



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Minister of Agriculture Sweden

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for Agriculture
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What challenges and opportunities will the next 20 years bring? How well prepared is the food and agricultural system to respond to the needs of a rapidly changing world? (3-minute intervention)

Population growth alongside with climate change and pressure on natural resources pose challenges to agriculture – and so to the well-being of the increasing number of people on our planet.

I see only one way that we will be able to respond to these challenges. Using the OECD language, it is about green growth. My vision for agriculture is that resources should be used without being used up.

Green sector sustainability is also about high ethical standards and a sound animal husbandry with healthy animals.

Is the sector able to respond? We shall not forget the obvious - that open markets, and farmers with the right incentives, have a high capability of responding and will respond to new situations and challenges.

Agriculture and forestry will be an important part of the solution to our global problems, not only as a producer of food, but also as a producer of sustainable bio-energy. To fully use this potential, governments need to set the conditions right. In order to do so, we need objective analyses on when and why to intervene, and on the effects of intervention, locally, regionally and globally.

Examples of policy relevant areas are:

- More knowledge concerning efficient use of land, forests, water and fish including a sustainability perspective.
- More knowledge on the links between land tenure, productivity and sustainability.
- More knowledge about what can be done to adapt to and mitigate climate change. And there is a need to increase farmers' knowledge of this.
- More knowledge on the greenhouse gas emissions of food production.
- More knowledge on how to transform rest products and waste of biomass to renewable energy.
- More knowledge on risk management strategies.

The world stands before many challenges, but with the right incentives, and an increased knowledge, the agricultural sector will play an important role in contributing to the solutions.