3. REPORT TEAM MEETING

The secretary informed the meeting of the main results of the meeting of the chairmen and secretaries of the Thematic Groups (Team meeting) on 9 January 2003. The prime objective of the meeting was to prepare the meetings of the Thematic Groups.

The chairman stressed that the meeting had not only been useful in preparing the individual meetings of the Thematic Groups but had also been essential in terms of co-ordinating their work since the WSF and its Thematic Groups were commissioned with the task of developing coherent sustainable development scenarios.

4. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

*Documents: Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of the TG-Agriculture (TG-Agri 1-4.1)
Terms of Reference WSF (TG Agri 1-4.2)
Rules of Procedure WSF (TG Agri 1-4.3)*

4.1 Draft Terms of Reference of TG Agriculture (ToR):

The secretary introduced the document by emphasising that the ToRs of all TGs had been endorsed by the WSF except the specifications under point 2 "Tasks".

The following points were raised:

- Mr. Fromsejer suggested that "sectors" (1) should be specified into: pig, cattle etc. and that "Common Agricultural Policy and its Impact" (10) should mention the social development in rural areas and the future on the Wadden Sea islands, in particular.
- Mr. Nijboer raised the discussion what is meant by "The Wadden Sea Region" since there is no exact definition within the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. Two options were tabled: do we focus on a "region" which has direct impact on the protection of the Wadden Sea Area or do we focus on a broader "region" in which cultural aspects also were included? Mr. Hinrichs and Ms. Woudstra stressed this need for clarification as the basis for defining the issues to be discussed in the group. Mr. Doeven emphasised in this respect a common definition in all TGs. The chairman was also of the opinion that "The Wadden Sea Region" must be defined.
- The secretary explained that, generally, the Wadden Sea region would cover the provinces, districts (Kreise) and counties (amter), but that, depending on the subject, other delimitations would be possible. For the province of Noord Holland only the northern part would be covered.
- Concerning "Perspectives" (14) it was discussed whether a time span of 20 years was sufficient.

The meeting **agreed** to include the proposed issues in points (1), (10) and (14). It was also **agreed** that the group could consider addressing other issues than those contained now in the ToRs. The meeting further **approved** of the submission of the ToRs to the WSF-2 for approval.

4.2 and 4.3. Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure - The Wadden Sea Forum:

The Secretary informed the meeting about the two documents, which had already been endorsed by the WSF. He emphasised point 7 in the "Rules of Procedure", in particular, as the basis for the establishment of and the work within the TGs.

5. DISCUSSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Document: What is sustainable development (TG Agri 1-5)

The Chairman introduced the item by underlining that sustainable development was accepted as a leading principle but he was conscious that the sectors had different views on the implications of the sustainable development concept. Since this concept was the core issue of the WSF, he invited the participants to give their views of the concepts with the aim to attempt finding commonalities in views and identifying different viewpoints

Mr. Stamp found that "Agenda 21" was an essential aspect of sustainability and very useful for the further discussions as it balanced the global perspective and local possibilities for implementation. He gave a condensed presentation of "Agenda 21" in which he focussed on the main analyses and conclusions. A summary in English will be send to the secretariat for further distribution within in TG. He also informed the meeting about his homepage: www.drstamp.de where further information is available (in German).

He furthermore pointed to the impact of the whole catchment area of the Wadden Sea on the Wadden Sea region and the Wadden Sea itself, mainly with respect to pollution.

Ms. Stam emphasised the close relation between agriculture and the (Wadden Sea) environment. She found the responsibility of people living in a certain area, e.g. the Wadden Sea, is larger than people living "outside" and farming cannot go on deteriorating the soil. Reflecting the three elements of sustainability (ecology, economy and social affairs) she was of the opinion that the market conditions and not the environment decide on changes in agriculture.

Mr. Nijboer also stressed the interaction between the three main elements of sustainability. In this respect he emphasised that sustainable agriculture of the region should be seen in close relation to

the preservation of the Wadden Sea and that making a living is essential at all times (the social aspect). He underlined that there should be possibilities to adapt to changing circumstances and considered agriculture in the Netherlands today not less sustainable than in the past.

