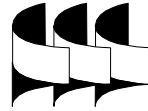




Studiekring voor Ontwikkelingsvraagstukken



Studiekring voor Landbouweconomie

the study circle on **DEVELOPMENT ISSUES / SKOV** and
the study circle on **AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS / SLE**
cordially invite you to a mini-seminar on

WORLD FOOD PRICES

What are the causes for the rising food prices and what can be expected in future?

Date: **Tuesday 19 April 2011, at 15:30 h (Tea is served from 15:10 h)**

Venue: **KLV building "Achter de Aula", first floor** (Generaal Foulkesweg 1A, 6703 BG Wageningen)

Programme

- 15:30 Opening by Ir. Cor de Jong, President of SKOV
- 15:40 **"Trends and volatility of world food prices"** by Dr. Siemen van Berkum, head of the Section International Trade and Markets of the Agricultural Economic Institute/LEI at The Hague
- 16:10 **"Are biofuels and speculation major drivers in current food price volatility?"** by Dr. Ir. Koos Gardebroek, assistant professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy at the Wageningen University
- 16:40 Tea break
- 17:00 **Brief introduction into the discussion** by Prof. Dr. Erwin Bulte, professor of Development Economics at the Wageningen University
- 17:10 **Plenary discussion** chaired by Prof. Dr. Erwin Bulte
- 17:55 **Closure** by Ir. Cor de Jong followed by aperitifs
- 18:30 Dinner (optional) at the "Hof van Wageningen" for speakers and participants

Participation is **free of charge**, but it **is necessary to register**.

Please do so by return e-mail to < huydtsbm@pt.lu > or by postal mail to the SKOV secretariat before April 17th.

Subsidized dinner fee is € 25, --, inclusive of drinks (payment on the spot).

This includes free parking of your car at the premises of the Hof van Wageningen!

(Please indicate whether vegetarian).

Secretariat: c/o P.O. Box 79, 6700 AB Wageningen. Fax: 0317 - 483976

Food prices on the rise

By the end of 2010 food prices soared to an all time high. The price increases of major crops (cereals, oilseeds) were triggered by a combination of a somewhat lower global production and a strong growth of demand, especially from China and India.

A low and declining level of stocks has added to the price rise.

The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook expects prices to come down again, but not to their historical levels. On average over the coming ten year period, prices in real terms of cereals, rice and oilseeds are projected to be 10 % to 35 % higher than in the past decade.

The acute price hike adds to inflationary pressures in developed countries. Poor consumers in developing countries, and food importing developing countries overall, will have to spend an even higher share of their limited income on food.

In the short term, humanitarian aid is required, where appropriate in the form of cash or vouchers so as to strengthen, rather than undermine domestic markets in recipient countries.

In the medium term, there is a need to foster growth and development in poor countries, to improve the purchasing power of food buyers. Agricultural trade policies require further reform in order to ensure an effective supply response. Investments in productivity growth, particularly in less developed countries, should also strengthen the supply side of global agriculture. On the demand side, policies that encourage increased production and use of biofuels from agricultural commodity feed stocks warrant review.

Rising food prices-OECD 2008 and later