

DAY 1

The Sahel and West Africa Club Forum

European Union Pavilion Expo Milano

The Forum brings together some 100 international leaders from governments, regional organisations, civil society, professional associations, research centres, international organisations and multilateral and bilateral agencies. It is an opportunity to share knowledge, policies and experiences in promoting food and nutrition security. The Forum is structured into four sessions over two days, combining panel presentations, insights and debates.

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

Change in West Africa and its impact on food security

10h00 — 10h45

WELCOME COFFEE AND PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

10h45 — 11h00 **INTRODUCTION**

- **Representative of the EU Expo Task Force**
- **François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President**

11h00 — 13h00 **SESSION 1**

Urbanisation, structural change and the food system

Moderator **Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General, UCLG Africa**

Settlement dynamics and in particular rapid urbanisation have led to spectacular changes in the regional food economy. These major transformations – the 30-fold increase of people living in urban areas from 5 to 150 million people in the space of 65 years, the number of towns growing from 150 to 2 000, the regional food market exceeding USD 120 billion – have dramatically changed the region's food economy. A transformational modernisation is under way in West African food chains, with changing diets and longer value chains. How do these changes impact on food security dynamics? What are the new policy challenges?

11h00 — 11h30 *Presentations*

- *Urbanisation, economic geography and agriculture* — **Philipp Heinrigs, Senior Economist, SWAC/OECD Secretariat**
- *The growing role of markets in food security* — **Seyni Hamadou, Director of Agriculture, UEMOA**
- *Impact of urbanisation on food systems* — **John Staatz, Professor Emeritus, Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University**

11h30 — 13h00 *Insights and debate*

- *Changing consumer habits* — **Thomas Allen, Economist, SWAC/OECD Secretariat**
- *Development of the food processing sector in Burkina Faso* — **Simone Zoundi, CEO, Sodepal and President of FIAB**
- *The tomato paste value chain: trends, tensions and transformations* — **Guyslain K. Ngeleza, Economist, MCC**
- *Food prices and competitiveness in West Africa* — **Thomas Allen, Economist, SWAC/OECD Secretariat**
- *How are farmers responding?* — **Djibo Bagna, President, ROPPA**
- *The crucial role of urban-rural linkages* — **Cecilia Tacoli, Principal Researcher, Human Settlements Group, IIED**
- *The role of cities and territories in the Urban Food Policy Pact* — **Andrea Calori, Partner, Economia e Sostenibilità - ESTà**

13h00 — 14h30 **lunch break**



It aims to:

- Elicit knowledge and experience-sharing among West Africa's stakeholders and partners and those from other regions;
- Raise awareness regarding the role of women in supporting resilience and sustainability;
- Deepen understanding of food and nutrition security challenges in a context of change;
- Debate innovative approaches and mechanisms to strengthening resilience; and
- Discuss priorities for development and food security.

Essentially, how can key players support greater resilience and sustainability, both nationally and regionally?

14h30 — 16h30 **SESSION 2**

Climate change, adaptation and food security

Moderator **Dennis Garrity, Drylands Ambassador, UN Convention to Combat Desertification**

Climate variability and climate change-related events are, and will increasingly be, key characteristics of West Africa. Populations have developed strategies to cope with the region's climate variability over centuries, in particular in its dryland areas. Can these strategies be used in the context of increased uncertainty and climate change? What are the key challenges for food security and resilience of the population? What are the African priorities for addressing climate change and adaptation at COP 21?

14h30 — 15h00 *Presentations*

→ *Climate and impacts on food security* —

Carlo Buontempo, Climate Hazard and Impact Processes Team Manager, UK Met Office Hadley Centre

→ *Climate-smart agriculture to face climate change and variability in West Africa* —

Robert Zougmore, Regional Program Leader, CGIAR

→ *The importance of climate finance mechanisms for West Africa* —

Maguette Kairé, Forest Expert, CILSS/AGRHYMET

→ *Africa in the COP21 climate negotiations* —

Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD Agency

15h00 — 16h30 *Insights and debate*

→ *Traditional adaptation strategies in the Sahel: a focus on the livestock sector* —

Ibra Touré, Geographer, CIRAD

→ *Climate-smart agricultural experiences in Africa* —

Aslihan Arslan, Natural Resource Economist, FAO

17h30 — 18h30

PAVILION VISITS (OPTIONAL)