

## No Food and Nutrition Security without Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

# Summary

### Session Conveners

- German WASH Network
- UNSGAB
- RUAF



**RUAF** FOUNDATION

### Session Chair

Uschi Eid (UNSGAB)

### Welcome remarks



Mrs. Uschi Eid welcomed the participants on behalf of the session conveners and highlighted the importance of this session as one of the key sessions within the Bonn2011 Nexus conference as it puts the sustainable access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and its linkages to energy, food and nutrition security into the focus. She briefly reflected on some of UNSGAB's milestones during recent years like the International Year of Sanitation in 2008 and the Sustainable Sanitation 5-Year Drive to 2015. As the co-chair of the conference she offered to carry the results of the session into the final discussions on the conference's draft policy recommendations.

### Presentation



In his presentation Mr. Thilo Panzerbieter (GTO) gave a brief overview on WASH and how it is interlinked with both the energy and the food security sector. He highlighted current promising approaches like productive sanitation as well as gaps and challenges. He introduced 5 policy recommendations the German WASH Network and its partners believe are essential to create the supportive environment needed to strengthen and support further development within this nexus. These 5 policy recommendations were put up for discussion to collect the input and comments from the participants and experts in the room.

Link to presentation: <http://www.youtube.com/user/WASHnetzwerk?feature=mhee>

### Group Discussion



The session participants had the chance to discuss the introduced 5 policy recommendations on 5 separate tables with the possibility to change tables in between. Each table discussion was led and facilitated by 2-3 experts from the respective field. The discussion focused on supporting and hindering factors and the possible way forward. At the end of each table discussion participants were asked to rank the recommendations in terms of feasibility and relevance. All five recommendations of the session were ranked as being highly relevant and of medium to high feasibility. The 5 policy recommendations discussed were:

- **Recommendation 1:** Shifting from Disposal to Re-use - Facilitate a shift towards design options for re-use of water, nutrients and energy sources.  
*Table experts: Stephan Reuter (BORDA), Arno Rosemarin (SEI)*
- **Recommendation 2:** Cities as hot spots for resource recovery - Create an enabling environment for urban agriculture through comprehensive city planning, aiming to optimize resource recovery,

enhancing food security, and improving environmental management

*Table experts: Marielle Dubbeling (RUAF), Javier Mateo Sagasta (FAO)*

- **Recommendation 3: Scale-up WASH!** - Concentrate on simple and affordable approaches to scale-up WASH access leading to improved health and increased food and nutrition security.  
*Table experts: Roland Hansen (Malteser International), Andrea Rechenburg (Uni Bonn)*
- **Recommendation 4: Need for Multi-Level Governance** - Develop clear national and municipal roles and responsibilities and facilitate intersectoral cooperation to achieve more sustainable WASH and food security impact.  
*Table experts: Hans Hartung (Fakt), Chris Buckley (UKZN), Anara Choitonbaeva (KAWS)*
- **Recommendation 5: Private Sector Activation to Stimulate Innovation** - Turn WASH challenges into business opportunities by channelling financing and creating incentives for income generation in reuse of water, nutrients and energy.  
*Table experts: Johannes Heeb (CEWAS), Sascha Gabizon (WECF)*

## Panel Discussion



During the final panel discussion the results from each table were summarised by one expert per table. A short summary of each recommendation including the suggested way forward can be found below:

### **Recommendation 1: Shifting from Disposal to Re-use**

Facilitate a shift towards design options for re-use of water, nutrients and energy sources. Urgent drivers for the shift in treatment of solid and liquid discharge from disposal to re-use are the limitations in fertilizer, energy and water, particularly for smallholder farmers and poor communities. Such applications include biogas production, aquaculture, urine markets, compost blending, sludge re-use and soil enhancement. Emphasis should be put on market creation and the enabling legal and institutional environment. Market acceptance is hinged on better understanding, cultural acceptance, realistic risk assessment and local economics.

#### Way forward:

- Invest in sanitation - it pays for itself 10-fold in health benefits and even higher including re-use
- Provide school sanitation and menstrual management to increase girl attendance ultimately helping to reduce global population growth and global warming.
- Write legislation and policies to mainstream the utilization of sanitation products as a resource - to help secure local energy and food security.

