



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

1 9 4 5

70

YEARS

OF

FAO

2 0 1 5










70 YEARS OF FAO (1945-2015)
HAS BEEN PREPARED BY
FAO OFFICE FOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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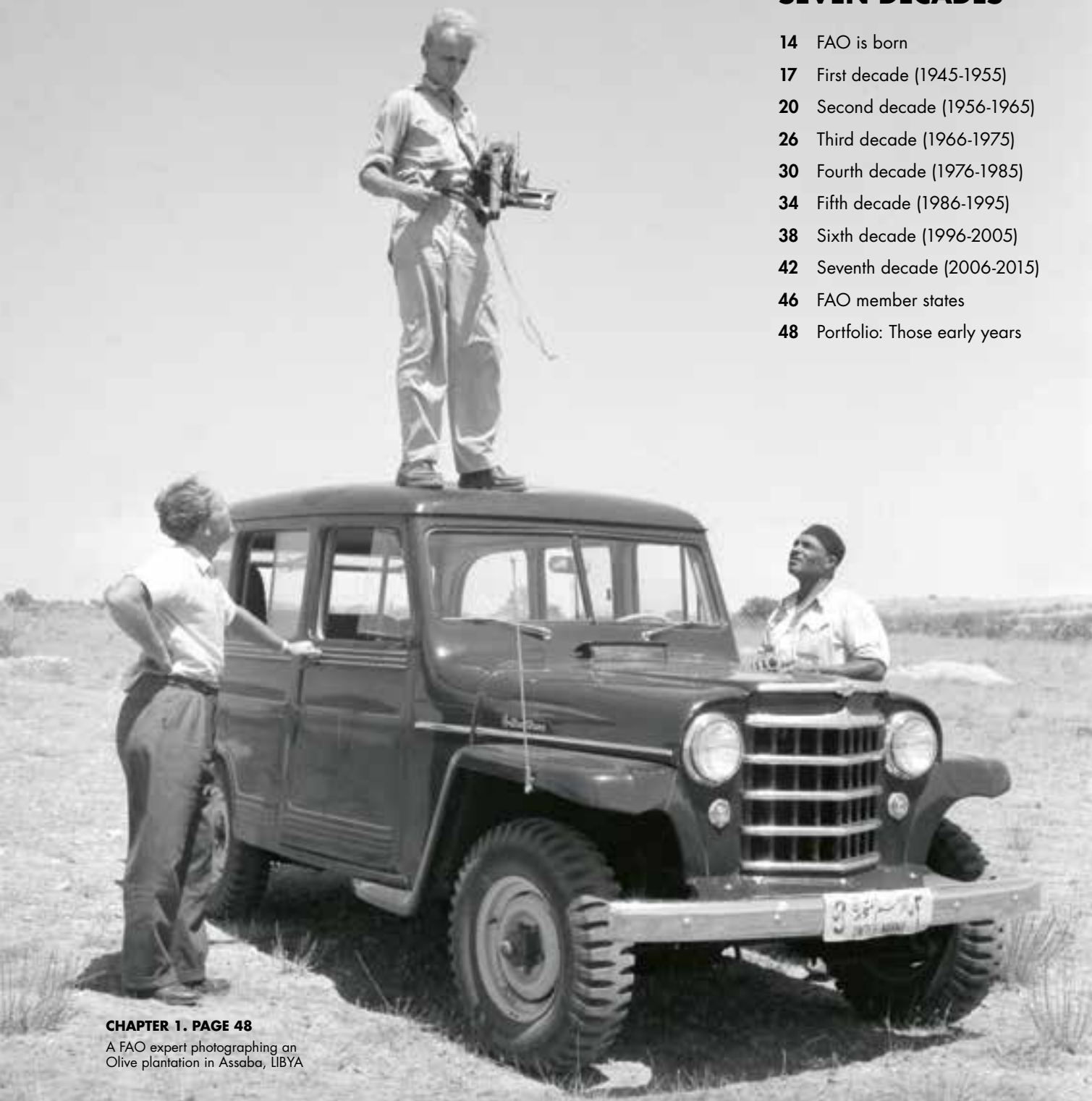
ABOVE: Meeting of the United Nations for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) delegation in Washington D.C. 1950 to commemorate the first FAO Conference in Quebec, Canada in October 1945. LEFT: Chateau Frontenac, Quebec (Canada) where FAO was founded. RIGHT: On 16 October 1945 Quebec, Canada, FAO was born, after its Constitution was signed.

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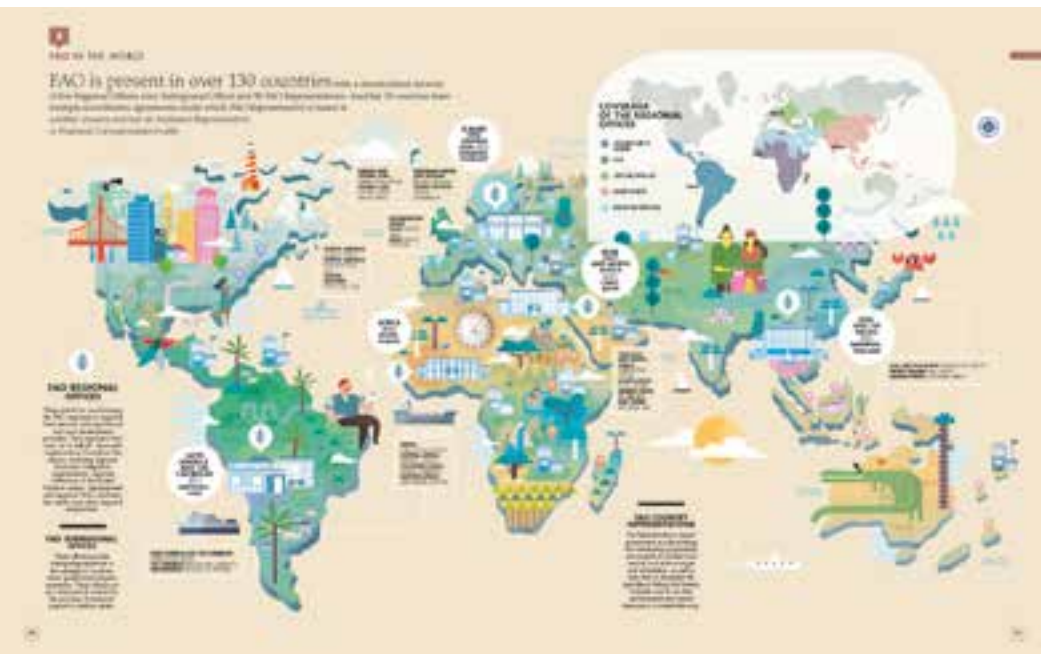
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Headquarters of FAO's five regional offices in the world.



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SANTIAGO, CHILE



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C O N T E N T S

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F O R E W O R D

ERADICATING HUNGER IS POSSIBLE

With this publication

we want to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of FAO as a United Nations Agency for Food and Agriculture. But, in all honesty, what I would really have liked to celebrate today with an announcement to declare to the world that: “We have eradicated hunger from the world”. That will be the time when we truly can celebrate. Because this generation – mine, ours – has a real chance to achieve this: all we need is the political will, social awareness and a universal effort.

Today, we are in a much better situation than we were 70 years ago. There is no doubt about that. When FAO was founded, the world was emerging from a cruel war. Most European countries were suffering from the devastating effects of hunger. On 16 October 1945, the FAO Constitution set out the Organization’s vision: *“A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest”*. We had to fight against an enemy, hunger, whose effects we knew all too well, but about the causes of which, we knew far too little. We had to start virtually from scratch. The first World Food Survey coordinated by FAO was published in 1946 and made it very clear: *“It is well known that there is much starvation and malnutrition in the world [yet] vague knowledge that this situation exists is not enough; facts and figures are needed if the nations are to attempt to do away with famine and malnutrition”*.

This book tells the story of these seven decades of the history of FAO, its protagonists and their endeavours. Protagonists like the visionary David Lubin; like Frank L. McDougall, an inspiration in

those early years; like the seven Directors-General that have preceded me, who have all left their legacy; and like the many thousands of FAO professionals who, in these 70 years, have devoted their lives and work to the mission for which FAO was created. But the book also had to be a record of the Organization’s actions, which is why we share some of the success stories in which FAO has played a part. Let’s not forget that in these decades we have managed to eradicate animal epidemics like rinderpest. Only once before had humans been able to wipe out a disease, when smallpox was eliminated in 1980. Important agreements have been reached, such as the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, vital to ensuring the planet’s biodiversity, and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which is essential for the conservation of the marine ecosystem. FAO also coordinates or is actively involved in important committees like the one on Food Security, the Codex Alimentarius – protecting consumer health around the world – or the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), created to prevent food price crises.

We have now left behind the Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000, which helped to lift 700 million people out of poverty in the last 15 years. The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recently adopted at the United Nations Summit in New York in September 2015, which I attended as Director-General of FAO, will set the political agenda for the next 15 years. The main objective of these goals will be to eradicate – I repeat, eradicate, not reduce – poverty and hunger, as well as to improve nutrition.

In these 70 years, the world has grown more complex, more global, more interactive, and the major problems that we have decided in this book to call challenges are all interconnected. For instance: the problem of hunger cannot be tackled without taking into account the fact that, very soon, by 2050, there will be nine billion inhabitants of this planet. We must therefore plan how we are going to feed a growing population, raising its nutrition levels and doing so, moreover, in a responsible way which means promoting the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and land ecosystems. We must also decide which measures we will adopt to combat climate change, considering its effects on agriculture. These are just some of the major issues and challenges that we must address in the coming years, which we also discuss in this publication.

Last June of 2015 I received the mandate of all of the FAO member states for a second term. My role in the coming years will be to prepare this organization to achieve the goals set by its members states. To do this, FAO is restructuring to become a fully integrated organization underpinned by five Strategic Objectives that enable us to tackle the challenges I have mentioned, in a more dynamic and effective way. FAO is also moving towards greater decentralisation in order to be closer to its members and to be on the ground, wherever it is needed. Let's not forget that FAO is currently running some 2 000 programmes and field projects around the world, promoting the sharing of knowledge and offering technical support.



We wanted to mark this anniversary with a book that could reach everyone, written in simple language and with an attractive design that the whole world could understand, because we believe that issues relating to hunger and nutrition affect us all, and it is our duty to communicate our message in the clearest, most comprehensive and most rigorous way possible.

I have spent more than 30 years working and fighting in various spheres to put an end to the scourge that is hunger. We can now say that the number of people going hungry in the world has been reduced to around 800 million. That is 200 million fewer than in 1990. This is an achievement, certainly, but it is still an unacceptable figure, despite the many advances that have been made in many countries.

We have 15 years ahead of us to end world hunger: 2030 is the horizon when, if we adopt the right policies and work together, we will achieve it. We are the generation that can and must do it. I believe that one day my life's dream will come true. I hope to celebrate then with the satisfaction of having contributed, along with so many others, to one of the greatest causes to which a human being could devote his life.

José Graziano da Silva
Director-General

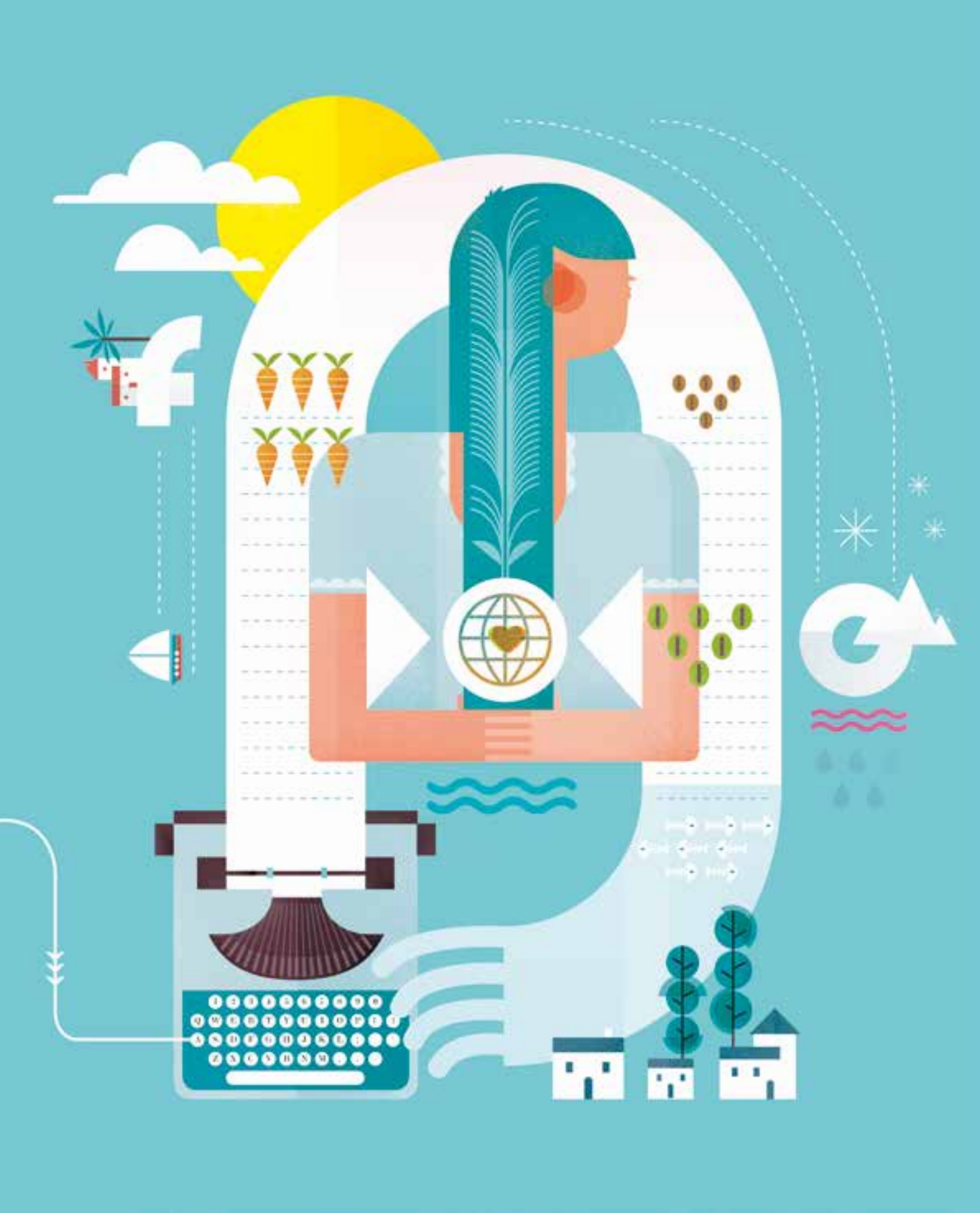
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Graziano da Silva', written in a cursive style.

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FAO IN SEVEN DECADES







ROME, 1905

David Lubin with the staff of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) on the steps of the Institute 'Villa Umberto' (renamed 'Villa Lubin') in Villa Borghese, Rome. © Nat. Board Canada/FAO



FAO IS BORN

The history in seven decades of an organization born with one goal: to free humanity of hunger.

The origins of FAO are indelibly linked to one name: David Lubin, a successful Californian businessman who turned to farming in the 1880s. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the importance of agriculture in the global economy was declining. The problems were far-reaching. On the one hand, farmers were poorly organised. On the other, it was a sector with little prestige which, unlike industry, lacked innovation. To put it more plainly, prestige and wealth were found in sectors such as industry, trade and finance.

Lubin was quick to understand that trade played a major role in agricultural price-setting. Only an international organisation could successfully defend farmers' interests. He campaigned tirelessly in the United States of America to garner public support for agriculture. Finding no support for his ideas at home, he set off for Europe. Rebuffed on his travels to London and Paris, it was in Italy, and with king Victor Emmanuel II,

where he finally found a willing ear.

On 7 June 1905 the Italian government convened the first conference of the International Institute of Agriculture. The seed of what would later become FAO was sown. The number of member states rapidly rose from 46 at its first assembly to 74 in 1934.

The work of the Institute was essentially technical in nature. However, at that time, agriculture's problems were compounded by growing economic and political forces, as seen during the Wall Street crash.

The post-1929 world depression had a devastating effect on agriculture and left the farming community on its knees. The financial crisis saw food-importing countries hastily erecting tariff barriers and increasing their domestic food production. From 1929 to 1933, wheat imports in industrialised Europe fell by 60 percent. Faced with falling demand, farmers in many countries produced surpluses. In June 1933, the League of Nations held a Monetary and ▶

- ▶ Economic Conference in London in an attempt to find a solution to the problem of surpluses. It failed. The international community was not yet ready to harmonise their economic policies and pool resources to overcome the crisis.

At the same time, research was being conducted on poverty and nutrition, inspired by John Boyd Orr, who was widely regarded for his work in the field. It was common knowledge, for example, that a third of Britain's population was malnourished due to an inadequate intake of milk, fruit, vegetables and other foods vital for good health. The underlying cause was poverty. A paradox had emerged. Nutritionists were calling for increasing consumption while economists were urging cutbacks in production.

This situation was analysed by the Australian nutritionist, Frank McDougall, who advocated "to marry health and agriculture" and to integrate various disciplines in order to address the issue of malnutrition. His proposals were widely accepted by governments and the public alike. The time seemed ripe for collective action, however the outbreak of World War II halted any further progress.

In 1942, McDougall, in Washington DC for discussions on the new international wheat agreement, found that there was great interest in preparing for food problems in the post-war period. He therefore resumed the task he had started seven years earlier and drafted a second memorandum on the subject of a United Nations programme to combat food shortages.

McDougall's proposals eventually came into the hands of Eleanor Roosevelt, who organised a meeting with the then President of the United States of America. During a dinner

16 OCTOBER 1945, QUEBEC, CANADA. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was born on the afternoon of 16 October 1945 when its constitution was signed by 34 countries. By the end of the sessions, FAO had 42 members. © FAO



DAVID LUBIN (1849-1919)

A Californian of Polish origins, in 1905 he founded the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) with its headquarters in Rome. The Institute's mission was to help farmers share their knowledge, establish a system of rural credit unions and take control of their produce in trade. At the first meeting, 46 countries were represented. The IIA ceased operations in 1945. FAO took over the mandate of international coordination in agriculture, and named its library after David Lubin. Lubin's personal archives are kept there, including his essays and treaties. His novel, *Let There Be Light*, proposed a universal world religion.

The Château Frontenac, Quebec City, Canada where FAO was founded.
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LEFT: ROME, ITALY, 1955. Eleanor Roosevelt with Frank McDougall during her visit to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. © FAO

RIGHT: WASHINGTON DC, 1946. John Boyd Orr, FAO Director-General, on the left, and Stanley Bruce, Chairman of the FAO Preparatory Commission, leaving the US Department of Agriculture, following the commission's opening session. © FAO

FRANK LIDGETT MCDUGALL (1884 – 1958)

An eminent Australian economist, McDougall played a key role in the creation of FAO and its early activities. In 1934 he wrote the document known as the 'McDougall Memorandum', which was instrumental in raising awareness of the problems of food distribution to underfed populations. After the establishment of FAO, he was Counsellor and later Special Assistant to the Director-General. McDougall died in Rome on 15 February 1958 at the age of 74. In that same year the FAO Council instituted the **McDougall Memorial Lecture** in his memory, to be given to a person of world standing on a subject related to issues including global food and agriculture, population and food supply.

KEY EVENTS FIRST DECADE 1945-1955

SPECIAL MEETING ON URGENT FOOD PROBLEMS

In early 1946, FAO calculated that there would be a wide gap between demand and supply in the 1946-47 harvest period, and proposed a series of corrective measures. Boyd Orr, FAO Director-General, proposed that FAO take responsibility for mobilising resources to contain the crisis. The first Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems involved 70 governments, and it was the first ambitious, large-scale project of its kind to provide evidence of the rate of hunger.

WORLD CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Launched in 1950, the World Census of Agriculture was FAO's first programme in compiling statistical information on 81 countries and provided a complete and current picture of agricultural production and its structure, which had never been done. ▶

at the White House, McDougall passionately argued for a United Nations programme to tackle food as its first global economic issue and for agriculture to be considered essential to raising the living standards of people throughout the world.

President Roosevelt made no visible reaction, but the discussion at that dinner must have struck a deep chord, as a year later he convened the United Nations Conference on Nutrition and Agriculture.

The conference was held at Hot Springs, Virginia in the United States of America in 1943, with the participation of 44 governments. It decided on the establishment of a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture. That decision brought the International Institute of Agriculture to an end and its functions were transferred to the new organisation.

FIRST DECADE 1945-1955

On 16 October 1945, 34 governments signed the constitution for the permanent organisation in the field of food and agriculture at a historic meeting in Château Frontenac in Quebec. By the end of the sessions, FAO had 42 members. FAO was born, the United Nations organization itself did not come into existence until 24 October, eight days later. The United Nations Charter had been signed the previous June in San Francisco, but did not come into force until it had been ratified by the 'Big Five' powers and by a majority of the other signatory states.

The creation of FAO could not have come at a better time: with Europe in ruins, hunger had become a real threat to many. At that meeting, ▶

1951: FAO HEADQUARTERS MOVE TO ROME

- 1 A ceremony by the Italian government celebrates the move of the FAO headquarters to Rome.
- 2 Two ships, Saturnia and Vulcania, set sail from Washington in the early spring of 1951 with 76 families on board. The picture shows wooden crates filled with the office supplies to be loaded onto the ships
- 3 At the Port Terminal in Naples.
- 4 FAO Special Assistant welcoming the third FAO contingent and telling them how to reach their hotels.



© FAO

TIME LINE

1945

1945. FAO is created

The first sessions of the newly created UN, held in Quebec establish FAO as the first specialised agency of the United Nations. FAO springs to life with 42 members. The British nutritionist **John Boyd Orr** is appointed as its first Director-General. Washington DC is designated temporary headquarters of FAO.

1948. Election of American **Norris Edward Dodd (USA)** as second FAO Director-General.

1950

1952. Launch of Desert Locust Programme

1952. Second World Food Survey

This survey finds that the average calorie supply per person has fallen to below pre-war levels, and alarmingly, the gap between the better and worse-fed nations has widened.

1955

1954. **Philip Cardon (USA)** is appointed as the third FAO Director-General.

1943 1944

1943. An organization dedicated to food and agriculture

Government representatives of 44 countries meet in Hot Springs (USA) and agree to create a permanent organization for food and agriculture.

1946

1946. First world food survey

This survey provides a full picture of the world food situation, confirming that widespread hunger and malnutrition are pressing concerns. The survey covers 70 countries and is an innovative attempt to analyse the global food situation.

1947

1948

1949

1951

1950. First World Census of Agriculture conducted after the war. Covered 81 countries.

1952

1951. Headquarters move to Rome

The member states decide to move FAO headquarters to Rome.

1953

1954

1956

The programme assists countries by providing guidelines to generate internationally comparable figures on variables defining the structure of agriculture, such as number and area of farms by size, number of livestock by type and age/sex classification, land tenure and land use, crops grown and agricultural inputs. FAO encourages countries to develop their programmes of censuses and surveys, keeping in view their priorities, practices and resource availability within the framework of a modular approach.

PRINCIPLES OF SURPLUS DISPOSAL AND GUIDING LINES

These principles were designed as a code of international behaviour in food relief while avoiding disruption to regular trade and discouragement of food production in recipient countries. The principles embraced the view that surplus commodities can be utilized for the promotion of economic development, for special welfare distribution and for emergency relief. In fact, the guidelines and principles constituted that the most desirable ways of disposing of surpluses were to raise nutritional levels of vulnerable and underprivileged groups, as well as to mitigate famine conditions.

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND

The Special Fund was created to support the development of the necessary infrastructure in recipient countries. It was also created to focus on large projects “including assessing and developing manpower in various industries, such as handicrafts and cottage industry, agriculture, forestry, transport and communications, building and housing, health, education, statistics and public administration”. The Special Fund was launched in 1959 with a total contribution of US\$26 million promised by participating governments. Of the first 13 projects approved by the Special Fund’s Governing Council, five were to be implemented by FAO. ▶

▶ on 16 October 1945, the first Director-General was also elected, John Boyd Orr, a Scot who was widely admired for his extensive work on nutrition.

FAO still needed to prove to governments that poverty lay at the root cause of hunger and malnutrition. This is why FAO convened a **Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems** in May 1946. The meeting not only tackled the immediate food crisis but also prepared a set of proposals for dealing with age-old issues related to food production. Undertaking world censuses regularly, dealing with plant pest control and responding to emergencies with food relief were some of the key issues addressed. Improving soil fertility was one of the most pressing issues discussed.

TAKING STOCK OF THE POST-WAR SITUATION

After World War II, soil fertility had to be repaired in many countries. Nations were keen to increase internal crop production. Farmers wanted to maintain high productivity, particularly in the light of favourable prices for agricultural production. This resulted in a growing demand globally for fertilisers. Governments were faced with an increase in demand for food and needed to understand where their farming industries stood if they were to improve their overall agricultural output.

This was why FAO coordinated the **World Census of Agriculture** in 1950 which proceeded to gather statistical information in 81 countries and provided a comprehensive picture of agricultural production and its structure at that moment. It was a significantly more sophisticated endeavour than any pre-war censuses. Although by the late 1940s the post-war food crisis was coming to an end, this did not mean any diminishing of interest

by FAO, the United Nations and other organizations, in dealing with food emergencies. In August 1951, the United Nations Economic and Social Council recommended that FAO should keep the global situation under continuous surveillance and report on any instances of “pending critical food shortages or famine”. This meant that FAO could perform on-the-spot investigations and convene meetings with governments ‘to devise the most practical lines of action’. It drove FAO to begin studying the viability of establishing a food reserve to be used in cases of serious food shortages or famine caused by war, natural catastrophies or pest infestations such as **the desert locust**.

In this first decade, the possibility of solving two problems at the same time was emerging: using surpluses to ease the pressure on agricultural prices and supplying more food to malnourished populations.

While the risk of famine, catastrophies and pest infestations was still prevalent, food surpluses were building up in developed countries. There was an urgency to mobilize the surpluses to those countries in need while making sure farmers could benefit from appropriate mechanisms that would ensure that the prices of their produce remained competitive. The FAO Committee on Commodity Problems devised the **Principles of Surplus Disposal and Guiding Lines**. Adopted by the FAO Council in 1954, the Guiding Lines and principles were designed as a code of international conduct, while safeguarding the interests of commercial exporters and local producers. The Guiding Lines have been used ever since by food aid programmes as an effective code for monitoring food and agricultural commodity assistance initiatives. ▶

▶ SECOND DECADE 1956-1965

In its first ten years of existence, FAO worked with governments to tackle urgent issues of worldwide hunger and malnutrition. During the second decade, the Organization started addressing long-term issues contributing to the fight against hunger.

Reducing global hunger, did not only imply bringing food to people, it also entailed an overall increase in investments in agriculture and in farmers' know-how and access to technology. Farmers worldwide needed technical assistance, support and advice to improve their crop production. This is also why one of the most important developments in the Organization's work has been an increased emphasis in helping farmers with assistance and support. On 14 October 1958, the FAO Special Fund was created to widen the scope of the UN Programme of technical assistance in certain basic fields.

A large proportion of the projects adopted by the Special Fund's Governing Council were assigned to FAO as the implementing agency. This came as no surprise, and put FAO on the road to becoming a major world technical aid agency.

The Special Fund was to concentrate on large projects in the fields of resources, including, assessing and developing manpower in various industries such as handicrafts and cottage agriculture, forestry, transport and communications, building and housing, health, education, statistics and public administration. ▶

DIRECTORS-GENERAL

1 JOHN BOYD ORR 1945 – 1948

Scotland (1880-1971). His proposals for a World Food Board led to the creation of the FAO Council in 1946. Nobel Peace Laureate in 1949 for his studies in the field of nutrition.

2 NORRIS E. DODD 1948 – 1953

USA (1879-1968). Before his appointment he held various roles in agricultural associations and agencies in his country. Under his leadership FAO moved from Washington DC to Rome.

3 PHILIP V. CARDON 1954 – 1956

USA (1889-1965). Received an MSc in agricultural economics from the University of California. Before joining FAO, he was Director of the US Department of Agriculture.

4 BINAY RANJAN SEN 1956 – 1967

India (1898-1993). He was Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ambassador. First Director-General from a developing country he launched the Freedom from Hunger Campaign in 1960.

