10 billion, what's on your plate? (10 Milliarden , Wie werden wir alle satt?)

A film review by Forouq (Zahra) Kanaani

Director: Valentin Thurn
Producers: Jürgen Kleinig, Tina Leeb
Film title: 10 billion, what's on your plate? (10 Milliarden , Wie werden wir alle satt?)
Production Company: Celluloid Fabrik
Production year: 2015
Country: Germany
Language: German

10 billion people by 2050. The food crisis, even with the current world population is a big issue and many people are either starving or struggling with malnutrition all around the world. Therefore, the debate about food security is getting hotter and the necessity of having a comprehensive perspective is important nowadays. Besides all nutrition problems that we have to solve, the climatic problems of current agricultural methods are another important issue which we should deal with in the near future.

This film takes a wide look into the vast vision of the production and distribution of worldwide food - from insects, industrial farming, and artificial meat to the novel methods of organic or even conventional self-cultivation. Valentin Thurn (the food activist and best-selling author of "Taste the Waste") searches for global solutions and tries to find the best suggestions to solve the future food crisis in the world.

The film "10 billion, what's on your plate? - 10 Milliarden – Wie werden wir alle satt?" a 102 minute colourful and harmonious movie, was produced in 2015. The director starts his inquiry with asking about the possible al-

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ternatives to feed the projected 10 billion people. He brings up the subject with any possible alternatives, such as the exigency of having insects as a source for food, like some populous communities, at present. Then he goes to several scientific efforts which are trying to introduce the ultimate solution for the global food crisis. During this worldwide journey, he meets scientific institutes in many developed countries like Germany and Japan and evaluates their attempts and ideas about the manner we should have to control the hunger problem.

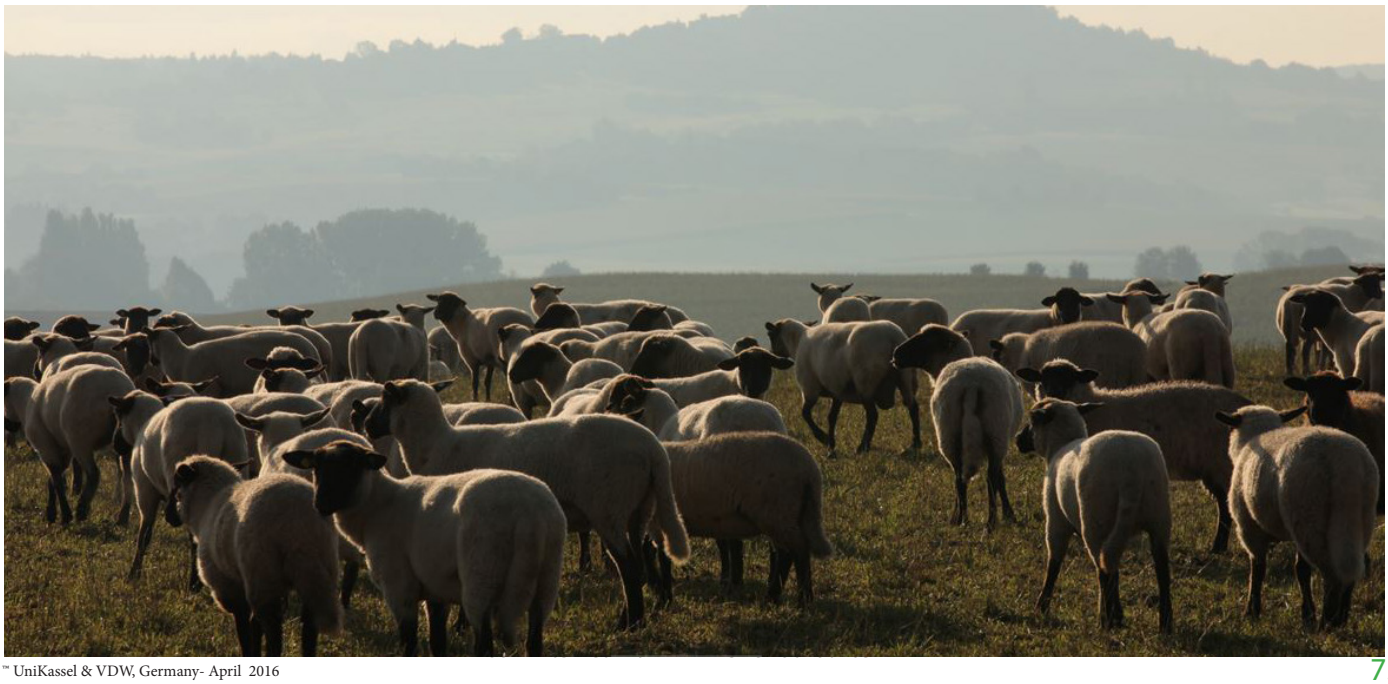
Thurn tries to criticize some of these endeavors. In some cases, he indicates that many of these efforts, are more likely to consider the food crisis very astutely as a business subject rather than a humanitarian solution to save the people from starvation. In this frame, he provides some examples of institutions which try to keep small scale farmers all around the world more dependent to their production, like seed or sapling. The manner of these immense companies and institutes shows the financial tendency of their activities which might lead to the current problems in the area of food production and distribution.

