



SCIENCE-POLICY FORUM
San José, Costa Rica, November 5th, 2004
Auditorium - Edificio Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz
300 metros North del Parque de la Amistad, Pavas.

Date and Site: The Science-Policy Forum is an event of the “*2004 Global Environmental Change Institute on Globalization and Food Systems – Scientific Workshop and Science-Policy Forum*”. The Science-Policy Forum will be held on November 5th, 2004 at the Auditorium of the Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz Building - 300 m N Parque de la Amistad, Pavas.

Introduction: The Forum will focus on interactions between processes of globalization and global environmental change, and the implications of these interactions for food systems and food security. Globalization has been a very powerful driving force in the world since the early 1980's, leading to economic, social, institutional and cultural changes that influence food systems in myriad ways. These changes are transforming the production and storage of food, the movement and trade of food, access to and consumption of food, and the quality and safety of food. Global environmental change is concurrently altering both the physical and social conditions that underpin terrestrial and marine food systems. The transformation of food systems in a globalizing world is likely to interact synergistically with global environmental change. The goal of the Institute is to explore this critical interaction and consider implications for food security, particularly in areas characterized either by poverty and food insecurity or by growing per capita incomes and rapidly changing demands for food.

Science-Policy Forum Objectives: The Science-Policy Forum will focus on the science-policy interface and will foster interactions and communications between the scientific community and the policy and decision making communities. The goal is to present the scientific information to policy and decision-makers, who need it in their day to day jobs in the process of policy planning (public, private sector, NGO's, etc). It will consider what scientific information is available, and what needs to be better understood, the translation of the scientific information for the non-scientific community, the potential use of the information, and discussions of policy issues that should be incorporated into the scientific community's agenda. We would like to discuss at the forum the issue of the usefulness of science for the benefit of societies, how to present the scientific information in such a way that it can be understood and used by the users community. What are the pressing issues that the scientific community needs to address according to the needs of the policy and decision makers and any other issues that are of relevance to promote the Science/Policy interaction.

Participants of the Science-Policy Forum: Representatives from governmental agencies, national and international organizations, non governmental organizations (NGOs), embassies, rural and other associations, private companies, industries, universities, research centers, and other institutes that deal with the issue of food system, food security related to globalization and global environmental change at a research, policy and/or business level. It is expected that these participants (policy and decision makers, stakeholders and professionals) have national, regional or international experience and knowledge in the policy planning process and in the formulation and/or implementation of government and industrial policies, or in the organization of civil society for the solution of problems specific to the region.

Organization: A pool of international organizations and national institutes of Costa Rica are working together to organizing the Forum. The Forum Organizing Committee is composed by the following organizations:

- Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI);
- International Human Dimension Programme (IHDP);
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA);
- Comité Regional de Recursos Hidráulicos (CRRH) / Sistema de Integración Centroamericana (SICA);
- Development Observatory (OdD) of the University of Costa Rica (UCR);
- National Environmental Forum (NEF) of the National Center of Advanced Technology (CENAT-Costa Rica); and
- National Academy of Sciences of Costa Rica (NAS).

Local Hosts: The local hosts of the Science-Policy Forum are the Development Observatory (OdD) of the Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR), the National Environmental Forum (NEF) of the National Center of Advanced Technology (CENAT) and the National Academy of Science of Costa Rica (NAS-CR).

Application: If you are interested in attending the Forum, please fill out the form attached (Formulario Aplicación Forum) and send it to Ms. Patricia Barquero at email: Crrhcr@racsa.co.cr, as soon as possible and by no later than November 3th, 2004. There are limited vacancies available:

Ms. Patricia Barquero

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Website: For more information about the Scientific Institute and the Science-Policy Forum, please visit our website:

<http://www.institutes.iai.int/2004GECEI.htm>