5 ADDEKE HENDRIK BOERMA. 1967 – 1975

Netherlands (1912-1992). He was Director-General for Food in his country in 1945. First Executive Director of the World Food Programme in 1962 before taking on the role of FAO Director-General.

6 EDOUARD SAOUMA 1976 – 1993

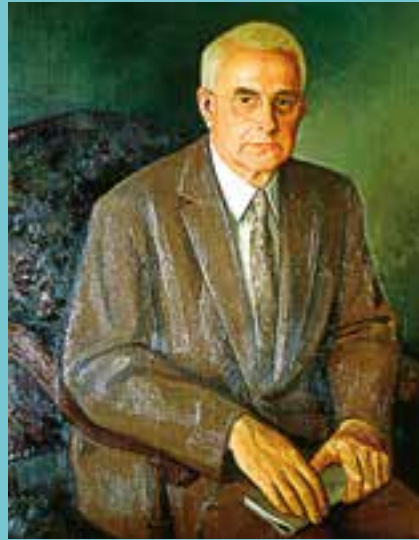
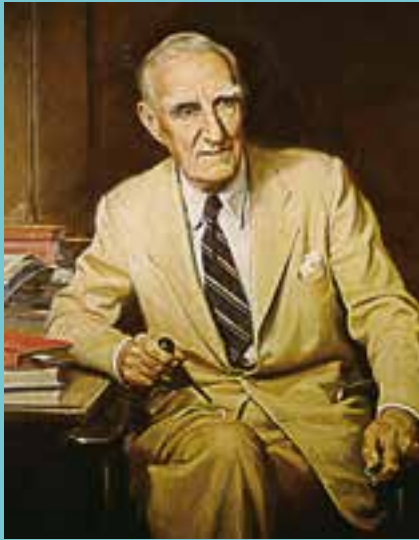
Lebanon (1926-2012). He was FAO Director of Land and Water Development until 1975. As Director-General he set up the Technical Cooperation Programme for the provision of urgent assistance.

7 JACQUES DIOUF 1994 – 2011

Senegal (1938). A Member of Parliament, Secretary General of the Central Bank for West African States, and Senegalese Ambassador to the United Nations. He holds the longest tenure at FAO of any other Director-General.

8 JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA. 2012 –

Brazil (1949). Graduate in Agronomy, University of São Paulo. He led the Zero Hunger programme in Brazil as Extraordinary Minister for Food Security and the Fight against Hunger. In 2015 he was re-elected to office.



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KEY EVENTS SECOND DECADE

- ▶ Assistance took the form of surveys, research and training, demonstrations with pilot projects, and was implemented by providing staff, experts, equipment, supplies and services, as well as by establishing institutes and funding other appropriate initiatives, such as scholarships.

CULTIVATING FERTILE LAND TO INCREASE CROP PRODUCTION

Improving overall agricultural production by advocating for high quality seeds and fertilizers, mapping out the world's soil landscape were all priorities set in that period as a contribution to the overall hunger reduction strategy.

In order to push for the use of high-quality seed of improved varieties, FAO launched a World Seed Campaign in 1957, which culminated in World Seed Year in 1961.

WORLD SEED CAMPAIGN

As part of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, from 1957 to 1961 the World Seed Campaign received valuable support from over 79 governments and a large number of international organizations. This support came mainly in the form of training facilities and expertise in breeding and seed improvement. It also came in the form of international, regional and national training centers. The latter assistance was considered to be among the most constructive means for promoting the aims of the Campaign.

The Campaign caught the world's attention as the use of enhanced seed varieties was not only one of the most effective and economical ways to increase production, but it was also a smart investment for the future, since these high-quality seeds reduced production costs while improving the quality of the end-product. ▶

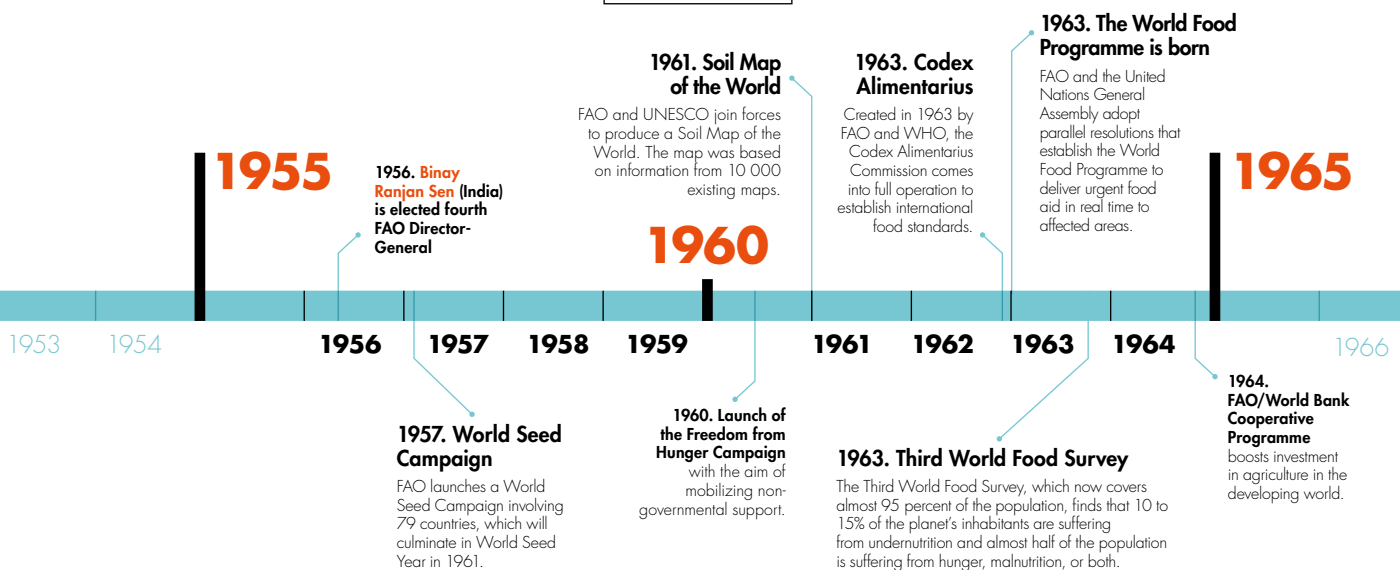
Since agricultural performance of all crop inputs needed improvement, and as fertilisers delivered the most far-reaching results, in 1961 FAO also launched a **Fertiliser Programme** under the **Freedom from Hunger Campaign**, to improve crop production by increasing the use of fertilisers. The programme soon expanded its scope to include all aspects of efficient crop production, such as improved varieties, land management and weed control, as well as more efficient plant protection.

It is estimated that, overall, fertiliser usage increased by 14 percent annually during the 1960s.

MAPPING THE WORLD'S SOIL RESOURCES

The use of high-quality seeds and fertilisers was only a part of the overall strategy for poverty reduction. A good knowledge of soils, their properties and distribution was also considered strategic for more accurate and useful predictions as to how soil would react to

TIMELINE



specific production initiatives. However in the late 1950s, understanding the world's soil cartography was chaotic at best and non-existent at worst.

The International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) - at its Seventh Congress in Wisconsin, USA, in 1960 - recommended that soil maps of continents and large regions be published. As a follow-up, in 1961 FAO and UNESCO embarked on preparing a Soil Map of the World at 1:5 000 000 scale. The ambitious project took 17 years to complete and was the fruit of worldwide collaboration between innumerable soil scientists. The map's purpose was to enable farmers to understand how soil would react to different farming techniques and give the best yields.

The map has remained, until recently, the only global overview of soil resources.

LAUNCH OF FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN

As years went by, food problems in the poorest and most populous parts of the planet showed little sign of improvement. The conviction grew that if hunger were to be eliminated successfully, an all-out effort would be needed by governments, NGOs and private citizens.

On 16 March 1955, Eleanor Roosevelt and Frank McDougall travelled to FAO to mobilize the United Nations Programme into creating the **Freedom from Hunger Campaign**. It took five years of negotiations before FAO officially launched the campaign in 1960. Its ambitious aim was to eradicate hunger in the world once and for all. Governments agreed that "the persistence of hunger and malnutrition is unacceptable morally and socially, is incompatible with the dignity of human beings and the equality of opportunity to which they are entitled, and is a



threat to social and international peace". The campaign's purpose was two-fold: first, to heighten awareness worldwide of the problems of hunger and malnutrition that afflict more than half of the world's population, second, to promote a climate of opinion in which the solutions to these problems could be organised on a national and international basis. ▶

1963, WASHINGTON DC.
John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America, addressing the World Food Congress.

- ▶ Work on standards for food commodities also began in earnest in the early 1950s. At the first meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition, international trade and nutrition experts stated: «Food regulations in different countries are often conflicting and contradictory. Legislation governing preservation, nomenclature and acceptable food standards often varies widely from country to country. New legislation not based on scientific knowledge is often introduced, and little account may be taken of nutritional principles in formulating regulations».

Noting that the conflicting nature of food regulations presented an obstacle to trade and affected the distribution of nutritionally valuable food, the committee suggested that FAO and WHO should study these problems more closely. Established in 1961, FAO/WHO **Codex Alimentarius Commission** is one of the best known and most successful cooperative projects between two United Nations agencies, and its work centres on international food standards.

RESPONDING TO FOOD SHORTAGES

One of the founding motives for creating FAO was to address the issue of food surpluses in the advanced countries, directing them to areas of need in developing countries, while protecting the interests of farmers in international trade by ensuring that prices for agricultural produce remained attractive.

The FAO Principles of Surplus Disposal and Guiding Lines (1952) were used as a blueprint in many studies on famine carried out by independent FAO experts in various parts of the world in the 1950s. These studies showed that surpluses continued to build up in the second

▶ FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN

The 104 member states that attended the FAO biennial conference in November 1961 unanimously agreed on the importance of this campaign for the future well-being of the world.

The campaign was a milestone in the history of FAO, since it contributed significantly to its transition from a technical to a development organization. It was launched with a five-year term, seeking to raise global awareness of the issues of hunger and malnutrition and help find solutions. It was extended several times until the early 1980s.

FERTILIZER PROGRAMME

The FAO Fertilizer Programme was set up in 1961 under the Freedom from Hunger Campaign with the aim of improving crop production and farmers' incomes through the efficient use of fertilizers. The increased usage of fertilizers began to show improvements in crop production, and the Programme soon expanded its scope to include all aspects of efficient crop production, such as improved varieties, better soil management and weed control, as well as more efficient plant protection. Overall, the use of fertilizers increased by 14 percent annually during the 1960s.

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

The Codex Alimentarius, is the Latin for "food code". Its role as coordinating mechanism for the development of food standards at regional and international levels is unquestioned. The purpose of the published Codex Alimentarius ▶



half of the 1950s, as did food aid.

At this stage it was important to devise "a workable scheme [...] for providing food aid through the UN system", as US President Dwight Eisenhower declared to the UN General Assembly in 1960. What was needed was a clear definition of roles in the United Nations system.



PREVIOUS PAGE: 1960, ROME. Opening ceremony of the freedom from Hunger Campaign. ©FAO

ABOVE: 1963, WASHINGTON DC.

From left to right, the former FAO Directors-General posing at the World Food Congress: Norris E. Dadd, 2nd Director-General ; Philip V. Cardon, 3rd Director-General; and Binay R. Sen, 4th Director-General. ©FAO

BELOW: 1963, WASHINGTON DC.

The Freedom from Hunger Campaign included on the World Food Congress flag. ©FAO



▷ is to protect consumer health and ensure good practices in the food market.

Its committees of governmental experts produce detailed procedures for formulating standards, paying particular attention to issues related to food additives and pesticide residues, based on the pioneering work of FAO and WHO in the early 1950s. The focus on trade, as a means to strengthen food security and consumer protection, can be traced back to the decisions made by the 1943 Conference in Hot Springs, in which representatives from 44 countries established a programme to “free the world from want” and malnutrition. ▷

In December 1961, FAO and the UN General Assembly adopted parallel resolutions establishing the World Food Programme as the agency to deal with bringing emergency food relief in real time to afflicted areas.

This was a three-year experimental programme that was not due to enter into operation

until January 1963. In reality, it was up and running several months early, as an earthquake hit Iran, a hurricane swept through Thailand and newly independent Algeria was overwhelmed by five million returning refugees. Food assistance was urgently needed and WFP was given the mandate to supply it. ▶



1970, OTTAWA (CANADA). A. H. Boerma, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) from 1967 to 1975, sitting on the left, and H. A. Olson, Minister of Agriculture. Commemorative ceremony in Ottawa, 25th anniversary of FAO. ©FAO

▶ THIRD DECADE 1966-1975

BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Attitudes toward mechanization changed considerably between the mid-1950s and the mid-1960s, largely due to the Green Revolution in Asia. In 1966, the UN/FAO World Conference on Land Reform emphasised the need for an integrated approach to agriculture. By 1968, the Organization's annual State of Food and Agriculture report looked at raising agricultural yields through "technological improvements" as a way to free up lands that could be used to feed people.

During the 1950s and the first half of the 1960s, global food production grew steadily, increasing by over 50 percent. However, in this period, political gridlocks and economic crises, such as the dramatic rise in oil prices, meant that FAO was faced with the task of containing the resulting threat of famine, while continuing its research work and implementing its strategy aimed at increasing food security and long-term food production.

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT: DISEASE ERADICATION

To help developing countries increase their crop and livestock production, FAO began to pay particular attention to ways to eradicate diseases that affected farm animals.

KEY EVENTS THIRD DECADE

INDICATIVE WORLD PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

This plan analysed the main issues in global agriculture in the 1970s and 1980s. Its main purpose was to find a solution to the problems of food shortages that were expected to occur over the next two decades. The aim of the plan was to provide a framework that would help governments formulate and implement their agricultural policies. It also provided a focal point for the Organization's operational activities in its task of collecting, analysing and distributing information on food aid activities. Its purpose was spelled out in the title of the Plan, it would indicate, not dictate. ▶

In 1947, the Organization's first major project was a campaign against rinderpest in China. Funded by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the project enjoyed initial success and was later extended to other Asian countries. By the late 1950s, this highly contagious viral disease that affected cattle, buffaloes and other cloven-hoofed animals, had been eradicated from most countries in Asia. Among other livestock diseases that FAO began to tackle during this period was the foot-and-mouth disease, which had been kept at low levels. A number of European countries had been free from the disease for several years. During this period FAO also spearheaded the fight against African swine fever, which afflicted Spain and Portugal in the 1960s and the Western Hemisphere generally in the 1970s, and is still an ongoing battle. In 1975 a major long-term programme against *trypanosomiasis* was launched in Africa.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

From the 1950s to the early 1970s, the existence of large cereal reserves in North America was taken for granted throughout the world. In 1972, however, world production of grains fell for the first time in two decades. Demand for imports grew and surpluses disappeared almost overnight. Added to this equation a series of environmental issues ranging from land, water and air pollution to the destruction of the world's heritage of plant genetic resources, the result would be a world crisis.

The global state of affairs was reviewed in the UN Conference on the Human Environment in



1970, THE HAGUE (NETHERLANDS). Second World Food Congress. ©FAO



1975. FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma's speech after his election during the 18th Session of the FAO Conference, FAO headquarters in Rome. ©FAO/ F. Iovino



1974. Henry Kissinger US Secretary of State addressing delegates of the World Food Congress during the opening ceremony at the Palazzo dei Congressi in Rome. ©FAO/S. Pierbattista

- ▶ Stockholm in mid-1972. FAO was asked to act to conserve the earth's agricultural, forestry, fishery and other natural resources and to strengthen its ongoing work. One of the issues that emerged from the conference was the recognition that the alleviation of poverty helped protect the environment. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India mentioned this connection in her speech at the conference: "We do not wish to impoverish the environment any further and yet we cannot for a moment forget the grim poverty of large numbers of people. Are not poverty and need the greatest polluters?"

FAO immediately set to work after the Stockholm conference to establish a framework for its programme on Natural Resources and the Human Environment. This programme had two main components: the first was to assess the state of natural resources, and the second, to manage them.

▷ CRISIS IN THE SAHEL

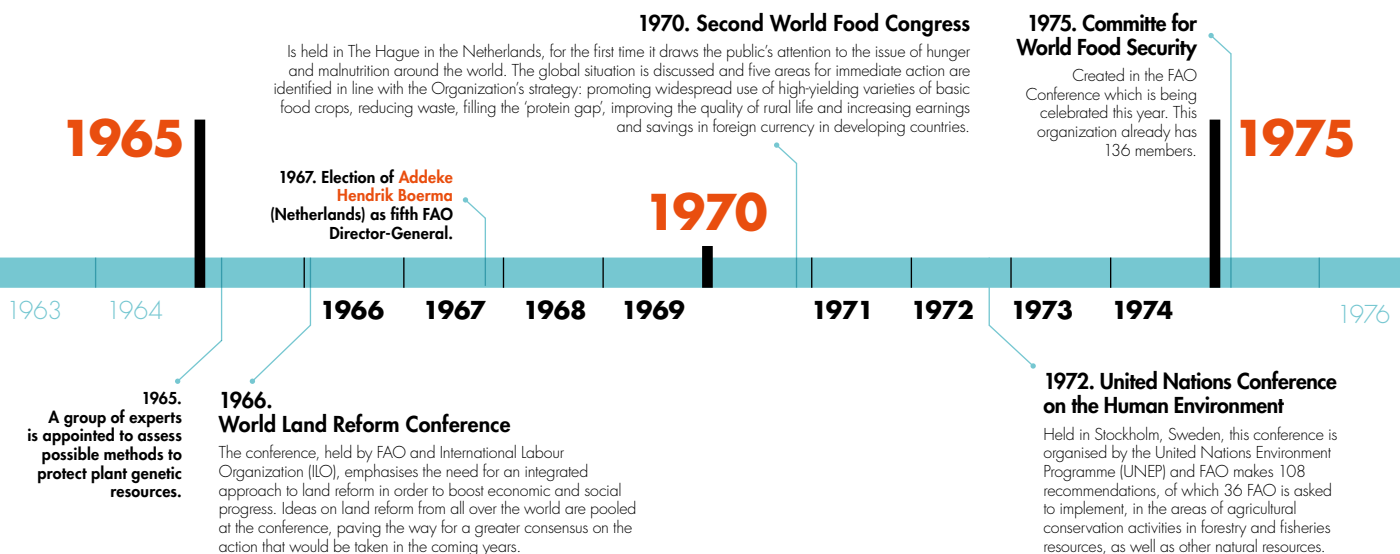
In 1968, the African region of the Sahel entered a period of drought that reached serious proportions in 1972. It was only when FAO sent its first disaster assessment mission to Mali, Niger and Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) that the magnitude of the catastrophe became evident. With the task of acting as a focal point for the entire relief operation, including non-food aid, FAO oversaw the transportation of supplies through its new Office for Sahelian Relief Operations. FAO supplied 20 000 tonnes of cereals and foods to the region, carrying out air transport operations to remote areas because road transportation was impossible due to the onset of the wet season. By 1975, the crisis had subsided and over 1.5 million tonnes of grain, 70 000 tonnes of protective foods and smaller quantities of seeds, insecticides and aid supplies had

THE FOOD CRISIS AND OIL PRICES

In 1973 the world was in the middle of a food crisis. To make matters worse, the political embargo and soaring oil prices led to a drop in global factory and farm production, while sharply increasing inflationary pressures which governments were already struggling to control. This led the United States of America to convene the 1974 World Food Conference to address two urgent needs: how to respond to food emergencies while ensuring adequate supplies to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries.

Henry Kissinger, the US Secretary of State, in his keynote speech advocating greater global investment, confirmed the commitment of the United States of America to making sure that "no child will go to bed hungry within ten years". Governments examined the global problem of

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food production and consumption, and recommended the adoption of an International Undertaking on World Food Security, solemnly proclaiming that: “Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties”.

One of the outcomes of the World Food Conference was the establishment of the FAO Committee on World Food Security. This committee would review and follow-up on global food security policies, food production, nutrition and access to food.

In the same period, in the light of the deteriorating situation worldwide, FAO introduced a five-point action plan and together with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) formulated multilateral food-aid and production plans to strengthen food security and to ensure that national supply policies that were tailored to specific criteria were adopted by individual states. These measures could not have come at a better time for the areas that most needed them, such as the countries affected by the Sahel Crisis.

Thirty years after the end of World War II, the planet was a very different place politically. With FAO as focal point and facilitator, huge strides had been made by governments, NGOs and donor organizations in the field of cooperation and food security. It was becoming increasingly clear that concerted global action was essential in order to tackle the real threat of famine.

After the Sahel Crisis, the Office for Sahelian Relief Operations became the Office for Special Relief

▷ been delivered. To make matters worse, the political embargo and the sharp rise in prices of oil, both led to a fall in production in factories and farms throughout the world and to a sharp increase in inflation pressures which governments were already struggling to control.

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

The FAO World Food Conference was held as the food crisis was reaching its peak. The Conference proposed a three-point plan to prevent similar crises in the future: **1.** The establishment of a World Food Bank to facilitate continuous access to around 10 million tonnes of stored grain that would be made freely available in times of need. **2.** A new International Fund for Agricultural Development that would commit US\$5 billion a year for ten years to improve tropical agriculture, not least at the level of subsistence farmers. This was more than three times the worldwide investment at that time. **3.** A new food forecasting system that would provide early warning of future crises.

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was set up in response to the recommendations of the 1974 World Food Conference. At that time, the CFS focused its efforts on increasing global grain production and stabilising world grain markets on the assumption that these actions would be enough to ensure that everyone everywhere had enough to eat. In 2009 the committee was restructured to increase the participation of international members. It was also reshaped to respond to short-term crises as well as to address long-term structural issues. ▷

Operations, with a global reach that covered all forms of emergency aid in the agricultural industry.

CAPITALISING ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

In the 1960s, researchers noted an alarming decline in biodiversity due to a variety of factors, not least diseases, environmental pollution and some farming practices.

Protecting biodiversity was crucial to boost ecosystem productivity, Well planned and implemented research on its conservation could pay remarkably high dividends.

In 1965, a panel of experts was brought together to study ways to protect endangered plant genetic resources. At that time FAO was involved in over 615 projects assisting research at national level in various fields, ranging from sorghum and millet development to irrigation and to tick-borne cattle diseases.

Along with FAO, there were four different research centers in Europe which cooperated and shared their findings. In 1971, the **Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research** was created to integrate these research centers and harness their strengths. Sponsored by FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, CGIAR was established as an informal association of 44 governments and donor agencies ▶ to conduct stable long-term research programmes that would be beyond the capability of individual countries.

The World Bank provides the CGIAR secretariat, while FAO provides that of the Group's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

▶ FOURTH DECADE 1976-1985

UNITED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

When FAO conducted its fourth World Food Survey in 1977 on the state of hunger and malnutrition in the world, the overall picture was grim: 10 to 15 percent of the world's inhabitants were undernourished and 50 percent suffered from hunger or malnutrition or both.

Despite the harsh conditions of rising poverty, hunger and malnutrition, developing countries fought back with resilience and began to consider the idea of collective self-sufficiency.

Given that developing countries shared similar socio-economic conditions, the United Nations found that a similar approach to finding solutions to food-related problems could yield positive results in these countries.

KEY EVENTS FOURTH DECADE

▶ TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) was launched in 1976 to make use of the Organization's technical expertise in support of development efforts in member states and their regions. The Programme now provides assistance in all areas under the Organization's mandate.

GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

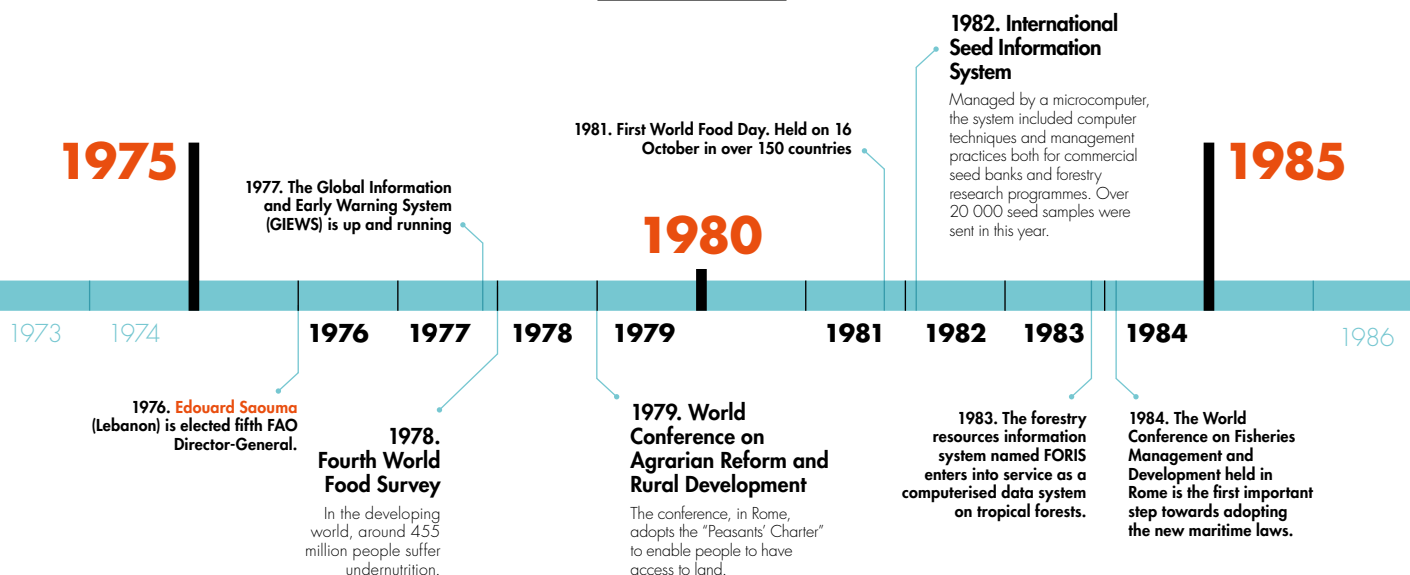
FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) on Food and Agriculture tracked global and national food supply and demand. In response to the continuous food shortages in several African countries, the system intensified its monitoring activities and prepared monthly reports, providing information on crops and the supply of emergency food aid. ▶



ABOVE: 1981. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, delivers the McDougall lecture at the 21st FAO Conference. © FAO/Franco Mattioli.

RIGHT: 1985. A special ceremony commemorates the 40th anniversary of FAO at the FAO headquarters during the 23rd Conference. © FAO.

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Promoting effective technical cooperation between countries could be vital to the achievement of common goals.

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action, adopted in 1978 by 138 states, to promote and implement technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), represented a blueprint for major changes in approaches to development aid, and guided the Organization's subsequent work in this region.

While southern countries began to share their technical expertise and noted improvements in their communities, the United Nations realized that the region, as a whole, was far from being food secure. FAO needed to continue to monitor the situation and provide

▷ Crop information missions were sent to the African countries affected by drought. Today, the GIEWS continues to monitor food supply and demand, conveying early warnings of imminent crises to countries.

THE FOURTH WORLD FOOD SURVEY

This fourth survey detected an alarming rise in the number of countries experiencing a decline in per capita food production. The evidence obtained from a group of states classified as the "most seriously affected" by the economic crisis revealed that 25 to 50 percent of young children were suffering some form of undernourishment, primarily protein-energy malnutrition. ▷

timely and reliable information on those countries facing serious food emergencies so that governments and the international community could take appropriate measures. One instrument set up in this period worth noting was the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, in 1977.

The setback in agriculture caused by the economic crisis of the 1970s meant that FAO, governments and donor agencies had to work even more closely together in different sectors to eradicate hunger and stimulate public support. The idea that the actions of governments, organizations, groups and individuals should be pooled to fight the injustice of hundreds of ▶

- ▶ millions of people being denied the right to food was gathering support within the United Nations family, culminating in the first World Food Day in 1981.

NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES: IMPROVED SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION

FAO had always been an active promoter of good agricultural practices, including irrigation methods, to support and provide relief to communities affected by crises or sudden disasters.

The climate-related shocks that repeatedly struck the southern regions of Africa and the Indian Ocean had always had a negative effect on the fragile economies and livelihoods of local communities, undermining their ability to recover fully from these crises, and further increasing their vulnerability to future disasters.

For this reason, FAO gave greater attention to the development of small-scale irrigation systems during its fourth decade of existence. Such systems provided an attractive way to re-establish production and income and significantly increase the resilience of local communities to overcome subsequent emergencies.

