

**SIDE EVENT: 9.Sept. 2010: 12:45-13:45**

***Water Intelligence: Rethinking Water and Food Security***

**Convenor: Water Observatory of the M. Botin Foundation (MBF-WO)**

**Room: K12**

**Event Description**

Two books, Re-thinking water and food security (open access e-book) and Water Footprint of Spain will be presented. These will provide a framework for discussing the Water and Food Security in Latin America MBF-Water Observatory project (Sept. 2010) ([www.fundacionmbotin/agua](http://www.fundacionmbotin/agua)). The aim will be to generate discussion and recruit potential partners.

**PROGRAMME**

*Chair: Professor Ramon Llamas, Director FMB-Water Observatory, Spain*

12:45: Welcome and Introduction: The activities of the FMB Water Observatory *Prof. Ramon Llamas, FMB-Water Observatory, Spain and Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences*

12:55: Presentation of the Book "Re-Thinking water and food security". *Dr. Jan Lunqvist, SIWI, Sweden*

13:05: "Water Intelligence: Presentation of the Book "Water footprint and virtual water trade in Spain". *Prof. Alberto Garrido, CEIGRAM Centre, Technical University of Madrid/FMB-Water Observatory and Dra M.M.Aldaya UTwente/FMB-Water Observatory*

13:15: The role of groundwater in Spanish Water Policy *Dr Elena Lopez-Gunn FMB Water Observatory/LSE*

13:25-13:45: Presentation Project on Water and Food security in Latin-America *Prof. Ramon Llamas and Prof Alberto Garrido FMB Water Observatory (see below)*

Questions and Comments

13:45 Close

**WORLD**  
in Stockholm,  
September 5-11, 2010  
**WATER**  
**WEEK**

*The World Water Week in Stockholm is the annual meeting place for the planet's most urgent water-related issues. Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), it brings together 2500 experts, practitioners, decision makers and business innovators from around the globe to exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions.*



OBSERVATORIO DEL AGUA  
WATER OBSERVATORY

## Launches...

### **A NEW PROJECT ON WATER AND FOOD SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA (2011-2012)**

Building on the experience acquired in delivering high quality research in Spain over the last 10 years, the **Botín Foundation Water Observatory** begins a new project on water and food security in Latin America.

Lessons learned from over a decade of work devoted to analyze water issues in Spain – the most arid country in the EU – provide the basis for a rigorous and comprehensive inquiry in some of the most dynamic emerging countries in the world. While Spain took four decades to become an industrialized country, starting from a low level of relative development among EU countries, the transformations in leading Latin American countries is occurring in much shorter lapses. The challenges for the water sector in South America are astounding, since some of them are crucial food exporters and key global players, with large mega-cities, growing at rates of 5-6%, and which beginning to experience environmental problems of a significant scale.

The project goals are to:

- ❑ Make a comprehensive diagnosis of water and food issues in selected Latin American countries, using prospective analysis and scientific knowledge, and locating the water and food sector within the major socio-economic trends taking place at national, regional and global contexts.
- ❑ Develop water intelligence solutions that accelerate the transition from “MORE CROPS AND JOBS PER DROP” to “MORE CASH AND CARE OF NATURE PER DROP” recognizing that to undertake this deep transition in the way water is managed, it is crucial to focus on WIN-WIN solutions which take into account powerful agricultural lobbies and food security concerns.
- ❑ Enquire about the validity of prevailing pessimistic views on global water scarcity, by combining the know-how of previous studies in Spain and asking the right questions for leading Latin American countries.
- ❑ Generate policy-relevant and country-specific findings, with the aim to facilitate policy debates at national and global levels.

The project is designed to:

- ❑ INNOVATE: placing particular emphasis in integrating all the factors that condition the durability and effectiveness which are key to sound water policy, including the *extended* water footprint, water productivity, international trade, desalination, groundwater silent revolution, cultural, emotional and psychological elements in water management, ...
- ❑ THINKING OUT OF THE WATER BOX: many key decisions in relation to water take place “out of the water sector sphere”, that is, outside the normal water organizations and institutions sphere of influence, including social changes, economic growth, globalization and technology development.
- ❑ BUILD ON EXPERIENCE: previous studies by the FM-WO in Spain have clearly highlighted the great economic importance that water has for food and fodder imports and exports (virtual water), and the great transformation of food production brought about by openness to trade and the adoption of new technologies.
- ❑ AVOID PRE-DEFINED BLUEPRINTS OR ONE-SIZE-FIT- ALL-SOLUTIONS: putting to good use all the experience and accumulated knowledge, proposing solutions and approaches that are country-specific, but based on best available technologies and knowledge.
- ❑ QUESTION PARADIGMS: previous experience shows how Spain - the most arid country in the EU - is not “water scarce”, most of its resources are used in food production, and 10% of blue water used for irrigation generates 90% of the economic value of Spanish irrigated agriculture, with the farm sector contributing 4% to the GNP. The intensive use (and lack of control) of groundwater use has generated enormous economic and social benefits, but has also generated ecological problems and social conflict in certain regions, still pending a solution. Pending issues about groundwater governance aspects, and problems of diffuse water pollution need solutions. long overdue
- ❑ FACILITATE TRANSPARENCY, PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY: both to the scientific and to the policy communities, recognizing their importance in decision making and enabling debates that are science-based, fact-proven, and socially inclusive.

The project will be carried out by the **international team of the FM-WO**, formed with two professors from the Complutense University and Technical University of Madrid, five Post-Doctoral researchers and a team of five Graduate students, in association and seeking synergies with researchers from the selected Latin American countries.