



Exploring the present and future of a sustainable planet

"Humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have the power to protect or destroy it"
United Nations' Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



About CropLife International

CropLife International is the global federation representing the plant science industry. Our members include plant science companies and a network of regional and national associations in 91 countries. We work together for sustainable agriculture.

On the plant science industry's behalf, CropLife International addresses international developments in crop protection and plant biotechnology. We encourage approaches that enhance sustainable agriculture in the interests of farmers, consumers and the environment. We are committed to supporting the safe and responsible use of the industry's products in order to provide a secure, varied, healthy and affordable diet for consumers.

What is the Biodiversity World Tour?

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2010 to be the **International Year of Biodiversity** - a celebration of life on earth and a greater awareness of the value of biodiversity in our everyday lives. More importantly, this year-long celebration encourages us to find ways to safeguard the variety of life on Earth.

It is estimated that in the next fifty years our planet may face the loss of tens of thousands of species due to climate change and environmental damage. Combined with a world population set to increase by an additional 3 billion people by 2050, our planet faces a truly daunting task in the next century. Therefore, today, more than ever, sustainable agricultural practices are essential to preserving the co-existence between our world's biological diversity and the need to support an increasing population.

In celebration of the Year of Biodiversity, CropLife International is hosting a Biodiversity World Tour to engage citizens from around the world in a discussion on how modern agriculture can protect and preserve our natural resources. Travelling across three continents, the Biodiversity World Tour will engage audiences in a worldwide discussion about biodiversity and agriculture with farmers, agricultural experts, researchers, and policymakers. Join us in Iowa, Belgium, and Japan for virtual Town Halls that feature panels comprised of farmers, agricultural experts, and policy makers as they share their thoughts about the role agriculture can play in supporting biodiversity. These Town Halls will be broadcasted live via the web with the panel taking questions from around the world through Twitter, Facebook, and e-mail.

An online travelogue will share the thoughts, concerns, and opinions of interested citizens from around the world. It is CropLife International's belief that the Biodiversity World Tour will bring together a wide variety of opinions and ways of solving our world's biodiversity challenges. The global community must work together to protect biodiversity while meeting other challenges such as food security and mitigating climate change.

We hope you'll follow along with us as we work to protect our world for generations to come. You can follow us on Twitter on [@CropLifeIntl](#), [@CropLifeFdn](#), and on hashtag [#BWT2010](#). You can also have a look at our Facebook page on www.facebook.com/CropNews.



Speakers

Dr. Tim Benton



Professor Tim Benton is currently Pro Dean for Research in the Faculty of Biological Sciences at Leeds University, UK. He obtained his PhD at Cambridge University in 1990. Professor Benton's main research subjects at present are biodiversity and population management under scenarios of environmental change and the ecology of agricultural land.

The rationale for much of Professor Benton's research concerns managing natural resources in the face of climate change. In recent years, he has put much effort into developing work in "sustainable agriculture", recognizing that global population growth and climate change are fundamental challenges to global food security. This will lead to severe pressure on land resources and natural communities.

In addition to lab and model work, Professor Benton is involved in field work, including sustainable agriculture projects in the UK, China, India and sub-Saharan Africa.

He is also the author of over 80 publications on ecology and evolution and will be contributing to our blog at the event.

Harald Von Witzke



Dr. Harald von Witzke is Professor and Chair for International Agricultural Trade and Development in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences at the Humboldt University of Berlin. He is also a member of the Graduate Centre of Economic and Social Research in the German Institute of Economic Research in Berlin. For this occasion, he will be contributing to our blog.

Professor von Witzke studied at Goettingen University, Germany, achieving an MSc in Agriculture. He continued at Goettingen as a Research Fellow while he studied for a PhD and subsequently a post-doctoral degree, both in Agricultural Economics. He spent ten years in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, USA, partly as a Director of the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy.

In 1999, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the National Agricultural University of Ukraine, in Kiev and in 2003, he was awarded the Saint George Medal "Honour, Eminence, Labour" also in Ukraine.

His research and analysis encompasses a range of areas: International Agricultural Trade and Economic Development; World Food Security; Quality Regulation in International Trade; Distributive Effects of Globalization in World Agriculture; Climate Change in World Agriculture.



