



TCI SPECIAL THEME: FOOD CLUSTERS

Food clusters, agro hubs, food points, agroparks: governments worldwide are increasingly promoting agro and food cluster initiatives in their search to optimise the food production chain and create added value. Some countries have even adopted national programmes, such as the Mexican 'National System of Agroparks' and the South African 'Agriparks Programme', in doing so. But how can such food cluster initiatives be made successful? What challenges are we facing and what lessons learned can we adopt from other sectors?

Food clusters are a special theme in the 2016 TCI Global Conference. In a comprehensive three-day programme, we are proud to offer you an opportunity to get in touch with a network of seasoned cluster management professionals, businesses and government representatives in food and a range of other sectors, to learn, exchange and create new partnerships on clusters. Why not join us?

Food Tours: Discover the Netherlands and exchange ideas with food cluster managers

The Netherlands enjoys a top position in the world of agrifood, sustained both by its #2 position worldwide in global food exports and its excellence in primary production. Keys to success are innovation and the application of the best available technologies throughout the chain. We have prepared two options so that you can immerse yourself in the dynamics of this fast-growing business: the supply chain in the physical landscape and the role of universities and research institutes in fostering an innovative, knowledge-intensive sector. Each of the tours has a different itinerary and is designed to allow maximum interaction with the companies and organisations you visit. Be sure to sign up quickly as space is limited!

Get inspired at the Summit Day

The Summit Day will explore the context of challenges that define our business landscape. You will be part of cutting-edge discussions in academia and insights from global business leaders, including Edward Zhu, director of China's leading fruit export company, CHIC, on his World Food Port initiative and PTC's Kathleen Mitford on the opportunities of the Internet of Things.

Of course, we will also tickle your taste butts with the latest food innovations at the Conference Gala Dinner at the end of the day.

Putting theory in practice

During the Working Day, you will have the opportunity to meet Food Cluster representatives from all over the world while participating in a range of workshops offering tools, tips and tricks to inspire you to make your cluster even more successful. And whenever you're ready for a different flavour, mix and match your own programme by picking any session from the other tracks on Cities & Competitiveness, Learning Networks, Modern Cluster Policy or dive into Academia!

FOOD IS HOT!

Food and recipe blogs, grandiose TV shows, dedicated local food markets and molecular cooking: food is hip and happening and, as such, also subject to increasing scrutiny. At the same time, basic food security is becoming a key concern for governments worldwide, as urbanisation and population growth, combined with scarce resources, threaten the long-term availability of sufficient food for all. As such, the world of food is a highly promising and dynamic one, with sky-high innovation levels.



STORIES FROM PRACTICE:

South Africa's food cluster programme

Leona Archary, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Rural Development, will share her story in creating the framework for the establishment of South Africa's 40 (!) new agriparks, followed by some hands-on activities to let you work with her experience.

INTERNATIONALISATION & LEAN LANDING

Where does international collaboration start, and what is needed to make this work? In this hands-on workshop, you will be introduced to the concept of 'Lean Landing sites' and concrete strategies to kick-start your cluster in the international market.

MAKING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY WORK

Agrifood companies are unique in the quality of products that they require and the value of by-products that they produce. Clustering on a physical location offers unprecedented opportunities to add value and to increase sustainable production by exchanging rest- and by-products. This session will allow you to discover and experiment with the potential of your cluster to become part of the circular economy.

FOOD CLUSTER XCHANGE WORLDWIDE

Meet and discover other cluster stories and their managers during this high-speed interactive meeting session!

FOOD CLUSTER XCHANGE:

toolkit

Are you interested in new tools for your cluster? In this quick session, you will be introduced to a variety of practical tools and research results from academia and beyond.

CLUSTER TOURS REVISITED

A cluster tour visit is always too short to really engage in a good discussion. Having reflected on the tour and what you've seen and heard during the Summit Day, we offer you the opportunity to discuss and engage again with the cluster tour participants. To exchange, to advise regarding their issues and to deepen your understanding of their solutions to specific problems.

HIGH-TECH AND FOOD MATCHING SESSION

Get inspired to meet new partners! Technology increasingly plays an important role in the successful development of the agro and food sector – the stories of which will be shared throughout the conference. In this final round, we offer a (moderated) platform for food cluster managers and high-tech professionals to create new connections and seek new solutions for old challenges.

POLICY IN THE MAKING

What do you need to forge ahead? In this session, we collect the lessons learned and jointly gear them towards policy recommendations from the perspective of food cluster professionals. What better way to put learning into practice!