SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

Agenda

12:30 -13:15	Lunch and a short welcome presentation. Vice-dean Kurt Nielsen, Aarhus University
13:15 -14:30	1st session • Presentation of the RiSE rapport's results for Denmark. Professor Blum • Findings of the Danish Nature- and Agriculture Commission • Options for sustainable intensification in the view of research. Niels Halberg, DCA • Options for sustainable intensification in the view of the agricultural sector. Lars Bonde Eriksen, Knowledge Centre for Agriculture • Reflections on the development of sustainable intensification. Professor Allan Buckwell
14:30 -14:45	Coffee break
14:45 -15:45	2nd session Reflecting on the previous presentations, participants are invited to contribute to developing the concept of and challenges for sustainable intensification in Europe.
15:45 -16:00	Summary conclusion
16:00	Departure
Venue	Frandsen-salen. Building 1430-23,1 Nordre Ringgade, 8000 Aarhus C (entry through the dean's department)
Rules	This symposium is intended to provide an informal setting for open knowledge exchange; therefore, it is subject to Chatham House rules.
Registration	At https://auws.au.dk/default.aspx?id=22116 before october 19th

BACKGROUND

Due to continuing population and economic growth the world will be facing increasing demands for food. However, possibilities for agricultural production will be restrained by scarcities of agricultural land and water and faced by dangers posed by climate change, agricultural pollution and biodiversity loss.

There is general consensus that it would be unacceptably damaging to climate and biodiversity if a large expansion of global agricultural production to feed the growing and higher-income population were based on further conversion of forest, grasslands and wetlands.

As a response to these challenges the concept of "Sustainable intensive production" has been developed. The idea is that the next increment in global food output must come from continued intensification of existing agricultural land – but this must be accompanied by a step by step reduction in the negative environmental impacts of agriculture.

The prime objective is to improve the resource efficiency of agriculture, and a suggested shorthand to describe what sustainable intensification means is more knowledge per hectare!

A great deal of intensification can and must, in the future, take the form of added knowledge which will affect how physical inputs are combined and managed. Similarly, increasing levels of knowledge are needed to manage the ecosystem services on which agriculture relies.

In order to achieve the potential of sustainable intensive production there is a need for better coordination between EU agriculture, environment, climate, energy and research policies. Furthermore there is a need to mainstream such policies with a view to exploiting options for synergy between production and environment.

Denmark provides examples of what works and what doesn't work within resource efficiency and protection of ground water. Since 1990, whilst increasing output, Denmark has overseen substantial reductions in CO2 (23%), phosphorus, and ammonia emissions in both real terms and measured per unit of production.

In this context, Aarhus University, the Danish Knowledge Centre for Agriculture and the Danish Agriculture and Food Council are pleased to facilitate an international symposium on sustainable intensification, which will provide a setting for further exploitation of the concept, focussing on Denmark as a case study and based on the findings of the June 2014 RISE report on Sustainable Intensification in Europe (the report can be found at www.risefoundation.eu).

The objective of the workshop is to identify aspects of regulation, research and innovation which may be conducive to sustainable intensification at national and EU level.

On this occasion, we are pleased to welcome some of the authors of the RISE report, professor Dr.h.c.mult. Winfried E.H. Blum from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, and professor Allan Buckwell, Institute for European Environmental Policy, London and Brussels alongside leading Danish scientists and policy makers, and their European counterpart, director Tassos Hanioitis from the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture.