


URBAN IS THE NEW REGIONAL

In collaboration with:

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten**FOODTROPOLIS****Will Cities Shape our Perception
of Food and Nature?****Conference on 20 & 21 March 2019
in the Munich Residence****Press Release****EXPO 2020: Minister of Food Security Al-Mehairi from the United Arab Emirates at the Global Food Summit 2019***Berlin/Munich, 26.02.2019: Stephan Becker-Sonnenschein, Head und Founder of the Global Food Summit 2019 in Munich, announces:*

The Minister for Food Security of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Her Excellency Mariam Al Mehairi, will give the keynote speech at the opening of the Global Food Summit 2019 in Munich. During her speech on 20 March, she will discuss sustainable methods of urban farming, such as controlled-environment agriculture (CEA), new foods and innovative approaches to reducing food waste.

"The United Arab Emirates is currently experiencing strong urbanization and is a pioneer in the implementation of new technologies in food production. EXPO 2020 will be an impressive example of this, and we are looking forward to getting some initial insights from the Minister in Munich," said Stephan Becker-Sonnenschein, Head and Founder of the Global Food Summit.

"Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability" – these are the main topics of EXPO 2020 in the UAE. The arid desert states, water-scarce regions, attach particular importance to sustainability in agriculture and food production. Her Excellency Mariam Al-Mehairi will therefore present her latest project at the Global Food Summit 2019 in Munich: the Food Valley. "The idea comes from Silicon Valley in the USA, where technology companies and start-ups have developed into commercial giants," explains the Minister.

Mariam Al-Mehairi has been in office since October 2017. She hopes that the "Food Valley" project will become a reference project for water-scarce regions worldwide. New technologies are to be developed there, that will enable the cultivation of more food in desert landscapes than has previously been possible. To this end, the further development of food and automation processes in agriculture will be researched and promoted. In this way, the United Arab Emirates wants to take account of population growth and the increasing demand for food of around four percent per year.

The "Al Dahra BayWa Greenhouse" in the oasis of Al Ain is one of the UAE's flagship projects in the field of urban farming. In a joint venture between the Munich-based agricultural group BayWA AG and the agribusiness firm Al Dahra from Abu Dhabi, around 3,000 tons of tomatoes are cultivated in two greenhouses on a total of ten hectares of land. With around three million litres, the greenhouses of the 40 million euro project consume around 67 percent less water than conventional plants of this type. The new cooling technology used there is unique in the world.

According to H.E. Minister Al Mehairi, the objective of the UAE's National Future Food Security Strategy is to increase food self-sufficiency. At the moment, the country still imports 80 percent of its food. This is why the UAE wants to use new technologies and thereby enable the local cultivation of food with innovative high-tech concepts. To this end, the country is seeking cooperation worldwide with decision-makers, academics, government experts and the private sector.

The Global Food Summit 2019 will take place in cooperation with the University of California, Berkeley, Wageningen University, the National Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech), the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and the Bavarian State Government, represented by the Competence Center for Nutrition in Kulmbach:

DATE: 20 and 21 March 2019**PLACE:** Residenz Munich
Residenzstraße 1
80333 Munich**TIME:** 3.30 pm on 20 March 2019More information under: www.globalfoodsummit.com[Here](#) you can find a photo of Her Excellency Mariam Al Mehairi.**Global Food Summit – Der Zukunft der Lebensmittel eine Stimme geben**

In wachsenden Metropolregionen erwartet die Gesellschaft gesund älter werden zu können und fordert, entlang der Lebensmittelkette die Nachhaltigkeitsziele 2030 zu berücksichtigen. Mit neuen Methoden und Technologien können diese Ziele erreicht werden, aber sie verändern dramatisch, was und wie wir essen. Der Global Food Summit bringt jährlich Experten aus Wissenschaft, Unternehmen, Verbände, Politik und Medien zusammen um zu diskutieren, wie neue Technologien die Lebenskette verändern werden. Eine Zusammenarbeit von University of California, Berkeley, Universität Wageningen, Staatsregierung Bayern und Global Food Summit.

20. Und 21. März 2019, München, Residenz, „Foodtropolis – Verändern Städte die Wahrnehmung von Essen und Natur?“

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