By contrast, large irrigation systems required huge investments and involved extremely long gestation periods. They were also highly demanding in terms of management, maintenance and training of farmers. Although small-scale irrigation projects had a more limited impact, they could be carried out much faster and yield immediate results such as increasing food production for farmers and their resiliency to future threats while creating stable employment conditions.



1979. Pope John Paul II and Edouard Saouma, FAO Director-General during the 20th FAO Conference at FAO headquarters.
© FAO/F. Mattioli.

▶ WORLD FOOD DAY

In 1979 the FAO Conference unanimously decided to observe World Food Day each year on 16 October, the anniversary of the founding of FAO. The objectives were to raise awareness among governments and the population of the nature and magnitude of the global food problem, and to involve them in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

This Conference was attended by the largest number of high-level political delegates ever assembled to discuss the industry's problems in Rome in 1984.

During the Conference agreement was reached on long-term goals for fisheries. The fundamental issue discussed was the control of open access to fishing grounds. ▶

USING MARINE RESOURCES TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

When FAO was set up, the seas were regarded as available to all, the responsibility of no one under the 'freedom of the high seas' principle. In the following years, FAO understood that the development of this underused resource could help to alleviate hunger in many farming communities in developing regions.

Thanks to some revolutionary technological developments, global fisheries production quadrupled from 1940 to 1970. But success came at a cost. Uncontrolled expansion, primarily by industrialised countries, gave rise to overfishing of many species. By the mid-1970s, total global fisheries production began to level-off.

For developing countries the situation was different. Many were unable to benefit from the freedom of the seas. Moreover, they had to compete with foreign fleets fishing



close to their shores. This issue was raised in international fora. After much discussion it was agreed that a coastal state's jurisdiction over fish resources would extend to 200 miles seawards. This was embodied in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which made it possible to properly manage this valuable resource. The FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, held in Rome in 1984, provided the first major overview of the world's new maritime laws with a strategy named the World Fisheries Charter.

While developing countries strove to gain a bigger share of the world fishing trade and fisheries products, FAO began to provide information services on regional fish markets.

INCREASING LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

In the 1960s, policy makers focused primarily on crop production at the

ABOVE: 1981. World Food Day is held, with Willy Brandt, the West German Chancellor giving an opening speech in his capacity as Chairman of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, FAO headquarters. © FAO
BELOW, LEFT: 1985. Suharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia; Edouard Saouma, FAO Director-General and François Mitterrand, President of the French Republic. © FAO
RIGHT: 1984. King Juan Carlos addresses the delegation during the opening of the World Fisheries Conference at FAO headquarters. © FAO

▷ The expansion of countries' national coastal jurisdiction, agreed two years earlier, was a necessary but inadequate step towards achieving this goal. Alternative management mechanisms were badly needed, in particular territorial distribution systems, including usage rights.

This strategy meant fundamental institutional changes, including licensing programmes, assigning individual total fishing quotas or territorial usage rights. ▷

expense of livestock development. Ten years later, incomes were rising and the demand for animal products increased dramatically. The average intake of animal protein, including fish, rose by 20 percent in developing countries. FAO turned its attention to containing and preventing diseases, and to technologies that would increase production. This was achieved by improving livestock breeding and feed. ▶

▶ FIFTH DECADE 1986-1995

This was the decade of the first nuclear disaster to affect agriculture in two continents. The decade witnessed an increased sense of the urgent need to free the world from hunger once and for all. This was also the decade that began to recognise the important role of women in agriculture.

The Fifth World Food Survey released by FAO in 1985 once again provided a full picture of the global food and nutrition situation. The survey found that the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries had fallen. Even so, the number of people suffering from hunger was large enough to warrant action. Finding solutions to undernutrition was no longer optional. In 1992, FAO and the World Health Organization convened the first World Conference on Nutrition (WCN), devoted solely to addressing the world's nutrition problems. That conference saw a tidal wave of commitment by governments that pledged to eliminate starvation, widespread chronic hunger, malnutrition, undernutrition, especially among children, women and the aged, before the next millennium. Governments pledged to address a number of food-related issues ranging from micronutrient deficiency to non-communicable diseases, inadequate sanitation and unsafe water. Lest anyone should forget the need for urgent action to eradicate starvation and chronic undernutrition, the world food situation was confirmed again in 1993 at the FAO Conference as it reviewed World Agriculture: Towards 2010. This report stated that despite an increase in food production and food security there were still 800 million undernourished people in the world.

KEY EVENTS FIFTH DECADE

FIFTH WORLD FOOD SURVEY

The Fifth World Food Survey found that the number of people suffering from hunger was on the rise. To mitigate this upward trend, the survey proposed counter measures such as food subsidies and nutritional education.

LAUNCH OF FAOSTAT

FAOSTAT (known as AGROSTAT until the mid-1990s) is an electronic edition of FAO yearbooks and to date it is considered the world's largest source of agricultural information and statistics.

The FAOSTAT system integrates all of the statistics relevant to agriculture into a single database, thereby enabling users to analyse the industry's performance in a simple way. The system went live in 1986 and since then it has worked directly with states, offering free and easy access to the statistical data of 245 countries and 35 regions, from 1961 to the most recent available year.

AFRICA REAL TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING INFORMATION SYSTEM (ARTEMIS)

The Africa Real Time Environmental Monitoring Information System (ARTEMIS) is installed at FAO headquarters to collect data on rainfall and vegetation. This system uses satellite images in near real-time. The data is received directly by ARTEMIS from the European satellite and is used to capture images of the cold clouds over Africa every 10 days. These images provide rainfall estimates.

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

The International Plant Protection Convention is an international treaty on plant health. It was initially adopted by the FAO Conference in 1951. It entered into force in 1952, replacing previous agreements on plant ▶

1995. World coins minted to mark the 50th Anniversary of FAO. FAO © G. Gasponi



1992, ROME. Pope John Paul II and Edouard Saouma, FAO Director-General, FAO headquarters.

TOXICITY IN FOOD: THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

As if the problem of undernourishment in the world was not enough, governments had to contend with man-made disasters aggravating the situation.

The nuclear catastrophe known as the Chernobyl Disaster on that fateful day of 26 April 1986, saw the release of radioactive materials into the environment with a devastating effect on trade in agricultural and food commodities. The effects were felt not only near the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl or in the Ukraine where the accident happened, but the fallout of radionuclides into the atmosphere spread over a wide geographic area of Europe and Asia.



1995, QUEBEC (CANADA).

Photograph of a group of participants at the 50th Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Quebec, Canada, where the organization was founded on 16 October 1945.

FOOD CRISIS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

In 1984 and 1985, no less than 30 African countries experienced life-threatening famine that led to massive loss of human and livestock life. In East Africa as a whole, 42 percent of the population was undernourished, and the figures for Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia were among the highest in the world.

The response of the international community reflected a remarkable wave of solidarity from the public in non-affected countries. Almost 7 million tonnes of cereal aid were pledged to the 21 countries hit by shortages. This crisis showed that famine was still present. Much work

▷ protection. The Convention was revised in 1979 and its amendments entered into force in 1991. In 1997 further amendments were made and it became an organization that sets plant health standards. The Convention's new wording must now receive approval from member states and the revised Convention will come into in force 30 days after its acceptance.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION

The World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition was adopted at the International Conference on Nutrition organised by FAO and held at its headquarters in Rome from 5 to 12 December 1992. ▷

was done to improve the monitoring of indicators that led to famine.

One important instrument created during this period was the **Africa Real-Time Environmental Monitoring Information System (ARTEMIS)**, installed at FAO in 1988. Policy makers realised that they needed to protect and cultivate their lands if they wanted famines to be a thing in the past.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Advances in information technology have permitted FAO to create a number of information systems, databases and data banks, in response to the various needs of member countries. Indeed, ▶

► these systems lie at the heart of FAO's work. The FAO constitution (Article 1 paragraph 1) states that the Organization's function is to 'collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture.'

The most basic form of information is statistics over the years, FAO has gone from having four punching machines, two verifying machines, one collating machine and a couple of tabulating machines in 1963, to creating one of the UN's most sophisticated information systems, one which governments can have access on using when setting their own national agenda in the field of agriculture.

The same year, FAO launched its comprehensive statistical database covering the world's agricultural information, changing its name in the mid-1990s to FAOSTAT.

► FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) called the first world conference exclusively on nutritional problems around the world. The Conference was attended by over 1 300 participants including representatives from 159 member states and the European Community, as well as 140 at ministerial level.

Governments were committed to eliminating or reducing significantly a number of issues before the next millennium.

These included hunger and famine; widespread chronic hunger; malnutrition especially among children, women and the elderly, micronutrient deficiencies; inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene and unsafe water.

WORLD AGRICULTURE: TOWARDS 2010

World Agriculture: Towards 2010 was the product of the collective work of all FAO technical units, carried out with contributions from specialised experts. It presented a complete study on issues relating ►

PROTECTING PLANTS FROM PESTS

Although the devastating effects of plant pests, including diseases and weeds, have been known throughout history, it was only recently that legal standards were drafted to prevent the spread of plant pests and to protect plant resources. In fact, with the rise in international mobility of people and goods and borders between countries becoming more porous, plant pests were beginning to travel more rapidly. The international community set about course correcting in a number of ways.

Firstly, the **International Plant Protection Convention** came into force in 1991 to address these changing circumstances and to keep abreast of the successful international interventions led by FAO, with regard to plants and plant products. Secondly, that same year the FAO Conference on Agriculture and the Environment convened in the Netherlands, discussed

TIMELINE

1986. AGROSTAT launches

The world's most important source of agricultural information and statistics.

1985

1988. Environmental control system in Africa

This real-time system using satellite images, ARTEMIS, processes the data received from satellites on rainfall and vegetation.

1986. FAO has 158 members.

1990

1983 1984

1986

1987

1988

1989

1991

1992

1993

1994

1996

1987. Measures against radioactive contamination in food

In 1986 the release of radioactive particles from Chernobyl spread across Europe and Asia, causing serious problems for food production and trade. As measures taken by national authorities lack cohesion, FAO makes a series of recommendations to control the trade in foodstuffs at risk of accidental contamination with radionuclides or other contaminants.

FAO Regional Conference for Africa adopts the **International Plan for the preservation and re usable of lands in Africa.**

1994. Election of **Jacques Diouf (Senegal), seventh FAO Director-General.**

1995. FAO celebrates 50th anniversary

An International Symposium is held in the Canadian city of Quebec, followed by a Special Ministerial Meeting on Food Security. FAO has 171 members.

1995

1994. Special Programme for Food Security

The goal of this Programme is to support low-income food-deficit countries in their efforts to improve food security, reduce the variability of agricultural production year on year, and improve their people's access to food.

1995. Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES).

requirements for sustainable agriculture and rural development. The conference acted as a precursor to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Three years later, FAO launched the **Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES)**, which strengthened the organization's contribution to preventing, controlling and, where possible, eradicating diseases and pests.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

There were many reasons for paying special attention to the role of women in agricultural development, especially as women have traditionally constituted the principal labour-force for both cash crop and food production.

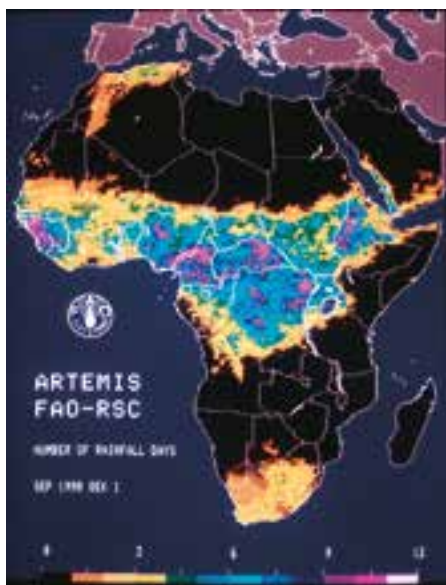
In the 1980s and 1990s, there was a general issue of inequity: the

place of the woman as the 'unequal half' in a male dominated society. This reason alone was enough to warrant efforts to secure the social advancement of women in rural areas. Secondly, there was a sex bias in institutions prevented women from being able to access credit, and join cooperatives. Worse still, under some systems of traditional law, women were unable to inherit land. To address such issues blocking women, FAO carried out substantial programmes to assess the impact of its actions on women, and introduced measures to ensure that women obtain real benefits. Over US\$24 million received by FAO from UNDP has funded a wide range of special projects for women. The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), that FAO launched in 1994, targeting low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs), has touched and improved the lives of many female farmers. ▶

▶ to natural and agricultural crop resources, including food commodity and trade projections. It also assessed the nutritional aspects of the food commodity demand projections and chronic undernutrition estimates.

EMERGENCY PREVENTION SYSTEM FOR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL AND PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES (EMPRES)

Fighting hunger is not just about producing more food. It also means protecting livestock from disease and preventing diseases from spreading across borders. Against this background, in 1994, FAO set up an Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES). FAO EMPRES-Livestock programme continues to play an important role in the fight against the persistence and spread of transboundary diseases globally, with an emphasis on developing countries. ▶



LEFT: The FAO ARTEMIS system provides ongoing satellite monitoring of weather and vegetation. Map of the number of days of rainfall in Africa from 1 to 10 September 1990, illustrating the distribution of rainfall over a ten-day period. © FAO.

RIGHT: 1994. Newly elected FAO Director-General, Jacques Diouf (l) attending the handover ceremony with E. Saouma. Jacques Diouf of Senegal was elected on 8th November 1993, and began his first six-year term in January 1994. ©FAO/Luigi Spaventa

▶ SIXTH DECADE: 1996-2005

Despite all efforts, as a result of natural or man-made disasters, the food situation in the world had not improved and the number of hungry people had not decreased. In fact, the numbers were actually increasing at an alarming rate. From 1996 to 2005 a series of important initiatives were launched with the aim of halving the number of hungry people in the world by 2015.

WORLD SUMMIT ON FOOD SECURITY

Despite the commitment at the FAO conference in 1974 by heads of states and governments to eradicate hunger, the food situation showed little sign of improvement.

In order to renew the global high-level commitment to eradicating hunger and malnutrition and achieving lasting food security for everyone, FAO convened the World Food Summit in November 1996. This was attended by heads of state or government and other high officials from 186 countries. This was the first time in history when world leaders turned their attention to 'food security' and the way in which their citizens could access the food they needed in order to live healthy lives. At this Summit, they adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

The Summit was not intended to be a pledging conference nor was it aimed at creating new financial mechanisms, institutions or bureaucracy. Countries had complete freedom as to how they were going to achieve the objectives outlined in the Plan of Action. The process received a boost in 2002 following a series of intergovernmental negotiations under the **Declaration of the World Food Summit:**

KEY EVENTS SIXTH DECADE

WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

The World Food Summit was called in response to the continued existence of widespread undernutrition and a growing concern about the ability of agriculture to meet future food needs. In this context, the World Food Summit was held from 13 to 17 November 1996, and was attended by high-level representatives from 185 states. This historic event, held at the FAO headquarters in Rome, brought together some 10 000 participants and provided a forum for debate on one of the most important issues faced by world leaders in the new millennium: the eradication of hunger. The purpose of the summit was to renew the global commitment at the highest level to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and to ensure sustainable food security for the entire population.

ROME DECLARATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

The Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action were approved during the World Summit that was attended by 112 heads of state and government, as well as over 70 high-level representatives from other countries.

In the Rome Declaration, the heads of state reaffirmed every person's right to safe and nutritious food. The World Food Summit Plan of Action had seven points aiming to ensure: i) conditions conducive to food security; ii) access to food for everyone; iii) sustained increases in food production; (iv) the contribution of trade to food security; v) emergency relief when and where necessary; (vi) necessary investments, ▶



1996, ROME. The World Food Summit was held in FAO Headquarter with 185 governments and member states.

ABOVE: Jacques Diouf, FAO Director-General, and his wife Mrs Diouf (R) meet Queen Noor of Jordan (C). ©FAO/Luigi Spaventa.

MIDDLE: Jacques Diouf meets Fidel Castro Ruz, President of Cuba, and Romano Prodi, Italian Prime Minister. © FAO/Luigi Spaventa

BELOW: Jacques Diouf with Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of Mozambique. ©FAO/Luigi Spaventa



five years later. The FAO Council unanimously adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, known as the Right to Food Guidelines.

TELEFOOD CAMPAIGN

To sustain the momentum generated by the 1996 World Food Summit, FAO increased public awareness of global hunger and advocating action by launching a fundraising campaign named TeleFood.

During its first year, in 1997, TeleFood reached a global audience of 500 million and, up to the year 2001, the campaign had raised over US\$ 28 million, which was used to fund over 1 000 projects in over 100 countries. TeleFood sent the donations, with no administrative costs,

▷ and vii) concerted efforts so that countries, organizations and people achieve results individually or collectively.

FAO LAUNCHES THE TELEFOOD CAMPAIGN

TeleFood was the Organization's annual fundraising campaign, organising radio programmes, concerts and other events on World Food Day. The goal of the campaign was to raise public awareness of global hunger and mobilise resources for anti-hunger projects.

Although the maximum cost of an individual initiative was US\$10 000, the TeleFood projects had a huge impact in various countries around the world.

With just US\$40 a hive could be bought, producing 15 kg of honey per year. With US\$125, a farmer ▷

to farmers to help them achieve the capacity to produce more and better food for their families. These projects were grassroots micro-projects where farmers were able to buy tools to grow crops, raise livestock or fish, and to process food to sell it at a higher price. Over the years, the money has been invested in seeds and fertilisers, irrigation pumps, silos and even fish smoking ovens.

The most successful marathon TeleFood event was the Spanish telethon "Gala FAO", which raised over US\$ 15 million.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FISHERIES

In 1995 FAO celebrated its 50th anniversary. To mark the occasion, it returned to its birthplace, the city of Quebec, to hold an international symposium in the same ballroom ▶

► in Château Frontenac where FAO had been created decades before. The theme of the symposium was 'People at the heart of development: food security through know-how', and it aimed to reflect intergovernmental, governmental, academic or private-sector concerns. In these 50 years, FAO state membership had grown from 44 in 1945 to 179 in 1995.

Following the symposium, a special ministerial meeting on food security was held which resulted in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. This code provided a framework for national and international efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources, and do so in harmony with the environment. However, for a code to be effective, it must be adhered to, and a monitoring system be put in place.

FAO built a **Fisheries Agreement Register (FARISIS)**, an easy-to-search computer database on bilateral and multilateral agreements related to fisheries, that provided up to

► could buy a pump to irrigate 2 500 m² of cultivable land. With US\$300, 60 farmers could buy enough seed to plant 20 hectares of vegetables. Half of the funds raised by TeleFood were used in projects involving women and young people. Many people all over the world – celebrities, agricultural school groups, communities and individuals – gave their support to TeleFood, offering their time and adding their voice in the fight against hunger.

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE

FAO promotes a legally binding agreement to regulate trade pesticides and other products hazardous chemicals. This Convention was adopted in Rotterdam and ratified the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure. ►

34 descriptor fields for each record and contained information on 1 927 agreements dating back to the year 1351.

CONTROLLING TRADE IN PESTICIDES

Pesticides and industrial chemical products that were banned or heavily restricted for health or environmental reasons in developed countries were finding their way, through trade, to developing countries.

In order to limit the severely hazardous pesticide formulations that presented a health risk when used by farmers from developing or countries with economies in transition, FAO brokered a legally binding convention to control the trade in pesticides and other hazardous chemicals. The convention was adopted on 10 September 1998 in Rotterdam (the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure) and it entered into force on 24 February 2004. Its objectives were twofold. Firstly, it sought to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts by traders of certain

TIMELINE

1995

1996. World Food Summit

The World Food Summit convened at FAO headquarters in Rome, comprised of meetings at the highest level with representatives from 185 countries and the European Community. The Summit saw 10 000 participants and provided a forum for debate on one of the most important issues facing world leaders in the new millennium - the imperative of eradicating hunger.

1997.
FAO launches
the TeleFood
campaign

2000

1999. FAO Goodwill Ambassadors

The purpose of the programme is to raise public and media awareness of the unacceptable situation of a billion people suffering hunger and malnutrition. Nobel Laureate Rita Levi, the actress Gong Li and footballers Roberto Baggio and Raúl take part, among others.

2000.
FAO develops
a strategy for
fight against
chronic hunger
in the Horn of
Africa.

2002. World Food Summit: five years later

Attended by delegations from 179 countries, including the European Commission. The World Food Summit reaffirms the international community's commitment to halving the number of people suffering hunger by 2015.

2005

2001. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The treaty enters into force in 2004 as a legally binding agreement that promotes sustainable farming by ensuring equitable access to plant genetic resources and by sharing their benefits among plant breeders, farmers and public and private institutions.

1993 1994

1996

1997

1998

1999

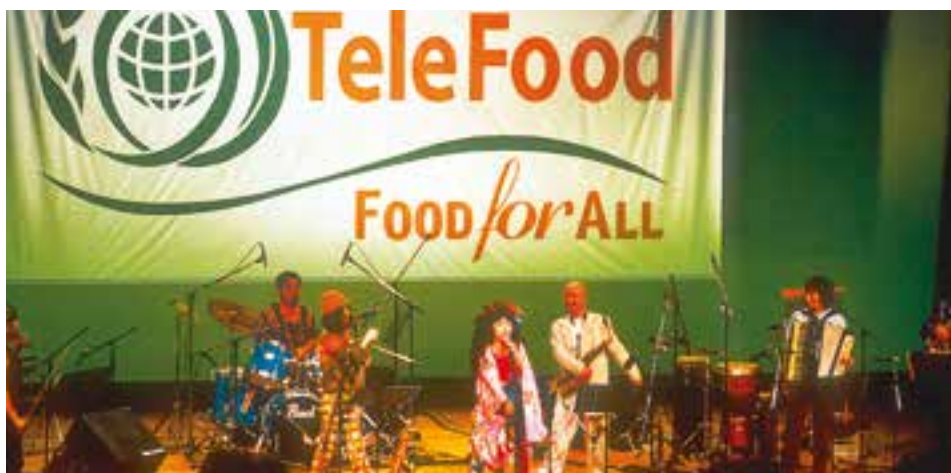
2001

2002

2003

2004

2006



ABOVE, LEFT: 1996, ROME.

Walter Veltroni, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, Italy, speaking at a ceremony at the Colosseum on the occasion of the World Food Summit. © FAO/Luigi Spaventa.

ABOVE, RIGHT: 1999, FLORENCE.

TeleFood Gala. (From right to left) Jacques Diouf, FAO Director-General with Lamberto Dini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, his wife, the Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida, and Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti and his wife. © FAO/Luigi Spaventa

LEFT: Musicians playing at the Japanese TeleFood concert, held in December 1999 and broadcast in Japan in January 2000. ©FAO

hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm. Secondly, it aimed to contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemical products, by facilitating information exchange about their properties, by providing for a national process for decision-making on importing and exporting these chemical products, and by disseminating these decisions to the stakeholders.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING THROUGH PLANT PROTECTION

Crops, a product of natural evolution, selection by farmers and selective breeding, were in grave danger. Serious threats included pollution, resource degradation, the destruction of habitats and alterations to ecosystems. After seven years of negotiations, the 2001 FAO Conference

▷ **FISHERIES AGREEMENT REGISTER (FARISIS)**

When it was created, FARISIS was a unique global database on fisheries agreements. The entries have been useful in understanding and analysing certain aspects of international fisheries cooperation and development. Elements of the Register have been used in elaborating international instruments in fisheries, in particular, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, was adopted in November 1993 by the Twenty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. ▷

adopted the legally binding International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which supported the work of breeders and farmers everywhere. The Treaty encouraged sustainable agriculture through the equitable sharing of genetic material. It encouraged sustainable agriculture through the equitable sharing of genetic material and its benefits among plant breeders, farmers and public and private research institutions. The Treaty was considered vital to permit the continued availability of plant genetic resources that countries needed to feed their people and for future generations, and was enforced in 2004. Over the course of that year, through a number of initiatives for improving rice production and access to rice, the International Year of Rice was promoted to highlight the strategic role of rice in local economies both in Asia and Africa. ▶

KEY EVENTS SEVENTH DECADE

SEVENTH DECADE 2006-2015

Despite natural emergencies and man-made disasters occurring in this period, setting development goals against a tight timeframe saw a paradigm shift in food security and agricultural development. Finally, some measurable progress was being made towards radically reducing the number of people suffering from chronic malnutrition worldwide.

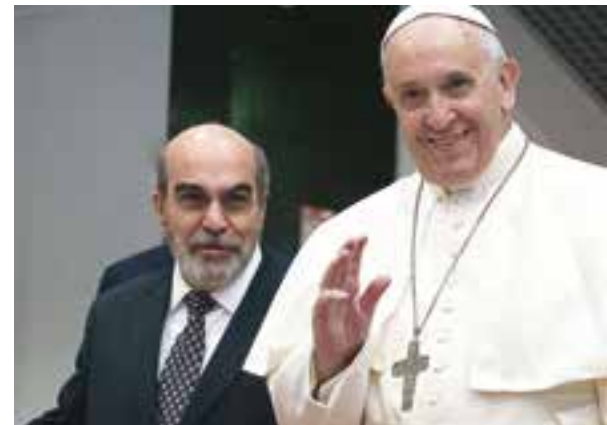
RESPONDING TO FLOOD, FAMINE AND DISEASE

The year 2011 saw two major natural emergencies in Asia and Africa. Pakistan was hit with the worst floods ever that wiped out seed stores and killed millions of head of livestock. FAO responded

CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTRE FOR ANIMALS

The Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health is FAO rapid response mechanism for emergency situations related to animal diseases. The centre is a joint-arm of the Animal Production and Health and the Emergency and Rehabilitation Divisions, and it sends rapid response missions to countries to help assess epidemiologic situations, diagnose outbreaks of animal diseases, and set up immediate measures to prevent or stop the spread of disease.

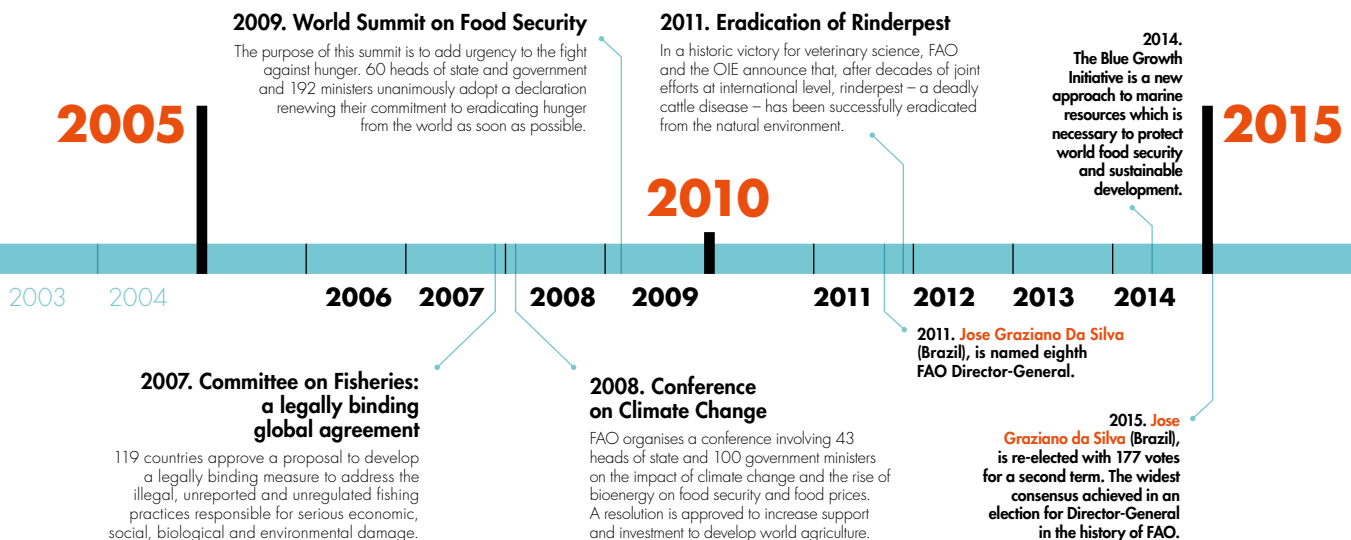
With a global network of veterinary and operations experts within FAO and partner organizations, the centre can provide a rapid response by dispatching experts teams to any region of the world. ▶



ABOVE: 2009. View of the panel at the World Summit on Food Security. © FAO/Alessandra Benedetti.

