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DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE

Or. Eng.

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**Conference of Directors and Representatives of Agricultural Knowledge Systems (AKS)
(Agricultural Research, Extension and Higher Education)**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

*To be held at the Château de la Muette, Paris 16
10 - 13 January 2000.
the conference will start at 3.00 p.m. on 10th January.*

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IMPORTANT

Delegates participating in this meeting should be advised that the security arrangements in force at the OECD include the obligation to present an identity document bearing a photograph.

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It is desirable that Delegates should be made aware of this requirement in order to avoid any difficulty in obtaining entry.

While all the necessary arrangements have been made to facilitate the transition to year 2000, Delegates should nevertheless bear in mind that unforeseen difficulties may arise at the beginning of 2000.

Please note that in a spirit of paper economy and for environmental purposes, extra copies of the documents listed on the agenda will henceforth no longer be available in the meeting room. Delegates are invited to bring with them the copies they receive through OLIS or paper mail or to obtain further copies from their respective National Delegation to OECD.

Delegates are informed that meetings rooms are "non smoking" areas.

AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS ADDRESSING FOOD SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SECOND CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (AKS) (Agricultural Research, Extension and Higher Education)

To be held at the Château de la Muette, Paris

10-13 January 2000

The conference will start at 3.00 p.m.

Conference Programme

Monday 10 January

3.00 p.m.

- Welcome and official opening of the conference.

- ❖ Gérard VIATTE,
OECD Director for Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries

Plenary session No. 1 Chairman: Paul VIALLE, Director General, INRA

3.15 p.m.

a) Global issues affecting the new agenda of the agro-food sector and their significance for the AKS (With special reference to food safety).

- ❖ Keynote address by Miley GONZALEZ,
USDA Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

3.45 p.m.

b) The role and responsibility of agriculture and the AKS in achieving and maintaining environmentally sound and sustainable agricultural production systems.

- ❖ Keynote address by Ms. Sophia LAMBERT, Director, Wildlife and Countryside Directorate, U.K. Department on the Environment and the Regions

Discussion

4.30 p.m.

c) Summary and evaluation of main developments and changes in organisational forms of and approaches by the AKS in OECD Member countries [AGR/CA/AKS(2000)4*]

- ❖ Denis LUCEY, Vice President and professor for food economics
University College Cork, Ireland.

Discussion

6.00 p.m..

Cocktail reception hosted by the OECD Director for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Gérard VIATTE

* Single country notes are circulated in document AGR/CA/AKS(2000)1.

Tuesday 11 January

9.30 a.m. **Plenary session No. 2** Chairman:

TOPIC NO. 1 - FOOD SAFETY

a) Overview

- Overview of current food safety issues. [AGR/CA/AKS(2000)7] introduced by the OECD Secretariat (Wayne JONES)
- 9.45 a.m. – Interaction and co-operation between the AKS and other interest groups for the production and distribution of safe and high quality food products
 - ❖ a view from the consumers' side [AGR/CA/AKS(2000)9] : Bruce SILVERGLADE, President of the International Consumer Food Associations.
 - ❖ a view from the agro-food industry : Ms. Irina du BOIS, Vice President NESTEC LTD.

Short questions and answers

10.45 a.m.

Coffee break

11.15 a.m.

- b) Presentation of the comparative analysis of AKS approaches in addressing food safety issues in OECD Member countries. [AGR/CA/AKS(2000)5*]
 - ❖ William WAGNER, Executive Director, Joint Institute for Food Safety Research, United States.

11.45 a.m.

- c) The AKS addressing food safety issues in different OECD Member countries. (country specific examples)
 - France
 - Ireland
 - Poland
 - Spain
 - United States

General discussion

1.00 p.m.

Lunch

2.30-4.30 p.m.

Continuation of discussions in three parallel workshops focussing on specific aspects of AKS addressing the issue of food safety (see note to the agenda).

5.00 p.m.

Workshop chairmen present main findings to the Plenary Meeting.

* Single country notes are circulated in document AGR/CA/AKS(2000)2.

Wednesday 12 January

9.30 a.m. **Plenary session No. 3** Chairman:

TOPIC NO. 2 - AGRICULTURE / ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS

a) Overview

- Overview of issues related to agriculture/environmental interactions and sustainable agriculture [AGR/CA/AKS(2000)8], introduced by the OECD Secretariat (Wilfrid LEGG)
- 9.45 a.m.
- Interaction and Co-operation between the AKS and other interest groups in preserving the environment and achieving agricultural sustainability
 - ❖ a view from the agricultural producers : Mr. Gérard DOORNBOS, President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).
 - ❖ a view from the agro-food industry represented by the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) : Ms. Kristen E. SUKALAC, Global Crop Protection Federation (GCPF).
 - ❖ a view from a non-governmental organisation [AGR/CA/AKS(2000)10] : Michael WINTER, Professor of rural economy in the countryside and community research unit, Cheltenham, UK, on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Short questions and answers

10.45 a.m. *Coffee break*

- 11.15 a.m.
- b) Presentation of the comparative analysis of AKS approaches in addressing problems related to agriculture – environmental interactions in OECD Member countries. [AGR/CA/AKS(2000)6*]
 - ❖ Ken MILNE, Director of graduate studies and professor of plant health, College of Sciences, Massey University, New Zealand.
 - c) The AKS addressing agriculture-environmental issues. (country specific examples)
 - Austria
 - Canada
 - Netherlands
 - Norway
 - Portugal

General discussion

* Single country notes are circulated in document AGR/CA/AKS(2000)3.

Wednesday 12 January (cont.)

- 1.00 p.m. *Lunch*
- 2.30-4.30 p.m. Continuation of discussions in three parallel workshops focussing on specific aspects of AKS addressing agriculture/environmental interactions (see note to the Agenda)..
- 5.00 p.m. Workshop chairmen present main findings to the Plenary Meeting.

Thursday 13 January

- 9.30 a.m. Three separate meetings on (1) Agricultural Research, (2) Advisory Services, and (3) Higher Education in Agriculture, will be held in order to allow for a more in-depth discussion of emerging new aspects and the significance of the changing agenda for each of these 3 single AKS sectors as well as possible consequences for their institutional arrangements and co-operative approaches on food safety and agriculture/environmental interactions.
- 11.00 a.m. Panel discussion on the main findings of and conclusions to be drawn from the conference
- ❖ Panel leader : Gérard VIATTE,
OECD Director for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
- 1.00 p.m. *Lunch break*
- Plenary session No. 4** Chairman:
- 3.00 p.m. Discussion, formulation and adoption of main conference conclusions and recommendations.
- 6.00 p.m. End of conference

Notes to the Agenda

The three parallel workshops to be held on Tuesday 11 January (on food safety issues) and Wednesday 12 January (on agri-environmental interactions) will focus on the following aspects :

Workshop No. 1: Co-operation and Networking.

Interaction and networking within the AKS, as well as AKS interactions with the policy level and co-operation with NGOs, industry and the public at large in addressing questions related to the topic.

(This will include discussion on priority setting, development of programmes and solutions under a general broadening of AKS tasks as well as on AKS involvement in policy formulation).

Workshop No. 2: Strategies, Approaches and Funding.

The role of the AKS in developing strategies, approaches and priorities for the implementation of research, education and extension programmes and for risk assessment activities relative to the topic.

(Discussions will include AKS response to needs and priorities for information and educational programmes with respect to the conference topics as well as funding sources and leveraging of funding.)

Workshop No. 3: Evaluation and Accountability.

Evaluation of results and accountability of the AKS for its work.

(This will include discussion on possible methods for the evaluation of results, development of indicators and accountability.)