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CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY

51

**Fifty-first
Annual Meeting 2015**

**Paramaribo, Suriname
Volume LI**

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OF THE
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THE CONTRIBUTION OF GREEN AGRICULTURE TO GREEN ECONOMICS GREENING THE ECONOMY: A CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Michel Prom, Ambassador of France to Suriname.

Introduction

Nowadays, biotechnology has great advantages such as biological production and processing activities with the partial substitution of physical and chemical technologies of biotechnology. It has immediate consequences in the fields of bioenergy and bio-based molecules in chemistry and materials. The application of sustainable development principles exceeds the contribution of biotechnology by contextualizing in food chains, energy and chemicals in favor of a systemic vision with interlaced material flow, energy and information. Resulting biomass substitution of notions, interconversion of biomass, waterfall effect in successive uses of biomass.

Green Economy a reality in a phase of growth:



Figure 1: Is Green Economy equal to Sustainable Development?

Most of G7 and European countries have adopted strategies for green economy, e.g France has a production of eco-activities near 85 billions € (23% of grand total), with a turn over of 32 billions (26%), and giving employment to 447. 500 (18%) people. While, Finland has a revenue of 60 billions €, creating 300.000 jobs (13%), and with 26% of exports.

Economy strategy in Europe:



Figure 2: Bio economy strategy in May 2014

Europe has adopted in 2012 a strategy for a sustainable bioeconomy to ensure green growth, which should give a turnover of 2 trillions €, and employing 22 millions people (9% of employment). France is also planning to set up a strategy involving INRA in this case.

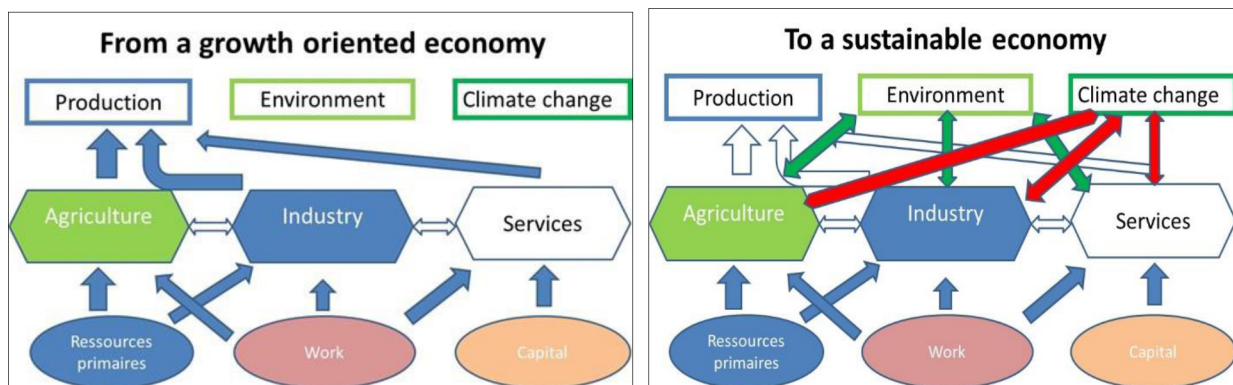


Figure 3: The change from a growth oriented economy into a sustainable economy

Agriculture is not only seen as a production area but it has also impact on other aspects such as: environment, climate change. So, we should move our thinking in not only production but also thinking about sustainable agriculture in a green economy. Taking into account the concept of agroecology in many areas and referring to the UN context, with reference to the Secretary General's report of the UNGA (August 2013), a global strategic framework of the CFS Agenda Post 2015, in reference to the ODD 2 should develop sustainable agriculture. Agroecology interest should meet the challenge of environmental sustainability and climate change. We should go beyond the fact of a productivist vision of agriculture geared towards intensive production

growth, to design a multifunctional agriculture promote a sustainable and balanced development, preserving ecosystems.

Agriculture back at the centre of economy?

During the 17th and 18th centuries, agriculture was the spill and the wealth of the nations. Starting from the 50s, the green revolution came into act and there were stages of development towards industrialisation and services. Since the 80s, we have seen that agriculture is the base of a new economy, the green economy, in the heart of a sustainable development.

