OECD workshop

Biodiversity, Climate Change and Agriculture: Towards Coherent Approaches

October 25, 2017
OECD Conference Center, Room CC15

Agenda

Despite increasing policy efforts, biodiversity and ecosystem are being degraded while the impacts of climate change are increasing. The agricultural sector continues to exert significant pressure on biodiversity in many OECD countries, whilst also remaining a major contributor of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions.

Progress is hindered by the often limited co-ordination in policy-making for agriculture, biodiversity and climate. There is a need to harness synergies and reconcile trade-offs across these three inter-related policy areas, while ensuring that agriculture is productive and sustainable. This need is also reflected in objectives under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The aim of this workshop is to examine how to consider, in a coherent manner, two environmental challenges – biodiversity loss and climate change – and the inter-relationships with agricultural productivity. Drawing on insights from a range of OECD countries and across different policy communities, the aim is to share experiences, challenges and good practice insights to improve alignment and effectiveness across these three areas.

The workshop is being organised back-to-back with the meetings of the OECD Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems (WPBWE), and the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Environment (JWPAE) ¹. The audience will therefore primarily be OECD government officials working on biodiversity, ecosystems and agro-environmental policies, as well as experts and representatives from academia, business and NGOs.

¹ Insights from the workshop are intended to feed into two on-going OECD WPBWE projects, namely on Biodiversity, ecosystem services and agriculture, and on Land use, climate mitigation, ecosystems and food.
09h30 – 09h45 Introduction and opening remarks

- Opening, welcome remarks, and overview of key issues, projections, and challenges. Simon Buckle, OECD Environment Directorate
- Overview of key issues linking agriculture to climate change and biodiversity. Guillaume Gruere, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate

09h45-12h30 Session 1: Biodiversity impacts of excessive input use in agriculture and policy responses

- Overview of trends in pesticides and fertilisers and examples of policy responses. Megha Sud, OECD Environment Directorate
- Pesticides pollution and experience with policies in Sweden. Agneta Sundgren, Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)

10h00-10h30 Coffee break

- The Danish policy mix to address the environmental impacts of fertilisers. Bror Andreas Christensen, Ministry of Environment and Food
- Biodiversity impacts of fertilisers and policy responses in the United States. Shawn Carter, National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center

Discussion

12h30-14h00 Lunch

14h00-15h30 Session 2: Climate impacts of agricultural practices and policy responses

- Land use, greenhouse gas emissions and co-benefits. Professor John Porter, Copenhagen University, Denmark and Montpellier University, France
- Soil Carbon Management for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development in Japan. Masayasu Asai, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Agriculture and climate change: Effectiveness of mitigation policies in the Netherlands. Elmar Theune and Jasper Dalhuisen, Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Agriculture’s role in global greenhouse gas mitigation towards the below 2°C warming objective. Ben Henderson, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate

Discussion

15h30 Coffee break
16h00-17h45 Session 3: Misalignments, trade-offs and synergies – and where to go from here

- Integrating trade-offs and synergies into land use decision making. Professor Ian Bateman, Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute, University of Exeter, U.K.
- Agricultural productivity, climate mitigation and biodiversity: the example of agro-ecology in France. Aline Boy, Ministry of Agriculture
- Agriculture, climate and biodiversity: synergies and policy misalignments in Mexico. Miguel Narvaez, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
- Synergies and trade-offs between agricultural productivity, climate mitigation and adaptation, water quality and biodiversity. Jussi Lankoski, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate
- Policy coherence for climate, land-use, ecosystems and food. Jane Ellis and Katia Karousakis, OECD Environment Directorate

Discussion

17h45-18h00 Reflections and closing remarks

- Reflections from Laure Ledoux, European Commission and Chair of WPBWE; and Jasper Dalhuisen, the Netherlands and JWPAE Bureau
- Closing remarks, Katia Karousakis, OECD Environment Directorate