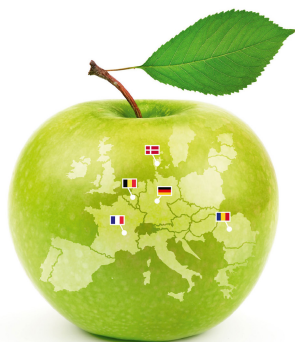




By FOFJ Editorial Staff

New Master Programme “Sustainable Food Systems” from fall 2015



Starting in fall 2015, the new Master Programme “Sustainable Food Systems” will be introduced by a consortium of six European-Universities. The programme focuses on sustainability along the entire food chain, with specific regard to learning in an international context. Students participating in the programme are able to study at several of the following universities:

- Ghent University, Belgium
- Aarhus University, Denmark
- ISARA-Lyon, France
- Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- University of Kassel, Germany
- USAMV Cluj, Romania

The combined expertise of these six higher education institutions offers a broad range for specialization in various fields. A flexible schedule allows for student mobility:

1. In the first semester, a “home university” can be chosen out of the following countries: Belgium, Germany and Romania
2. For the second semester, a specialization is selected at either Belgium, Denmark, Germany or Romania.
3. The third semester is characterised by a practical approach for all students in France
4. A Master’s thesis can be done in the fourth semester at either of the universities with the exception of Aarhus, Denmark.

For more detailed information, please visit the programme website: <http://www.susfoods.eu/>

Hidden hunger as an alarming public health problem

Hidden hunger is becoming an alarming public health problem in both developed and developing countries. Difficult to detect from the first sight as it is not felt as a real hunger, hidden hunger requires careful health examination. In addition to this, lack of certain micronutrients might cause long-term health and developmental problems, unless proper treatment has been applied. Resolution of this issue requires enhanced research and deep analysis



Picture 1: Poster by A. Otunchieva during the Hidden Hunger Conference

in order to understand causes and consequences of micronutrient deficiency. Moreover, active involvement of different actors on all levels of the decision-making process is crucial for tackle the problem of hidden hunger on a large scale. To tackle this complex issue, University of Hohenheim organized the 2nd International Congress on Hidden Hunger, Childhood Development and Long-term Prospects for Society and Economy on

March 3-6, 2015 in Stuttgart, Germany. Taking place every two years, the Congress gathered a number of stakeholders working on the issue of child malnutrition around the world, including scholars from different fields, representatives of NGOs, private firms and field workers. Divided into six parts, the program had a logical sequence, including state of the art of malnutrition, importance of proper nutrition during the first 1000 days, nutrition transition in low-income countries, reasons and consequences of hidden hunger and ways to improve nutrition security. Thus, during the presentations and poster session, the topic has been considered from different angles where representatives of such fields as paediatricians, agricultural sciences, pediatrics, neonatology, gynecology, social sciences including economics and political science. The



poster (Picture 1) named “Child malnutrition as a challenge for ensuring food security under the water shortage conditions in Batken Province of the Kyrgyz republic” was prepared by Ms. Aiperi Otunchieva, Mr. Sisira Withanachchi and Prof. Dr. Angelika Ploeger (University of Kassel, Department of the Organic Food Quality and Food Culture).

AESOP-sustainable food planning conference



The 7th Annual Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) sustainable food planning conference which will be held in Turin from the 7th to the 9th October 2015. See <http://www.aesoptorino2015.it/>

These conferences provide a wonderful opportunity for cross disciplinary dialogue, networking and identifying important and emerging research related to sustainable food planning. Over the past 7 years a community of practice has formed around the conferences and last year a PhD student / new researchers group was formally established as a valuable network for building the research area and the work of early career researchers. The organising committee welcome as wide a spectrum of delegates as possible! **The deadline for application is 31st of May 2015.**

More information: info@aesoptorino2015.it

Manageable drain system into crowd cities in developing countries

Urban flood management is emerging as a future global challenge connected to rising urbanization and increasing complexity in city systems. Under poor management, fragile and lack of urban flood control system and drainage systems could bring about gigantic social problems, health issues and economic losses. The imbalance between urban

runoff volume and effective drainage capacity could create flash flood (Chandrasena et al., 2014). Nadeeha Chandrasena from Sri Lanka has been selected for a special graduate training course in Singularity University in NASA Research Park, United States of America. Chandrasena is selected based on her young innovative phenomenon of study and engineering creativity to tackle the urban flash flood in crowded cities in Asia and Africa. With the supervision of her doctoral research committee, Associate Professor Dr Khamaruzaman B Wan Yusof, Dr Muhammad Raza Ul Mustafa, Dr Zahiranisa B Mustafa at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Technology PETRONAS, Malaysia, Chandrasena is developing a two-phase drainage pipe to collect the residual and smoothly rain water floating. Her new invention is feasible and amicable to the limited budget available in developing countries.