Mr. Fromsejer focussed on the economic aspect of sustainability in the Wadden Sea region, including equal possibilities for the farming here like in other parts of Denmark. This is the basis for the living conditions in the Wadden Sea Region in the future. In this respect he stressed the need for the simplification of regulations and making them more transparent and understandable for the public. The conservation of the Wadden Sea is important but the protection measures must be based upon real necessity and not on “invented” problems or for political reasons. He stated that on the mainland the target should not be to extensificate agriculture. This could be done on the islands for which money should be made available for traditional agriculture.

He stressed that the Wadden Sea landscape is a cultural landscape, made by humans.

Mr. Hinrichs found that sustainable agriculture in the Wadden Sea Region is closely related to the question of delimitation; e.g. farming in the embanked marshlands has more in common with the agriculture in Bavaria than on the Wadden Sea islands. For the further work he underlined the need for more information/knowledge of the differences in the three countries, including defining good practices with the aim to compare them.

Ms. Woudstra underlined the following main characteristics of sustainable agriculture in the Wadden Sea Region:

- Agriculture has always been an essential part of life in the region
- Agriculture as the basis for the cultural identity and the cultural assets
- Agriculture has developed differently in the various regions

She proposed not to focus on the existing regulations but on the future possibilities for development in the further work; e.g. the growing bio-organic farming in the Netherlands (Wadden Products). In this respect she mentioned the improved image in the public and the special situation on the islands.

The intervention created a discussion on extension of “Wadden products” in the other countries. Different opinions were expressed regarding perspectives for selling products from organic farming. Some participants pointed to the attitude of consumers to buy the cheapest products, others complained that the retail network of organic products was too limited. Also the problem of providing security for the consumers was addressed. In this respect the term “sustainable consumer” was introduced and the necessity of improved information to the public underlined, especially as to how products were grown and processed. In this respect Ms. Woudstra stated that many products are not grown sustainable.

Mr. Doeven would like to add that the increasing of the regulations should not decrease the possibilities for the agriculture in the region. He found it essential that comparative studies of the implementation of the international legislation in the three countries are carried out.

Mr. Skrumssager pointed to the difficulty to define exactly what is regarded as “sustainable agriculture”. Therefore he proposed to approach the perspective from defining activities which are regarded as not sustainable (“a negative list”). In this respect he mentioned that “sustainability” was not improved application of fertilisers. In order to meet all criteria of sustainability, he mentioned that Sønderjyllands Amt (County) has entered into contracts with local farmers to extensify their production.

Mr. Boesjes added that the discussion of “sustainability” should stress the point of “development” and “independence of subsidy” (national and EU). Concerning “Wadden Products” he proposed to table a list of successes and failures in the marketing and sales management of regional products.

Mr. Kossmagk defined sustainable agriculture as a healthy production in a healthy environment, a healthy income for the farmers and keeping up a healthy society

Ms. Claus declared that sustainable agriculture in the Wadden Sea Region is:

- farming without any impact of nutrients and pesticides on the Wadden Sea environment;
- farming which protects valuable biotopes and respects nature directives, including areas without farming at all
- farming with a high responsibility to preserve the landscape values and the biodiversity for the next generations.

Mr. Keurentjes found it of vital importance that sustainability focuses on the interaction between human beings and the Wadden Sea nature, but to take human beings as the starting point. He also underlined that the work of the TG should focus on the possibilities of developments in the (not yet) defined Wadden sea Region adapted to different standards in society in order to survive the rural areas of the Wadden Sea. In his opinion this reality only leaves small space for niche products, like Wadden Sea products, and not as a main possibility for the future of the region in general.

He also stated that diversification of income is essential for the full understanding of sustainability “you cannot change the wind but you can reef the sails”. In this respect he pleaded for entrepreneurship and on anticipating the future reality and to inform members of farmers' unions accordingly.

