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Oficina Española de Cambio
Climático

International initiatives related to agriculture, food security and climate change

Organized by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment

10th November 2015 in Madrid, Spain

The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment organized on the 10th of November a Technical Event on "International initiatives related to agriculture, food security and climate change". The purpose of this Event was to inform all interested and involved stakeholders on the various international alliances and initiatives related to food security, agriculture and climate change. In this sense the following initiatives were presented: "the Global Alliance on Climate (GACSA)" and "the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA)"; as well as "4/1000 Initiative".

The "4/1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate" aims to ensure that agriculture plays its part in combating climate change. A 4/1000 (0.4%) annual growth rate of the soil carbon stock intends to show that even a small increase in the soil carbon stock in agricultural soils (notably grasslands and pastures, and forest soils) is crucial to improve soil fertility and agricultural production and to contribute to achieving the long-term objective of limiting the temperature increase to +1.5/2°C. The initiative consists of a voluntary action plan under the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA), backed up by an ambitious research programme. The official launch of the initiative will take place at COP21 in Paris on December 1, with the signing of a joint declaration between all stakeholders.

The conference also included participation of different speakers, including experts and representatives from national governments (USA, France, UK, Netherlands and Spain) as well as local governments, scientific and research institutions, private sector, NGOs and civil society, giving the opportunity for sharing concrete experience in this particular area and exploring future synergies and stronger collaborations among all stakeholders. **More than one 100 participants attended the event.**

The event was opened by the Spanish General Secretary of Agriculture who mentioned that the whole society should work to minimize climate change impacts on agricultural producers, fisheries and forestry being part and solution of the problem.

The Secretary General also recalled that, as indicated by the Intergovernmental Panel, climate change is indisputable and the world food systems are especially vulnerable and, in order to face this challenge, the knowledge generated through research, innovation, knowledge transfer and cooperation, to develop sustainable production systems, climate-efficient and socially acceptable should be promoted by all stakeholders. In this context, these three International initiatives give the opportunity to work on a multidisciplinary way to achieve a more sustainable food production and improve the fight against climate change.

The agenda and presentations can be found at:

<https://www.wetransfer.com/downloads/ae7ceb925086c37456f49348a667778020151118084055/1c3a762823d277bd67e895eaf40cf52120151118084055/1b73cc>

Pictures and press briefing at:

<http://www.magrama.gob.es/en/prensa/noticias/carlos-cabanas-en-la-lucha-contralos-efectos-del-cambio-clim%C3%A1tico-todos-somos-parte-del-problema-y-de-lasoluci%C3%B3n-/tcm11-401555-16>

