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

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
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 Zougmoré, 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)