The discussion could be summarized this way:

1. The delimitation of the Wadden Sea Region

- As the basis for the scope and perspectives for the further work
- Should it be done according to joint principles or leave space for regional differences?

2. Which aspects of agriculture are relevant/ should be focused on?

- “Sustainable agriculture”: only in relation of the direct impact on the conservation issues of the Wadden Sea area”?
- Alternatively: include the historical dimension and cultural aspects?
- Focus on the possibilities of developments (also recreation and tourism)
- Differentiate between “sectors” and regions, including the situation on the islands
- The image of agricultural industry in society and in the media.

3. Sustainable Agriculture should include

- Agenda 21 perspectives
- The historical dimension (flexibility in time)
- A list of none sustainable activities

4. Producer/consumer relations

- The potentials and obstacles of regional/local (Wadden Sea)products adapted to the market (mechanisms)
- The need to develop region-specific labels (branding)

5. Legislation

- Analyses/comparative studies of various international legislation (EU directives and –policies of agriculture and their impacts of the national/regional development perspectives.

The chairman furthermore concluded that a report would be made of the discussions of this issue in all the TGs to be submitted to the WSF for further discussion.

6. WORKING METHOD

6.1 Scenario approach

Mr. Römgens, CIBIT, the consultant in scenario methodology, who was hired to support the scenario approach, informed the meeting on the advantages of scenario developments for the work of the TGs, including the basic requirements for the scenario buildings. The contents of the presentation is summarized in the paper "Intro Scenario Planning for the WSF", which was distributed at the meeting.

After a comprehensive discussion about the methodology and its understanding, the participants identified a number of intriguing questions that should be answered in the scenario project, if we want to develop a healthy and sustainable agriculture sector in the Wadden Sea Region. The list is considered important for the further work of the TG and the WSF and is in **Annex 3**.

6.2 Time schedule

Document: Draft work schedule (TG Agri 1-6-2)

The secretary explained the draft work schedule. Five TG-meetings are scheduled as agreed by the WSF and in the period as indicated in the work schedule. The main work for the coming period until the next TG would be to initiate the external studies, write the generic trend reports, and collate information for the specific sector trends. The next TG would have the task to discuss and assess the generic trend reports and establish a first scenario skeleton. Since it was vital that this would be a common exercise of all TGs, the chairmen of the TGs had agreed to arrange a common meeting on **June 23-24, 2003** in the Netherlands.

The meeting **adopted** the work schedule which is in **Annex 5**.

7. ROLE OF EXPERT STUDIES AND EXPERT CONSULTANTS

Document: Draft ToR expert (TG Agri 1-7)

The secretary introduced the Terms of Reference for experts on Agriculture. He stressed that this was an option in case the TG wished to involve external experts in their work.

In relation to point 2.4, Mr. Nijboer asked what "scenario manager" means. The secretary stated that it was Mr. Römgens.

The meeting **agreed** to the proposed Terms of Reference.

The Secretary further referred to the Terms of Reference for *the "Inventory and evaluation of socio-economic and socio-cultural data in the Wadden Sea Region"*. This review had already been commissioned by the WSF, but the TG was invited to comment on these Terms of Reference prior to its execution.

Several participants found it essential (again) first to define the Wadden Sea Region before developing ToR and then formulate the objectives and the given tasks. In this respect, it was emphasised that the risk of getting incomparable and unserviceable sets of data is high by doing the other way around.

The secretary stated that the study would in principle focus on the Wadden Sea Kreise in Germany and the Amter in Denmark. For the Netherlands use would as much as possible be made of a study already being carried out in the framework of the Futch SEOW project. He underlined that the area should not be too small because this would make the data meaningless. He furthermore stressed the importance of comparison with data for larger regions (e.g. national data).

8. INFORMATION STRATEGY

The Secretary outlined the information strategy. Considering the huge amount of available information, The Team meeting agreed that the secretariat would elaborate and continuously update a list of available documents, to provide abstracts of the most important papers and to put the relevant information on the WSF web site.