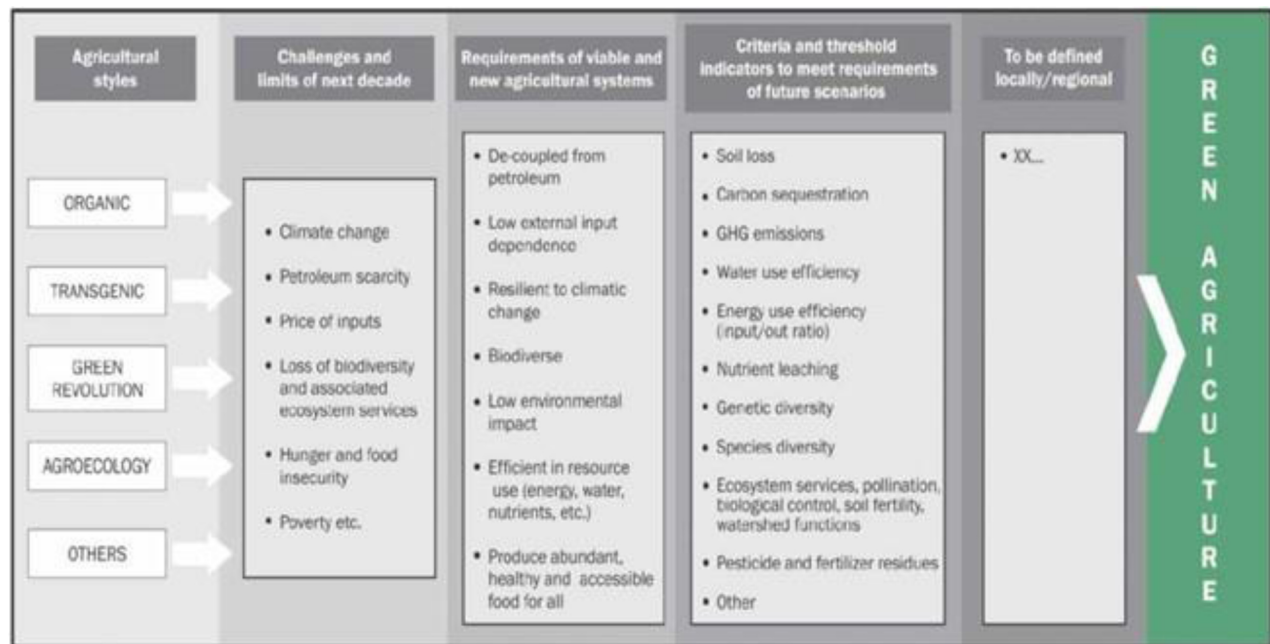


Figure 4: Challenges for a Green Agriculture

Agriculture has a challenging triple efficiency:

- Achieving food security to face the growth of the world population
- Developing sustainable economic models which preserve environment and
- Contribute to the fight against climate change

Green economy: economic growth with environmental sustainability

The production and use should be based on knowledge of the biological resources in order to provide products, processes and services to all sectors of the economy in the context of a sustainable economic system. Sustainable bioeconomy has the ultimate goal of "biologize" deep economy, using new industrial processes and products based on biological resources (e.g, plastics, building materials, etc. biological) and by changing consumer behavior.

Some examples of green production are:

- Finland: the strategy is mostly based on the resources from the forest, biomass is used in wood factory, chemical, energy, food, building sector, eco-systemic services. It is

estimated that one third of the chemical industry uses « bio based » materials: vegetable oils for paints, packages, cosmetic creams, bio fuels etc.

- France: resource come from agriculture and forest mainly in comprehensive production and commercialization chains: Food, building (insulating materials), organic fertilizers for agriculture, energy, biofuels, cosmetic, etc.

But how about the Caribbean?

There is a need for international cooperation and exchanges of experiences and knowledge in:

- Innovation and research
- Holistic approach including diverse partners
- Knowledge particularly for farmers
- More human resources
- Greater adaptation of agriculture to the environment area
- Importance of small or family structures

I have noticed that during this conference a lot of topics based on the green economy will be presented and discussed, so this is a good forum to exchange experiences and knowledge.

Thank you.