

## International Seminar



### Scientific organisation committee

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# Multifunctionality of agriculture and rural areas:

## Essential component for sustainable development?

Possibilities, drawbacks and research needs

**1st of September, 2005**

Fondation Universitaire Stichting  
Egmontstraat 11, 1000 Brussels

### Focus of the Multagri project

There is an ongoing debate about the different approaches of Multifunctionality of Agriculture and Rural areas. The concept of multifunctionality is already embedded in a broad range of research approaches, scientific disciplines and social practices. Multagri is a Specific Support Action undertaken within the 6th Framework Research Programme of the European Commission. With a partnership of 26 research organisations from 15 countries this project worked on a comprehensive overview of existing research, particularly in Europe, on different aspects of the multifunctionality.

### Towards new research questions

The final seminar "Multifunctionality of Agriculture and Rural areas: a essential component of sustainable development?" will report the main results of this Specific Support Action by evaluating the state-of-the-art of current research and formulating recommendations for future research. The conference will discuss issues based on concepts, the coordination between supply and demand, the implementation and assessment of policies through research activities. The seminar is open to researchers and stakeholders interested in a scientific or practical perspective on the contribution of agriculture and rural areas to the expectations of society.

A website is regularly updated to inform the public about the goals, progress and outcomes of the project :

<http://multagri.net>

# Programme

## Morning **Presentation of results**

- 9H-9H30 Opening by **D. Deybe**, DG research, European Commission  
Presentation of Multagri project (**D. Cairol**)
- 9H30-10H30 **Multifunctionality: a concept for problem solving?**  
Chaired by **J. Mannion** (UC Dublin, )  
•Presentation of results (**P. Caron**)  
•Reactions by **D. Freshwater** (U. Kentucky, USA)  
•Discussion
- 10H30-11H *Coffee break*
- 11H-12H **Can supply and demand of multifunctionality be coordinated?**  
Chaired by **P. Nowicki** (European Center for Nature Conservation, The Netherlands)  
Presentation of results (**J. Sumelius**)  
•Reactions by **B. Hubert** (INRA, France)  
•Discussion
- 12H-13H **How can multifunctionality be implemented and assessed?**  
Chaired by **P. Nowicki**  
•Presentation of results (**P. Zander**)  
•Reactions by **C. Varela Ortega** (UP Madrid, Spain)  
•Discussion
- 13H-13H10 Conclusions (**D. Cairol, D. Deybe**)

## Afternoon **Research gaps and political conclusions**

- 13H10-14H30 *Lunch buffet*
- 14H30-14H35 Opening by **P. Valette** (Director DG Research, European Commission)
- 14H35-15H45 **Research gaps identified:**  
Chaired by **I. Kovach** (Hungary, President of the European Society for Rural Sociology)  
•Presentation of main results (**D. Cairol**)  
•Research gaps (**K. Knickel**)  
•Reaction by **J. Van der Ploeg** (Rural Sociology Group, WU, The Netherlands)  
•Discussion
- 15H45-17H15 **Can the research gaps be covered and help policy making?**  
Round table led by **P. Valette** with :  
•Member of EU parliament  
•DG agriculture : **E. Saraceno** (F3: Consistency of rural development)  
•DG environment  
•Representative from new EU Member State: **K. Charvat** (Czech Centrum for Strategic Studies)  
•Representative from developing country: **N. Diene** (Senegal, Ministry of Agriculture, Coordinator of the Dakar Agricole)
- 17H15-17H30 **Conclusion** (**P. Valette**)

## Inscription conditions

The number of participants is limited to 120. Participants will be accepted following inscription order within the limit of places. Inscriptions must be confirmed **before the 15th of July**. Please send back the inscription form to [emilie.coudel@cemagref.fr](mailto:emilie.coudel@cemagref.fr).

## Location and access

The seminar will be held in the room Félicien Cattier at the Fondation Universitaire Stichting Egmontstraat 11 - 1000 Bruxelles

## Accommodation

You can find information about Brussels and hotels on the website :

<http://www.brussels.org/>

The seminar is **free of charge** and a buffet will be provided to all participants.

Travelling and hotel fees are up to the participants.