For the TG-meetings in principle only documents directly related to the meeting will be distributed. If members would like to provide the TG-members with background documents, the secretariat will be informed and will announce such documents in a list which is sent out together with the meeting documents. On the basis of this list individual members can request documents from the secretariat, download them from the WSF site or pick them up during the meetings.

Further, the secretary informed the meeting that all documents for the TGs and the WSF would be available on the WSF-website www.waddensea-forum.org. The website also encompassed other relevant information such as background documents and a member list.

The meeting **agreed** to endorse the information strategy.

9. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The intention of the communication strategy is to assist the members of the TGs and the WSF in involving a broader community in the work than the members and support them in their communication with the sectors. In the coming months a draft communication strategy will be elaborated by the secretariat. This strategy will address:

- Communication within the project, i.e. between TGs and between TGs and WSF;
- Communication between WSF members and their respective sectors;
- Communication with the outside world, i.e. the general public in the region.

The following measures were proposed:

- Digital newsletter
- Regional TV news from every meeting
- Press meeting and –release in connection with the meetings

The chairman **instructed** the secretariat to include the proposals in the further work.

10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The WSF project is financed through both, the EU Inter-reg IIIB program and contributions of participants. The latter are mainly in the form of working hours invested in the project and costs for travel and accommodation. Therefore it is important that all members document their work effort which is calculated on the basis of their salary. Both working hours and travel costs must be administered for all participants. The Secretary instructed the TG-participants in filling in the different forms (“travel and accommodation” and “working hours”). The forms will be sent in a digitised version to the all TG-members as soon as possible.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No points were raised.

12. CLOSING

The chairman reiterated the dates for the next joint TGs-meeting on **23-24 June 2003** in the Netherlands.

He closed the meeting on 19 February at about 12.30 hrs.

**Wadden Sea Forum
Thematic Group Agriculture**

1st meeting

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Announcements
3. Report Team Meeting
4. Draft Terms of Reference
 - 4.1 Draft Terms of Reference of TG Agriculture (ToR):
 - 4.2 Terms of Reference WSF
 - 4.3 Rules of Procedure WSF
5. Discussion sustainable development
6. Working Method
 - 6.1 Scenario approach
 - 6.2 Time schedule
7. Role of expert studies and expert consultants.
Draft ToRs experts
8. Information strategy
9. Communication strategy
10. Financial and administrative matters
11. Any other business

ANNEX 3**INTRIGUING QUESTIONS ON AGRICULTURE**

This is a first list with intriguing questions that should be answered in the scenario project if we want to develop a healthy and sustainable agriculture sector in the Wadden Sea Region. The list was assembled during TG-Agri-1. The important questions are *bold and italic*.

Market and consumers

What kinds of food will future consumers like and how do they want to buy and cook it?

Can we develop local and or organic farming products to a famous (inter)national label (like Parma Ham or Schwarzwald kirsch torte).

Will there be a market for locally produced eco-products (like cheese, farmers' yoghurt) and are consumers willing to pay extra for it (for example a double price). More specific: what will be number of tourist in our region, how long will they stay and how can we supply the regional produced food (in what amounts)?

Where and how will elderly people live?

Will there be cattle and wheat production in North West Europe or how can we stay away from the 'Olympia' scenario?

What kind of value can we add to our products?

Will population and so nutrition double. What will be the consequences for favourable agricultural land (like the Wadden Sea with the rich soil)?

Society and agriculture

Will there be a lasting understanding of the sector in society?

What people will live in our countryside and how?

How will society, people in the region and farmers value 'culture history'?

What will be the social position of the agriculture sector?

How will socio-economic developments affect the sector?

Will farmers have followers?

Are most adventurous and innovative farmers about to leave our country?

Technology

How will bio and en-technology affect future agriculture?

What technologies will (probably) change our sector and in what way?

How will we keep our soil rich?

Will mankind be able to grow wheat in the Sahara desert of the Chinese deserts and how will this affect agriculture in North West Europe?

