‘Failed’ food system needs urgent reform, says Olivier De Schutter – UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food

April 2, 2014 - Food & Agriculture

In an exclusive interview with viEws at the Forum on the Future of Agriculture 2014, Olivier De Schutter – UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food – talks to AGRA FACTS journalist Rose O’Donovan about the flaws of the current food system and discusses a number of measures to reduce hunger and malnutrition.

De Schutter underlines that the shift in focus from large-scale, efficient producers to small-scale farmers has already taken place. “In the past we thought by trusting the most efficient regions to feed the others we would succeed in reducing hunger and undernutrition, but now we have realised that instead we must support each country and each region, which means investing in producers who might not be the most efficient and competitive”, claims the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. The key challenge now is not about increasing production but ensuring adequate distribution of food, strengthening the purchasing power of the poor and developing the diversity of forms, the Belgian academic states. A firm advocate of agro-ecology, the UN food expert also outlines the main elements of this approach to agriculture that seeks to better understand how nature works.

More Food & Agriculture Videos

TTIP: Syngenta calls for harmonized safety standards

John Atkin, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Syngenta, talks about agriculture and trade perspectives.

Agricultural tariffs: cuts have to be made to feed world population, claims Pascal Lamy – former Director General of WTO

Pascal Lamy - former Director General of the WTO and Honorary President of Notre Europe - discusses the agricultural dimension of trade.

Brussels Briefing on Agriculture – All you need to know for March & April 2014

Rose O’Donovan & Ed Bray provide an overview of the latest developments in the field of the European Union’s agricultural policy.
Food & Agriculture

Horsemoot scandal: Health Commissioner Borg threatens more action pending results of new tests

Health Commissioner Tonio Borg discusses fraudulent food labelling, an issue that has been in the spotlight after the horsemoot scandal.

Food & Agriculture

GMOS: special briefing on the authorisation of genetically modified maize

This special briefing provides an overview of the latest developments on the authorisation of the GM maize 1507 for cultivation in the EU.

Food & Agriculture

Brussels Briefing on Agriculture – All you need to know for the month of March 2014

Rose O'Donovan & Ed Bray provide an overview of the latest developments in the field of the European Union’s agricultural policy.

Food & Agriculture

Cloning: Health Commissioner Borg open to labelling food from cloned offspring

Health Commissioner Tonio Borg discusses the labelling of food from cloned offspring with leading agriculture journalist Ed Bray.

Food & Agriculture

Greens hope that GM maize will be kept out of Europe

Richard More O’Ferrall, spokesperson for the Greens Group, discusses the vote on authorisation of GM maize.

Food & Agriculture

Health Commissioner Borg hopes for deal on stalled GM crop proposals

Health Commissioner Tonio Borg discusses the revision of EU rules on genetically modified (GM) crops.

Food & Agriculture

“Schools should stimulate healthy eating habits of children”, argues Commission

Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, spokeswoman of the European Commission, discusses the food distribution proposal.

Food & Agriculture

Top 5 Agriculture – All you need to know for 2014

Rose O’Donovan & Ed Bray provide a quick overview of the top 5 agriculture issues on the agenda under the Greek Presidency.

Food & Agriculture

Brussels Briefing on Agriculture – All you need to know for the month of December 2013

Rose O’Donovan & Ed Bray provide an overview of the latest developments in the field of the European Union’s agricultural policy.

Food & Agriculture

“Cloning can’t be used in EU for farm animals”, affirms European Commission

Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, spokeswoman of the European Commission, discusses the Commission’s proposals to ban the dosing of animals for food production.
Animal cloning: "ban must include offspring of cloned animals", argue the Greens

Richard Marie O’Ferrall, spokesperson for the Greens Group, discusses the European Commission’s proposal on the use of animal cloning for food production.