BELOW: 2014. Director-General José Graziano da Silva welcoming Pope Francis on his arrival to attend the Second International Conference on Nutrition. © FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

TIMELINE





ABOVE:
2011. Election of the new
 FAO Director-General, José
 Graziano da Silva (Brazil).
 © FAO/Alessandra Benedetti

LEFT: 2008. Luiz Inácio Lula
 da Silva, President of the
 Federative Republic of Brazil,
 at the opening ceremony in
 the Plenary Hall. High-Level
 Conference on World Food
 Security: the Challenges
 of Climate Change and
 Bioenergy. © FAO

to monitor disease outbreaks and dispatch experts to any hot spot in the world in under 48 hours.

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

In addition to responding to emergencies, during its seventh decade of existence, FAO has continued to work to promote and ensure the sustainability of agricultural development in a world whose natural resources were being depleted and becoming progressively scarce.

Supporting sustainable development and protecting the environment were in fact among the major goals that were set behind the landmark endorsement by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2012 of the new **FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests**. These guidelines called for a commitment from both the public and private sectors, and they included recommendations to safeguard the rights of local populations in the event of large-scale land acquisitions and to ward off the phenomenon of land grabbing.

FAO launched a major fundraising and advocacy campaign to secure US\$ 20 million to implement the guidelines that aimed at helping governments safeguard the rights of people to own or access land, forests and fisheries. Two beverage giants, PepsiCo and Coca-Cola, joined the campaign and gave their official support. In addition to their commitment to fair and legitimate negotiations on land transferrals and acquisitions in developing

by distributing wheat seed to half a million farming families in time for the planting season. An additional 235 000 families received feed, medicine and shelter for their animals.

In Africa, two regions of Somalia suffered from famine due to the worst drought in 30 years, killing over 260 000 people and putting millions more at serious risk. FAO and the international community responded with US\$120 million to the droughts in the Horn of Africa.

The experience of the Bird flu (avian influenza) epidemic and other animal health or food safety emergencies, set FAO to work on providing assistance in real-time around the world. In 2006, the Organization unveiled its high-tech Crisis Management Centre

▷ FAO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

In a historic decision, on 11 May 2012 the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) approved the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The cornerstone of the agreement, Principle 1, states that responsible investment in agriculture and food systems contributes to food security and nutrition, particularly in the most vulnerable sections of the local population, and that it "supports States' obligations regarding the progressive ▷

countries, the companies vowed to increase their participation in the CFS and pledged to carry out social and environmental assessments across their global supply chains. For PepsiCo, the work began in Brazil, its top sugar-sourcing country, while Coca-Cola worked alongside Oxfam in several major sugar-sourcing countries. In 2014, CFS approved the **Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems**, which were founded on the guidelines.

LAND PROTECTION

In the last decade, FAO renewed its commitment to improve the health of the world's limited soil resources and stop land degradation. In fact, 33 percent of the world's soils are still moderately to highly degraded due to erosion, nutrient depletion, acidification, salinisation, compaction or chemical contamination.

Recognising that urgent action was required to improve the situation, the Global Soil Partnership adopted a series of action plans in 2014 to safeguard the soil resources that support the world's agricultural production. To raise public awareness, the United Nations declared 5 December as World Soil Day and 2015 International Year of Soils.

WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF ALLIANCES

In this decade, FAO also strengthened its network of partners to improve food security and the resilience of vulnerable communities all over the world. In 2013, for example, FAO signed a new partnership agreement with the International Federation of Red

▷ realization of the right to adequate food". This meant increasing productivity and sustainable production of healthy, nutritious and culturally acceptable foods, reducing food loss and wastage, improving incomes and alleviating poverty, while increasing the efficiency and equity of markets, with a particular emphasis on the interests of small farmers. Other principles address other important – and sometimes controversial – issues, such as genetic resources, indigenous rights and climate change.

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION

To help re-direct the global nutrition agenda, FAO partnered with WHO to organise the most important global event on this issue of the last 20 years, the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), held in Rome in late November.

ICN2 brought together national policy makers in the agricultural and health sectors, as well as other relevant ministries and organizations, with the heads of United Nations agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including NGOs, researchers, the private sector and consumers.

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

The purpose of the Principles is to encourage responsible investment in agriculture and food systems that contribute to food security and nutrition and support the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. ▷



Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the largest humanitarian network in the world. According to the agreement signed by the two organizations, FAO would provide technical guidance to support the IFRC's extensive network of 13 million volunteers to reach some 150 million people – and help poor households cope with the threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition.

To guide the new Global Nutrition Agenda, in 2014 FAO partnered with WHO to organise the first important world event on these issues in 20 years. The Second International Conference on Nutrition was held in Rome in late November. At the conference, Pope Francis urged world leaders to do more, and the event ended with



JUNE 2015, ROME.
 Award ceremony recognising progress in the fight against hunger. The majority of the countries evaluated by FAO – 73 of 129 – have achieved the Millennium Development Goals to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015.
 ©FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

the adoption, to universal acclaim, of a general political commitment – the Rome Declaration on Nutrition – and a supportive framework for concrete action, by 172 governments.

FAO AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Since setting a series of time-bound targets with a deadline of 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), progress has finally been made in reducing the number of chronically undernourished people in the world’s poorest regions.

In 2013, FAO awarded 38 countries for reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Eighteen of these countries were recognised both for this goal and for the more

> GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

The Global Soil Partnership supports the processes that lead to the adoption of sustainable development goals for soils. It will contribute to the well-being of the environment, for instance, through preventing soil erosion and degradation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging carbon capture, promoting the sustainable use of agricultural inputs for soil health, and ecosystem management. It will also contribute to human wellbeing through improved use and governance of soil resources, finding alternatives to soil degrading practices through participatory experimental processes, while remaining sensitive to gender issues and the rights of indigenous peoples. ○

stringent objective set by the 1996 World Food Summit, which was to halve the absolute number of undernourished people.

A year later, in 2014, FAO honoured the achievements of 13 countries for their outstanding progress in the fight against hunger, an achievement that included reaching the MDGs before the 2015 deadline. On 7 June 2015, FAO recognised another 14 countries for achieving the third MDG 1 target to halve the percentage of people suffering hunger by 2015.

At the start of 2015, encouraged by the success of other countries, Vietnam launched the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) to eradicate hunger in Vietnam by 2025. Vietnam had already reduced the proportion of undernourished people by over 70 percent since 1990 - 1992 and reached the MDG 1 target, thereby achieving zero hunger in the near future does not seem an impossible target.

In the light of Vietnam’s success, it is hoped that other countries will launch similar campaigns and, in doing so, deliver on the vision of the founders of FAO who imagined “a world free from want”. However ambitious or achievable this goal may be, it is clear that much remains to be done. Food production needs to grow or, at least food needs to be saved and not wasted to meet the expected demand from a projected population of nine billion by the year 2050. In the words of José Graziano da Silva, the current FAO Director-General: “Political commitment at the highest level is fundamental to advancing towards food security. We have the opportunity to end hunger within our lifetimes. This is the greatest legacy we can leave to future generations”.

FAO MEMBER STATES

And dates of accession to the Organization.

AFGHANISTAN 1 December 1949
ALBANIA 12 November 1973
ALGERIA 19 November 1963
ANDORRA 17 November 2007
ANGOLA 14 November 1977
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 7 November 1983
ARGENTINA 21 November 1951
ARMENIA 8 November 1993
AUSTRALIA 16 October 1945
AUSTRIA 27 August 1947
AZERBAIJAN 20 October 1995

BAHAMAS 8 November 1975
BAHREIN 8 November 1971
BANGLADESH 12 November 1973
BARBADOS 6 November 1967
BELARUS 19 November 2005
BELGIUM 16 October 1945
BELIZE 7 November 1983
BENIN 9 November 1961
BHUTAN 7 November 1981
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA 16 October 1945
BOLIVIA 16 October 1945
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 8 November 1993
BOTSWANA 1 November 1966
BRAZIL 16 October 1945
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 15 June 2013
BULGARIA 6 November 1967
BURKINA FASO 9 November 1961
BURUNDI 19 November 1963

CAMBODIA 11 November 1950
CAMEROON 22 March 1960
CANADA 16 October 1945
CAPE VERDE 8 November 1975
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 9 November 1961
CHAD 9 November 1961
CHILE 17 May 1946
CHINA 16 October 1945
COLOMBIA 17 October 1945
COMOROS 14 November 1977
CONGO 9 November 1961
COOK ISLANDS 11 November 1985
COSTA RICA 7 April 1948
CROATIA 8 November 1993
CUBA 19 October 1945
CYPRUS 14 September 1960
CZECH REPUBLIC 8 November 1993

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA 14 November 1977
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 9 November 1961
DENMARK 16 October 1945
DJIBOUTI 14 November 1977
DOMINICA 12 November 1979
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 16 October 1945

ECUADOR 16 October 1945
EGYPT 16 October 1945
EL SALVADOR 19 August 1947
EQUATORIAL GUINEA 7 November 1981

ERITREA 8 November 1993
ESTONIA 11 November 1991
ETHIOPIA 1 January 1948
EUROPEAN UNION - Member Organization 26 November 1991

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA 29 November 2003
FIJI 8 November 1971
FINLAND 27 August 1947
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA 8 November 1993
FRANCE 16 October 1945

GABON 9 November 1961
GAMBIA 22 November 1965
GEORGIA 20 October 1995
GERMANY 27 November 1950
GHANA 9 November 1957
GRANADA 8 November 1975
GREECE 16 October 1945
GUATEMALA 16 October 1945
GUINEA 5 November 1959
GUINEA-BISSAU 26 November 1973
GUYANA 22 August 1966

HAITI 16 October 1945
HONDURAS 16 October 1945
HUNGARY 6 November 1967
ICELAND 16 October 1945

INDIA 16 October 1945
INDONESIA 28 November 1949
IRAN 1 December 1953

IRAQ 16 October 1945
IRELAND 3 September 1946
ISRAEL 23 November 1949
ITALY 12 September 1946
IVORY COAST 9 November 1961

JAMAICA 13 March 1963
JAPAN 21 November 1951
JORDAN 23 January 1951

KAZAKHSTAN 7 November 1997
KENYA 27 January 1964
KIRIBATI 15 November 1999
KUWAIT 9 November 1961
KYRGYZSTAN 8 November 1993

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 21 November 1951
LATVIA 11 November 1991





LEBANON 27 October 1945
LESOTHO 7 November 1966
LIBERIA 16 October 1945
LIBYA 24 November 1953
LITHUANIA 11 November 1991
LUXEMBOURG 16 October 1945

MADAGASCAR 9 November 1961
MALAWI 22 November 1965
MALAYSIA 9 November 1957
MALDIVES 8 November 1971
MALI 9 November 1961
MALTA 5 October 1964
MARSHALL ISLANDS 12 November 1999
MAURITANIA 9 November 1961
MAURITIUS 12 March 1968
MEXICO 16 October 1945
MOLDOVA 20 October 1995
MONACO 2 November 2001
MONGOLIA 12 November 1973
MONTENEGRO 17 November 2007
MOROCCO 13 September 1956
MOZAMBIQUE 14 November 1977
MYANMAR 11 September 1947

NAMIBIA 14 November 1977
NAURU 2 November 2001
NEPAL 21 November 1951
NETHERLANDS 16 October 1945
NEW ZEALAND 16 October 1945
NICARAGUA 26 October 1945
NIGER 9 November 1961
NIGERIA 11 October 1960
NIUE 12 November 1999
NORWAY 16 October 1945

OMAN 8 November 1971

PAKISTAN 7 September 1947
PALAU 12 November 1999
PANAMA 16 October 1945
PAPUA NEW GUINEA 8 November 1975
PARAGUAY 30 October 1945
PERU 17 June 1952
PHILIPPINES 16 October 1945
POLAND 9 November 1957
PORTUGAL 11 September 1946

QATAR 8 November 1971

REPUBLIC OF KOREA 25 November 1949
ROMANIA 9 November 1961
RUSSIAN FEDERATION 11 April 2006
RWANDA 19 November 1963

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS 7 November 1983

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES 7 November 1981

SAMOA 12 November 1979
SAN MARINO 12 November 1999
SANTA LUCIA 26 November 1979

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE 14 November 1977

SAUDI ARABIA 23 November 1948

SENEGAL 9 November 1961

SERBIA 2 November 2001

SEYCHELLES 14 November 1977

SIERRA LEONE 9 November 1961

SINGAPORE 15 June 2013

SLOVAKIA 8 November 1993

SLOVENIA 8 November 1993

SOLOMON ISLANDS 11 November 1985

SOMALIA 17 November 1960

SOUTH AFRICA 9 November 1993

SOUTH SUDAN 15 June 2013

SPAIN 5 April 1951

SRI LANKA 21 May 1948

SUDAN 13 September 1956

SURINAME 26 November 1975

SWAZILAND 8 November 1971

SWEDEN 13 February 1950

SWITZERLAND 11 September 1946

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

27 October 1945

TAJIKISTAN 20 October 1995

THAILAND 27 August 1947

TIMOR-LESTE 29 November 2003

TOGO 23 May 1960

TONGA 7 November 1981

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

19 November 1963

TUNISIA 25 November 1955

TURKEY 6 April 1948

TURKMENISTAN 20 October 1995

TUVALU 29 November 2003

UGANDA 19 November 1963

UKRAINE 29 November 2003

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

12 November 1973

UNITED KINGDOM 16 October 1945

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

8 February 1962

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

16 October 1945

URUGUAY 30 November 1945

UZBEKISTAN 2 November 2001

VANUATU 7 November 1983

VIETNAM 11 November 1950

YEMEN 22 May 1990

ZAMBIA 22 November 1965

ZIMBABWE 7 November 1981

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

FAROE ISLANDS 17 November 2007

TOKELAU 25 June 2011

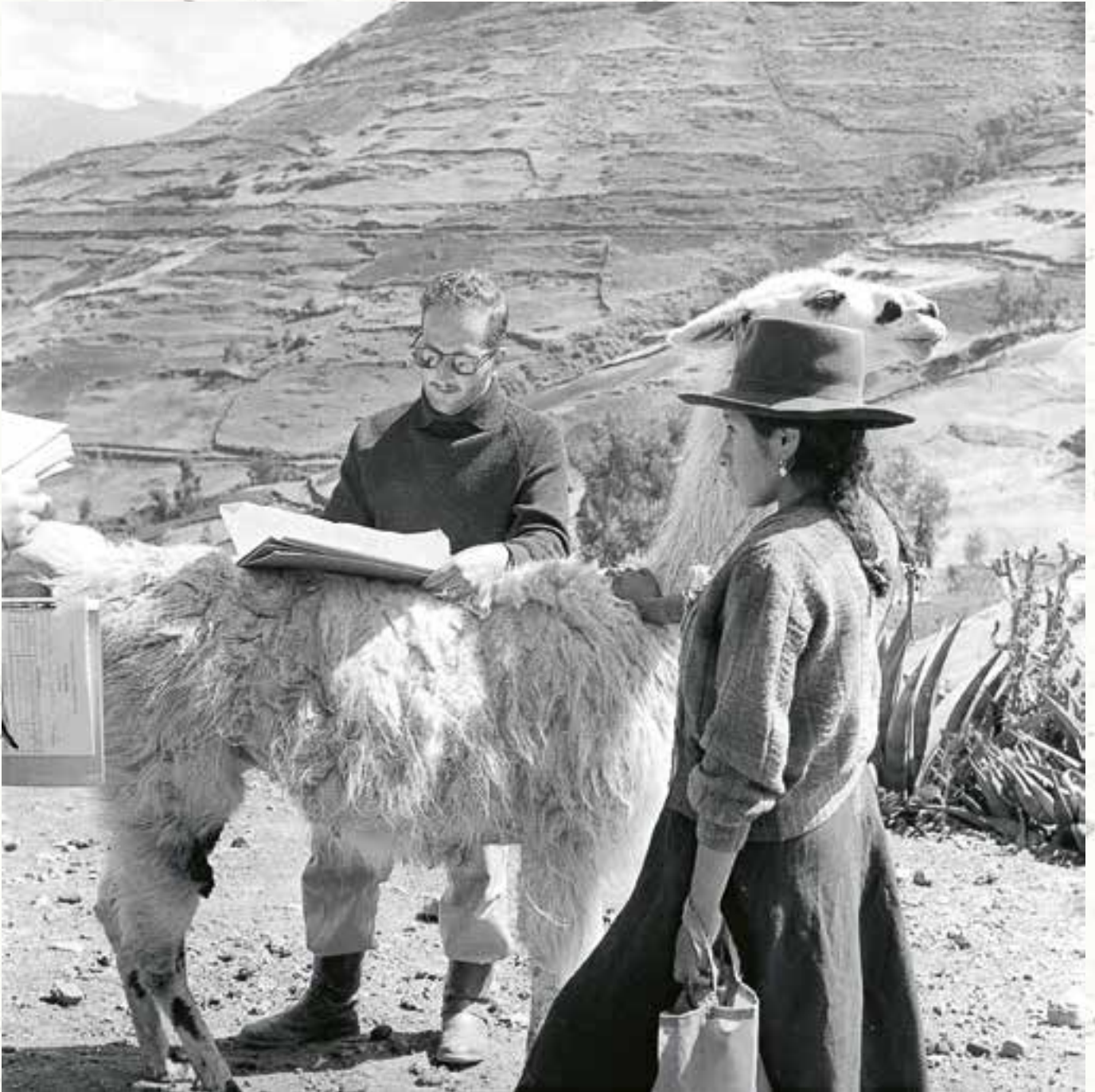
THOSE EARLY YEARS

Previously unpublished photographs rescued from FAO's historical archives

FAO'S PHOTO ARCHIVE contains over a million images offering a visual testimony to its seven decades in existence. For months, the FAO photography team delved into this archive to select a representative sampling of photographs that would offer an authentic picture of the Organization's early years. Images were chosen that reflect the various fields the agency was beginning to work in (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, land and water management, nutrition, etc), spanning as much of the globe as possible. The black-and-white photographs presented here were selected and scanned to

represent some specific projects that the FAO undertook in the remotest corners of the planet.

This portfolio is also a tribute to the FAO photographers who worked in extremely tough conditions with cumbersome early cameras and with the sole purpose of capturing what the FAO was doing in the far reaches of the globe. The result is a captivating journey back to those early years, the toughest and yet the most exciting time, with the people who married professionalism with a sense of hope that their work would begin to uncover and change the world.



PERU, 1958.

Peru was home to the Census Training Centre for Latin America, organised by the United Nations, FAO and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI).

One of the centre's main activities was the experimental, population, housing and agriculture census, conducted in the province of Canta, a mountainous region near Lima. The trainees worked in small villages where farming takes place on mountain slopes at an altitude of 2 500 to 4 500 metres above sea level.

Pictured: an FAO expert is using a llama as an improvised table to note down information provided by a farmer in Lachaqui.

Photograph: © FAO/V. Bianchi.



LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL HEALTH



KENYA, 1967.

In the late 1960s, the Kenyan Government formulated an ambitious and comprehensive plan to make the livestock industry more efficient and boost exports. The plan was subsidised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Special Fund and FAO. The experts studied land use, rangeland use, wild animal biology, livestock improvement and game control. Wild animals had to be taken into account in rangeland management plans, since they were a valuable tourist attraction for the country and their meat could help to feed people. These wild animals also had to be controlled, because they could spread diseases to livestock and compete for pasture lands.

The future role of wild animals on Kenya's rangelands was closely studied as part of the project. Animals were often hunted using a helicopter and stunned with an anaesthetic dart fired from an air gun, so that they could be examined and marked to track their future movements.

In this image, a wildebeest is examined by a FAO expert, on the right, who led a UNDP/FAO project team assigned to the Kenyan Range Management Division. Next to him are a journalist and two assistants.

Photograph: © Kenyan Ministry of Information/FAO.



AFGHANISTAN, 1969.

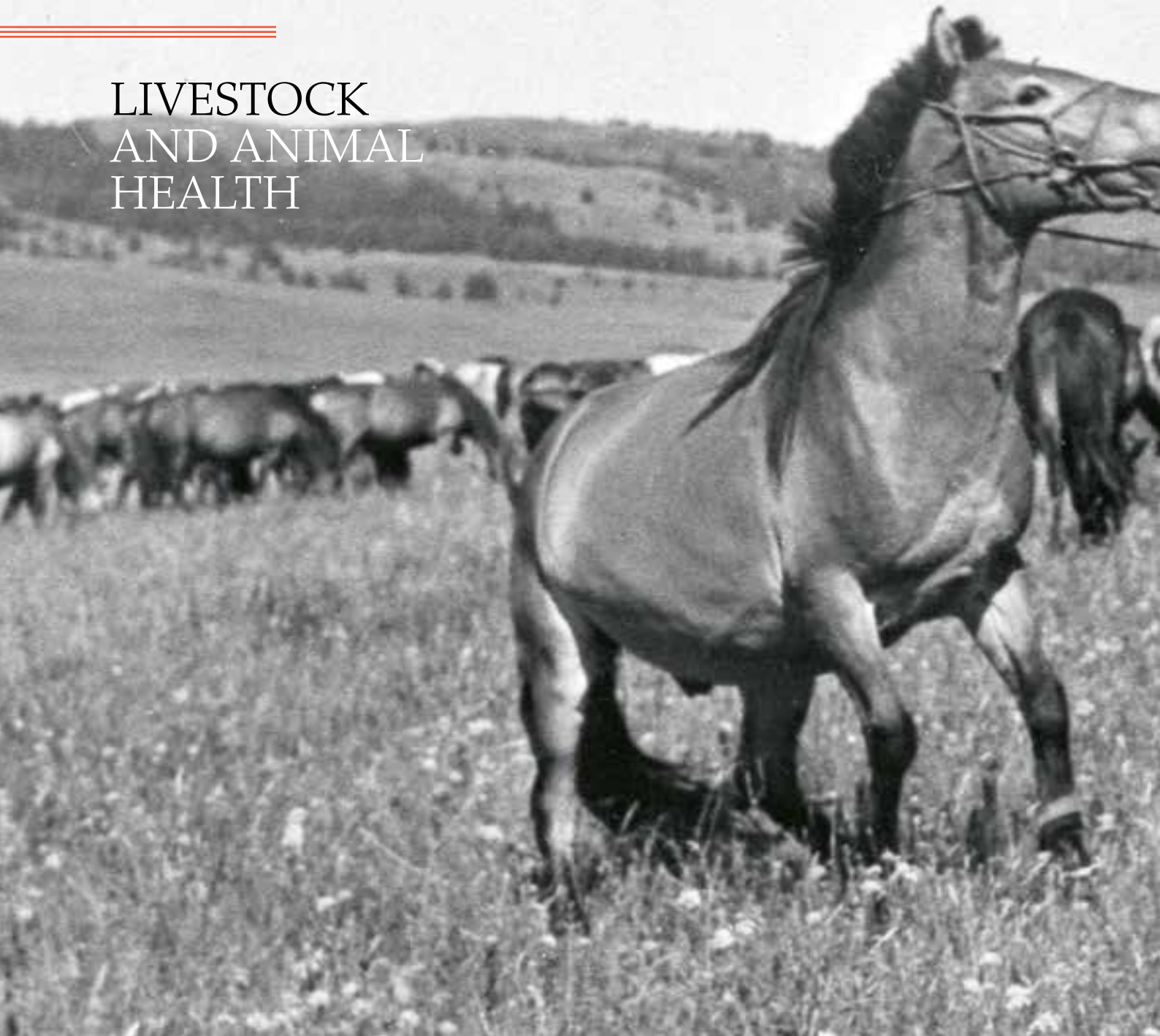
The Afghan Government undertook a five-year plan to improve sheep, cattle and poultry quality and production throughout the country, with the help of the UNDP Special Fund and FAO.

Animal health assistants and animal husbandry workers received training at a school for non-professional assistants in Kabul and at a field training centre in Baghlan, where a demonstration area was set up for animal health and husbandry development work. Agricultural workers were offered short training courses.

Photograph: © FAO/F. Botts.



LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL HEALTH

**MONGOLIA, 1966.**

A veterinary laboratory technician from the former USSR who worked for FAO, was assigned to Ulan Bator from September 1964 to September 1966 to help the government diagnose and control infectious animal diseases.

Pictured: horses being lassoed in the Central Province.

Photograph: © FAO/N. G. Ipatenko.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**NICARAGUA, 1964.**

Bananas are being harvested for packing at the San Pablo Farming Cooperative plantation in Posolotega, near Chinandega.

Photograph: © FAO/Y. Nagata.



BANGKOK, THAILAND.

FAO coordinated a National Training Centre for the Grading and Inspection of Rice and the Economics of Rice Storage Operations.

An FAO instructor, gives rice milling and storage demonstrations using equipment that includes a rice mill.

Photograph: © FAO.

FISHING AND AQUACULTURE



ZAMBIA, 1965.

To increase local food supplies and encourage growth in the fishing industry, the Zambian Government, with the help of the United Nations Special Fund and FAO as the implementing agency, set up a research institute to study hydrobiological, technological and economic factors in order to assess the fisheries potential of Lake Kariba. The project included demonstrations and training programmes in fisheries activities.

At the institute's research laboratory, a fisheries biologist observes a fish sample caught on Lake Kariba through a microscope.

Photograph: © UN/FAO.

NEPAL, 1969.

In 1965, the Nepalese Government put together a five-year plan, according the highest priority to the development of fishing. Due to the shortage of meat, and certain religious restrictions, the population's diet lacked animal protein. The government asked FAO for technical support to develop and expand existing aquaculture facilities and, through demonstrations, encouraged people to build and use fish ponds. Two publicly owned commercial fish farms were set up: one in Piple Hetsura on the Terai Plains, the second in Bhandara Hardi, on the Rapti plains.

In Bhandara fish ponds are dug by hand. To ensure that the bottom of the pond is level – essential for drainage – the excavated earth is spaced out in evenly sized mounds before being removed.

Photograph: © WFP/FAO/E. Woyanovich.





INDONESIA, 1951.

In Southeast Asia, fish production in ponds has long been a tradition. It was estimated that, in a given area, a pond full of fish could produce significantly more protein than any other kind of livestock activity. Flooded rice paddies could be populated with fish for an integrated fish farming and rice cultivation system. FAO contributed to the introduction of tilapia, a fish particularly suitable for farming in ponds.

A farmer's son catches carp fry.

Photograph: © FAO/Eric Schwab.



FISHING AND AQUACULTURE





**CEYLON*, 1953.
(*SRI LANKA SINCE 1972)**

The oceans cover over half of the earth's surface but only provided around 1 percent of the food consumed by humans. This was mainly due to the fact that most fishermen around the world did their jobs using only the power of the wind and their muscles. FAO argued that, even in extremely poor fishing communities, installing motors on boats would pay dividends because the fishermen's catches would be larger. In Ceylon there were around 60 000 people whose

primary activity was fishing, but they caught just 30 000 tonnes of fish a year, an average of little more than 9 kg per fisherman per week. In late 1951, there were no fishing vessels equipped with motors, with the exception of one steam-powered trawler. FAO sent a master fisherman and a marine engineer to the country to advise on the mechanisation of the industry. Within six months, many fishermen had taken the opportunity to buy motors, and other Ceylonese

fishermen also wanted them. Under the Colombo Plan, 40 small diesel motors were sold under favourable conditions to fishermen, and some private enterprises began to sell motors to meet the growing demand.

This picture shows fishermen handling their drag nets on an island off the north coast of Ceylon. It took up to two hours and 30 men to cast these nets, which measured over 1.5 kilometres.

Photograph: © FAO/Alan Glanville.



FORESTRY

**NIGERIA, 1967.**

Due to a shortage of timber and growing demand for wood for construction, Nigeria needed to improve rainforest management and reforest the savannahs. UNDP and FAO worked together for over six years to set up the Faculty of Forestry at the University College of Ibadan. Created in 1963, the university course offered training in forestry policy, legislation, management, use and technology. Most graduates ended up working for the Nigerian Forest Service.

Students using a theodolite to calculate the relative height of a plot as part of the practical training provided by the Faculty of Forestry.

Photograph: © UN/FAO.



GREECE, 1964.

A joint FAO and Greek Government team took a forestry inventory for an area of over 12 000 km² in northern Greece. The project assessed the size of the forests and helped the country prepare its resources and train qualified personnel for future expansion and development of the forestry industry.