Will we also see a steady increase on productivity and what will it mean for agriculture in the Wadden Sea Region and for natural values on agriculture land and the possibilities for farmers to do some nature production?

Opportunities

Will there be a future for eco-tourism of farmers as nature conservationists?

Will farmers be able to get a grip on the food chain (and be able to make money out of it)?

What opportunities will sustainable energy create (biomass as a source, farmers as wind producers)?

What opportunities for will farmers have in bird protection?

Will farms keep growing end how will this affect the way of life of farmers and the social position of farmers?

Other issues

How will agriculture and trade regulations affect our sector and how will (inter)national rules be translated to agriculture in the region?

EU policy is changing from agriculture to rural policy (because more kind of people want to use rural areas) what will be the consequences for farmers: will they be producers of energy (for example bio mass)

What will be the consequences of water issues (looking at coastal protection, problems with rivers and spatial planning?)

Can co-operation between farmers contribute to sustainable agriculture

Some old predictions on agriculture

60's: in the near future we won't use pesticides, we will breed resistant crops.

80's: robots will take over milking (more then 50% within 10 years).

80's: milk quota will lead to a lot

Annex 4**DRAFT Terms of Reference (ToR) Thematic Group Agriculture****1. Overall objective**

Thematic Groups are installed by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) with the aim of preparing background material for consideration and further elaboration of the plenary meetings of the WSF.

2. Tasks

The thematic groups have the following overall tasks:

- to collect relevant information in the thematic fields and to analyse and assess this information with a view to elaborate various sustainable development scenarios based on the information collected and analysed, and on different forecasts, expectations and visions;
- to develop, on the basis of an assessment of the various scenarios, proposals for the most appropriate scenarios;
- to elaborate recommendations and proposals for strategies for the implementation of selected scenarios, as well as general recommendations for visions and strategies on sustainable development in the Wadden Sea region;
- to commission, if necessary, studies and analyses for the work of the groups and invite, if necessary, experts to support its work;
- to ensure the necessary dialogue with the organisations not represented in the WSF, both nationally and locally, regarding analyses, proposals and recommendations in the work field of those organisations;
- to deliver, upon request of the WSF, further input to the work of the WSF.

More in particular the Thematic Group on Agriculture will address:

1. Sectors (pig, cattle, plant grower; etc)
2. Products/Production volume per sector
3. Turnover per sector
4. Area covered per sector
5. Employment per sector
6. Marketing aspects
7. Local and regional processing
8. Sustainability aspects of agriculture (Incl. organic farming)
9. Secondary products (tourism on the farm; nature conservation etc.)
10. The Common Agricultural Policy and its impact (e.g. social development in rural areas and on the islands)
11. Environmental regulations and their impacts (a.o. Habitat, Bird, Nitrate Directives)
12. Developments in past 10 years with regard to above parameters
13. Expected development for above parameters
14. Perspectives (time span of 20 years)

3. Composition

Chairperson:	Mr. Keurentjes (NL)
Representatives of the sectors:	
Agriculture:	Mr. Fromsejer (DK) Mr. Witt (SH) Mr. Hinrichs (NdS)
Tourism:	Mr. Hansen (DK)
Nature:	Ms Woudstra (NL) Ms. Claus (NdS)
Harbor/Industry:	Mr. Doeven (NL)
Local Government:	Ms Stam (NL) Mr. Pedersen (DK)
Regional Government:	Mr. Skrumsager (DK) Mr. Boesjes (NL)
Secretaries:	Mr. Frederiksen (IRWC); Mr. de Jong (CWSS)

4. Time schedule

Each Thematic Group will deliver its final report, including proposals for recommendations, by March 2004 ultimately.

The meetings of the Thematic Groups will be prepared by the chairperson of the thematic group and the secretariat.

5. Reporting

The Thematic Groups will deliver to the WSF2 meeting a work plan for its work including a specification of its tasks and deliveries, to be approved by the WSF.

The Thematic Groups report to the WSF-meetings.

6. Facilitation

The Thematic Groups are facilitated by the WSF secretariat.

