



Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment

Field Trip Adaptation Committee to the Netherlands

Report

16-17 June 2013

The Field Trip

At the second meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC) of March 2013, the Dutch committee member, Mrs. Annemieke Nijhof, invited the AC to visit the Netherlands on a Field Trip in the days before the third meeting of the AC. The Field Trip took place on Sunday 16 and Monday 17 June 2013. The Field Trip focused on climate change adaptation in relation to water safety and food security.

General impressions

The members of the AC arrived Sunday late afternoon in Delft, the Netherlands. On Sunday evening, the Delta Commissioner, Mr. Wim Kuijken, gave a presentation on the Delta Programme, the Dutch national programme for flood safety and freshwater supply which also involves collaboration between the national government, provincial authorities, municipal authorities and water boards. After the presentation, the floor was given to the AC to ask questions to Mr. Wim Kuijken, for example on the topics of national decision-making, political support for action and dealing with uncertainty and scenarios. The AC and invited guests from Dutch companies, institutions and governmental organisations talked further on climate change adaptation and water management over dinner.

On Monday morning, the AC visited PRIVA, a Dutch innovative company in the horticulture sector and greenhouse management. A presentation on the work of PRIVA was given by the Chief Executive Officer of PRIVA, Mrs. Meiny Prins, and Programme Manager, Mr. Jan Westra. The main topics of the presentation and the following discussion were on water efficiency, innovation and application of innovative horticultural products in developing countries. Additional questions arose on the application of innovative horticultural products in different markets and under different circumstances, the costs of such innovative systems and the knowledge transfer of PRIVA to its international customers.

After lunch, the afternoon session focused on the challenges and opportunities of climate change adaptation in the city of Rotterdam, mainly focusing on urban water management. Rotterdam Climate Initiative, an initiative of the Rotterdam municipality, creates a movement in which government, organizations, companies, knowledge institutes, and citizens collaborate to achieve a fifty per cent reduction of CO₂ emissions, adapt to climate change, and promote the economy in the Rotterdam region. Rotterdam Climate Initiative explained the decision-making process and the toolkit for climate change adaptation in the city of Rotterdam, including green roofs, water buffering and adaptive construction of houses and infrastructure. More information was provided on the initiation, monitoring and review of policies, the costs of such adaptation planning and the implementation in developing countries. The AC also visited the floating pavilion, an example of innovative, climate-proof and adaptive area development.

After an informal dinner with the AC and the organisers of the trip, the AC returned to Bonn.

Conclusions

The AC highly appreciated the Field Trip, especially for the variation in and new information and insights on the following subjects: delta security and water security, agricultural technology and urban water management. The AC mentioned that the Netherlands is one of the leading countries in local climate change adaptation, particularly in decision-making processes and the involvement of authorities at all levels. The AC also noted that the Netherlands pursues an integrated approach, involves the private sector and has a proactive attitude towards climate change adaptation.

Relevant websites

www.priva.nl

www.deltacommissie.com

www.rotterdamclimateinitiative.nl