



In focus: world food supply problems

ETH Zurich has set out to seek answers to the questions behind the world's most urgent food supply problems on both the local and global level. Large numbers of ETH professors are already currently at work in the field of sustainable food production and processing and at the same time are addressing the economic, social and political aspects of resource management. International knowledge exchange networks are in place – the North-South Centre at ETH Zurich is one good example. However, to maximise the potential for improving the world food system, there is an urgent need for more research projects, for a new generation of brilliant scientists and for specialists with the expertise to link the various tasks together. With its «World Food System» project, ETH Zurich aims to adopt an international pioneering role and produce significant results – locally as well as globally.

World Food System: skilled knowledge networking

In collaboration with other partners, ETH Zurich wishes to tackle the world's food supply problems more swiftly and more effectively. In order to accomplish this, it needs to expand on its leading role in research and establish new professorships. In terms of content, the fields of «Sustainable Agroecosystems» and «Water Economy» have been given initial priority. The key component of the project is a cross-disciplinary Competence Centre designed to link existing research activities, bring related networks together, transport ideas to the right people and cultivate an active exchange with the public.

Results of an investment

- the pool of expertise is enlarged and further innovation is generated
- more young bright minds are educated to benefit research and industry
- ETH Zurich's position is enhanced as an international hub for world food issues.

Aims

- To increase the number of new competences (professorships)
- To set up a Competence Centre

Donations

- Per professorship: CHF 1 million a year, for a period of 10 years
- A one-off contribution to fast-track the development of the centre

Schedule

- Development of the Centre in autumn 2010
- Application process for new professorships when financing is secured

Project leadership



Prof. Dr. Nina Buchmann,
Professor of Grassland Science



Prof. Dr. Bruce McDonald,
Dean of Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences

Contact and information on methods of giving support

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