### **Recommendation 2: Planning cities as hot spots for resource recovery**

Create an enabling environment for urban agriculture through comprehensive city planning, aiming to optimize resource recovery, enhancing food security, and improving environmental management. Productive and safe reuse of urban organic wastes, treated excreta and wastewater in urban and peri-urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry contributes to feeding and greening cities as well as may provide a source of energy (fuelwood and biogas). These resources that are otherwise wasted and contribute to environmental pollution provide a low-cost, stable and constantly available source of nutrients and water to urban and peri-urban farmers. The costs of non-reuse should be taken into account (phosphorous depletion, costs of waste management, environmental contamination of landfills and energy required for fertilizer production).

#### Way forward:

- Facilitating productive re-use requires integrated comprehensive city and regional planning, to plan for various production and sanitation systems. Concretely this may mean locating farms close to treatment sites or to household/ industries where waste(water) is generated.
- This also requires rethinking of sanitation systems (separating water and excreta) to allow optimizing reuse opportunities.
- More information is required on such opportunities, technical feasibility and evidence-based cost-benefits of different reuse options.

### **Recommendation 3: Scale-up WASH!**

Concentrate on simple and affordable approaches to scale-up WASH access leading to improved

health and increased food and nutrition security. Water-related diseases are major killers, worldwide. A lack in WASH access also results in malnutrition and consequently retarded growth and cognitive disabilities. Currently, the lack of awareness, political priority, budget, and capacity are barriers for up-scaling.

#### Way forward:

- Health and food security improvements can only be achieved, if the Human Right to Water and Sanitation is implemented for all as soon as possible.
- Provide school sanitation and menstrual management to increase girl attendance ultimately helping to reduce global population growth and global warming.
- Scaling-up requires investments in simple, affordable, sustainable and acceptable WASH interventions (like hand-washing with soap, household water treatment & storage (HWTS), market-based approaches and participatory awareness raising e.g. Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), mainstreaming into educational programmes and multi-stakeholder involvement)

#### **Recommendation 4: Need for Multi-Level Governance**

Develop clear national and municipal roles and responsibilities and facilitate inter-sectoral cooperation to achieve more sustainable WASH and food security impact. A nexus approach needs the definition of clear national, municipal and personal roles and responsibilities, not only for implementing hardware solutions, but more importantly for aspects like operation and maintenance, promotion, facilitation, awareness raising and cross-sector opportunities. This must be done in coordination with the solid waste, agriculture, city planning and energy sectors.

#### Way forward:

- Put sanitation planners and farmers on the same table!
- Establish a neutral and inclusive institution / forum that enables the inputs from the different sectoral experts to be presented and debated thus ensuring that all the issues surrounding the water, energy and food nexus are considered.
- Develop knowledge and experience and anchor it in local universities so that local expertise (medical, planning, engineering, economic, financial, social, scientific, agricultural etc.) can feed into decision-making and implementation processes. Research and demonstration are two ways forward.

#### **Recommendation 5: Turn Nexus challenges into business opportunities**

The world is facing a global water, sanitation and health crisis. “Productive Sanitation” is a promising contribution to the NEXUS, providing innovative systems, which allow low water consumption, production of fertilizer and energy from waste. Activating the small to medium scale private sector and motivating (local) entrepreneurs is a promising strategy to add more development and implementation capacity to the field. It will channel more human and financial resources into the sector and open new opportunities to donor funded development schemes.

#### Way forward:

- Channel financing and create incentives for income generation in reuse of water, nutrients and energy
- Enabling conditions (finance, standards & norms) need to be provided, creating incentives for investments and long-term perspectives in this area
- Capacity development for SMEs by supporting young entrepreneurs to start up Nexus relevant businesses
- Developing and showcasing successful sustainable, fair and accountable business models such as “maintenance armies” and financial schemes.

More photos from the session: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gtzecosan/sets/72157628082597185/>

## **Contact**

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## **Abbreviation**

BORDA	Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association, Germany
CEWAS	International Centre for Water Management Services
GTO	German Toilet Organization, Germany
KAWS	Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation
RUAF	International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden
UKZN	University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa
UNSGAB	UN Secretary General Advisory Board for Water and Sanitation
WECE	Women in Europe for a Common Future