



International Association for Cereal Science and Technology

Food Security - Critical Research and Development Project Needs for a Safe, Sustainable and Sufficient Food and Feed Supply

**With focus on Cereal Grains, Crops, and Plant Based
Foods & Feed**

Expert Summit

29 – 30 June 2009

Vienna, Austria

Organised by ICC - International Association for Cereal Science and Technology

Key areas:

Food security, food safety, nutritional security, food quality, biotechnology, food versus energy, local action in a global environment, nutrition and health, sustainable agriculture, research and development projects, funding schemes, networks and consortia

Background

The world is facing a chronic staple food crisis. World cereal stocks are at their lowest level in 30 years. The crisis is having a devastating effect on the health and wellbeing of poor people, especially those in developing countries. According to the FAO, in 2007 the number of people who are suffering from hunger in the world increased by 50 million. Hence, the crisis threatens to reverse the positive progress in economic development and eradicating malnutrition that has taken place over the past two decades. The staple food crisis is the result of a number of different factors including:

- Inefficient agricultural and food handling and distribution practices in many developing countries
- Continuing rapid population growth in some developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa
- Diversion of grain foods to animal feed and biofuel production
- Global climate change

Because of this, there are no quick fixes to solve the crisis. Dr Jacques Diouf, Director General of the FAO, in his address to the European Parliament in July 2008, stated that its solution will require that world food production doubles by 2050. Fundamental to the solution is carefully thought-out and directed research and development work aimed at increasing food production through sustainable agricultural practices, minimising food losses throughout the food chain and improving food safety and quality, including nutritional quality.



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ICC - The International Association for Cereal Science and Technology is an independent world body responsible for all aspects of grain foods, especially quality and safety. ICC is represented by some 50 countries on all continents. Individuals involved in ICC are the world's leading grain scientists and grain governmental administrators. ICC undertakes numerous activities to promote grain food quality and safety, especially the development of internationally accepted standard methods to facilitate grain trade. ICC also, for example, coordinates the EU funded MoniQA Network of Excellence (2007-2012) www.moniqua.org on monitoring safety and quality in the food supply chain, which currently involves some 400 scientists in 35 countries. In 2002, ICC was responsible for coordinating an EU-funded expert summit in Vienna, Austria, ECC2002, setting the stage for FP6 research needs on grain foods that resulted in the EU-funded HEALTHGRAIN Integrated Project (2005-2010) www.healthgrain.org, one of the largest and most comprehensive international collaborative food research projects ever undertaken. Since 2005 ICC is also partner in ISEKI-Food 2 www.esb.ucp.pt/iseki/, a food scientists network, a specialist in training and education, and e-learning.

In response to the world grain foods crisis, at the 2008 ICC Cereal and Bread Congress in Madrid www.cerworld2008.com the ICC Executive Committee (the association's highest body) resolved that ICC must commit its unique expertise. Specifically, the Executive Committee recommended that ICC should coordinate a workshop to determine the critical research and development needs to help solve this crisis. To this end, it is proposed that a two day "think-tank" of leading international grain science experts and governmental organisations should take place in 2009 in Vienna.

Aim of the workshop

For the ICC to bring together a group of experts in grains, agriculture and socio-economics, both scientists & technologists, and governmental persons, from across the world to determine critical research and development project needs and related funding schemes in the grains-and crops-related areas in response to the world staple food crisis and the deliberations of the FAO's Conference on World Food Security held in Rome in June 2008.

The focus would be specifically to address the challenges of:

- Inefficient agricultural and food handling and distribution practices in many developing countries
- Improving nutrition and health through grain-based foods, nutritional security
- Development of a sustainable bio-based agro-economy
- Food security challenged by climate change, trade barriers, food safety issues, renewable energy production,

The format should be plenary scene setters by experts in agricultural practises and economy, and representatives from international and national institutions setting the trends and future calls for international collaborations and R&D projects (e.g. European Commission, UNIDO, WHO, FAO, European Technology Platforms, Gates Foundation/Rockefeller Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), representatives from governmental institutions in the USA, Canada, Mercasur, ASEAN, Australia, New Zealand, etc.). This session scheduled for the first day will focus on identifying needs and funding opportunities. Presentations of currently running initiatives will inspire the break up in round table groups scheduled for the



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second day to elaborate strategies, identify core consortia and responsables for further project development. A preliminary working group structure has been proposed to focus on 1) food security, 2) food safety, 3) nutrition and health, 4) future breeding programmes and use of biotechnology for food, feed, and renewable energy production, sustainable agriculture through cooperation between industrialised and developing countries, respectively. The workshop will conclude with short plenary presentations of the outcome and proposed strategic plans for the way forward.

For any additional ideas and comments, please contact the ICC Headquarters at office@icc.or.at or marcella.gross@icc.or.at.

The Organising Committee is looking forward to an exciting exchange of ideas and fruitful discussion that should lead to the development of new international collaborations and projects.

The Organising Committee

John Taylor, ICC President Elect, South Africa
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