

SPEAKERS DEBATE

Jean-Michel Severino, President of Investisseurs & Partenaires, former Vice President of the World Bank for Asia, former CEO of France's International Development Agency (AFD)

We have a few minutes before the end of our panel, and I would like to take advantage of that by asking our colleagues one question that I would like them to answer in one minute. If we are, thank God, all together here again next year, what single positive development would you like to be able to tell our audience?

Kamel Abdallah, Managing Director and CEO of Canal Sugar, Egypt

The fusion of technology and small farmers and changing people's habits. These are the two things I would hope to see next year, and we are working on both of them at Canal Sugar.

Jean-Michel Severino

A precise answer.

Bayu Krisnamurthi, Professor at the Bogor Agricultural University, former Vice Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia

Next year I can probably tell you about the development of private sector involvement in these issues. We have initiated what we call a partnership in Indonesian sustainable agriculture and within that context, maybe about 60% to 70% is food and how we solve food problems. I think that is evolving quite promisingly and hopefully by next year we will reach about 2.5 million farmers with an approach for food security.

Jean-Michel Severino

Great, a massive target, an additional million farmers to target by this private sector initiative.

Philippe Chalmin, Founder of Cercle Cyclope, Professor Emeritus at Paris-Dauphine University

My dream would be more on Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, which as you saw on all the maps is the main problem as far as food is concerned. Remember, 1 billion more people in 2050, and that is where food poverty is most acute. In 2003, there was a summit in Maputo where African countries decided to devote 10% of their public budget into agriculture. Today, only one country, and I am not even sure that it is the case, devotes 10% of its budget to agriculture and that appears to be Ethiopia. It is unfortunately far less in many African countries. My dream would

be that as many African countries as possible will have real agricultural policies. Not the kind of development, but policies like you have in Indonesia or even Egypt with guaranteed prices for farmers and even some price subsidies for the poor. It is really a dream.

Jean-Michel Severino

Let us make your dream happen. So, every country in Africa with a solid agrifood policy and spends 10% of their budget on agriculture. I think it is around 3% now so there is a big gap, but we will make it.

Jean-Marc Astorg, Strategy Director at the *Centre national d'études spatiales* (CNES)

I mentioned the example of India, which has reduced the barrier between technology and end users to meet their needs. Of course, I would like to see this become widespread, especially in countries where food insecurity is most acute, and for this example to be adopted universally.

Jean-Michel Severino

Great and very concrete, India's innovation leading the world and being spread. I do not know if we have lost Máximo or not, so unfortunately, he will not be able to contribute to this last question.