This image shows a Greek forestry technician measuring the spacing between the trees and the timber's density on a sample forest plot.

Photograph:
© FAO/J. Olsen.



THAILAND

Province of Lampang
(northern Thailand);
teak logging.

Photograph:
© FAO/S. Bunnag.



FORESTRY



LIBYA, 1953.

Following the declaration of independence by Libya, FAO sent a large delegation of experts in agriculture, forestry activities, agricultural statistics and commercialisation to the country.

One of the main aims of the programme was to stabilise and reforest sand dunes. A significant part of the country was unsuitable for any kind of permanent crop cultivation, with the only option being forestation.

In the foreground, this picture shows dune fixing experiments using the plant *Saccharum aegyptiacum*, under the supervision of an FAO forestry expert. In the background, experiments conducted in 1951-52 by private enterprise using various types of grass failed due to a lack of resources.

Photograph: © FAO.



LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT



INDONESIA, 1951.

These images show the construction of a 70 km canal by local workers using primitive tools and virtually no machinery. It was a government project to irrigate 6 000 hectares of land. FAO sent a large number of specialists to Southeast Asia to help governments recover land through the use of irrigation or drainage.

An increase in agricultural production is the first step towards a more prosperous economy and therefore an improvement in the population's quality of life – a key part of the Organization's mission.

Photograph: © FAO/Eric Schwab.



LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT



INDIA, 1969.

A team of FAO experts undertook a five-year project (1966-71) for the Rajasthan canal area. Subsidised by UNDP Special Fund, the aim was to carry out a survey and a detailed study of the land area and to conduct experiments and demonstrations to make optimum use of the land and water, ensuring efficient crop production.

The project involved mapping the land to understand its characteristics and suitability for cultivation, and making recommendations for developing irrigated agriculture over a surface area of more than 20 000 km². Training programmes in edaphology, agronomy and land and water management were launched.

Work on the Rajasthan canal dykes.

Photograph: © FAO/T. Loftas.

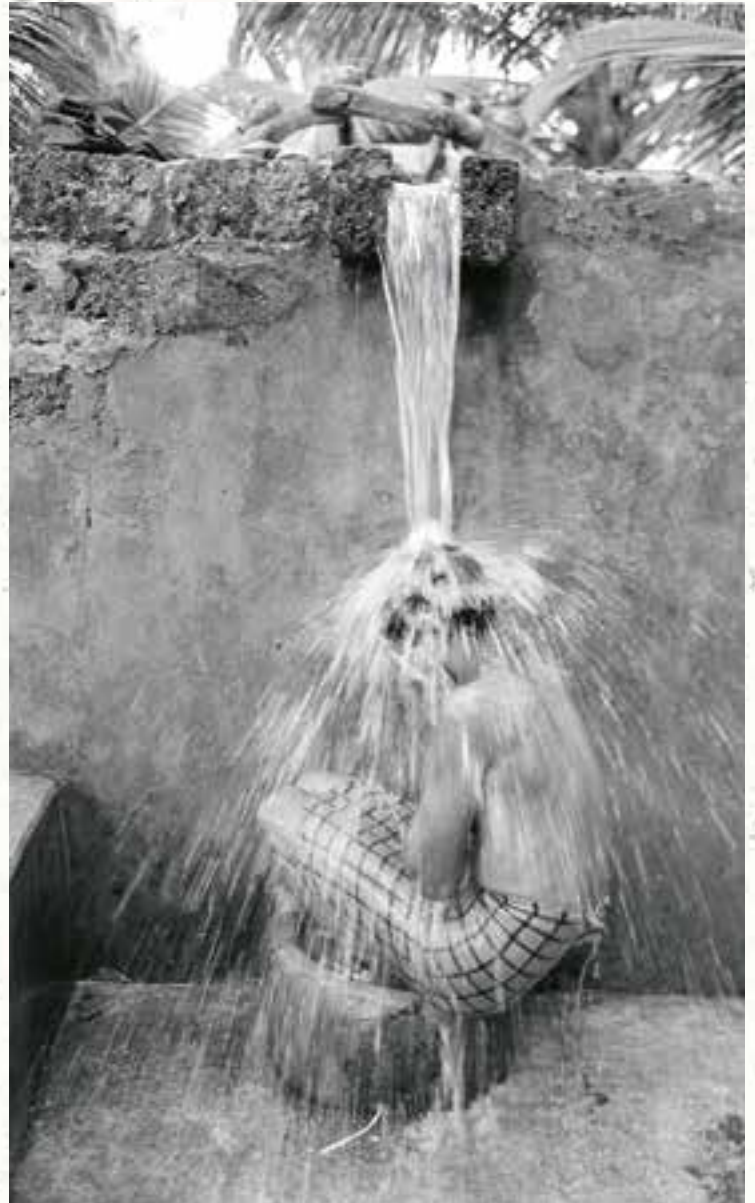


INDIA, 1967.

As part of the global Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the people of Finland helped coastal villages in Maharashtra to meet their urgent need for drinking water. Eight villages in the Ratnagiri district received water from a mains supply or well, after which similar plans for other villages were proposed.

A boy washes in water from a Persian wheel.

Photograph: © FAO/T. S. Satyan.



NUTRITION

CHILE, 1968.

Since its establishment in 1963, the World Food Programme (WFP), jointly sponsored by the United Nations and FAO, gave impetus to a wide range of development projects.

The projects for which the Chilean Government requested the help of WFP included one in the Punitaqui Valley – some 400 km north of Santiago – aimed at encouraging volunteers to take part in rural community development work designed to boost the area's economy.

Distribution of WFP supplies in Punitaqui.

Photograph: © UN/FAO.





NUTRITION

**INDIA, 1959.**

The Anand Dairy Cooperative Programme increased the area's milk supply from 2.7 million to 27 million litres a year in just eight years. The programme began with the creation of the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union in 1946. By the end of the 1950s, the union comprised 138 village dairy societies with a total of 40 000 member farmers. It had milk processing plants that received financial and technical support from the government, the United Nation's International Childrens Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Colombo Plan and FAO.

Though initially it was a project that focused only on milk production, the prosperity that the programme brought to the area led to donations that were used for scholarships and building schools, hospitals and libraries. In addition to playing a role in India's fight against malnutrition, the programme became an important driver for community development.

Pictured: children wait in line at a milk distribution centre.

Photograph: © FAO.



THAILAND, 1953.

The FAO Nutrition Division undertook a wide range of activities, with most of them centring on improving children's diets in regions of the world with higher levels of malnutrition. However, before a comprehensive nutritional programme could be planned, existing nutrition levels had to be analysed. In most countries, this information was not available.

The picture shows a FAO nutritionist, examining two children. The younger boy is showing symptoms of an enlarged spleen, caused by malaria.

Photograph: © FAO.



TURKEY, 1964.

The aid that WFP and FAO provided to Turkey benefited some 36.5 million people through 12 projects. These initiatives had a wide range of objectives: to recover damaged forests and eroded farmland; to connect villages to the secondary road network; to resettle displaced families; to control flooding and soil erosion; and to boost production of fertiliser, cellulose and paper pulp, coal and steel.

Children from a village in the Kizilcahamam district, a hot springs area 70 kms from Ankara. In this area, WFP's aid was used to supplement the wages of workers undertaking land recovery, building terraces on arid slopes and planting trees to stop soil erosion.

Photograph: © FAO/Emmet Bright.

PLANTS AND PLANT HEALTH

ETHIOPIA, 1968.

More than 40 countries, from West Africa to the Indian subcontinent, were under threat from the biggest desert locust outbreak since 1959, when the last great plague was recorded. International initiatives to fight the desert locust were coordinated by FAO, which provided specialised assistance.

In response to the threat from swarms of locusts and the need to save crops, in East Africa the work to control the plague was carried out in a joint effort among Ethiopia, Somalia, the French Territory of Afars and Issas (previously French Somaliland), Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, through the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) with the help of the United Nations.

A locust swarm.

Photograph: © FAO/G. Tortoli.





PLANTS AND PLANT HEALTH



MOROCCO, 1960.

With the help of FAO and the Agricultural Research and Experimentation Service, an exhaustive study was conducted on the biological control of the Sunn pest and California Red Scale, which attacked citrus trees.

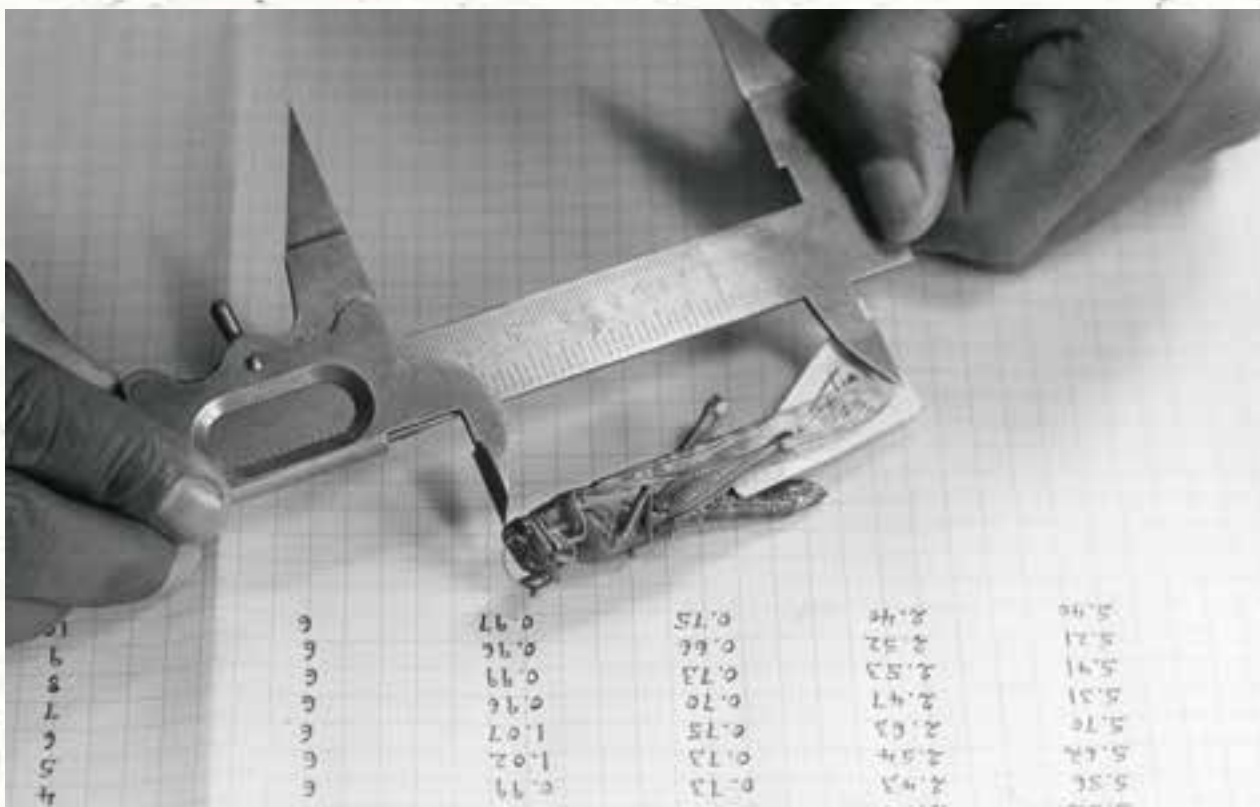
At the Research Service laboratory in Rabat, FAO expert artificially infests citrus trees to establish timetables.

Photograph: © UN/FAO.

Laboratory of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa in Asmara, Eritrea.

Measurements of the insects' wings and other parts of their bodies were taken periodically, since this data was an indicator of their reproductive density. When this information is combined with other analyses performed in the field, the source of the locusts can be found.

Photograph: © FAO/G. Tortoli.





INDIA, 1951

In the Terai area, FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) worked together to eliminate malaria and promote food production.

This picture shows farmers harvesting.

Photograph: © FAO/Eric Schwab.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

TRIPOLI, LIBYA, 1963

After Libya's declaration of independence, FAO sent a large delegation of experts to the country specialising in agriculture, forestry activities, agricultural statistics and trade.

Libya's main exports included animal hides but last century deficiencies in flaying and tanning prevented the country from increasing its trade in these products.

FAO experts saw immediately that the main factors that devalued the skins produced in Libya were the scar marks caused by the flaying, as well as cuts and holes due to rotting. With the help of the Libyan authorities, FAO drafted a law on animal skinning and introduced a new tanning method that would ensure a much higher quality product. Before long 90 percent of hides were skinned correctly, and constant, albeit slow, advances were made in tanning methods. European and American markets were beginning to pay a higher price for Libyan hides tanned using the newly introduced method.

The owner of a hide warehouse examining a skin tanned using the "new method". Unlike traditional skin tanning methods, the new hides were now odour-free and the hair remained firmly in place.

Photograph: © FAO/P. Morin.

NEPAL, 1968.

Increasing population pressure, soil erosion and land hunger were pushing a growing number of farmers in the northern mountains of Nepal to the plains of the south. In recent times, the migratory flow has increased.

To ease the problem of a resettled population – aggravated by the return of emigrants from Myanmar and Assam – the government set up new settlements on the Terai Plain, along the border with India. What was previously wasteland was distributed free-of-charge.

Through WFP and FAO, 1 350 000 daily rations were sent to help families on the settlements during the first growing season, until they could harvest their own crops from the lands assigned to them at the border village of Nepalganj.

Settlers' children at a village school.
Photograph: © WFP/FAO/D. Mason.





RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GHANA, 1969.

The construction of the Akosombo Dam on the Volta River created the world's largest man-made lake. Where once some 85 000 people farmed the valleys and hills, there was now a lake spanning 8 500 km². The hydroelectric power obtained from the dam was hugely important for Ghana's industrialisation but the resettlement of 12 000 families created problems for the government.

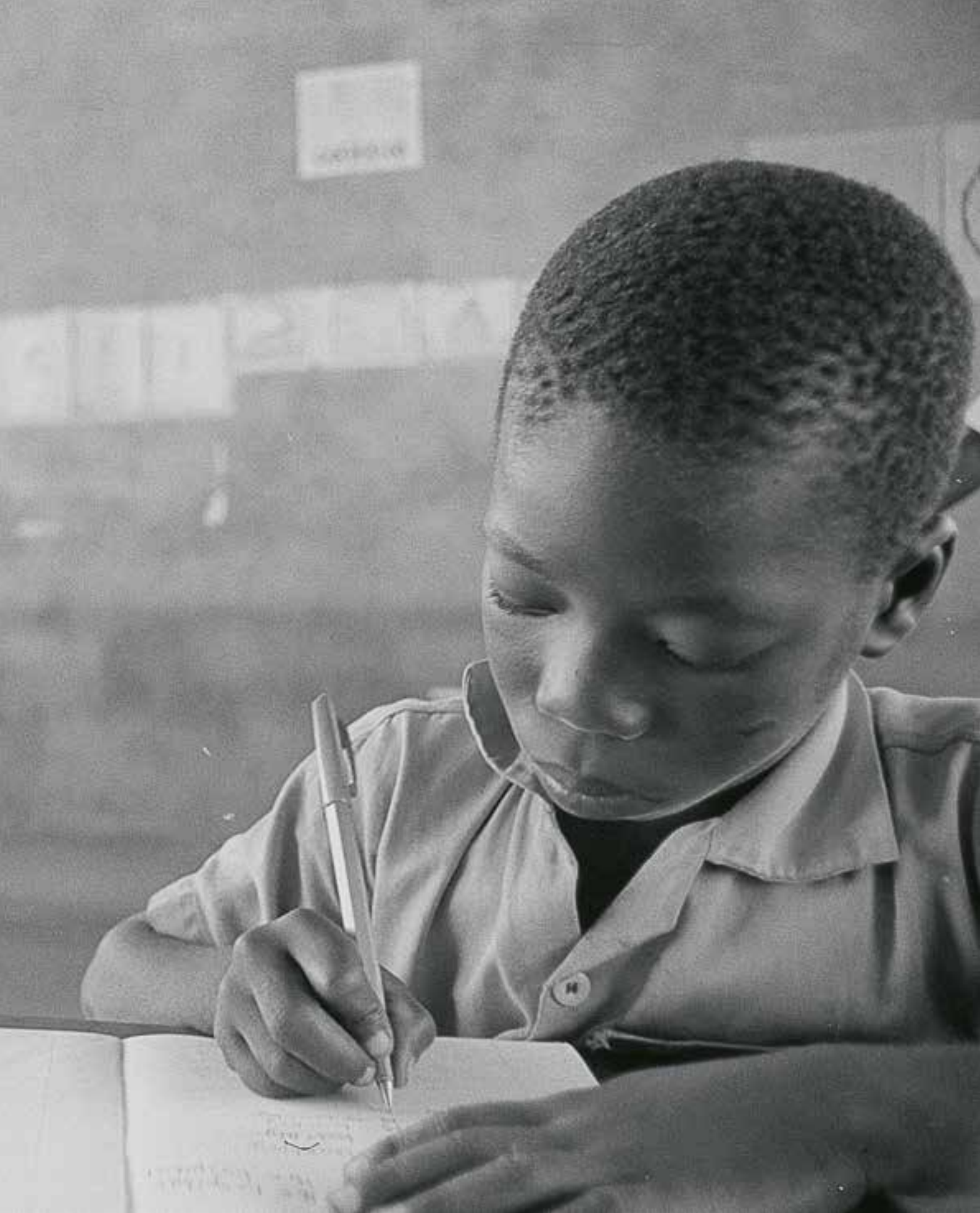
Much of the work clearing land and building homes for the 52 resettlement villages around the lake was done by hand.

Until the new farms became productive, families needed to be supplied with food. In 1964, WFP and FAO started distributing food to the value of US\$7 million, donated by a dozen countries.

The photograph shows a newly built school in one of the resettlement villages. As children's nutrition improved with the help of WFP food aid, so did their school attendance and academic qualifications.

Photograph: © WFP/FAO/
Payton Johnson.





2

80 The 5 Strategic Objectives

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94 Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)

A NEW FAO FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



THE 5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

FAO reinvents itself to win the battle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty by going back to its roots.



Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable



Reduce rural poverty



Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems



Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

In an interdependent and ever-changing world, and in a context of growing demand for food, of food insecurity and persistent malnutrition, poverty in rural areas, economic instability and climate change; FAO decided to rethink its ways of working in order to be more effective.

To do this, a broad and inclusive process was designed, starting in 2012 and ending in 2013 with a new Strategic Framework that encompasses

five Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Objectives (SOs) account for new concepts like sustainability and resilience, but they also signal a return to the Organization's roots, as encapsulated in the preamble to FAO's basic texts. These days FAO is a more streamlined dynamic and flexible organization, with a stronger presence in the field. All of its activities are organised around the five SOs, with the aim of aligning efforts, working together and improving coordination to achieve results in the areas that member states consider to be priorities.

A NEW FAO

“FAO used to fight food insecurity in the world from a trench; now, with the Strategic Objectives and the new Strategic Framework, it has gone on the offensive: joining forces, with well equipped specialists, clear objectives and good alliances”.

Eugenia Serova, SO4 coordinator.

THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES HAVE REVOLUTIONISED the way the Organization works because “they make it clear what we want to achieve and why”.

Dominique Burgeon, SO5 coordinator.

“The new objectives have focused our efforts, especially in what we do at country level, and they have forced all of the technical divisions to work together with the same goals”.

Rob Vos, SO3 coordinator.

“Working towards a common set of corporate results has improved coordination, collaboration and interdisciplinary work throughout the Organization. The objectives are the basis for better accountability, control and evaluation of implementation”.

Kostas Stamoulis, SO1 coordinator.

This way in which FAO approaches its work “ensures efficiency and a focus on results to make a bigger impact at all levels with fewer resources”.

Clayton Campanhola, SO2 coordinator.

“FAO has reinvented itself to meet global objectives”, adds Campanhola to illustrate the agency’s strong ambition to fulfil the mission embodied in the new SOs.

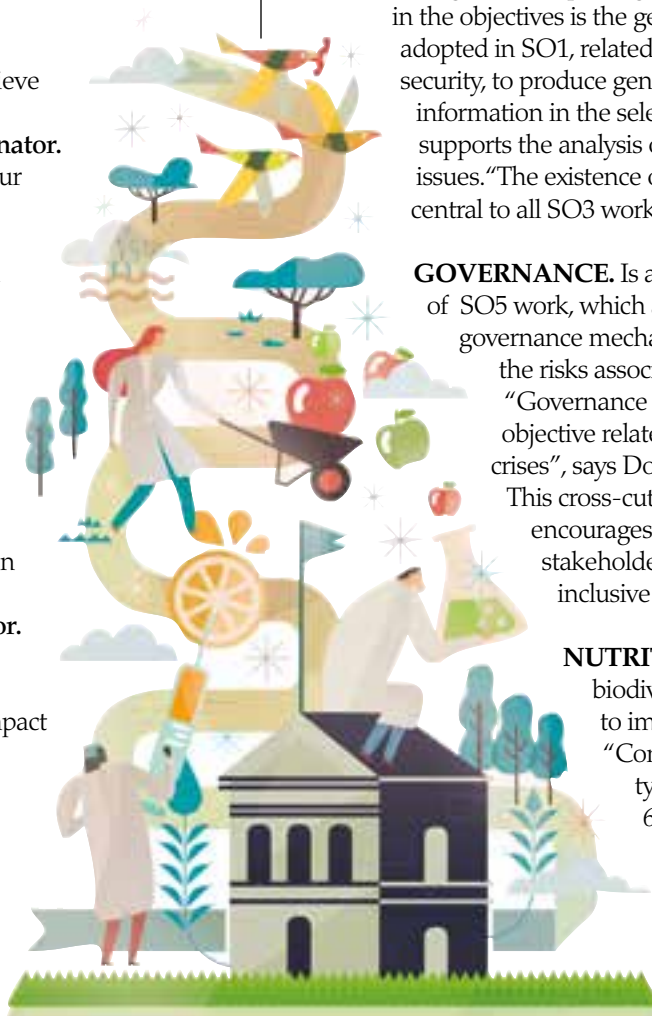
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Good governance, nutrition and gender issues are cross-cutting themes present in all of the Strategic Objectives. These principles are embraced in each SO to contribute to them and to produce tangible results.

GENDER. A good example of gender mainstreaming in the objectives is the gender indicators adopted in SO1, related to food and nutritional security, to produce gender-disaggregated information in the selected countries, which supports the analysis of progress in gender issues. “The existence of gender inequalities is central to all SO3 work”, says Rob Vos.

GOVERNANCE. Is a central feature of SO5 work, which advocates inclusive governance mechanisms to reduce the risks associated with disasters. “Governance is a cornerstone of the objective related to risk and political crises”, says Dominique Burgeon. This cross-cutting principle also encourages the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms to build inclusive governance systems.

NUTRITION. SO2 promotes biodiversity as a way to improve nutrition. “Considering that just three types of crop provide 60 percent of the human diet, we are neglecting a large amount of the food available”, says Clayton Campanhola.







©FAO/ASIM HAREEZ



Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

TODAY THE WORLD can produce enough food to adequately feed its entire population. And yet, despite the progress made in the last two decades, almost 800 million people still suffer chronic undernourishment. Among children, it is estimated that 161 million under-fives suffer from chronic malnutrition (stunted growth), almost 99 million are underweight, and around 51 million suffer from acute malnutrition (emaciation).

FAO supports its member states in their efforts to ensure that people have regular access to enough high quality food. The Organization also promotes political commitment to food security and nutrition, making up-to-date information on the challenges and solutions related to hunger and malnutrition readily accessible.

“EVERYONE
IN FAO
WORKS IN
THE SAME
DIRECTION”

**KOSTAS STAMOULIS,
SO1 COORDINATOR**

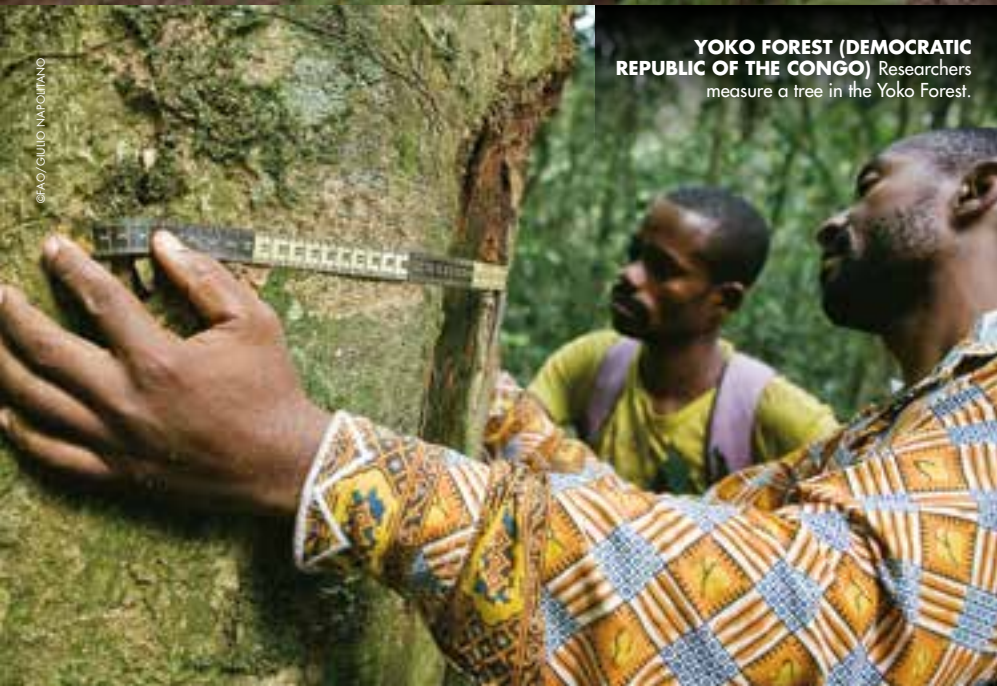
**2010, MUZAFFARGHAR
(PAKISTAN)**

A relief camp in Sultan Colony
for internally displaced people.



SAMANGAN (AFGHANISTAN)

FAO field staff assess the results of a pest control system used on a farm.



YOKO FOREST (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO) Researchers measure a tree in the Yoko Forest.



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

SOME OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH are predicted to occur in areas that depend heavily on agriculture (including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries areas), which also show high levels of food insecurity. The growth of the agricultural sector is the most effective way to reduce poverty and achieve food security. The goal is to ensure that the increase in productivity does not just benefit a few, and that the natural resource base provides increasingly sustainable services. “In SO2, in late 2014 almost 1 200 results were obtained in over 100 countries. More than 20 technical divisions contributed to the 13 results’ indicators”, says Clayton Campanhola, the SO2 Coordinator.

“FAO HAS REINVENTED ITSELF TO MEET KEY GLOBAL CHALLENGES”

CLAYTON CAMPANHOLA, SO2 COORDINATOR



**LIOMA
(MOZAMBIQUE)**

A lack of infrastructure makes access to markets difficult for rural populations.



Reduce rural poverty

MOST OF THE WORLD'S POOR live in rural areas affected by hunger and food insecurity.

Reducing rural poverty is therefore central to any FAO mission. In 1990, 54 percent of people living in rural areas in developing countries lived on less than US\$1.25 a day and were considered extremely poor. By 2010, this percentage

had dropped to 35 percent. But rural poverty remains widespread, especially in South Asia and Africa. These regions have also seen the least progress in improving rural livelihoods. FAO strives to help small farmers improve productivity, whilst seeking to increase non-agricultural employment opportunities and, through social protection, finding better ways for those living in rural areas to manage risks in their environments.

“THE CHALLENGE FACING FARMERS IS TO BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS THROUGHOUT THE VALUE CHAIN”

ROB VOS, SO3 COORDINATOR

2015, TIGRAY (ETHIOPIA). The new Strategic Framework has enabled new partnerships like the one with Eataly, which has resulted in this women's cooperative that exports prickly pear jam.



©FAO/FILIPPO BAIERICO

4



Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

WITH GLOBALIZATION, agriculture as an independent sector will cease to exist, becoming instead just one part of an integrated value chain. This poses a huge challenge for small-scale farmers and agricultural producers in many developing countries where they can easily be excluded from important parts of the value chain. Increasing their participation in food and agricultural systems is critical to achieving the Organization's goal of a world without hunger.

