

**10th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)
Tübingen, Germany, 30th May – 2nd June 2012**

Call for abstracts

**Climate Change and Sustainable Development:
Ethical Perspectives on Land Use and Food Production**

Climate change is one of the major framing conditions for sustainable development of agriculture and food production. This is connected to ongoing changes in and of land-use practices which are related to local, regional and global scales, often dubbed as 'glocal' situations. That characterisation also applies to the closely related land and waters use domains of forestry and fisheries.

Agricultural and food ethics and its adjacent fields need to address well known, but aggravated 'old' problems. These are, among others, desertification due to temperature increase, changing precipitation regimes, unsustainable and/or unfair land-use and water regimes, pressure on arable land due to the loss of coastal areas, soil degradation and suburban sprawl, and the strain placed on both environment and animal welfare as a consequence of a growing worldwide demand for animal products. Also the manifold socio-economic implications on justice and fairness have to be investigated from different ethical perspectives.

At the same time, however, climate change creates specific effects: There are and will be new irreversible changes of natural and anthropogenic systems. Mitigation and adaptation measures to counter or slow down climate change have already resulted in considerable changes in agri- and silvicultural land-use. This is mainly but not only due to the significant increase in growing plants for energy supply ("biofuels"). Another perspective is the purchase or long-term tenancy of arable land or of water rights in the countries of the global south by wealthy nations and by transnational enterprises. In the case of animal production, specific dilemmas arise when a narrow focus on carbon efficiency favours intensive production systems which are decoupled from many traditional agricultural considerations.

These issues are only some of the many dimensions which demand reflection from an agricultural and food ethics perspective and thus examination by the community of scholars involved in EurSafe. The 10th EurSafe Congress will address the topic of climate change and sustainable development under four main perspectives: (1) food production, (2) preservation of natural resources, (3) lifestyles (4) general philosophical and historical issues of climate change, sustainable development and food ethics. There are overlaps, so sessions within the programme will examine different foci providing a stimulating and challenging array of contributions to the congress.

You will be asked to submit your abstract for a paper or a poster under one of the four main themes. The sub-themes are issues of major interest and papers should address at least one of them. However, the structure of both the conference volume and the sessions at the conference will be adjusted according to the thematic scope of papers accepted:

THEME 1: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

This section is devoted to questions of climate adaptation and mitigation measures with regard to agriculture, fisheries and the related technologies for food production. Problems such as changing land-use, agricultural water consumption, reduction of greenhouse gases, degradation/pollution and animal welfare will be addressed. These issues are of course also related to overall perspectives of sustainable development.

- 1.1 Agricultural and aquacultural production systems adapting to climate change
- 1.2 Land ownership and land grab
- 1.3 Animal farming and animal welfare
- 1.4 Intensive vs. extensive production practices
- 1.5 Role of genetically modified organisms
- 1.6 Production priorities: food vs. fibre vs. fuel

THEME 2: CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This section focuses on how natural sources that support food production can be maintained, hence providing basic capital for sustainable development under conditions of climate change.

- 2.1 Land-use changes
- 2.2 Water rights and regimes: demands and supplies
- 2.3 Local breeds and cultural traditions in a changing world
- 2.4 Biodiversity and/or ecosystem services
- 2.5 Patenting, food/feed markets and global socio-economic perspectives
- 2.6 Sustainable transport systems related to agri-food
- 2.7 Managing change – new options for sustainable development

THEME 3: CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIFE STYLES

This section focuses on the issue of new lifestyles that are compatible, or not, with climate adaptation and mitigation (also referred to as compensation) measures with regard to food. Different types of actor responsibility (individual, regional, collective, state, global) in coping with climate change could be discussed here.

- 3.1 'Glocalization' and food: the role of local actors in addressing global challenges
- 3.2 Lifestyles and institutional perspectives: regulation, law, governance
- 3.3 Lifestyle and its relation to animal welfare
- 3.4 Lifestyle and resources (e.g. mobility, "virtual" water content of products)
- 3.5 'Ethical' or 'green' consumerism
- 3.6 Education and food ethics

THEME 4: GENERAL PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL ISSUES

This section focuses on more general philosophical and historical questions of climate change, sustainability, agricultural and food ethics.

1. Towards a general philosophy of agriculture and food production
2. Teaching sustainable development and ethics: concepts and practical cases
3. Values and norms in sustainable food production: links to international governance
4. Historical perspectives on colonisation, globalisation and land use

Electronic submissions of *abstracts for papers and posters* are sought until 1st September 2011 via the [EurSAFE 2012 Abstract system](#). They must not exceed 2,500 characters including title, authors and addresses, and including spaces and punctuation. All abstracts will be reviewed by a scientific committee and successful candidates are asked to submit the full paper (ca. 25.000 characters) or poster (text version) by 9th December 2011 in order to have the printed volume of the Congress Book with all contributions ready for the conference 2012.

Proposals for *sessions* with 3-4 related papers are welcomed, but all papers have to be submitted and will be reviewed also individually. A session proposal contains name and address of the proponent, a brief description of its theme, and the list of authors and papers suggested. It is due also 1st September 2011 and should be e-mailed to eursafe2012@izew.uni-tuebingen.de.

Proposals for *workshops* with others formats (workgroups, discussion, film, etc.) during the conference should reach the Scientific Committee by 9th December 2011. The proposal should contain name and address of the person proposing the workshop, a brief description of its theme and special focus, and an outline of the format of the workshop. The ethical aspects should be made explicit. The description should be under 1000 words and sent to eursafe2012@izew.uni-tuebingen.de.

Timeline

01.09.2011	Deadline for submission of abstracts (for Papers, Posters, Sessions)
02.09.-20.10.2011	Review by Scientific Committee
21.10.2011	Decision sent to authors
09.12.2011	Submission of full paper
	Deadline for suggestions of Workshops
10.02.2012	Review by Scientific Committee, if appl. revision by authors, editing

Conference fees

Before 1.4.2012		After 1.4.2012	
EurSafe members	310€	EurSafe members	340€
Non-EurSafe members	360€	Non-EurSafe members	390€
Students	120€	Students	150€

The fees include a copy of the Congress Book, tea/coffee/snacks, 2 luncheons and the conference dinner

Conference Date: 30th May (Wednesday evening) – 2nd June 2012 (Saturday afternoon)

Venue: Tübingen – Theology Building of Tübingen University,
Liebermeisterstr. 12-16, 72076 Tübingen, Germany

Local Host: International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW),
Tübingen University, Wilhelmstr. 19, 72074 Tübingen, Germany

Contact persons: PD Dr. Thomas Potthast and Simon Meisch, IZEW

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