

International Green Week Berlin 2014

A Report by ANA STODDART*

It is the first snowy white winter morning and the International Green Week seems to lighten up Berlin and give a warm welcome to the locals at the Messe (Showroom). The Green Week and its Agricultural Policy meetings (Global Forum for Food and Agriculture) dates back to 1926; nowadays this modern international Fair is becoming one of the world's largest fair for food, agriculture and gardening. The trade show is highly oriented to consumers with over 20 exhibiting halls displaying live animals, flowers and natural farm products as well as offering visitors with a wide range of food, products and entertaining activities.



A walk through the fair allows you to enrich your knowledge on different agricultural and rural topics and at the same time gain a better palate on ethnic and national (German) food and beverages. One of my first stops was at a small rice-producing establishment "ETAGUI" from Republic of Guinea that came to Berlin to seek for a trade partner and start exporting into the EU.



In a following hall, I came across the Moroccan Pavilion and learned about "Aknari Jabal Ait Baarmrane" (image on the left) innovations on packaging and marketing ancient traditional products such as cactus pickle and powder as well as its anti-age Prickly Pear oil. Further on, I visited a Dutch Flower Stand (image below) that has been coming to the Green Week for the past ten years. They considered the fair to be a good promotional outlet and market place for Horticulture.

Every hall has something exciting and diverse to amuse you; you feel like touring all Germany through its regional cuisine while enjoying a live performance, connecting with nature and colourful flowered gardens or letting your imagination travel abroad to exotic destinations.



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GFP stall. Photos by Ana Stoddart

A definite highlight in the Green Week was to learn about “*The German Federation of Private Plant Breeders (GFT)*” interesting projects on agricultural and horticultural crop breeding for food, feed and in some cases even Bioenergy.

These non-profit associations, which several of its members are small and medium scale German farmers, carries out research programs by highly qualified professionals and scientific institutions to provide competitive and suitable answers to breeders needs.

All in all, the International Green Week Berlin is most definitely a place to awake your senses and explore worldwide gastronomy, gain insides into the field of agriculture and become dazzled by the impressive beauty of its horticulture section.

For further information please visit:

International Green Week Berlin: <http://www.gruenewoche.de/en>

German Federation of Private Plant Breeders (GFP): <http://www.bdp-online.de/deD/GFP>