Picture 1: Nadeeha Chandrasena (Source: BBC)

Calling for papers Vol 3 Nr 2 FOFJ

Innovative Green Technologies in Agriculture and Food (Food processing/ production)

Challenges such as population growth, economic globalisation, urbanisation and changing food cultures lead to a rising demand for food production. Water shortages, soil erosion, overreliance on fossil fuels, overconsumption and loss of biodiversity are among the most urgent problems caused by business-as-usual agriculture. There clearly is a need for greener and smarter technologies to address these challenges that have emerged in the 21st century world food system, working towards sustainable agriculture, food production and processing.

Future of Food Journal, the collaborative work of the Department of Organic Food Quality and Food Culture at the University of Kassel, Germany and the



Federation of German Scientists (VDW), is calling research paper for the Vol.3 Nr. 2 (autumn 2015). The titled is "Innovative Green Technologies in Agriculture and Food (Food processing/production)".

The submission deadline will be 20th of July 2015.

You can find more information on the submission at http://issuu.com/fofjournal/docs/calling_for_paper_2

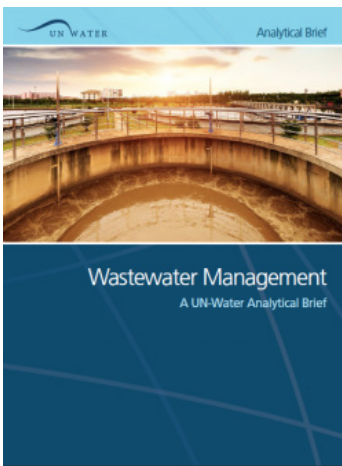


Picture 1: Farm Direct Hydroponic Vegetable Retail Concept Store in Hong Kong (Source: Farm Direct Hong Kong)

NEWS from UNWater

Wastewater Management- A UN-Water Analytical Brief

As the timeframe for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) nears completion, minds are turning to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This is accompanied by the realization that the focus on drinking-water and sanitation without due attention being paid to the end products of water and sanitation provision (i.e. wastewater) may have exacerbated some of the water quality problems seen globally.



It is increasingly being recognized that the issues of wastewater management and water quality have cross-linkages with a range of other water- and non-water issues, not least in respect of the water, energy and

food nexus. It has also been acknowledged that wastewater management clearly plays a role in achieving future water security in a world where

water stress will increase (OECD, 2012).

Against this backdrop, there is an emerging consensus on the need for a dedicated water goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, one which includes explicit recognition of the importance of good wastewater management and its contribution to protecting water quality.

The full report can be downloaded at

<http://goo.gl/W7uOMP>

(This news is taken directly from UNWater, for more information please visit <http://www.unwater.org/>)

TTIP and Food Systems



Photo credit: Christoph Liebenritt - www.liebenritt.at via flickr

The Trans-Atlantic free trade treaty between the EU and the US, TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), continues to be under negotiation. As Jürgen Mayer elaborated upon in Vol.1, No. 2 of Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture & Society, parts of civil society are critical or downright negative towards the free trade agreement. Trade Unions, environmentalists and also farmers and critical consumers are afraid of a watering-down of the relatively high environmental, food safety and labor standards in the EU. Proponents of the free trade package claim positive effects for both economies, as standards would be harmonized



and regulatory barriers abolished. The debate also relates to mechanisms of investor-state dispute settlement; the lack of transparency in the negotiations; and the precautionary principle, which touches on matters of genetically modified organisms (GMO) and additives.

At the time, the transatlantic food market is rather small, as explained by Prof. Gabriel Felbermayr, Ludwig-Maximilian-University (LMU), Munich. Food products that are traded between the US and EU include rather marginal products such as raisins and nuts, and spirits. With the down-scaling of regulations, which are often seen as barriers to free trade rather than as protection of consumer's right, Felbermayr projects a remarkable growth in the trans-atlantic food market. However, he also expects a number of exceptions to be written into the treaty. German consumers, for example, are horrified by the thoughts of American "Chlorhuhn", chlorinated chicken, in their supermarket aisles. The US poultry industry defends the practice, used to battle salmonellas, which it insists does not pose any health threat.

The Anti-TTIP-Movement called for a global day of action on April 18, 2015 and managed to move tens of thousands to the streets in peaceful protest. Meanwhile, negotiators on both sides intend to find solutions to conflictual parts of the agreement soon. The Obama Administration wants to sign and ratify the treaty before the end of term in late 2016, and European politicians, such as the Sigmar Gabriel, German Federal Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy, also seek to end the debate. It remains in the open whether civil society organizations can manage to bring about the suspension of the treaty any longer.