Dr. Agnes Wakesho Mwang'ombe



Professor Mwang'ombe obtained an MSc in Plant Pathology followed by a BSc in Agriculture and a PhD in Plant Pathology at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. She is currently a Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Nairobi.

She has also acted as consultant in research programmes such as: the FAO Mission in the Seychelles on Diagnostics of Plant Diseases; writing of a field/farmers plant diseases manual and an IDRC project on research and capacity building in relation to climate change adaptation in Africa.

Professor Mwang'ombe is a member of the African Crop Science Society and Kenya Professional Association of Women in Agriculture and Environment where she has recently finished a six-year period as chairwoman.

In 2009, during the 9th African Crop Science Society Conference, she was awarded the "Best Woman Researcher for Outstanding Contribution to Crop Production in Africa". Professor Mwang'ombe has been committed to many activities relating to gender issues over the years among which is serving as a committee member for the East African Countries for the ICRAF CGIAR Gender Diversity Programme.

Shardul Agrawala



Shardul Agrawala is a senior economist at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Environment Directorate, where he leads the work programme on climate change and development. He has published extensively on climate change and is a Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) for the Fourth and the Fifth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He received his PhD from Princeton University and has previously worked at Princeton, Columbia and Harvard universities.

Lisbeth Kirk - moderator



A journalist by education, Lisbeth Kirk is the founder and editor-in-chief of EUobserver, guiding the company in both the editorial realm and its business-orientation. EUobserver is one of the most influential, agenda-setting online news service covering European affairs with more than 3 million visits per year from key EU decision makers and opinion formers. Lisbeth has reported on the European Union for many years and her primary aim is to continue to offer a widely-read and trusted platform for news and a mature discussion on EU affairs.



Stop #2: Brussels, Research and Development Town Hall

CropLife International, Europabio, and the European Crop Protection Association have partnered together to bring researchers from around the world together to discuss the future of sustainable agriculture and environmental protection in our world. With a growing population and a changing climate, what technologies and strategies will farmers need to use in order to ensure the protection of our planet's biodiversity for generations to come? What role will policymakers play in meeting this challenge?

How you can participate during the event:

During the event we will be taking questions from anyone around the globe via:

- 1. Twitter:** Just use the hashtag **#BWT2010** and your tweets will appear in the auditorium for the audience, moderator, and panelists to see.
- 2. Email:** Send us questions to **BrusselsTownHall@gmail.com** during the event.

Wi-fi access
to participate
during the event:

Log in: Bozarguest
Password: Asiaafrica





Organizer



Partners



Announcement

Stop #3: Nagoya, Japan Future of Biodiversity Town Hall

On the third stop on the Biodiversity World Tour, CropLife International, the non-profit Council on Biotechnology Information Japan, and the Japanese Crop Protection Association have partnered together to bring perspectives from across the food value-chain to discuss how we will meet the lofty goals for biodiversity preservation being set by the United Nations and the Convention on Biological Diversity. This discussion will occur right in the final week of the Convention of Biological Diversity meetings and will bring together perspectives from academia, government, NGOs and the private sector.

You are invited to take part in the discussion and make your voice heard. We want to hear your questions and comments about how each of these elements of the food-value chain can come together to meet the challenges of the next century. You can participate in person or online via webcast, Twitter, Facebook, and e-mail.

How you can participate before the event:

- 1. Twitter:** Please direct your questions **@CropLifeIntl** with the hashtag **#BWT2010**. For example, “**@CropLifeIntl** How are farmers today able to increase production while protecting surrounding lands? **#BWT2010**”
- 2. Facebook:** Please visit our Facebook Page at **www.facebook.com/CropNews** and leave a question on the wall.
- 3. E-mail:** Send an e-mail to **NagoyaTownHall@gmail.com** with your question anytime before and during the event.

How you can participate during the event:

During the event we will be taking questions from anyone around the globe via:

- 1. Twitter:** Just use the hashtag **#BWT2010** and your tweets will appear in the auditorium for the audience, moderator, and panelists to see.
- 2. E-mail:** Send questions to **NagoyaTownHall@gmail.com** during the event.

For more information please visit:
www.BiodiversityWorldTour.com or
e-mail NagoyaTownHall@gmail.com

Watch the LIVE webcast at
www.BiodiversityWorldTour.com



Programme

15:30h - 16:00h Registration and Welcoming Coffee

16:00h - 17:30h Discussion

17:30h - 19:00h Cocktail & Networking

