



**Environment at the crossroads.  
Aiming for a sustainable future.**  
Gulbenkian Conference 2009  
27 and 28 October

*Environmental Crisis and the future of Agriculture*

**José Lima Santos**

Since the 1980s, our perceptions of land use dilemmas have changed at an increasing speed. Until 2003, in Europe, we apparently believed in a multifunctional, post-productive countryside – a space for leisure, nature or culture rather than production. Land was seen as part of our quality of life. After 2007, dealing with global food, energy and ecological risks became a major land use concern. Land turned to be seen as a globally scarce, fragile and irreplaceable capital asset on which we all depend. Most recently, we have learned from the current financial crisis that a working economy is not just about competition and abstract financial assets. It is also about trust, cooperation, collective rules (and their enforcement), as well as concrete, material assets. We have returned to basic, material facts of life and the role of governments and collective choice.

In this presentation we address four major issues about the future of agriculture and land use. First, why are our major land use dilemmas shifting so rapidly? Second, how do we go beyond the intensive versus extensive farming debate to achieve a new, more sustainable, technological model? Third, how can we deliver ecosystem services through market creation or, alternatively, more classical policy tools? Fourth, how can we handle scale and governance problems that presently hinder an effective, integrated management of land use at different levels?



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**José Lima Santos**

Born in Lisbon in 1963; degree in Agronomy by the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, in 1987; PhD by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, in 1997; habilitation degree by the Technical University of Lisbon, in 2008.

Currently is Professor at the Institute of Agronomy, Technical University of Lisbon, and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the same Institute. Main research and teaching areas are Environmental Economics, the Economic Valuation of the Environment, Cost-Benefit Analysis of Public Policy, Policy Analysis, and Agri-environment Policy design and evaluation.

José Lima Santos worked as an expert for the OECD in different tasks, such as the Economic Valuation of Biodiversity (1998/9) and the Multifunctionality of Agriculture (Washington workshop, 2000).

Between 2000 and 2003 he was Director General of the Agri-Food Planning and Policy Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, in charge of policy design and evaluation, as well as European and external affairs. During this period he acted as a coordinator of the policy negotiations of the 2003 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform. José Lima Santos is a member of the National Environment and Sustainable Development Council (CNADS), since 2006, and also member of the Consultative Committee of the Gulbenkian Environmental Program since 2007.