Sources: <http://dw.de>; <http://www.ttip-unfairhandelbar.de>; own reporting

Ulrike Wunderle new director of VDW

Ulrike Wunderle is the new managing director (*Geschäftsführerin*) of VDW e.V., Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler (Association of German Scientists), one of the two co-publishers of Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture & Society. She has taken over office from Reiner Braun on March 15, 2015. Ms Wunderle has been a member of VDW from 2006 and member of the advisory board (*Beirat*) from 2009. She also has a background in the Young Pugwash Movement, an international movement of students and young scientists working towards

world peace. The FOFJ Editorial Staff congratulates Ms Ulrike Wunderle to her new appointment, we are looking forward to a long and fruitful co-operation.

Sources: <http://vdw-ev.de>

Monsanto: Even more Power to the Agri-Science Corporation?

Monsanto, the US corporation that holds great chunks of the international market on both commercial seeds (of the conventional and GMO variety) and agro-chemicals, may gain access to even more economic power.

In the beginning of May 2015, rumours about a merger with the Swiss agritech giant Syngenta solidified. For the time being, Syngenta's board has rejected a 45 \$ Billion takeover bid. But as environmentalist magazine Mother Jones explains, this is not the end of it. Syngenta holds large shares in the pesticide industry, while Monsanto seems to strive towards a dominant position in the seed market, already controlling a market share of about 26%. Monsanto is number one in biotechnology and number five in agrochemicals, while Syngenta is number one in agrochemicals and third-largest player in the biotech market. The merger, should it ever come through, could create a veritable monster that would be extremely hard to challenge by competitors such as Bayer CropScience, Dow, BASF, DuPont etc.

In related news, environmentalists, organic farmers, and health advocacy groups are putting more pressure on European legislators to ban *glyphosate*, a best-selling herbicide invented and sold by Monsanto under the brand name *Roundup*. The widely used chemical is found to be likely to be carcinogenic, among other health risks associated with the spraying of the herbicide. The appropriate committee of German federal states, currently chaired by the Lower Saxon Minister of Agriculture and Consumers' Rights, Christian Meyer (Green Party), are discussing a ban on selling glyphosate. The Netherlands have decided upon a ban for glyphosate that will become effective by the end of the year.

The high-input, large-scale agribusiness model relies on *glyphosate* and similar chemicals in order to make profits, and a turn to an alternative model is not in sight, despite the growing protest against Monsanto and its competing agrochemical



companies.

Sources: Mother Jones; <http://naturalsociety.com>

Opening of Food-Themed EXPO 2015 Milan

Picture credit: Lorenzo Click via flickr



May 1, 2015 saw the opening of Milan's food-themed World Exposition. "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" is the motto of the EXPO 2015 held in the Lombardian city in Northern Italy. World Expositions tend to be great shows celebrating technological progress and national pride. The decision to emphasize food and agriculture mirrors part of the Italian national identity, which prides itself with a rich and tasty food culture

Picture credit: Fedra Studios, via flickr



which is highly appreciated in many countries of the world. For the next five months, the World Expo aims to be a festival of cultural diversity.

However, all's not fair in the City of Milan: The preparation for Milan's Expo were accompanied by accusations of corruption and other criminal practices in the construction of the Exposition's pavillions. Also, the grand opening on May 1,

called a "glitzy ceremony" by The Guardian, was overshadowed by riots and confrontation between militant protesters and police. Protesters, presumably from an anti-capitalist background, used black bloc tactics and torched cars. However, these riots may say more about the fragile social fabric of Italian society than about the Expo itself.

Sources: <http://guardian.com>, <http://www.expo2015.org>

New section in FOFJ for Knowledge/ Science Transfer



Beginning in Vol. 3 No. 2 of the Future of Food Journal - to be published September/October 2015 -, there will be a new section for exchange and introduction of innovative ideas and new business plans in the field of food, agriculture and social development. Especially young researchers, activists and inventors all over the world are searching, pondering and producing new strategies to address current and future problems that will effect ecosystems and human beings. Young people today are pursuing diverse and new experiences with different forms of cultural exchange and knowledge production. With the new section, Future of Food Journal will provide a platform in order to distribute these experiences in an online forum.

You are welcomed to share your idea and inventions to the global public.

Please send your idea to us not later than **10th of September 2015** to managingeditors@fofj.org

Picture credit: Sean MacEntee via flickr

A Report from Expo 2015

The FOFJ Editorial Staff will explore the diversity of the EXPO 2015, gather impressions, find out about best practice and research innovative approaches. In summer 2015, we will conduct a field trip to the EXPO 2015 in Milan and bring back many images and ideas. Learn more in the next issue of Future of Food: Journal on Food, Agriculture & Society!