**“I FEEL THAT
I’M PART OF
FAO’S COMMON
MISSION”**

**EUGENIA SEROVA, SO4
COORDINATOR**



2006, AN THUONG
(VIETNAM)

Vets vaccinate poultry to prevent the spread of bird flu at a station set up by the Vietnamese Government.

©FAO/HOANG DINH NAM



Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

EVERY YEAR, millions of people who depend on the production, trade and consumption of crops, livestock, fish, forests and other natural resources, are confronted by disasters and crises. They can strike suddenly – like an earthquake or a violent coup – or unfold slowly, like drought-flood cycles.

These emergencies threaten production and access to food on a local, national and sometimes regional and global scale. The Organization's mission is to help countries control, prevent and mitigate risks and crises, as well as to help them prepare for disasters, responding in a way that will minimise their negative effects.

“THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES HAVE ENABLED US TO OBTAIN MEASURABLE RESULTS IN A GIVEN PERIOD”

**DOMINIQUE
BURGEON, SO5
COORDINATOR**

FAO TODAY

How many people work in FAO? What is its budget? What does *Fiat Panis* mean? These are some of the questions that will help us learn more about the Organization at the turn of the Twenty-First Century.



FAO has 194 member states, two associate members (the Faroe Islands and Tokelau), and one member organization, the European Union. With headquarters in Rome, FAO is present in some 130 countries.

The Conference is the forum where representatives of the member states meet every two years to discuss global governance and regulatory issues and international frameworks, as well as to assess the work that has been done and approve the budget for the next two years.

The Council. This executive body acts in the period between Conference sessions within the powers it has, such as those related to the global

FAO IS THE UN FOOD AGENCY. "FIAT PANIS" IS THE FAO MOTTO.

A LATIN EXPRESSION MEANING "LET THERE BE BREAD". IT APPEARS ON THE FAO EMBLEM ALONGSIDE THE ORGANIZATION'S INITIALS AND AN EAR OF WHEAT.

food and agriculture situation, and to the Organization's activities, governance, financial management and constitutional matters. Council members are elected by the Conference and

have rotating tenures of three years for the executive supervision of the programme and the budget.

In 2015, FAO employed 1 742 professionals and

1 528 support staff. These numbers refer solely to personnel with permanent or rolling contracts. Fifty percent of staff are in Rome, while the rest work in offices worldwide, as part of a decentralisation process that seeks to distribute resources to all the regions. In total, including the regional offices, there are over 11 800 employees.

The last Conference held in 2015, approved a regular budget of just over a billion dollars approved for the programme of work between 2016 and 2017. In addition, voluntary contributions by countries and other partners are expected to total US\$ 1.6 billion in 2016 to 2017.

A LIFE DEDICATED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

The Brazilian José Graziano da Silva has very clear views. He is convinced that eradicating hunger is a goal within our grasp, provided that we work together: governments, institutions, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the general public. This firm belief is the product of his personal experiences, first in Brazil, later in Latin America, and now at the apex of FAO.

Born in the United States of America on 17 November 1949, Graziano da Silva is a Brazilian and Italian citizen. He has two children and three grandchildren. He holds a Degree in Agronomy and a Masters in Rural Economics and Sociology from the University of São Paulo, and a Doctorate in Economics from Campinas State University. He also holds post-doctoral degrees in Latin American Studies (University College of London) and Environmental Studies (University of California, Santa Cruz).

He gained his extensive experience during his years as a leading expert in rural development and food security, during his political career as a minister for food security in Brazil, and now, heading FAO. But none of this happened by accident. In the 1970s and 1980s, Brazil's growing potential as



1. 2015, ROME.

Director-General José Graziano da Silva re-elected to a second term in the Organization's top post with the highest number of votes (177) ever in the history.

2. 2003, BRASILIA.

Graziano da Silva announces the agreement between Caixa, the second largest bank in Brazil and the Zero Hunger Program.

3. 2003, TERESINA (BRAZIL).

President Lula introduces the Minister for Food Security Graziano da Silva during his visit to the State of Piauí.

an exporter and the country's consolidation as a major commodity producer was at odds with the tens of millions of Brazilians who suffered extreme

poverty and food insecurity. His academic work, contained in over 25 books spanned three decades at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), where he was a



©FAO/JAMES BELGRAVE/ SIMON MAINA/ ENNIER KAZE



- ▶ lecturer in agricultural economics as well as director of Masters of the Institute of Economics and Doctoral Programmes in Economic Development and the Environment.

In 2001, at the request of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, then leader of Brazil's Workers' Party, Graziano was responsible for coordinating the development and later the implementation of the Zero Hunger Programme. Zero Hunger became the centrepiece of Lula's successful presidential election campaign, the signal of his commitment to ensure that every Brazilian was able to enjoy three decent meals a day by the end of his term in office.

When Lula assumed the Presidency on 1 January 2003, he immediately appointed Graziano as his Special Minister for Food Security and the Fight against Hunger, a formidable task that involved creating an entirely new Ministry and launching a massive multi-faceted programme across the entire country.

THE ZERO HUNGER PLAN MANAGED TO LIFT OVER 20 MILLION BRAZILIANS OUT OF MALNUTRITION.

Zero Hunger broke new ground by combining investments in targeted social protection with measures to improve family farming yields as the main drivers of hunger reduction and rural development. The initiative is credited with reducing hunger and malnutrition on a massive scale, benefiting more than 20 million Brazilians, reducing income inequality, increasing the participation of the poor in the labour market and stimulating economic growth in deprived communities.

In 2006, Graziano was appointed FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. In this role he succeeded in building the political commitment of all of the region's countries to end hunger by 2025. In 2011, Graziano da Silva was elected as the first FAO Director-General from the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Graziano da Silva has been a leading voice in the global movement to end hunger. He has played a key role in securing a Latin American, Caribbean and African commitment to ending hunger and malnutrition, and he is an active supporter of the "Zero Hunger Challenge" inspired by the Brazilian Zero Hunger Programme and launched by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development.

During his first term as FAO Director-General, Graziano da Silva was able to implement several of his proposals, advocating for more sustainable food production



and consumption systems, making food management fairer, strengthening partnerships and South-South Cooperation, and completing the process to reform FAO, with an emphasis on decentralization and a more results-based structure.

The implementation of these far-reaching changes in the Organization during his first term of office, as well as their confidence in his political expertise and leadership, led the member states to offer their overwhelming support for him in this anniversary of 70 years of FAO's existence. In a historic vote, he was elected to a second term with 177 votes in favour and just one against.

This full support from the member countries was also an acknowledgement of Graziano da Silva's work and vision – a major paradigm shift from reducing hunger to ending hunger, the same shift that was adopted when we moved from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. ●



4. **2014, PHILIPPINES.**

José Graziano da Silva visiting Tacloban and surrounding areas four months after typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda).

5. **2012, DOLLOW, SOMALIA.**

Assisting a deworming exercise of a goat herd by the Juba River near the border with Ethiopia.

6. **2015, BINGUELA, CAMEROON.**

Graziano da Silva exchanges ideas with students attending the agriculture training centre of Binguéla, a township 32 km south west of Yaoundé, the capital. This center trains youth in agropastoral techniques, as well as opportunities for management and entrepreneurship in agribusiness.

7. **2015.** Graziano da Silva with his mother, his son and grandchildren in Brazil.

8. **2015.** The Director-General and his wife at a traditional bakery in Baku on an official visit to Azerbaijan.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)

At the beginning of this millennium, world leaders gathered at the United Nations to shape a broad vision of how to fight poverty in its many forms. This vision, which was translated into eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), remained the predominant development framework for the world over the last 15 years. At the end of the MDG period, the international community has reason to celebrate. Through concerted global, regional, national and local efforts, the MDGs have saved

millions of lives and improved living conditions for many more. The figures and analysis presented in this report show that, with specific interventions, sound strategies, adequate resources and political will, even the poorest countries can make drastic and unprecedented progress. The report also recognises the disparity in achievements and the shortcomings in many areas. Our work is not yet done and it must continue in the new era of development.

UNPRECEDENTED EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN **FAR-REACHING ACHIEVEMENTS**

GOAL 1:

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

GOAL 2:

Achieve universal primary education

GOAL 3:

Promote gender equality and empower women

GOAL 4:

Reduce mortality of children under five years of age

GOAL 5:

Improve maternal health

GOAL 6:

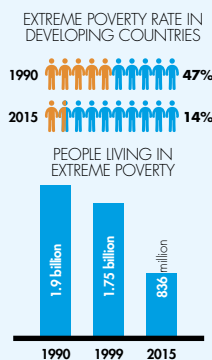
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

GOAL 7:

Ensure environmental sustainability

GOAL 8:

Develop a global partnership for development



Extreme poverty

has been significantly reduced. In 1990, almost half of the population in developing regions lived on less than US\$1.25 a day. This percentage has fallen to 14%

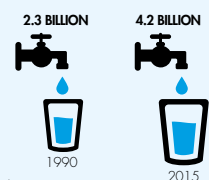
in 2015.

Globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty has halved, from 1.9 billion to 836 million. Most of the progress has been made since 2000.

The number of people in the **working middle class** who live on over 4 dollars per day has trebled. This group now makes up half of the workforce in developing regions.

The percentage of people in developing regions who are undernourished has almost halved, going from 23.3% in the 1990-1992 period to 12.9% in the 2014-2016 period.

SINCE 1990, 1.9 BILLION PEOPLE HAVE GAINED ACCESS TO MAINS-SUPPLIED DRINKING WATER



SINCE 1990, 98% OF SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED



Substances that deplete the ozone layer

have been virtually eliminated and the ozone layer is expected to recover by the middle of this century.

Protected land and sea areas

have increased in many regions. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the

protected landmass increased from 8.8% to 23.4% from 1990 to 2014.

In 2015, 91% of the global population uses improved water sources, compared to 76% in 1990.

Since 1990, of the 2.6 billion people who **gained access**

to improved drinking water sources,

1.9 billion did so with a mains water supply to their home. Over half the global population (58%) now enjoy this higher level of service.

Worldwide, 147 countries have reached the target for **access to drinking water,**

95 countries have reached the target for sanitation, and 77 countries have reached both. Globally, 2.1 billion people have gained **access to improved sanitation.** The percentage of people who defecate in the open has almost halved since 1990.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The MDGs have contributed to halving poverty, and the hunger target is within our reach. But some 800 million people remain hungry. And in the meantime, other challenges have emerged. Food security, nutrition, the transition to sustainable farming and the sustainable use of natural resources – water, farmland, soils, forests and oceans – are now among the world’s most urgent priorities.

In September 2015, the UN member states agreed on a new framework for global development, spanning the next 15 years. The new goals were proposed by a panel of experts after

THE SDGS WILL ALLOW US TO ACHIEVE BY 2030 A WORLD THAT IS SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE, LEAVING NO-ONE BEHIND

numerous meetings involving governmental institutions, UN agencies, representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations. These debates have been held in a spirit of cooperation, but reaching a consensus has not been easy. Establishing the number of goals and targets, deciding on resources and climate change (ahead of the Climate Change Conference held in Paris in December 2015) were the main topics of discussion. Given the sheer ambition of the goals, the Post-2015 Development Agenda could come to be a symbolic indicator of the changes that we have been going through in the world since the end of the twentieth century.

THESE ARE THE **NEW GOALS**

GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities

for all.

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

GOAL 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth,

full and productive employment and decent work for all.

GOAL 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

GOAL 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and

production patterns.

GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

GOAL 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

GOAL 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land

degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

GOAL 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

GOAL 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

3

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A GLOBAL FAO REGIONAL OFFICES





COVERAGE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES

- LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
- AFRICA
- EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
- ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
- NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (RNE)
CAIRO, EGYPT

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
SUBREGIONAL OFFICES
NORTH AFRICA
TUNIS, TUNISIA
MEMBER STATES OF THE GCC AND YEMEN
ABU DHABI, UAE

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (RAP)
BANGKOK, THAILAND

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SUBREGIONAL OFFICE
PACIFIC ISLANDS APIA, SAMOA
LIAISON OFFICE
JAPAN YOKOHAMA,

FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIONS

The Representations support governments in policymaking and developing programmes and projects to achieve food security and reduce hunger and malnutrition, as well as help them to strengthen the agricultural, fishing and forestry industries and to use their environmental and natural resources in a sustainable way.



A JOURNEY AROUND THE GLOBE

to discover concrete examples of the work that FAO carries out every day, adapting to the political, geographical and cultural diversity of the countries it serves.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Member countries: 46. Office in Bangkok, Thailand.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

- ① Strengthening food and nutritional security in the region
- ② Coping with the impact of climate change on food and agriculture
- ③ Fostering agricultural production and rural development
- ④ Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies



Land Sinoun, a TeleFood project beneficiary, showing a home garden to visitors.

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Heather Topou, a family farmer in the Cook Islands, produces fruit and vegetables for market. FAO support is given to improve the agricultural industry's ability to supply local food with a high nutritional value such as fruit and vegetables to domestic markets.



FAO has been present in Asia and the Pacific since 1948, when the Regional Office was first established. This vast region is home to around 4 billion inhabitants, 55 percent of the world's population. Here FAO has offices in 33 countries where, as in all FAO Representations around the world, work ranges from data analysis and the formulation of policies and standards, to very specific and tangible projects focusing on technical assistance, social protection and training.

Training in finance for small business development

The project, working in five provinces of the Mekong lowlands of Cambodia, is an example of an FAO training initiative in finance. Thousands of farmers in the region lack the basic skills needed to keep track of their expenses. This means that the institutions that grant micro loans consider small farmers to be a high-risk investment. FAO has set up a project, alongside other local and international partners, to offer the most disadvantaged rural population finance and skills' training focusing on small business development. This project is leading to a real change in many people's lives. Such is the case of Tep Sina, a 40-year-old farmer who, with the skills she has acquired, plans to open her village's first food shop in the near future; or Duch Seangdy, a mother of four who is expecting her initial investment of US\$ 50 to treble in four months.

Cook Islands: information for decision-making

While in Cambodia an outcome of FAO's work is reflected in the expressions of hope and thanks by producers like Sina and Duch, in the Cook Islands, a 240 km² paradise in the South Pacific, the ambitious goal is to ensure food security and the sustainable management of resources through work yielding less immediate results but no less important.

Making sure that political decisions meet people's real needs depends to a large extent on a country's ability to collect and analyse objective, relevant and up-to-date data that can be used as the basis for policymaking. Since the Cook Islands joined the Organization 30 years ago, FAO has worked with its government to create and analyse databases and then design policies and strategies for action.

An example of this is the country's participation in the regional initiative 'Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Islands'.

This FAO initiative provides a response to a situation common to most of the Pacific Islands: the data indicates that, firstly, their farmers' and fishers' exports have become less competitive, and secondly, they are becoming increasingly dependent on imported food. To address these two realities, FAO works closely with governments and the private sector to improve the agricultural industry's ability to supply local food

- ▶ with a high nutritional value like fruit and vegetables to domestic markets, including the growing tourism markets. The initiative also supports a shift towards off-season growing systems to supply these markets access to low-interest financial and technical services to improve farmers' competitiveness, and the coordination of fiscal and customs policies to create a favourable climate for the growth of the agricultural sector, and to improve nutrition.

From sugar and bananas to cassava

Several thousand miles away, in another island region, the Caribbean, FAO works alongside governments to address a similar situation. For decades, sugar and bananas have played an important role in economic growth, employment, revenue, food security and sustainable development. But exports of these crops have declined, and they no longer generate sufficient income to cover the cost of importing food. FAO works alongside local governments, the private sector and various regional and international organisations to promote alternatives such as cassava cultivation, small ruminant production, aquaculture and vegetable production. This is the goal of the 'FAO Regional Initiative for Agricultural and Food Value Chain Development', just one of many examples of FAO's activities in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean

This region is among those that have made the most progress in reducing hunger in recent years: it has already achieved the hunger target of the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) by reducing the proportion of undernourished people by half by 2015, and it is committed to eradicating hunger once and for all by 2025.

FAO plays a central role in this regional political commitment, supporting the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative that was launched in 2005 as a common pledge between all of the region's countries aimed at ending hunger within the present generation. FAO has also been instrumental in producing a pilot version of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication, undertaken by the main body for regional integration, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). This plan has become the most important embodiment of the political approach adopted by the region in its fight against hunger.

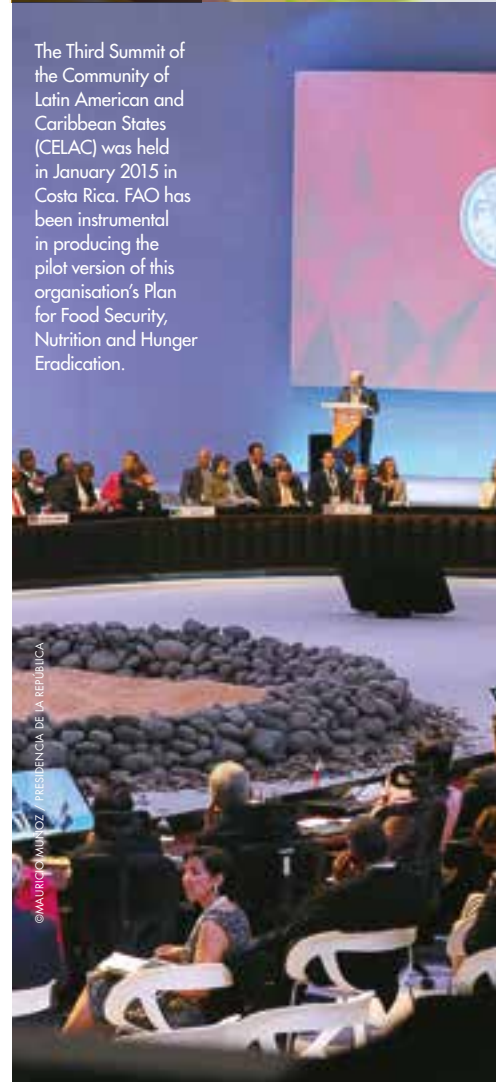
In addition to this work at the highest political level, FAO undertakes other much more practical activities such as the Sustainable Schools project in Brazil, which improves the quality of school food through nutritionally appropriate menus, refurbishes kitchens, builds canteens, installs washbasins, promotes the use of family farming products for school menus, invests in training in food and nutrition, and develops vegetable gardens at every participating school.

Better seeds for a better life

Also in Latin America, in the Andes, FAO's experts are beginning to see the results of a project called Andean Seeds, which after four years in operation, has increased family farmers' potato, maize, quinoa, bean and broad bean crop yields by 50 percent in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. FAO data indicates that 80 percent of agricultural exports from Latin



FAO supports the reform of school canteens like this one at the Claudio Barrera school in the community of Cañadas in the municipality of Belém, Costa Rica.



The Third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) was held in January 2015 in Costa Rica. FAO has been instrumental in producing the pilot version of this organisation's Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication.



Quinoa Seeds. After four years in operation, the Andean Seeds project has increased by up to 50 percent, crop yields of potatoes, corn, quinoa, broadbeans and other kinds of beans.



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Member countries: 33. Office in Santiago, Chile.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

- ❶ Food and nutrition security
- ❷ Indigenous peoples
- ❸ Climate change
- and environmental sustainability
- ❹ Food safety and animal and plant health

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- ▶ America and the Caribbean are from family farming. It is therefore particularly important to take measures to promote, provide access to and use of quality seeds for family farmers, as they produce most of the food consumed in the region.

The results of the Andean Seeds project show that agricultural productivity is directly linked to the quality of the seeds that are used, and that preserving, recovering and improving seeds has many other benefits. “For instance, we have managed to rescue forgotten varieties of quinoa. In addition to producing more and better crops, we are ensuring biodiversity”, explains Candy Condori, representative of a Peruvian seed producers’ organization.

Water, too scarce a commodity

Wherever it is present, FAO tries to respond to specific problems and difficulties. While in the Andes its objective is to improve the quality of seeds, in another region of the world, the Near East and North Africa, a key part of FAO’s work is to address the chronic shortage of water to which the area is naturally susceptible. In the last 40 years, the per capita availability of fresh water in the region has fallen by two-thirds, and it is likely to decline by half of this again by 2050. Agriculture, which currently uses over 85 percent of the available fresh water resources, will have to address this crisis. At FAO’s Regional Office in Cairo, a technical team is seeking to meet this challenge by offering support to countries in various ways under the ‘Near East and North Africa’s Water Scarcity Initiative’.

In Yemen, one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, the imbalance between

the country’s groundwater recovery capabilities and its use of groundwater have resulted in the Sana’a river basin being in serious danger of drying up. FAO and its partners in the project are working to reduce the excessive and unplanned use or extraction of water, adopting instead sustainable and intelligent climate-based agricultural systems. The ultimate goal is for institutions and water users’ associations to be able to control and manage the limited groundwater resources available to them in a sustainable manner.

Diseases that cross borders

Another example of the wide-ranging work that FAO carries out with countries is the Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition Initiative on the border between Syria and Lebanon. Transboundary animal diseases and the risks these pose to food are a serious threat to food security. In the case of the conflict in Syria, in addition to the terrible cost to the country’s population, neighbouring countries are also affected. In Lebanon, FAO supports the government in undertaking a general vaccination campaign for livestock that graze on the border between the two countries. Quality feed has also been supplied to increase livestock production and therefore the incomes of poor farmers. Field schools have been set up to enable farmers to share best practices in common interest groups, such as small-scale dairy cooperatives, which receive training in mastitis control for dairy cows, for instance. ▶



An alfalfa field using controlled irrigation from treated wastewater within the project for the Sana’a River Basin, Yemen.



A herder looks after his goats, received through an FAO project. To improve food security on the border between Lebanon and Syria, herders receive animals and quality feed to increase livestock production.



Drought tolerant plants grown in a controlled environment in order to be distributed to farmers in the project areas within the Sana'a basin.



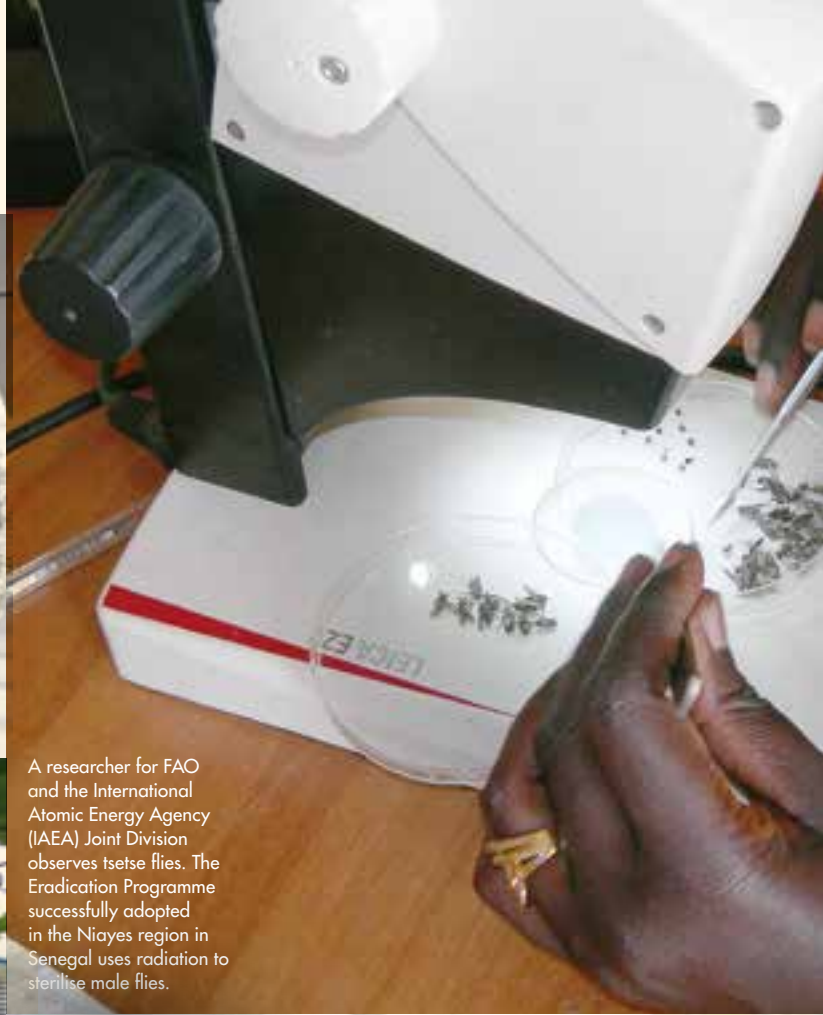
NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Member countries: 19. Office in Cairo, Egypt.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

- ① Food loss and waste
- ② Nutrition
- ③ Water scarcity
- ④ Building resilience to improve food security
- ⑤ Promoting equitable, productive and sustainable management and use of natural resources

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A researcher for FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Joint Division observes tsetse flies. The Eradication Programme successfully adopted in the Niayes region in Senegal uses radiation to sterilise male flies.



In June 2014 in Malabo, the Summit of the African Union adopted the Declaration of Malabo. One of the fundamental principles is the commitment to end hunger in Africa by 2025.



AFRICA

Member countries: 47. Office in Accra, Ghana.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ❶ African agriculture transformation | ❸ Forestry |
| ❷ The Great Green Wall | ❹ Fisheries |
| | ❺ Africa Solidarity Trust Fund |



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- ▶ Or the field schools for groups in the poultry industry which, once trained, receive 50 laying hens and pledge to each train two more vulnerable farmers, who in turn receive 15 chickens.

The fight against sleeping sickness

On the other side of Africa in the Niayes district of Senegal, it is inspiring to see how the area is now almost totally free of the tsetse fly – which used to decimate cattle – after several years of an eradication programme using nuclear techniques. Every year the tsetse fly kills over three million head of cattle in sub-Saharan Africa, causing US\$4 billion in annual losses. The tsetse fly transmits parasites that give livestock a disease known as nagana that causes weight loss. In some parts of Africa the fly also transmits sleeping sickness to humans, affecting the nervous system and causing various other symptoms, eventually leading to death. The Eradication Programme has had the support of FAO through its Joint Division with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), based in Vienna.

With far reaching results, Senegal has adopted an insect control technique that uses radiation to sterilise male flies, which when released to mate with the female insects over time reduces the insect population. The technique has already eradicated the fly population in the Niayes district and eliminated 98 percent of the insect population in another area. In 2016, it will be used in a third region. “Life has become safer for animals, and

also for farmers”, says Loulou Mendy, a local pig producer. “Now we can even sleep outdoors, which was unthinkable before because of the risk of tsetse fly bites”.

Ending hunger in Africa

We now travel from Senegal to Equatorial Guinea. In June 2014, the capital, Malabo hosted the African Union Summit that adopted the ‘Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods’. One of the fundamental principles of this declaration is a commitment to end hunger in Africa by 2025. FAO has always been a driver of this pledge, which it instigated in 2012 alongside the Commission of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency, and the Lula Institute. FAO also runs a regional initiative in response to requests for support from the governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger to improve their domestic planning, coordination and funding capabilities for food security and nutrition. FAO provides support to improve productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and increase investment in social protection programmes. It also backs the creation of an African Centre for Best Practices, Capacity Development and South-South Cooperation, as well as a group that provides an opportunity for top-level analysis, reflection and recommendations in the pursuit of eradicating hunger. ▶



Farmers scything near Caucasia in Georgia. FAO organises consultations on disease in small farms, and helps improve family farmers' access to loans.



Women pick maize in Jalal-Abad Oblast, Kyrgyzstan. FAO is providing special support for women and young people through rural skills' training programmes and field schools.



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Member countries: 53. Office located in Budapest, Hungary.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

- ① Food Security and Nutrition
- ② Animal, plant and food safety hazards
- ③ Management of natural resources
- ④ Policies for smallholder farming
- ⑤ Research and innovation
- ⑥ Regional trade integration





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► Understanding the rules of international trade

Our journey ends in Europe and Central Asia, the largest region in terms of the number of FAO member states that fall within it. FAO has had an official regional office here since 1961, first in Geneva and, since 2007, in Budapest.

In this region, FAO work on the ground focuses on supporting low- and middle-income countries, where agricultural systems are still significantly affected by the process of political and economic transition. This support takes the form of activities like those coordinated under the 'Agrifood Trade and Regional Integration Initiative', which seeks to strengthen countries' ability to meet the challenges of a globalised world as it affects international trade. The region's countries play an increasingly important role as suppliers of basic agricultural products in the international markets, and they need to understand and prepare themselves to compete in a changing scenario.

