

Proposing the International Year of Pulses

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DATE, LOCATION :

Friday, October 19, 08:30-09:30/ Austria Room

MODERATOR:

Mr. G.N. Singh: Director, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India

SPEAKERS :

- Isa Özkan: Head of Department, Agricultural Research and Policies General Directorate of the Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Gavin Gibson: Executive Director, CICILS
- Katia Sambin: Representative, ACOS
- Hakan Bahceci: President of CICILS, and CEO of Hakan Foods

MEETING SUMMARY

Pulse are the most important source of plant protein for world food security. An International Year of Pulses is called for in 2016 to highlight the role of pulses in nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and improved livelihoods for farmers.

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION POINTS

Isa Özkan, Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock

- As pulses have high protein content in their structure (18-36%) they have significant importance in nutrition. In the world, for human nutrition, 22% of protein and 7% of carbohydrates are obtained from pulses.
- Pulses do not require special effort for cultivation and can be stored easily.
- Smallholder farmers produce pulses both for their own consumption and their income.
- Turkey is leading the call for an International Year of Pulses because is the country of origin for cheakpeas and lentils and is one of the main pulses producer and exporter.
- Turkey transfers its technology related to pulses to the world for specific purposes.

Gavin Gibson, CICILS

- Four important attributes of pulses are: a) Nutritional value b) contribution to human health c) environmental sustainability d) water use efficiency of pulses relative to other sources of protein.

- CICILS has started the first phase of a project to harmonise global testing methodology and develop a common approach to expressing and describing pulse nutritional values
- A study from Western Canada and it shows that growing peas uses far less non-renewable energy than other crops, due to lower fertilizer requirements.
- Pulses are one of the most efficient users of water to produce plant-based protein.

Katia Sambin, ACOS

- Acos has been present in Ethiopia since 2005 by setting up a production plant where they have 350 workers.
- Acos has also established a school near to the facility, in order to provide the workers' children with access to primary schooling.
- The company has dramatically increased the value of pulse crops for surrounding farmers, improving the livelihoods of producers and their families.

Hakan Bahceci, president of CICILS, Hakan Foods

- The production and export of pulses comes mainly from developed countries, though the consumption is low there, for example in Australia, one of the Top ten Exporting Countries of Pulses, only 22% of the population eats a meal based on pulses once a week, according to a national survey.
- We need to make people aware of the importance of the pulses.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- Pulses will play an increasingly important role as the world's population continues to grow.
- Pulses will be seen as a food ingredient that compliments the role of cereals in providing nutritious food, and at the same time address the challenge of ensuring sustainability in food production and processing practices.