



Cultivating Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Harvesting Ideas : Insights from **THE 1ST CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE WORLD AGRICULTURE FORUM**



Summary of the 1st Consultation Meeting of the World Agriculture Forum

Date - 18 September 2024, Wednesday

Time - 13:30 - 16:30 IST

Venue - Trident Hotel, Mumbai, India

Meeting Chair - Prof. Rudy Rabbinge

Members Present in-Person :

1. Prof. Rudy Rabbinge, Chair WAF, The Netherlands
2. Dr. William Dar, Vice Chair WAF, Philippines
3. Dr. M.J. Khan, Advisor to the Chairman WAF, India
4. H.E. Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, WAF Board Member, Mauritius
5. Dr. Cao Duc Phat, WAF Board Member, Vietnam
6. Dr. Nidhi Nagabhatla, WAF Council Member, Belgium
7. H.E. Dr. Chandra Shekara, WAF Council Member, Bangladesh
8. Mr. Ebrima Mboob, Deputy Head of Mission, HC Gambia in New Delhi
9. Mr. CS Liew, WAF council Member, Singapore
10. Mr. Francesco Arlia, WAF Council Member, U.S.A.
11. Mr. Paul Bloemendal, WAF Council Member, The Netherlands
12. Er. Mr. Wassfi H. Sreihin, WAF Council Member, Jordan
13. Ms. Marieke de Ruyter de Wildt, WAF Council Member, The Netherlands

Members Present Online:

1. Dr. Hans Hoogeveen, WAF Board Member, Italy
2. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, WAF Board Member, Mauritius
3. Mr. Arnaud Petit, WAF Board Member, U.K.
4. Prof. Wendy Umberger, WAF Board Member, Australia
5. Dr. Edward Carey, WAF Council Member, The Netherlands
6. Dr. Ir. Putri Ernawati Abidin, WAF Council Member, The Netherlands
7. Mr. Victor Afari-Sefa, WAF Council Member, Ghana
8. Mr. Santanu K Bhuyan, WAF Council Member, Ghana
9. Dr. Ernesto A Brovelli, WAF Council Member, U.S.A.
10. Mr. Ravi Prabhu, WAF Council Member, India
11. Ms. Stephanie Race, WAF Council Member, U.K.
12. Mr. Mitchell London, WAF Council Member, U.S.A.
13. Ms. Geneviève Pons, WAF Council Member, Belgium
14. Mr. Amir Jahangir, WAF Council Member, Pakistan
15. Dr Angeline Achariya, WAF Council Member, Australia



Meeting Overview

The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) convened a meeting in Mumbai, India, chaired by Prof. Rudy Rabbinge. The session brought together a diverse group of members, both in-person and online, comprising key figures in agricultural development from various countries.

The discussions focused on several critical areas, including the structure and operational efficiency of the Forum, strategies for enhancing its global presence, and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Key topics included the establishment of a Secretariat, efficient leadership and the importance of aligning WAF's initiatives with global standards.

Participants engaged in fruitful discussions about fostering partnerships, promoting inclusive agri-business, and addressing pressing issues such as climate change and food security. The meeting also underscored the need for strategic planning around global excellence awards, flagship events, and the role

Highlights of Discussions

Key Points Discussed:

1. Structure of the Forum

- Establish a Secretariat - Responsibility to head Secretariat
- Consider rotating positions within the leadership structure.
- Reconsider contributions of the Chair and Co-chair; this should be finalized by the end of the year.
- Unify concepts, methodologies, and approaches within the Forum.
- Have finances and budget

- Initiate the signing of MoUs.

2. Functioning of the Forum - take it on the lines of WEF

- Developing a strategy
- Focus on policy advocacy, knowledge sharing, and innovation.
- Approach political, business, technical, development Institutions.
- Collaborate - research, development, banking, corporates, experts, individuals
- Adopt best practices
- Flagship programs on nutrition, health, knowledge sharing, reports, agency, and advocacy.
- Generate funds through Membership/subscription/donation/events/project related funding, Proposal

3. Make the Forum a Premier Body

- Create Global Excellence Awards
- Hold an annual flagship program, aligned with World Agriculture Day on 9-10 September each year.
- Determine potential venues for this event like



New Delhi for the flagship event.

4. Incremental Ways for impact

- Intellectual cultivation
- Recognition
- Provide input to Agri-dealers
- Increase produce, knowledge sharing, understanding and innovation
- Promote inclusive agri-businesses – Its importance in creating food sustainability
- Technical mobilization
- Farmer market linkage - getting more of secondary agriculture organizations
- Join hands with Governments to promote
- Storage of food close to harvest
- Dealing with Production losses
- Market for the farmers locally and globally
- Transparency and better price for farmers
- Increase salary for farmers – farmers not making money
- Formation of groups among farmers
- Engagement with farmers
- Agriculture extension and marketing
- Cut down role of intermediaries
- Open data sharing
- Create data for waste
- Income generating activity for farmer's free days, design programs

5. Partnerships & Legality

- Alliances/ collaborations – Governments, Industry and Institutions
- Endorsements/ recognition – legal and diplomatic recognition
- Trademarks/ copyright

6. Future of Agriculture

- Ecological is probably the way to go
- Mitigate climate change
- Promote sustainability

- Development of the best economical solutions, meet technical needs.
- How do we bring in zero people under hunger index
- Bring all 15 countries together under CIRDAP
- Rural development along with Agri development
- Changing the perception of agriculture - communicate and bring clarity

Actionable Items :

1. Induct five more Board members – include Indonesia, South America
2. Induct 60 more Global Council members
3. Formation of Secretariat
4. Role and responsibilities of members
5. Discuss policies, agenda at international level with regard to how we develop agriculture
6. Include agro trade and agribusinesses
7. MoUs to be put in place
8. Approach for partnerships
9. Grab quick opportunities so that we can work with impact
10. Revisit the documents we have till now

Conclusion :

The meeting concluded with a strong consensus on actionable items that aim to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the World Agriculture Forum. Members agreed to induct additional Board and Global Council members, establish a dedicated Secretariat, and pursue partnerships that can catalyse sustainable agricultural development. The discussions not only highlighted the urgency of addressing global agricultural challenges but also reaffirmed WAF's commitment to empowering rural communities and fostering inclusive growth. As the Forum moves forward, it is set to play a crucial role in



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