FAO offers education and training to countries to formulate and adopt trade agreements, harmonise national policies with international regulations like those of the World Trade Organization (WTO), among others, and increase the profits from their commercial activities. All of this is done by working with governments and other stakeholders.

Coming out of rural poverty

On a less regulatory level, closer to the people who work with the land and its resources, FAO contributes to combating the

food insecurity of small-scale farmers and family farms. Small-scale agriculture currently offers very low yields, and this has made a significant percentage of the rural population poor and vulnerable. 'The Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms Initiative' helps these small farmers increase their productivity and therefore their incomes, intensifying their production in a sustainable way, improving their organization and access to adequate services, and integrating them into agri-food value chains. As part of this initiative, FAO supports aquaculture and fishing in Armenia and Tajikistan to encourage alternative uses of the available water. In Georgia, FAO organises expert consultations on disease, pest and weed control on small farms, and helps to improve family farms' access to loans. In Kyrgyzstan, it is providing special support for women and young people with rural skills training programmes and field schools.

Where knowledge is turned into action

The Cook Islands, the Andes, Yemen, Senegal and Kyrgyzstan provide just a few examples of the Organization's work, which takes place in over 130 countries through its regional, subregional, country, information and liaison offices, or the more recent liaison and partnership offices. All of these decentralised offices, as they are known within FAO, strive every day to bring their experience and know-how to the countries where they are based. This will always be the ultimate goal of FAO around the world: to go wherever it is most needed.

4

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THE 10 GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS OF FAO



ENTS

THE ERADICATION OF RINDERPEST

In 2011, the world was declared free of rinderpest. The disease, which caused huge damage for centuries, was eradicated thanks to a programme coordinated by FAO. Only once before had humans been able to eliminate a disease from the face of the earth, and that was when smallpox was eradicated in 1980.

In northern Pakistan, tens of thousands of head of cattle died in 1994. Nobody knew why. There had been no trace of rinderpest there in decades when suddenly the epidemic spread after some buffalo were brought to the area in order to meet the increasing demand for meat. The local population expressed their anger, due in a large part to feeling abandoned by the veterinary services which had forgotten about the disease. When Paul Rossiter and other FAO technicians arrived on the spot, they were jeered at and even pelted with stones, in spite of the fact that they were carrying vaccines to fight the disease.

“That’s the effect rinderpest has on people”, says Rossiter. As a result of the disease people’s livelihoods were being threatened, the only option left to people was to migrate to the cities to find work in order to continue to support their families. In stark contrast, in Karachi where a vaccination campaign had been a success, farmers were highly appreciative and took Rossiter and his colleagues to dinner.

THE HISTORY OF A PEST

Although not affecting human beings directly, rinderpest had a mortality rate in animals that could reach 100 percent. It killed millions of cows, buffalo ►





ISINYA (KENYA)

A Masai shepherd from a village 50 km south of Nairobi watching over his livestock now free from the century-old threat of rinderpest.

- ▶ and their wild relatives, leading to significant economic losses and famine in various parts of the world.

Introduced into Europe from Asia by invading armies, rinderpest made its appearance during the Roman Empire in the fourth century AD and repeatedly over the following centuries, creating political instability and crippling agricultural production. In the late nineteenth century it reached sub-Saharan Africa and its effects were devastating; it decimated cattle and many of the region's wild animals. Famine spread.

The disease left its mark on much of the world. The outbreaks extended from Mauritania to the Philippines, and from Sweden to southern Africa. Outbreaks were recorded in countries as far apart as Brazil and Australia in the 1920s. Faced with this situation, the international community took action, and in 1924 the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) was created. After the Second World War, the United Nations took the lead in coordinating major campaigns against the disease as countries could not stop the spread of the disease on their own. At this time, FAO made its first efforts to meet with animal health authorities all over the world to coordinate these programmes. This long-standing coordination was to prove essential to the final result.

FAO Head of Veterinary Services, Juan Lubroth, believes that the impact of rinderpest was “so strong”

IN AFRICA ALONE, FAO ESTIMATES THAT THE COST OF ERADICATING RINDERPEST WAS WORTH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

that the communities themselves were demanding that something be done. Livestock was so important to the welfare of a community that vaccination campaigns for children would only be effective if their animals were also vaccinated against rinderpest.

The researchers also saw that there was a need to develop an effective, quality-assured vaccine for the disease, as only a single strain was spreading to various parts of the world.

AN UNEXPECTED REAPPEARANCE

Scientific research, together with international interest in eradicating rinderpest, contributed to the vaccine reaching a large number of communities. In the ▶

TIMELINE

1948. Vets in 22 countries and territories take part in the first seminar organised by FAO on rinderpest vaccines.

1957. Research led by the scientist Walter Plowright develops an inexpensive, simple and stable vaccine.

1962. Vaccination campaign through a project backed by the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union).

1980-1982. After some countries stopped

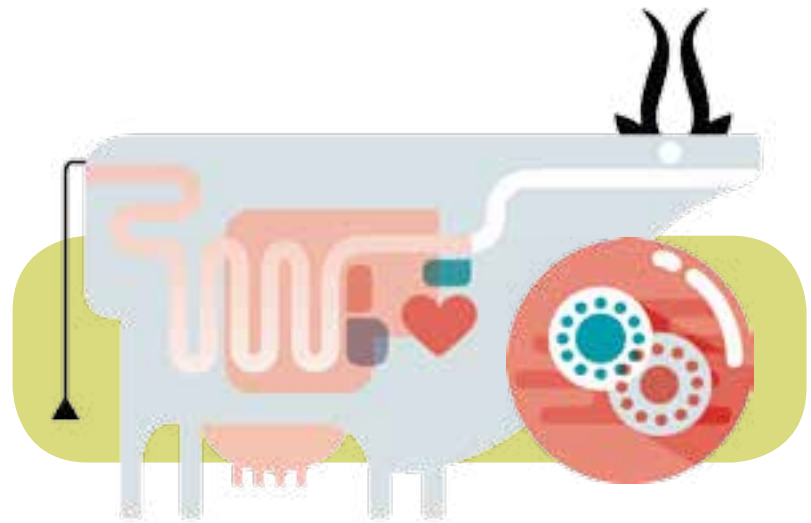
cooperating with the programmes, an outbreak in Africa killed millions of animals.

1987. The pan-African campaign against rinderpest began operations in 34 countries.

1994. FAO launched the first global programme for the eradication of rinderpest to stamp out the disease by 2010.

2001. The world's last case of rinderpest was confirmed in Kenya.

2011. Global Freedom from Rinderpest was announced.



RINDERPEST is a contagious viral disease that primarily affects cattle and buffalo. The agent is a virus of the genus *Morbillivirus*, of the *Paramyxoviridae* family. There are many species of wild and domestic cloven-hoofed animals, including sheep and goats, which display milder symptoms when affected but in susceptible herds of cattle or buffalo, which are the most commonly affected species, the mortality rate can reach 100 percent.



1



2

SRI LANKA

- 1 and 3** A vet holds a blood sample taken from a cow to check that the rinderpest virus has not returned.
- 2** A young female water buffalo feeds in her enclosure at the National Livestock Development Centre.
- 4** A veterinary technician checks the livestock blood samples in a laboratory to ensure they are free of the rinderpest virus.
- 5** A GPS device used to track animals that have been tested for rinderpest.

3



4

5

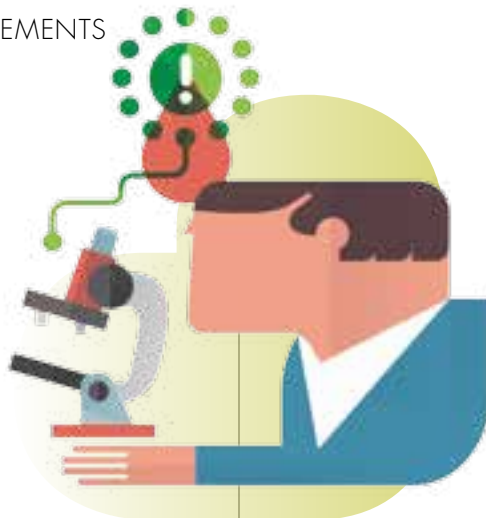


- ▶ 1960s, Walter Plowright, with colleagues in Kenya, developed a vaccine that was stable, inexpensive and easy to propagate. It was verified through a quality control system as part of his work at the Muguga laboratory, outside Nairobi. According to FAO expert, Juan Lubroth, the British – who controlled colonial Kenya at the time – had a strong interest in fighting the disease because it had afflicted that country and other dominions such as India and Egypt.

On the African continent, an ambitious vaccination campaign in the 1960s did not prevent a large number of countries from suffering the effects of the disease years later. Many governments had lowered their guard and called off the programmes. As rinderpest, had not been fully eradicated, it returned with a vengeance: millions of animals died in the early 1980s in epidemics in Africa, the Near East and Asia. In Nigeria alone, losses were calculated at around US\$2 billion.

To recover lost ground, it was essential to rebuild strong national and international political and financial commitment, to understand the local epidemiology of the disease, to have better tools for diagnosis and vaccination, to assess the risks to wild animals, transport and markets. Ultimately, a heat-stable vaccine was developed in the United States of America, that

was more resistant to the ambient temperatures of the tropics and the desert, and thus more effective in Africa, the Near East and Central Asia.



THE HUNT FOR THE VIRUS

In 1994, FAO launched the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme (GREP) with the aim of wiping out the disease by 2010. With the support of the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the OIE, GREP was envisaged as a mechanism for international coordination in order to promote and verify the elimination of the disease with technical support, and in a systematic and complete manner. The network of laboratories and epidemiology units, as well as FAO Reference Centres and individual experts, joined the campaigns in the field in search of the virus. Immediate response plans for emergencies and national monitoring programmes were key.

Paul Rossiter remembers it as an adventure. On more than one occasion he had to travel to remote places and camp overnight on the roadside after rivers had flooded and his vehicle had become stuck in the mud. “Although we always hoped that we wouldn’t find animals with rinderpest, searching for them using the prescribed surveillance techniques required time in the field and was sometimes challenging. And when we



MERU (KENYA)

Former Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and officials at the inauguration of a statue of a buffalo at the Meru National Park, commemorating the eradication of rinderpest in 2011 at the place where the last known outbreak had been recorded in local buffalo in 2001.

THE FINAL TRACE, IN THE SOMALI ECOSYSTEM

If there was one place that scientists hypothesized could be the final source of rinderpest, it was the Somali pastoral ecosystem that spans Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. In September 2001, the presence of the virus was confirmed there for the last time on Earth, in buffaloes in Meru National Park, Kenya.

“The challenge was also the existence of the virus in wild animals”, recalls Bouna Diop, regional director of the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases Operations for Eastern and the Horn of Africa. In these countries, where animals travel across borders unchecked, the virus moved through areas where veterinary systems were less concentrated. Following the last outbreak and in the final stages of eradication, it then had to be proven that the disease was no longer present. Diop explains that “it couldn’t be done from the office”. Veterinarians and other technical staff had to go out into the field to take blood samples from targeted animals and perform appropriate laboratory tests. It was a project at regional level that, he explains, required close coordination and communication between FAO and its other partners.

ROME

Plaque from the Commemorative Ceremony for the Declaration of Global Freedom from Rinderpest in 2011, located at the main entrance to the FAO building in Rome.



© ALESSANDRA BENEDETTI

found them we had to act quickly”, he says. He never knew what he and colleagues would find, for example in a remote village in Yemen he was asked to help people who were seriously ill with Rift Valley fever, even though he was actually there to look for rinderpest.

Convincing people that the priority was to eradicate rinderpest when its effects were no longer so visible, and to maintain these efforts, were difficult tasks at the time, particularly after 2001, when the final case was recorded in Kenya. Considerable efforts were thus made over the following decade, since it had to be shown that the disease had disappeared among animals, both domestic and wild. “It was very expensive”, says Lubroth, who remembers how the energy, political commitment and funds had to be found, and countries had to be persuaded to keep up their efforts, which were on the cusp of achieving a historical landmark: the eradication of rinderpest.

Finally, on 28 June 2011, during the 37th FAO conference, the long-awaited announcement was made: the world was free of rinderpest. Just once before, in 1980, had human beings been able to eradicate a disease: smallpox. Rinderpest became the first animal disease to be eradicated, paving the way for others to be tackled. Lubroth believes that one of the causes of famine in the world was wiped from the face of the earth, and the lesson learned was that no country can fight such transboundary threats alone. “A sense of

THE OUTBREAKS EXTENDED FROM MAURITANIA TO THE PHILIPPINES, AND FROM SWEDEN TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.

unity and trust with our neighbours is very important with these high-impact diseases”, he notes. During that entire period, countries worked alongside their neighbours, in the networks of laboratories and epidemiology units, and the vets and technicians were able to share information and meet regularly to help each other.

Now that the disease has been eradicated, the task of ensuring that it never returns involves reducing the number of laboratories that have the virus in storage, destroying it or keeping it in a safe place, to remove any danger that it might escape. In 2011 there were 40 laboratories in 32 countries that stored the virus, but this figure is likely to decrease further in the coming years. ●

THE TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Whose seed is it? Does it belong to the country where it was collected, the one that keeps it, or is it considered as world heritage?

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture regulates the preservation, the sustainable use, access and distribution of the benefits obtained from all components of plant biodiversity in food and agriculture.





PREVIOUS PAGE

KABUL (AFGHANISTAN)

A sample of seeds produced by the national seed laboratory. Their preservation is vital to maintain the genetic diversity of plants

ON THIS PAGE

BUJUMBURA (BURUNDI)

A private laboratory for in vitro multiplication of banana, potato, yam and cassava used by FAO.

Genetic diversity

can be a lifesaver when it comes to reducing hunger. This was the case during the European famine in the first half of the nineteenth century, when almost two million people died in Ireland due to the destruction of potato plantations by a fungus. The genes that resisted the disease were found in Latin America, where the potato originated.

This natural fortress has been built over the course of 10 000 years of agriculture. However, many plant species have been lost along the way. According to former FAO expert, Professor José Esquinas-Alcázar, who first pushed for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, “thousands of varieties of heterogeneous crops have been replaced by a handful of uniform

and homogeneous commercial varieties”. This is a real problem when farmers and scientists need to adapt crops to the effects of changes in climate or diseases, and they have nothing to select from.

In an attempt to tackle this problem, by the early 1970s important technical expertise had been acquired. All that remained to do, and what seemed the simplest thing but proved to be the most complex was to apply this technical knowledge. In 1974, the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (now Bioversity International) was established, a programme with additional funds from FAO member states that was responsible for the task of collecting varieties and boosting gene banks. These banks are places where the genetic diversity of one or more crops and their related wild species are preserved and where the seeds are kept at low temperatures. ▶

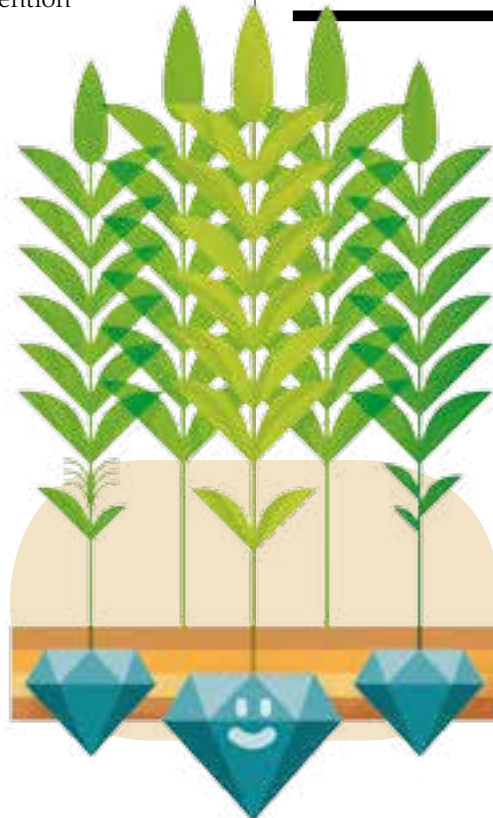
► SEEDS: WORLD HERITAGE OR A COMMODITY?

The way the seeds and the various kinds of germplasm were collected and conserved began to create tensions, according to Esquinas, since many of them they were being kept in places that not every country in the world could access. Esquinas recalls the intervention by Spain at the 1979 FAO Conference, which held the Chair that year and, for the first time had demanded an international agreement and establishment of a gene bank. The proposal, applauded by many countries including India, did not result in a draft resolution, impeded as it was by different political pressures.

The developing countries pointed accusatory fingers at the more developed nations. They considered it unfair that some countries and multinationals should exploit the diversity of genetic resources, which were largely found in tropical and subtropical regions, while denying the benefits to those same developing countries. During the 1981 FAO Conference, the developing countries expressed their unease with questions, such as: who does the material deposited in the banks legally belong to, the country where it was collected, the one that stores it, or is it simply world heritage?

The developing countries were dissatisfied with the ownership of the material falling to the countries that stored it, regardless of its origin. The reality was that this material, collected using international funds, was used and studied in the countries with greater technical and economic capabilities. The result was that all the other countries then had to pay intellectual property rights for many of the new varieties recorded.

THE TREATY RECOGNISES THE RIGHTS OF THE FARMER.



Despite some opposition, in 1983 the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was approved, a non-binding document about which eight countries initially expressed reservations. That year, the FAO conference saw heated debates taking place on the issue. The negotiators engaged in a dispute over the creation of a committee that would oversee the undertaking, which was approved in a historic vote, full of surprises.

ENDLESS NEGOTIATIONS

The following years were marked by continued negotiations. The goal was for the eight countries with reservations to change their position. During that period many formal as well as informal meetings took place to give the representatives an opportunity to set aside their differences. The acceptance of plant breeders' rights (a soft version of intellectual property for producers of commercial varieties) was compensated by the recognition of farmers' rights (for being the developers and the custodians of biodiversity placed at the disposal of the breeders). In addition to making the new interpretation of world heritage compatible with the sovereignty of states, the Global System for Plant Genetic Resources was created. A multilateral system was also established which, according to the text, had to be "efficient, effective, and transparent, both to facilitate access to plant genetic resources for food and



CUSCO, (PERU)

Project Potato Park, financed by
FAO through the profits-sharing
Fund of the Treaty



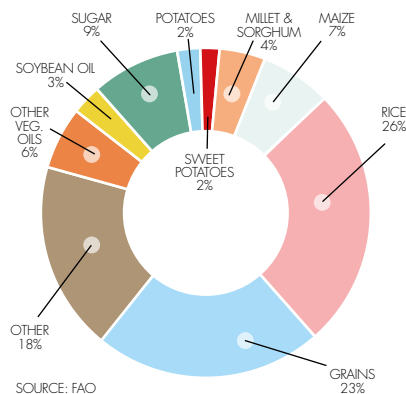
agriculture, and to share, in a fair and equitable way, the benefits arising from the use of these resources, on a complementary and mutually reinforcing basis”.

The process of developing a fair and equitable system culminated in agreement on the Treaty some two decades later. Meanwhile, the issue of biodiversity was addressed in two fora outside FAO: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The same controversies re-emerged, and not solely in relation to cultivated plants but also in relation to wild species.

Countries began to have concerns about the potential effects of including all biodiversity in a new agreement. “The same treatment was given to elephants and wheat. If it was adopted in this form, each country would have to negotiate bilateral agreements with any country from which varieties are obtained, which would have been a disaster for the agricultural sector”, Esquinas states. Thus, the formula chosen in the end was the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity adopted in 1992, along with

three resolutions, the third of which recommended that FAO renegotiate the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and turn it into a multilateral binding instrument harmonised with the Convention. After a long tug of war, the Treaty came into existence in 2001. ▶

MAJOR CROPS FOR THE SUPPLY OF DIETARY ENERGY



It is estimated that just 30 crops provide 95 percent of people’s dietary energy needs, and just four of them – rice, wheat, maize and potatoes – supply over 60 percent. More than 7 000 plant species have been cultivated or harvested for food.

▶ A STANDARD RATIFIED BY 135 COUNTRIES

The Treaty, considered the first operational global mechanism to protect and share these seeds and other genetic material equitably, “has led to a universal awareness of the value of agricultural biodiversity”, says Esquinas, 14 years after the landmark treaty.

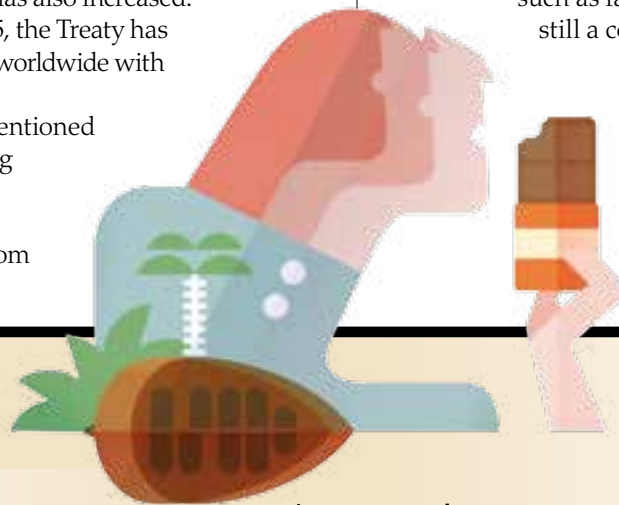
Ratified by 135 countries, the Treaty promotes the conservation, exploration, collection, characterisation, evaluation and documentation of these resources within their habitat and elsewhere, as well as their sustainable use and the fair distribution of their benefits. The signatory states undertook to adopt the Treaty and cooperate at the international level.

The multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing is applied to a list of 64 crops and species determined according to their importance for food security and the interdependence of countries. Countries no longer have to negotiate thousands of bilateral agreements in these cases. By simplifying procedures, seed sharing has also increased. From the period 2007-2015, the Treaty has provided 35 000 transfers worldwide with over 2.5 million samples.

Another advantage mentioned by Esquinas is the funding of projects in developing countries aiming to implement the Treaty. From

AROUND 75% OF GENETIC DIVERSITY HAS BEEN LOST IN FAVOUR OF GENETICALLY UNIFORM HIGH-PERFORMANCE VARIETIES.

2010 to 2015, we have given over US\$20 million to help more than 50 000 farmers in 65 countries, explains the current Secretary of the Treaty, Dr Shakeel Bhatti. Esquinas admits that there is still progress to be made to reach similar agreements that regulate other agricultural genetic resources such as farm animals. Although there is still a conflict of interests between those who prioritise intellectual property and those who defend the rights of farmers, Esquinas believes that the two standpoints are reconcilable. The treaty currently in force reflects this.



INTERDEPENDENCE IN COCOA GENETIC RESOURCES

Countries are fundamentally interdependent when it comes to plant genetic resources. In the case of cocoa, the Treaty establishes ongoing access to this resource and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits deriving from its use, not just among centres of sale and consumption, located primarily in developed countries of the northern hemisphere but also in their places of origin.

Regions with significant genetic diversity: Amazon basin and Central America.

Major ex-situ collections (outside their natural habitat): Brazil, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Major producing countries: Brazil, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia and Nigeria.

Major consuming countries: France, Germany, Japan, Russia and the USA.

Main exporting countries: Belgium, Germany,

Malaysia, the Netherlands and the USA.

Major cultivation and research activities: Brazil, Costa Rica, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, and Trinidad and Tobago.



SVALBARD (NORWAY).

TOP: Entrance in the snow to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which contains over 860 000 samples from almost every country in the world. **BOTTOM, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Shelves with boxes where the seeds are kept inside Svalbard; seed deposit from India in Svalbard. Underground tunnel inside the seed vault.



THE BIGGEST SEED BANK IN THE WORLD, IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN.

A door in the middle of the snow. This is all you can see in this glacial landscape near the North Pole. On the Svalbard archipelago it seems unthinkable that under the ice lies hidden what could be considered the origin of all plants. But through the door, there is a huge bunker carved

into the mountain. Welcome to the world's biggest seed bank.

This space where the cold never leaves has existed since 2008. Located on Norwegian soil, the site was selected for its geological and political stability, and for its good transport links. It has the capacity to house 3 million different crop varieties. For the time being, it contains over 860 000 samples of 4 000 crops from almost every country in the world. From staple foods like maize and rice, to others like beans and lettuce, all of this genetic material is safe in this location regardless of how endangered it may be in its place of origin. "It's very important that we have

a backup in a different location to safeguard the material for the future", says former seed bank coordinator, Roland von Bothmer.

Before they arrive on Svalbard, the seeds must make a long journey. A country or seed bank must first sign an agreement with Norway to deposit its plant genetic resources. The Norwegian bank opens its doors to new seeds three times a year. The banks in other countries (there are a total of 1 750 in the world) indicate in advance what they are going to send. First the material arrives in Oslo and then it is transported to the islands. The boxes are scanned

there to confirm their contents and once inside the chamber they are registered, labelled and stored. The accompanying information is added to a public-access database and from then – on only the countries that sent the seeds may recover them, since they remain that country's property.

For von Bothmer, one "heroic" contribution was that made by the gene bank's employees to the Aleppo area (Syria). Despite the war, they managed to extract around 90 percent of the material stored there and send it to Svalbard. "We're ready to give it back as soon as they claim it", he adds.

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

After more than half a century in existence, the Codex Alimentarius has contributed to protecting consumer health and ensuring fair practices in the global food trade. This successful joint venture between FAO and WHO has been working to remove barriers from world food trade while ensuring that food is safe.

Consumer protection has existed since ancient times. The Assyrians determined weights and measurements for cereals, the Egyptians used scrolls as labels for certain foods, the Greeks inspected beer and wine to ensure it was in good condition, and the Romans had a State system to prevent fraud and root out poor-quality products. Today we address other topics – ranging from food additives and pesticide residues, to preventing chemical and microbiological contamination and assessing the safety of modern, at times controversial, practices such as genetically modifying foods or using hormones in animal food production.

However, the overall goals of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade remain the same. This has been the primary mission of the Codex Alimentarius (the 'Food code') since 1963.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission, jointly created by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), is the most important international body in the field of food standards. The Secretary of this body, Mr. Tom Heilandt, points out that "the idea of harmonizing standards is very old, but doing it globally began with the Codex Alimentarius". Following World War II, the international community became increasingly interested in the international food trade, but conflicting or missing standards were obstacles to trade. Food safety was difficult to ensure without international reference standards. These issues made it clear there was a need to develop internationally harmonized standards to address both food safety and fair trade practices – needs met by the establishment of the Codex Alimentarius.

Science has played a fundamental role in this process, with new technology and discoveries. All Codex food safety work is based on the scientific



AGADIR (MOROCCO)

Bottles of olive oil are stacked in a supermarket. The Codex Alimentarius provides standards to ensure food safety at all stages of the chain, including distribution.

© FAO/ALESSANDRA BENEDETTI

advice provided by independent expert bodies under the auspices of FAO and WHO. In fact, the need to control additives, the use of which was growing in the 1950s' food industry, provided the impetus for the Conference that led to the formation of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), which has served as a model for other such expert bodies.

Today consumers can and should expect to be fully informed about the safety of their food supply. In many countries, consumers are well organized and put pressure on their governments. International non-governmental organizations also participate in the work of Codex.

A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD - HARMONIZED STANDARDS

The Codex Alimentarius is currently made up of over 300 texts, including general standards that apply to

all foods and more specific standards that apply to individual foods, as well as thousands of numerical limits for additives, contaminants, pesticide residues and veterinary drugs.

Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice regulate everything that can have an impact on the safety or quality of our food, whether it is a simple fruit or a complex processed food. Codex standards are global public goods and as such freely available for all on the Codex website together with information about how they are developed.

When the Commission adopts a standard, it recommends that governments apply that standard – only when applied by a government does a standard become mandatory. “Some countries have limited food laws or resources to develop such laws; they adopt what we issue directly”, says Heilandt. In regions and countries like those of the European Union or the United States of America, the

► situation is different: their broad legislation may or may not coincide with the standards of the Codex Alimentarius. “Codex food safety standards are reference standards in the WTO SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) agreement and if countries want to use stricter standards than Codex’s, they have to justify it scientifically”, Heilandt adds, citing as examples variations in diet or exposure to certain residues.

In developing its standards, Codex follows the risk analysis paradigm comprising three components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. Risk assessment is the science that determines when problems may arise – evaluating the effects a given substance would have at different concentrations and assessing the extent of such exposure from food. Risk management involves decision-making in terms of what to do in response to the assessed risk – for example, setting a maximum limit, or providing guidance to producers on how to minimize contamination. Risk communication is the need for all parties, including consumers, to be informed and to discuss the issues fully and openly.

