

## Renewable Energy: Energising the Future – Workshop on Renewable Energy and Agriculture

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*The future for farming and agriculture holds many challenges, not least the continued efforts to optimize energy inputs and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to the FAO, food systems currently consume 30 percent of the world's available energy, with more than 70 percent occurring beyond the farm gate, and produce over 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Modern agriculture is heavily dependent on fossil resources. Both direct energy use for crop management and indirect energy use for fertilizers, pesticides and machinery production have contributed to the major increases in food production seen since the 1960s. While renewables play an increasingly important role in our overall energy consumption, their role in the agri-food supply chain is limited.*

*As an example, in 2012, over 70% of the direct energy consumed by European agriculture comes from fossil fuels, while renewable energy accounted for 7.5%. While energy consumption in the food industry has steadily decreased in recent years due to improvements in energy efficiency, the overall share of renewables remains quite low, representing just 3.3% of the energy used in food processing*

*If we are to meet tomorrow's demand for food and energy in a sustainable manner, new agricultural models are needed that potentially decouple agriculture productivity from energy consumption.*

*During this workshop, it is proposed to present renewable energy solutions already being implemented in a range of countries for e different stages of food production: from agriculture through to retail sales.*

**Date :** 4 December, 14:30 – 16:00

**Location :** UNFCC Blue zone

**Attendance :** 100-150 participants

### Opening

Why renewable energy matters for agriculture?

**Ms Khalida Bouzar**, IFAD's Director of Near East, North Africa and Europe

### Success stories

Geothermal use in agriculture- **Nico van Ruiten** – LTO Glaskracht NL

Agri-energy solutions – the case of islands

**Anne Mounnier**, Akuo Energy

Renewable Power for Food Retail

**Stephan Windels**, WE Power Unit Manager, Colruyt Group

Closing remarks: **Marie Donnelly**, Director, European Commission

Moderator: **Giovanni De Santi**, Joint Research Center – European Commission