

Venue

Forum CZF
 Fabrikstrasse 12
 3012 Berne, Switzerland
 (5 minutes bus ride from main train station, Bus No 11,
 bus stop "Güterbahnhof")



Fees and registration

The Symposium is free of charge.
 Lunch will be provided. Participants are kindly requested
 to pre-register by 24 May 2006. E-mails indicating the
 name, institutional affiliation, position and postal address
 of prospective participants should be sent to
franziska.joehr@cde.unibe.ch.

Organisers & partners



Desertification and Global Change

An International Symposium

A contribution to the International Year of Deserts and
 Desertification IYDD 2006

Berne, Switzerland, 31 May 2006



Innovative Management of Scarce Resources in Semi-Arid Areas

Experiences from development and research: Challenges for a better future

The aim of the NCCR International Symposium is to further the
 interaction between development practice and development
 theory in order to capitalise on recent experience and progress
 on both levels.

Through discussion and debate the participants will work toward
 identifying novel and promising approaches to more efficient
 management of scarce resources and the improvement of liveli-
 hoods in arid and semi-arid regions.

In a wider context, it is hoped that the symposium will contribute
 to a better understanding of the mechanisms, the obstacles and
 the potentials for appropriate societal responses to the ongoing
 processes of global change.

Programme

The main goals of the symposium are:

- To provide researchers and development practitioners from the South and the North an opportunity to present and share their findings, experiences, and perceptions
- To expand the focus of desertification research beyond the purely environmental issue to the broader phenomenon of a complex syndrome of global change, encompassing social, economic, and ecological processes
- To present innovative approaches to combating desertification as part of a comprehensive effort towards improving livelihoods and sustainable development in semi-arid and arid areas
- To identify new ways in which scientific research can contribute to developing and implementing such new approaches

The NCCR North-South International Symposium will focus on four central themes:

- 1. Management of competing demands for water in transnational settings**
- 2. Competition for natural resources between unequal stakeholders**
- 3. Market access, social services and improved infrastructure for vulnerable stakeholders**
- 4. Dealing with climatic variability at local and national levels.**

Each theme provides the focus for a thematic workshop. The symposium will conclude with reports from the workshops and a plenary discussion of the findings.

The Symposium addresses researchers and development practitioners from the North and the South working in the field of rural development in areas affected by desertification processes. It is also open to a wider public.

9.00 **Introduction** by Urs Wiesmann (NCCR North-South)

9.15 **Presentation and discussion of experience in development ...**

Theme 1: Michael Baumgartner, MFB-GeoConsulting, Switzerland

Theme 2: Fauzia B. Malik, Catholic Relief Services/Intercooperation, Pakistan

Theme 3: Bernadette Peterhans, Swiss Tropical Institute, Switzerland

Theme 4: Ameziane Tayeb, Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II., Morocco

10.45 Coffee Break

11.15 **... and in research**

Theme 1: Christine Bichsel, NCCR North-South, focus on Central Asia (Moderator: Tobias Hagmann, NCCR North-South)

Theme 2: Chinwe I. Speranza, NCCR North-South, focus on Kenya (Moderator: Udo Hoeggel, CDE)

Theme 3: Bassirou Bonfoh, NCCR North-South, focus on Mali (Moderator: Jakob Zinstag, Swiss Tropical Institute, NCCR North-South)

Theme 4: Lewis Njeru, FAO, Kenya: the Somalia Water and Land Information Management System, (Moderator: Hans Hurni, NCCR North-South)

12.00 Lunch

13.15 **Thematic workshops**

15.15 Coffee Break

15.45 **Reports** from the four groups

Plenary discussion, conclusions and closure of the Symposium, Urs Wiesmann, NCCR North-South, Chair

17.15 **Closing remarks**