



Tech For Food at the Innovation Fair in Geneva on the theme “Innovation and Transformation for Eradication of Poverty and Hunger”.

The first edition of the yearly Symposium Tech For Food took place the 6th of March 2007, during the International Exhibition of Agriculture in Paris, on the theme “New technologies to enhance agricultural development and food supply in developing countries”. It gathered 288 participants. The aim of the next edition in 2008 is to create more partnerships and exchanges. The creation of the Internet Tool Observatory For Food will help to make an inventory of the technologies’ needs of the countries of the South.

Tech For Food: what for?

In industrialised countries, new technologies are the core of the agricultural sector and already meet the ever-increasing needs for economic and environmental performance. Why shouldn't countries of the South also benefit from those powerful instruments to develop sustainable agricultural practices to feed their populations? Whether to resolve emergency food situations or assure a reliable long-term food supply in disadvantaged regions... new technologies can prove highly effective.

“Tech For food” solutions are all technical means for fighting against hunger. They are derived from advanced technologies adapted to the agricultural and agribusiness domains: satellite imagery, Internet, wireless communications, portable physical and chemical tests... and others yet to be invented or explored. Aid in land and natural resources management, in the prevention of natural risks, training, information, commercial exchanges: new technologies offer a great many levers for agricultural development and food production, as long as we are able to master their advantages and weaknesses.

Tech For Food organization chart

Tech For Food was created by Jean-Paul Hébrard, manager of the Press Group Tv Agri and chief editor of the monthly review “Agriculture et Nouvelles Technologies”, and organized in partnership with CNES (French Institute of Spatial Studies) and FARM (Foundation for World Agriculture and rural life). Other partners took part in the project:

- Official partners (Basf, CTA),
- Organizing partners (Cirad, IRD, INRIA, AFD, Ministère de la Recherche, Spot Image, Medes, Medias France, CLS, SIA),
- And media partners (APPA, Groupe Test, Agriculture et Nouvelles Technologies).

The project coordination is based on two organs:

- The scientific committee: lead in 2007 by Bernard Bachelier, director of FARM. It is composed of experts in new technologies and development; it determines project guidelines and keeps a watchful eye over the Symposium to ensure its excellence.

- The organisation committee: lead by Jean-Paul Hébrard. Composed of the founding members, it is responsible for implementing the material, financial and human resources needed to bring the project to successful completion.

These two committees work closely together. The organisation committee meets monthly, while the scientific committee meets quarterly.

Tech For Food 2007 was the first crossroads of meeting. It gathered 288 participants, of whom fifty came from the South, and twenty lecturers from eleven different countries. The programme of this first edition was divided in three main sessions.

- The first session dealt with the subject “Can new Technologies bring about an agricultural revolution in southern countries?”
- The second session dealt with the question “What is the contribution of spatial technology to the food of men and animals?”
- And the last session asked “What new forms of partnerships do new technologies require?”

The main tool chosen to promote the First International Symposium Tech For Food was the website (www.techforfood.com), managed by Tv Agri. The website, in both language French and English, concentrates presentation of the project, the work of the partners involved in this event, main themes of the Symposium 2007, detailed programme of the day, practical information, press releases, but also downloads of pictures, videos, PowerPoint, pamphlet and posters. The registration to the Symposium is also online.

Tech For Food 2008 has for additional goal to develop an exhibition room where would be exposed the new technologies and tools described during the Symposium, and to create more partnerships and exchanges.

Since Tech For Food 2007, Tv Agri wants to develop the creation of the Internet Tool *Observatory For Food*, in order to help to make an inventory of the technologies’ needs of the countries of the South. The great advantage of offering documents through a website is the very easy and free access to information we are looking for, wherever we are and whenever we want. The Internet platform will allow the various actors of the agricultural development (foundations, NGO, institutional, engineers, technicians, farmers, computer specialists...) to share and exchange information, know-how and software tools on the scale of the planet by leaning on a dynamics of virtual communities. It would be accessible all year long, between two editions of Tech For Food Symposium.

Tech For Food 2007 cost 170 000 euros. Registration through the website and access to the Symposium was free, more than 480 spontaneous registration were counted. However, a large number of these registration resulted from NGO or associations of the South, which were not able to obtain financing to participate in the Forum. Foreigners from countries of the South were mostly taken in charge by organizations’ partners.

The following Symposium will be more expensive, given that the aim is to permit to various actors of the agriculture development of countries of the South to come. The project coordination established a cost 250 000 euros.

Contact

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