Accordingly, he also appraises the domestic or global effect of food prices and stock exchanges on the agricultural practices and concludes that drastic fluctuation in agricultural stocks could lead to real catastrophe for poor people which could not purchase food.

Thurn also refuses to accept the gene-engineered fish and other gene-modified products as a final solution for world hunger problems in future. In the case of fish, he argues that fish like salmon, natural of genetically modified, should be fed with other fish products, which are rapidly depleting.

In the film another possible alternative for the future hunger problems is shown. Artificial meat producing programs are currently running all around the world; like "The cultured beef project" at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. Artificial meat products tend to be more of a solution for future food safety and even climate problems. However, when considering the production price of this artificial meat it is obviously an unreachable source of food for a numerous amount of people, even in the future. At the moment, it costs approximately 250,000 € for a Hamburger-size meat!
In contrast with above-mentioned pursuits, the director highlights the importance of independent small scale farming, using the example of a local farmer in Malawi, who managed the hunger issue in her rural region successfully. She applied mixed farming practices by using the local crops. The local farmers in that village, not only consume the crops as their own food, but also sell them as a way to make revenues.

Other examples of agricultural scenarios are European, American, Indian and African farmers trying to use various practices for managing their farm in the most sustainable way. Although it seems that intensive industrial agriculture is obtaining more yield, studies show that small scale farmers are acting in the more sustainable way financially, especially when stockholders are promoting local markets and trying to skip transporting



[m] UniKassel & VDW, Germany- April 2016

the products between long distances.

As a conclusion, it is clear from the evidence produced by the director that the solution to feed the projected 10 billion world population in the future is with local farmers who are trading their products in domestic markets and avoiding gearing their farms towards relationships with large agricultural companies. Basic human rights, where every individual has access to secure and nutritious food is the duty of our generation. We should also be responsible about the food we are consuming.

Mary Clear (founder of Incredible Edible:
A NGO organization which turns non-edible plants of urban landscapes into edible crops, foe free)

"We believe that politics would not fix the food situation of the world; money would not feed people across the world, the science will not fix the problem, only kindness will."

All photos from
http://www.10milliarden-derfilm.de/

Information of the author:

Forouq (Zahra) Kanaani has obtained a Bachelor degree in "Agricultural Engineering, Agronomy and Plant Breeding" from University of Tehran and then, she finished her M.Sc. studies in "Agronomy" in Iran in the year 2013. In her Master thesis, she investigated the organic practices to suppress the competitor plants on the crop field. Currently, she is pursuing her second Master study in Sustainable International Agriculture from University of Göttingen and University of Kassel and hopes to bring her contribution to solve the global food and water problems.

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