

Planet Diversity
Workshop on Climate change and its relation to Organic Agriculture

May 15 2008

Bonn, Germany

Hour: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Speakers Biographical Data

Introduction to the topic and Presentation # 1

Title: Major contributors to climate change in Agriculture

Speaker: Jan van Aken



Jan van Aken is a biologist with a Ph.D. in cell biology from Hamburg University, Germany. He is currently working part-time as a political advisor, campaigner and researcher for Greenpeace International. Since 1994, he worked for a variety of NGOs, academic institutions and the United Nations on issues related to food & agriculture, genetic engineering, biomedicine, and arms control. His last position, until March 2006, was as a biological weapons inspector in the New York headquarters of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC).

In 1997 and 1998, he was a campaigner and team leader with Greenpeace Germany in the genetic engineering campaign. From 1999 - 2001, he worked as a political advisor for different international NGOs on genetic engineering issues, where he produced a variety of public and internal reports, led campaigns and participated in strategy development.

In 1999, he co-founded the Sunshine Project (www.sunshine-project.org), an international research and advocacy group on biological arms control, where he directed the German office until 2005. From 2001-2003, he participated at the Hamburg University's Technology Assessment Group in a research project on the societal implications of pharmacogenetics. In 2003, he founded the 'Study Group on Biological Arms Control' at the University of Hamburg (www.biological-arms-control.org), Germany, where he initiated and headed until 2005 a research program to develop new biological verification strategies and concepts.

Jan van Aken participated in a broad range of UN meetings, including WHO, FAO, Convention on Biological Diversity, Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention. He is of German nationality, 46 years old and married with three children.

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Presentation # 2



Title: "How to create resilient systems based on traditional peasant knowledge systems in Latin America"

Speaker: Miguel Altieri

Professional Background:

Miguel A. Altieri received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Chile, a M.Sc from the National University of Colombia and a Ph.D in Entomology from the University of Florida. He has been a Professor of Agroecology at UC Berkeley since 1981 in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management (www.agroeco.org and <http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu>). Dr. Altieri served as a Scientific Advisor to the Latin American Consortium on Agroecology and Development (CLADES) Chile an NGO network promoting agroecology as a strategy for small farm sustainable development in the region. He also served for 4 years as the General Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme's Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension Programme which aimed at capacity building on agroecology among NGOs and the scaling-up of successful local sustainable agricultural initiatives in Africa, Latin America and Asia In addition he was the chairman of the NGO committee of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research whose mission was to make sure that the research agenda of the 15 International Agricultural Research Centers benefited the poor farmers of the. Currently he is advisor to the FAO-GIAHS program (Globally Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems) a program devoted at identifying and dynamically conserving traditional farming systems in the developing world. He also served as Director of the US-Brasil Consortium on Agroecology and Sustainable Rural Development (CASRD) an academic-research exchange program involving students and faculty of UC Berkeley, University of Nebraska, UNICAMP and Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina. He is now President of the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (www.agroeco.org/socla) a network of researchers promoting the development of the science of agroecology as the scientific basis of a sustainable rural development strategy in Latin America. He is the author of more than 200 publications, and numerous books including *Agroecology: The Science of Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity*, *Pest Management in Agroecosystems* and *Agroecology and the Search for a Truly Sustainable Agriculture*.

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Presentation # 3



Title: "Diversification of agroecosystems: An agroecological strategy against climatic variability and pest outbreaks"

Speaker: Clara Nicholls

Professional background:

Clara Inés Nicholls is a Colombian agronomist with a Masters degree on entomology from Chapingo School of Graduate Studies in Mexico and a PhD from the University of California at Davis. Her research centers on the development of biodiverse agroecosystems that sponsor biological control of pest populations. She has also worked extensively in Latin America promoting agroecologically-based approaches to agricultural sustainability. She is a lecturer at UC Berkeley's Center for Latin American Studies where she teaches Perspectives for Sustainable Rural Development in Latin America. She also teaches at Santa Clara University, Universidad de Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia and various universities in Brazil, Spain and Italy. She is the author of numerous scientific articles on biological control and pest management, including the books [Biodiversity and Pest Management in Agroecosystems](#) and [Manage Insects on your Farm: Ecological Guidelines](#).

Publications: most of C. Nicholls publications are available at www.agroeco.org.

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Presentation # 4



Title: “Adapting agriculture to climate change - consequences for seed conservation and plant breeding”

Speaker: Dr. Johannes Kotschi

Date and place of birth: Born 1949 in Düsseldorf, Germany

Professional background:

- Agricultural scientist with focus on natural resources management and Organic Agriculture.
- PhD on the bio-dynamic preparations in 1980
- For more than 20 years independent advisor for national, international and civil society Organizations in rural development.
- Member of IFOAM since 1977
- Co-founder of AGRECOL – Association for Agriculture and Ecology

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Presentation # 5



Title: Presentation on Food miles vs. local economies

Speaker: Juan Lopez Villar (Friends of the Earth International, Spain)

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Presentation # 6



Title: “Food miles as necessity for development”

Speaker: Wanjiru Kamau

Professional background:

Wanjiru Kamau is agriculturalist based in Nairobi, Kenya with vast experience in horticulture, particularly in food safety and quality assurance standards.

She is currently working with Kenya Organic Agriculture Network, an umbrella body that advocates for organic stakeholders in Kenya in a Lobbying and Advocacy capacity.

She is actively involved in lobbying for an organic agriculture policy in addition to being a key committee member in a Coalition consisting of farmers and civil society that is pushing for a strong Biosafety bill in Kenya.

KOAN was actively involved in engaging stakeholders and Government in 2007 when Soil Association, UK proposed banning organic certification of air freighted produce as a result of public outcry in Europe over Food miles.

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