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The water we eat: challenges for ACP countries in times of scarcity

Wednesday 13th April 2011, 8h30 – 13h00

EC, Building Berlaymont: Rue de la loi 200, Room Walter Hallstein

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

Biodata of speakers

Tony Allan – School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Tony Allan [BA Durham 1958, PhD London 1971] heads the London Water Research Group at King's College London and SOAS. He specialises in the analysis of water resources in semi-arid regions and on the role of global systems in ameliorating local and regional water deficits. In his early career he was concerned with hydrological and environmental issues but gradually turned his attention to the social and political when it became evident that environmental science could not explain why people manage water as they do. He pointed out that the water short economies achieve water and food security mainly by importing water intensive food commodities. He identified the concept of *virtual water*. He provides advice to governments and agencies especially in the Middle East on water policy and water policy reform. His ideas on water security are set out in *The Middle East water question: hydropolitics and the global economy* and in a new book entitled *Virtual water*. In 2008 he was awarded the Stockholm Water Prize in recognition of his contribution to water science and water policy.

Charlotte de Fraiture – International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Charlotte de Fraiture has 18 years working experience in the field of water management for agriculture. During the first five years of her career, she was involved in implementation and management of irrigation and rural development projects in Senegal and Nepal. She started working for the International Water Management Institute in 1996 in the Colombia office and was transferred to the headquarters in Colombo one year later. She was involved in several research projects related to watershed development, irrigation performance indicators, irrigation management transfer and modelling global water supply and demand, leading the development and application of the global water and food model (WATERSIM) and the development global future scenarios on water, food and the environment as part of the Comprehensive Assessment on Water Management in Agriculture. Since 2009 she is project leader of a large project on identifying promising options for smallholder water management. Having moved to the IWMI West Africa office early 2009, she is now acting Head of Office and will move to the Burkina Faso office in February 2011.

Michael Hailu - Director of CTA

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience working in Africa and Asia in communications and knowledge management in agriculture and related areas.

Prior to joining CTA at the end of May 2010, Mr. Hailu was Director of Communications and a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the World Agroforestry Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. From 1999-2007, Mr. Hailu lived and worked in Indonesia as Director of Information at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Mr. Hailu has degrees in Information Sciences and Economics from the University of Pittsburgh in the United States and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Ruth Mathews – Water Footprint Network

Ruth Mathews is the Executive director of the Water Footprint Network, a non-profit organization committed to promoting sustainable, equitable and efficient water use through development of shared standards on water footprint accounting and guidelines for the reduction of water footprints and their impacts. Prior to joining the Water Footprint Network, she was the Programme Manager for WWF in Vietnam where she was responsible for WWF's conservation activities including species conservation, sustainable production, protected area management, freshwater conservation and climate change. She also provided strategic leadership mentoring to the WWF's Climate and Energy Team in Beijing, China. In the USA, Ms. Mathews founded River Matters, an organization to provide services that support ecologically sustainable water management (ESWM). Prior to that she worked for The Nature Conservancy where she led the application of ESWM by working collaboratively with water managers, scientists, water users, and other conservationists to protect and restore river flows in a variety of settings. Ms. Mathews holds a Masters of Science in Water Resource Management, has published articles in leading scientific journals and presented extensively on ecologically sustainable water management.

David Molden – International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

David Molden is the Deputy Director General for Research at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). He has a PhD from Colorado State University with specialties in groundwater hydrology and irrigation, and has since developed broader interests in integrating social, technical and environmental aspects of water management with work across Asia and Africa. Now in Sri Lanka with IWMI, he enjoys interdisciplinary and cross-cultural teamwork with IWMI and partners to develop water solutions. David led a global program involving over 1000 practitioners and researchers to produce a Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture, with results documented in the publication Water for Food, Water for Life. David was awarded CGIAR Outstanding Scientist for 2009.

Elijah Phiri – University of Zambia

Elijah Phiri is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Soil Science at the University of Zambia. He holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree from the University of Zambia, MSc and PhD degrees from the University of Ghent, Belgium. Elijah is a Team Leader for the African Union (AU) Pan-African Technical Team under the New Partnership for the African Development (NEPAD), Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) dealing with Sustainable Land and Water Management (CAADP Pillar 1) and Programme Coordinator for the Sub-regional Center of Excellency on Land and Water Management of Southern Africa

Development Community (SADC). He has over 24 years' experience in diverse areas of natural resource management through teaching, research and consultancy, more specifically land and water management for development. He has also participated in a large number of research projects in Zambia, as well as within the broader southern Africa region and the African continent. Elijah has been actively involved for the past four years in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Development Programme as an expert on Land and Water Management. He is author or co-author of a number of peer-reviewed publications, as well as research and consultancy reports. As a lecturer at the University of Zambia, Elijah has supervised a number of M.Sc. and PhD students.

Shiney Varghese – Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

Shiney Varghese leads IATP's work on global water policy, focusing on the water crisis, its impact on water and food security, and possible local solutions that emphasize equity, environmental justice and sustainability. Currently, she examines the implications of GATS/WTO, water sector liberalization, and industrial agriculture for access to water. Since 2001 she has been the co-chair of the UNCSD fresh water caucus, the primary civil society voice on water at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Shiney has been working with IATP since 2001. Before moving to United States in 1998, she worked in India on social and environmental issues for more than a decade with indigenous groups, civil society organizations and international groups such as Oxfam. She has presented and published works on the environment, gender and human rights. Shiney grew up on a farm in South Indian state of Kerala, and after high school moved to Gujarat. She is a graduate of the Institute of Rural Management, India, and has a master's in development from the Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands. Shiney was a visiting fellow at the Agrarian Studies program at Yale University in 1997-98.