



Personal impressions, remarks and conclusions of the fruit and vegetable Sector Committee on 11. and 12. June 2007

The overall impression of the sector committee meeting was excellent. The observer was invited to conduct a presentation about several aspects related to smallholder problems in Africa. The members and participants of the sector committee meetings demonstrated high interest in understanding problems related to smallholder involvement in the fruit and vegetable chain.

The observer was asked several times about his opinion related to potential impacts of measures on smallholders.

The atmosphere was very constructive. Beside the official presentations and discussions, the observer had the chance for informal discussions with participants of the committee. Namely these discussions have been very helpful to learn more about specific approaches and positions of single actors. This was a main basis for getting a better understanding related to the positions, approaches and proposals of the different stakeholder groups.

Important decisions have been taken regarding smallholder involvement in standard interpretation and standard setting (see protocol).

The involvement of the German smallholder representatives in the National Technical Working Group in Germany should be seen as an important milestone in the process. Representatives of the German smallholders have already participated in a national committee meeting, they are on the way to develop pilot projects, accompanied by external experts. We learned a lot from those German experts (for example option 2 approaches) and we are confident that their experiences and approaches could help other smallholder groups.

This concept of more involvement of smallholder groups should be implemented worldwide in all national Technical Working Groups of EUREPGAP. This would lead to stronger consideration of the specific requirements of smallholders in the national interpretations guidelines of the standard.

Meckesheim in August 2007

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