

EURAGRI-konferansen i 2018

Sted: Scandic Oslo Airport Hotel at Gardermoen

Tid: 24.-25. September 2018 (kl. 0830-1930/0800-1500)

Konferansens tittel:

Cross Sectorial Opportunities in the Bio-economy and the Implementation of the SDGs.

Opening Adresses by Hanne Yssen, 24th September 0915-0930.

- Conference Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen
- It is a great pleasure for me to give this opening speech on the 32. EURAGRI Conference about Cross Sectorial Opportunities in the Bio-economy and the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.
- Today, our concern is to address the global need for food and energy, sustainable use of resources and reduce the impact of climate change.
- The agriculture and food sectors are of increasing importance because of the many challenges and conflicting trends we are now facing.
- Food and nutrition insecurity and limited access to drinking water constitute threats in many parts of the world and may cause social instability and conflicts.
- A growing population will enlarge the global demand for water and food, and increase the pressure on natural resources.
- Increasing the capacity for agricultural productivity and food production are necessary, and at the same time we need to

develop agriculture to more environment-friendly and climate-friendly production methods.

- Research and innovation in sustainable agriculture and food production, water use and nutrition security are important for all countries.
- Therefore, the EUROpean Agricultural Research Initiative (EURAGRI) and you are of great importance!
- The contribution of the bio-economy to a more circular and environmentally friendly low emission economy and the Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations (UN), are fundamental to the Norwegian Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as to most of the countries in Europe and the rest of the world.
- As EU and a number of other countries, the Norwegian Government has developed a bio-economy strategy. The Norwegian Bio-economy Strategy was launched in November 2016, with 10 ministries involved. This strategy prioritize cooperation across sectors, industries and thematic areas for sustainable production and efficient use of biological resources.
- The main task for the primary production sectors is the production of enough and safe food with high quality produced in a way that is environmentally and climate friendly. The development of plant material adapted to climate changes is crucial in this regard. High standards of food safety and animal welfare are important.
- It is also necessary to replace fossil raw materials and high-energy demanding materials with renewable biological resources to create a circular, resource-efficient economy.

- Agronomy, ecology, better quality and nutritional food and food processing, engineering, biotechnology, chemistry, genetics, economics and social sciences will be imperative subjects. The inputs and knowledge in these areas are extremely important to ensure sustainable development of our world.
- The Government of Norway has a pronounced goal to increase the long-term cooperation in research and education with other countries. International research cooperation is important to solve global challenges.
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest global health threats in our time. Combatting antimicrobial resistance/AMR requires a global and multi-sectorial approach, and if we do not take efficient actions worldwide, we may face a future without effective antibiotics.
- The Norwegian government has set clear goals nationally, and wants to take a leading role in reducing the use of antibiotics globally.
- In 2015, The Government in Norway published a National Strategy against antimicrobial resistance and in 2016 the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food launched an action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance in the agri-food sector.
- Use of antibiotics and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in food producing terrestrial animals has been further reduced from very low levels. The national surveillance report for 2017 shows that antibiotic use is reduced by 10 per cent since 2013.

- Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, energy and food production are important areas that will play an instrumental role for the change to a more sustainable way of living.
- An increase in the global energy demand will make way for alternative sources of energy and environmentally friendly fuels, and the contribution of the agricultural industry in the production of energy will increase.
- The increased demand for food and renewable energy will play an important role to ensure the future income and employment in the primary production sector and in the industries based on agricultural resources. The utilization of biomass, biogas, biofuel, hydropower and wind power as sources of energy, is also important for the agriculture and forestry sectors. The Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food plan to launch a Forest and Three Strategy later this year.
- An innovative knowledge-based bio-economy will stimulate green growth and the green economy. In turn, this will boost economic growth and create jobs in established and new industrial sectors. It will promote environmental sustainability, ensure food security and reduce climate change. Precision agriculture and healthy animals are examples of important research areas.
- We need to preserve the natural resources for future generations. A national, and international, focus on the bio-economy is therefore needed, and this is in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals by UN and Paris-agreement that Norway have signed.

- I see difficult challenges, but first and foremost great opportunities with the transition to a more environment- and climate-friendly energy- and primary production.
- International research cooperation is crucial to solve these challenges, and I hope this conference brings us a substantial step forward regarding the future agri-food sector.
- I wish you good luck with the conference, and thank you for your attention