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Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

Title of the report

Five Scenarios for 2050 – Conditions for Agriculture and Land Use

Area

Energy and Environment

Reporter

Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

Type of the Reporter

University

Periodically updated?

No

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Latest update

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Official website

www.slu.se/framtidenslantbruk

Language available

English

Short summary

The report presents five scenarios as starting points for identifying challenges facing food production and land use, gaps in knowledge and research issues. These scenarios have been developed both from a global and a regional European perspective and have 2050 as a time horizon.

Key trends

- **Scenario 1: an overexploited world.** Population growth is high and poverty is prevalent in the world. There is a unipolar world order in which the US dominates and the Western world shows relatively strong economic development. Political interest in the climate and environment is low. Climate change is large and there is considerable pressure on land resources. In Europe there is a strong supranational institution.
- **Scenario 2: a world in balance.** Economic development is strong in large areas of the world and population increase is lower than the UN's forecast. Strong intergovernmental actors are reaching global agreements on important issues. A global environmental policy has contributed to keeping global warming relatively low and pressure on land resources has been limited.
- **Scenario 3: changed balanced of power.** Population growth is relatively low. The balance of power has moved from the West to China and India, countries whose economies are developing fast. Economic

development is weaker in Europe. Political ambitions regarding climate and the environment are low. A marked increase in global warming results in that the main agricultural areas are moved towards the north and the equator where rainforest is being felled.

- **Scenario 4: the world awakes.** Population growth is as the UN forecast. People and their rulers have realised at last how serious the consequences of climate change and the global environmental problems are, and are therefore taking more responsibility for achieving long-term, sustainable development. There are several centres of power in the world and agricultural policy is characterised by deregulation and free trade. Rural areas in Europe are flourishing and have well developed business enterprises.

- **Scenario 5: a fragmented world.** Population growth is high. There are no strong nations or supranational actors, which means that power relations are unclear. Thus, there are no global agreements on measures to regulate climate change or to protect the environment. Private enterprise strongly influences development. Europe is forced to be largely self-sufficient in food. Pressure on land resources is very high.

Suggestions

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Methodology

Modelling

Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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