While risk assessment is purely scientific, when it comes to risk management, many other factors are taken into consideration, such as the availability and the cost of food. However, the Commission’s goal remains to strike a balance between protecting human health and facilitating trade.

Risk communication to consumers should be taken very seriously, urges Heilandt, especially in cases where food safety hazards may have resulted in illness or death. The information provided should be open and correct; it should include what is known about the risk and what is not known, as well as what is being done to resolve it. Authorities may be tempted to conceal information or disclose it incorrectly in order to prevent panic among the population, but such an approach may backfire in



THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS IS A COLLECTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SAFE, GOOD FOOD FOR EVERYONE.

today’s information society: “Sometimes it’s better to admit that you don’t know something, rather than to say something inaccurate and then have to correct it, and then try to regain the trust of consumers, which is difficult”, observes the Codex Secretary.

A RESPONSIBILITY SHARED BY ALL

The globalization of trade has put a wide variety of foods from all over the world on our plates. But whether imported or locally produced, foods must be in an appropriate condition for human consumption. According to Heilandt, the Codex Alimentarius has become a global reference for exchange between countries and has also in many cases led to improvements in domestic production.

The Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission believes that Codex standards are “very comprehensive in addressing the main food safety issues”. He cites as a particular success, the HACCP system (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points system), which serves to ensure hygiene at all stages of a food production process. This approach was originally developed by NASA to keep astronauts’ foods safe but was quickly adopted by governments and globally distributed through Codex.

The Secretary stresses that food safety is very much the responsibility of all parties, from producer to consumer. He warns that even if the food arrives safely in the consumer’s kitchen one mistake could “destroy all the efforts that went before”, so he



1 2013, Rome. FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, and the Director-General of WHO, Margaret Chan, addressing the Codex Alimentarius Commission at FAO headquarters.



2 Singapore. Laboratory sample of street food to prevent pathogens in food.

©FAO / ALESSANDRA BENEDETTI / ROBERTO FAUJATI / GIULIO NAPOLITANO

calls for better food safety education in schools. “Many crises arise not because of something that happened along the production chain, but in the hands of the final consumer who sometimes lack knowledge about what to do”, he explains. When it comes down to it, viruses and bacteria are always laying in wait, and they can cause anything from an uncomfortable bout of diarrhoea to death.

A CODEX UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW

Codex is trying to be proactive but often it is food safety incidents that lead to an extensive study of a whole area. In the 1990s, for instance, consumer concern due to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as “mad cow disease”, led Codex to study the issue of the safety of feed for animals intended for food production.

Emerging challenges, in Heilandt’s view, include the resistance of certain microbes to antibiotics in use in humans and animals alike. Bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant and certain infections no longer have an appropriate treatment. Biotechnology continues to evolve, and so will discussions on the issue in Codex when necessary. Nanotechnology is already applied to foods and may give rise to challenges to be addressed by Codex. New additives,

pesticides and veterinary drugs are appearing on the market continuously and previously unknown contaminants are being discovered. As methods of analysis improve, substances can be detected at ever-lower levels. All of this requires ongoing work in reviewing Codex standards with a view to ensuring the best possible protection for consumers without unnecessarily restricting trade.

Another area of activity is nutrition. Obesity and non-communicable diseases related to food are a global problem. Governments are taking measures to assist consumers in eating a healthy diet. To succeed, consumers must be informed about what their foods contain. Codex has developed extensive guidance for food labelling – and nutrition labels in particular.

Food labels are often difficult to read. There are initiatives under way to develop applications that will allow consumers to scan a food barcode for immediate comparison with their personal consumer profile to determine if the food contains any substances to which a person may be allergic, for example gluten. A successful pilot was carried out by a Spanish hospital to help children with multiple food allergies.

A FORUM FOR OPEN DISCUSSION

Over 160 NGOs from a wide range of backgrounds are accredited to the Codex Alimentarius to give input in their areas of expertise. Codex also works with the private sector aimed at improving food safety, such as the Global Food Safety Initiative.

There are many examples of how this happens every day around the world. When the fishermen of Lake Victoria in Uganda had to stop fishing the lake because of poor hygiene conditions, the strict implementation of Codex standards helped them to continue their trading safely and opened up new export markets. In India, small organic family farm businesses are adapting their procedures to align with Codex standards which in turn boosts their profits.

They are all achieving safer production, while improving their market competitiveness. These are essential steps towards a better balance in the global food supply. Countries are not left to fend for themselves with the sometimes-complex standards: FAO and WHO have extensive capacity-building programmes assisting countries to improve their food safety systems.



**LEMPIRA SUR,
SAN JUAN
GUARITA
(HONDURAS)**

Pupils line
up to eat at
the Francisco
Navarro School.



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
(GRENADA)**

Ken Campbell,
beneficiary of
an FAO project
irrigates seeds in
his nursery.

THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The political mobilisation of Latin American countries to end undernutrition recognizing the human right to be free from hunger has translated into model initiatives like the Zero Hunger project in Brazil, or the recently launched Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States).

As the Brazilian intellectual Josué de Castro said, “war and hunger do not obey any natural law, they are human creations”. In recent times Latin America has set to work, showing a political will to fight against the “human creation” that is hunger. According to the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015 report, Latin America is the first region in the world to halve the number of people who were suffering from hunger in 1990, a target of the first of the UN Millennium Development Goals for 2015. Twenty-five years ago, 14.7 percent of the Latin American and Caribbean population suffered hunger, now the estimate for the 2014-2016 two-year period has fallen to 5.5 percent. So, what next?

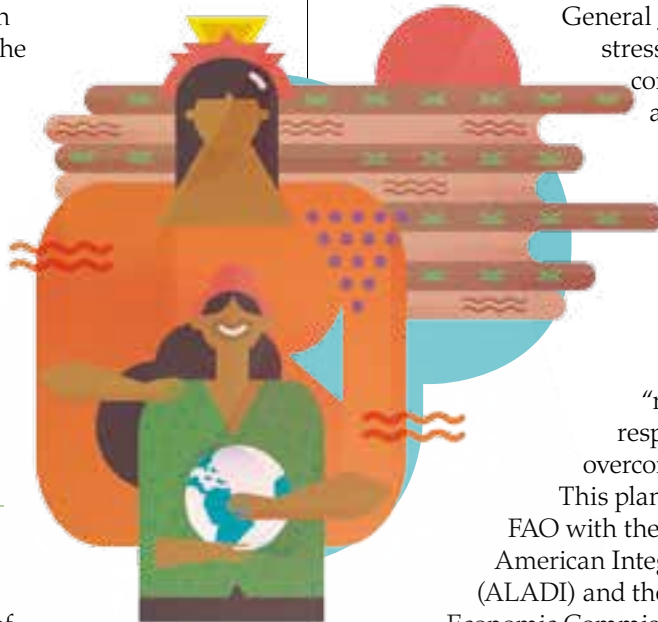
GOAL: TO ERADICATE HUNGER

The countries of the region have set themselves the goal of eradicating hunger and reducing poverty. This more ambitious goal was agreed by all the countries of the region through the Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative in 2005 and during the 3rd Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

(CELAC). Held in January 2015 in Costa Rica, all the presidents and heads of State of the region reinforced this political commitment giving their support to the organization’s intergovernmental Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025.

At the CELAC summit, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva stressed the need for political commitment, solidarity and tools that will enable specific actions and real results. Within this framework for action, he added that South-South Cooperation is the main instrument they should use, ensuring “regional perspective and responsibility in efforts to overcome hunger”.

This plan was developed by FAO with the backing of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It seeks to improve the quality of life throughout the region by eradicating poverty, especially extreme poverty, and guaranteeing food and nutrition security, with gender mainstreaming and a particular focus on the most vulnerable sectors of society. ▶





COSTA RICA. FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva presents the Plan for the Eradication of Hunger 2025 at the CELAC Summit.



CHILE. The CELAC Plan for Food Security.

- The Plan for Food Security is based on four pillars aimed at ensuring access to food and its availability, use and stability. First of all, countries pledge to coordinate food security strategies through national and regional public policies. Against this background, they will strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks to facilitate trade and supply programmes, as well as avoid food loss and wastage. Another pillar is to ensure timely and sustainable access to safe, adequate, sufficient and nutritious food for everyone. To do so, the plan supports family farming and income redistribution programmes

THE COMMITMENT OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

In July 2013, African heads of State and government gathered in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and signed a declaration to end hunger on the continent by 2025. Representatives from international organizations and civil society, the private sector, farmers, cooperatives, young people, academics and other partners attended

the event. The declaration called for a set of policies to promote sustainable agricultural development, social protection and funding for the poor, and it underlined the importance of non-state stakeholders in the mission to ensure food security.

It also reaffirmed the African countries' resolve to push ahead with the implementation of the 2003 Maputo

Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

At the gathering in Ethiopia, African leaders also strengthened their commitment to eradicating hunger in each of their countries through measures like public investment in agriculture. The participants

recognised Africa's potential for agricultural development, the growth of its young population and the large supply of land, water and other natural resources. They pledged to follow a roadmap using primarily their own resources and technical support, while calling for stronger alliances between partners for development.

on condition that children are for example, kept in school. The third pillar promotes nutritional wellbeing for all vulnerable groups, with an emphasis on school feeding programmes, their connection to family farm producers through public procurement, and the promotion of healthy eating habits. Finally, the plan aims to ensure stable production and a rapid response to social and natural disasters, the management of food stocks and of public supplies for emergencies.

A political approach to the fight against hunger was used to establish the lines of action. This has been endorsed in several multilateral fora and has led to the promotion of a common agenda on food and nutrition security. The basis of this approach is that hunger can be eradicated by mobilizing the different actors who are part of the State around a common objective and strengthening and coordinating policies that countries are already implementing, while recognising the special characteristics of each. It coincides with the 'twin-track' approach promoted by FAO, which consists firstly of implementing policies to address complex social situations immediately, and secondly long-term strategies that deal with the structural causes of hunger and extreme poverty.

THE THREE PRIORITIES

Working together in this way, CELAC and FAO have coordinated their agendas to move forward in the eradication of hunger. The UN Organization does not just participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the plan that is led by the countries. It also supports three priorities determined by the region's countries: the support of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, the Family Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative, and the Improving Food Systems in the Caribbean Initiative.

In a gathering held in Chile in March 2015, FAO Regional Representative, Raúl Benítez, reminded delegates that the region was the first to propose not just to reduce hunger but to eradicate it. "The FAO regional agenda is fully aligned with the priorities of CELAC's Plan. Our efforts in the region seek to create as many synergies as possible to achieve zero hunger by 2025", he explained.

THE BRAZILIAN EXAMPLE

Individually, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have also renewed their commitment to food security in recent years. Mexico, for instance, launched its National Crusade against Hunger;

BRAZIL DEMONSTRATED THAT RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH IS COMPATIBLE WITH BETTER INCOME DISTRIBUTION.

Chile undertook its Choose Healthy Living programme; St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada endorsed the Zero Hunger Challenge; St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada endorsed the Zero Hunger Challenge; Venezuela strengthened its national food supply strategy; and Peru set up the Inter-sectoral Commission on Food and Nutritional Security.

Brazil, meanwhile, developed new strategies in the wake of its Zero Hunger programme, considered an inspiration for subsequent initiatives. In 2003, the then Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva set the programme in motion, introducing a new development model centred on the eradication of hunger and social inclusion, that brought together macroeconomic, social and productive policies. The Zero Hunger programme, overseen by the current FAO Director-General, helped to lift over 20 million people out of extreme poverty in five years and reduce undernutrition in Brazil by 25 percent.

There are a number of reasons for the success of this programme. There was a commitment at the highest level, with Lula da Silva himself involving the various levels of government and society in general. The programme's goals were reflected in Brazil's macroeconomic policies, and an integrated national food and nutritional security policy was adopted based on the notion that government must ensure that all Brazilians could enjoy their right to an adequate diet. Through the twin-track approach, the new purchasing power generated by social protection was used to stimulate increased food production by poor farmers. The Brazilian example demonstrated that it is possible to combine rapid economic development with better income distribution.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES

Twenty years after its approval, this set of principles and standards – the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries – is more relevant than ever. Its principles have given rise to various instruments that seek to improve the conservation, management and development of fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

BAN BOR RAE (THAILAND)

A fisherman walks along the rails between the cages of a fish farm. The sustainable development of aquaculture is one of the challenges that the Code of Conduct addresses.



**CAI HAI LAGOON (VIETNAM).**

Two experts use a GPS map. Adapting technology is central to ensuring the sustainability of fishing.

DIABLO RIVER (PANAMA). Fishing in the river, another example of fishing activities that are regulated.



©FAO/M-SISTINI/ JIM HOLMES

Sustainable development is an often repeated term, but as the world's population grows and the demand for food increases, safeguarding our natural resources becomes more critical than ever before. How can we supply adequate production today without compromising food supplies for the generations of tomorrow? Where will we find the means to feed the more than 9 billion people projected to inhabit the planet by 2050?

Many fishermen and women, and the fisheries and aquaculture industry itself, have been considering these questions for some time. The high production levels in the fisheries sector and increasing concerns in the early 1990s about the risks of overfishing, shifted the debate from one about greater production to one about the sustainability of production in fisheries and aquaculture. In 1991, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) first called on the Organization to develop new concepts for responsible, sustained fisheries. The International Conference on Responsible Fishing held in Cancún (Mexico) in 1992 followed-up on this process. The process was given further stimulus by the Earth Summit later that year in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The UN conference positioned sustainable development high on the international agenda, paving

the way for negotiations and adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries emerged in 1995 in response to the need to better integrate conservation and environmental considerations into fisheries management and to ensure food security for future generations. It was approved by 170 countries at the FAO Conference.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD

The Code of Conduct, which is voluntary, provides the regulatory framework needed for the conservation, organization, and development of fisheries. The aim is to ensure the sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources in harmony with the environment. The Code establishes that States and relevant organizations should adopt measures based on sound scientific criteria to maintain or restore fish populations to levels that produce year after year without endangering its future regeneration capacity, taking into account environmental and economic factors, and the special needs of developing countries.

The Code sets out good practices in a wide range of areas, including implementation and monitoring, requirements of developing countries, fisheries management, fishing operations, aquaculture

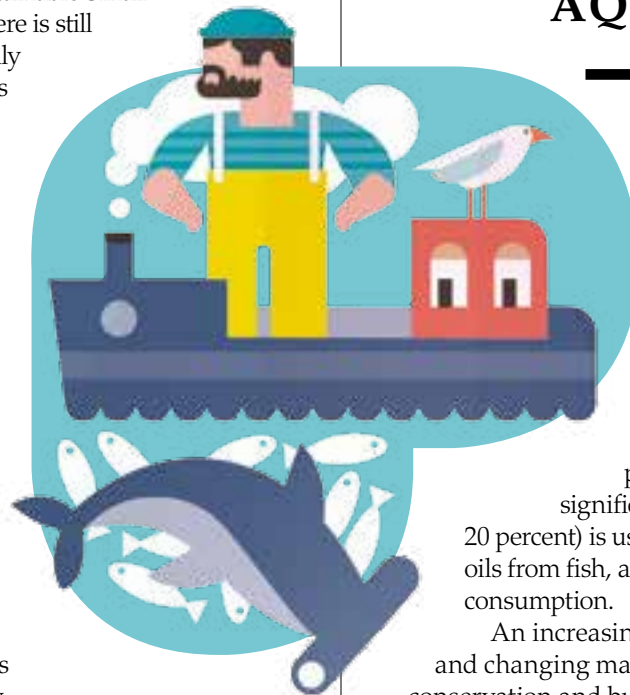
development, coastal areas management, post-harvest processes, trade, and fisheries research. The Code is robust and flexible enough to incorporate various issues that have gained importance in recent years, such as 'decent work' in the sector, food waste and loss, traceability, strengthened value chains, and ecosystem services.

During its first two decades, numerous specific instruments and guidelines have emerged from the Code, including the recently adopted Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. Although there is still much work to be done to fully achieve the Code's objectives worldwide, the process is well underway, and today there are greater levels of awareness, knowledge sharing, and international cooperation aimed at finding the right solutions.

CHANGES IN MOTION

The fishing world has changed enormously since adoption of the Code. New demands have led to guidelines for eco-labelling and certification of harvested species – items and processes requested by the seafood industry that is currently adopting strategies to improve consumer information to better meet customer demands for 'sea to plate' traceability of seafood products. FAO has also undertaken a number of studies on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the wake of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, providing standards for countries allowing fishing boats to operate using the national flags of other countries. The number of countries that use vessel monitoring systems to oversee fishing activities under their jurisdiction has also increased, following the Code's recommendations.

In 2011, FAO members also adopted the first guidelines for certifying aquaculture products. More than half of the fish consumed by humans now



THE CODE OF CONDUCT OFFERS THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK NEEDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING AND AQUACULTURE.

comes from aquaculture, and expansion of the sector also contributes to preserving species, creating jobs and increasing supply. While fish caught in the wild generally account for a higher volume of fish production than those produced by farming, a significant proportion of this (almost 20 percent) is used as fish feed or to obtain oils from fish, and is not destined for human consumption.

An increasing emphasis on limiting catches and changing management policies to align conservation and business interests also shifts the debate when it comes to ensuring the livelihoods of those dependent on fishing. How can fishers catch fewer fish while simultaneously creating more value for themselves? There are significant business opportunities in improving the sustainability of the seafood value chain: increasing the quality of fish and increasing its value and reducing waste to maximize the benefits. Several industries have begun to adopt changes in technologies aimed at strengthening the value chain in both developed and developing countries. According to the experts, the outlook is shifting: many countries' producers and consumers admit that more sustainable fishing practices are needed to meet the future demand of a growing population. To do this, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries continues to set the tone. ●

GUIDELINES ON THE TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS

These voluntary guidelines were negotiated among a large number of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. A global benchmark, they are used by governments in the management of natural resources.

Land has always

been something physical, palpable, material. But for all its visibility, the question of land ownership is another matter, blurred by vested interests. “People’s rights in relation to tenure are highly emotive issues that are not easy to address”, says Paul Munro-Faure, the Deputy Director of the Climate, Energy and Tenure Division of FAO. In his view, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security adopted in 2012, provide a framework that has made “it easier to sit at the table and begin to negotiate”, something that would otherwise be inconceivable.

Although they are changes that take time, it was essential to try, particularly given the increasing focus in recent decades “on the pressure on land and other resources, and on the effects of climate change on the environment”, as Munro-Faure explains. Land grabbing (mass buying of land by governments and multinationals) is a reality in some regions, particularly in Africa, and many rural communities now feel more vulnerable. In response to the need to address these issues in a coordinated way and to ensure that the population has equitable access to and control of resources, in 2009 FAO initiated a global consultation process.

MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE

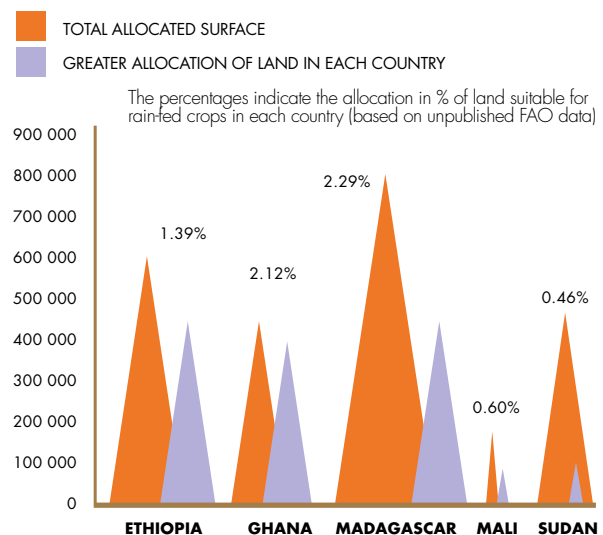
All over the world, consultations were held, reflecting the differences between representatives from civil society and the private sector. Governments, academics and UN agencies also took part in various events that brought together almost 1000 people from over 130 countries. The process highlighted regional priorities and a wide

range of concerns: while some focused on community ownership, others were more concerned about tenure administration. After more than a year, a first draft was produced, setting out a broad outline of the consultation consensus from a multidisciplinary point of view. This preliminary document was also subject to consultation before entering fully into the negotiation process.

Government representatives were responsible for agreeing on the final version of the document between 2011 and 2012, until it was formally approved by the Committee on World Food

LAND DIVIDED BETWEEN INVESTORS IN AFRICA

Between 2004 and early 2009, the surface area shared between investors in Africa increased through the approval of various projects.



SOURCE: CASES STUDIED IN THE REPORT “LAND GRAB OR DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY?” (2009).



**CATANDICA
(MOZAMBIQUE)**

Farmers in their cornfield. The guidelines protect land tenure, fishing and forest rights.



PURSAT (CAMBODIA)

A woman casts a fishing net from her boat on the Sap River.

THEY RECOGNISE THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OVER NATURAL RESOURCES.

- ▶ Security on 11 May 2012. Throughout the process, Munro-Faure remembers that the most difficult issues were discussed in small groups, in conversations that sometimes went on into the night. Despite their differences from a political, economic, cultural and religious point of view, he underlines the fact that “all parties believed in the need to have voluntary guidelines”. The document may not have covered every demand everyone had to the letter, but it served to enable them all to reach an agreement. From those meetings, Munro-Faure remarks on “the great respect” that the various representatives had for each other and the interest shown by governments to listen to civil-society groups.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE

The result of these efforts was a document that contains principles and practices to which governments may refer when they allocate rights relating to land, fisheries and forests. “The negotiations brought together and endorsed well-trying, accepted, good practices in governing and addressing tenure and its administration”, says Senior Land Tenure Officer David Palmer. And he stresses the importance of governance in solving this kind of problem: “Without it there can be no effective technical solutions”, he said in reference to governance that pursues lasting economic, social and institutional development, and an appropriate balance between state, civil society and the free market. As a



requisite of responsible governance, the Guidelines establish the recognition of legitimate rights of tenure and their holders, as well as the promotion and safeguarding of these rights from the threats that might compromise them. They also seek to provide access to justice in cases where these rights have been violated, and to avoid disputes over tenure, violent conflict and opportunities for corruption.

The Guidelines are based on a series of principles: human dignity, non-discrimination, equity and justice, gender equality, the rule of law, transparency and accountability. They make it clear that the management of natural resources must be done in consultation with, and involving those who hold, the legitimate rights of tenure. According to the text, it should be ensured that public and private investment is conducted in a responsible way, protecting human rights, livelihoods, food security and the environment.

GUIDELINES FOR EVERYONE

Most of the changes will be seen in the long term but some have already begun to occur. In addition to undertaking to follow the guidelines, several African countries have adopted them to enshrine in law the notion that communities must not lose their access to subsistence resources. Sierra Leone, for instance, has a ministerial working group dedicated to these issues. And since 2014 Guatemala has had an agricultural policy that reflects the guidelines' main concepts and seeks to facilitate access to the land for the poor rural population.

FAO is also working with its donors on these internationally recognised good practices, and many of them, including the United States of America and the European Union, have included

them within their requisites for funding activities in developing countries.

FAO Senior Land Tenure Officer, David Palmer, says that civil-society organizations participating in the negotiation process are also using the guidelines in their own programmes, citing Oxfam and ActionAid as examples. In the private sector, meanwhile, large multinationals such as Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestlé have expressed their interest in operating in accordance with these rules as part of their corporate responsibility strategies. “It’s hard because they have a very long value chain, with a large number of associated companies, but their goal is for their suppliers to work in line with the voluntary guidelines”, Palmer underlines. For all of these stakeholders, this means implementing a policy of zero tolerance towards land grabbing.

A QUESTION OF RIGHTS

The Guidelines address the administration of tenure, the transfer of rights and responsibilities and the responses to climate change and emergency situations. States are also advised to establish frameworks and capacities for “transparent and efficient” market operations, and to consider restoring legitimate rights of tenure, or at least provide fair compensation, to people who have lost their lands or been forcibly evicted in the past. This aspect is especially relevant in the case of indigenous people and other communities who, due to their customs, hold legitimate tenure rights over natural resources. Recognising and protecting their rights means consulting them “in good faith” on any projects that might affect them before activities begin.

Annalisa Mauro, Coordinator of the International Land Coalition, a global network of 152 organizations in over 50 countries, calls on communities to use these guidelines, which she considers a “global reference source” in relation to women and indigenous people. “The territorial dimension is a way to resist as indigenous people. The concept of land is part of their existence”, she remarks. Mauro says that she is impressed by citizen’s initiatives that have emerged in favour of land rights. In countries like Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela, land observatories have been set up, aimed at monitoring the territorial situation, land agreements and purchases, possible environmental conflicts and human rights’ violations.

To promote these rights, FAO has translated the voluntary guidelines into its six official languages and other local languages, prepared educational materials and supported the workshops that are being held in various countries to support the implementation of the guidelines. As for the extent to which the guidelines have been adopted, there are notable differences between States, from those that have included them in their laws to those that have used them as a basis to organise conferences, as Palmer explains. He agrees with Munro-Faure that it is one thing to address land tenure in an abstract way and at international level but it is a very different situation when considering specific cases. Both believe that the greatest challenge is at the State level, where legislation and a specific context already exist. At least the guidelines start with one advantage: they have become a universal language in relation to rights to natural resources. ●



2011, ALTANSUMBER (MONGOLIA)

A volunteer ranger travels the forest on horseback. Local communities can use the guidelines to protect their resources.



THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

It is *the* UN system multistakeholder platform to address food security and nutrition policy issues. The CFS represents a model of participation which can help countries to achieve greater progress in development.

LUBUMBASHI (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO)

A man watering a field in the province of Katanga. Developing countries can share experiences by participating in the Committee on World Food Security towards achieving food security for their populations.

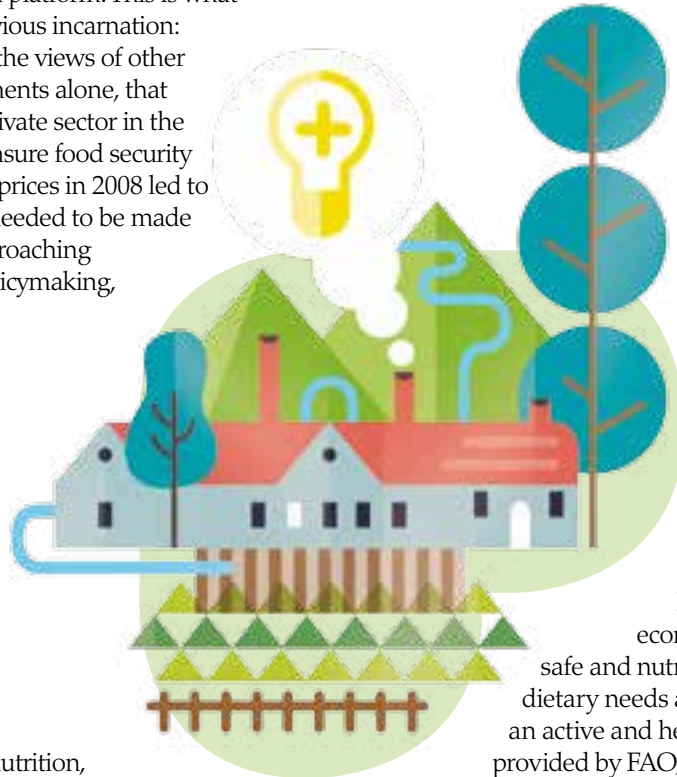


It could be said that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was born twice - in 1974, as an intergovernmental initiative to review food security policies, and again in 2009, when far-reaching reforms gave it a new status as a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platform. This is what makes it different from its previous incarnation: the Committee's openness to the views of other stakeholders, beyond governments alone, that include civil society and the private sector in the process of policy-making to ensure food security and nutrition. The rise in food prices in 2008 led to the recognition that changes needed to be made in how stakeholders were approaching food security and nutrition policymaking, including the reform of CFS, in an attempt to understand how to prevent similar food price crises occurring in the future and to tackle problems over both the short and the long term. It took a year for an agreement to be reached to reform CFS. The Committee currently comprises the UN member states, UN agencies with a specific mandate in the field of food security and nutrition, civil society and non-governmental organizations, international agricultural research systems, international and regional financial institutions and representatives of private-sector associations and private philanthropic foundations. CFS can also invite other groups and institutions to be observers at its sessions and to join specific discussions. This multitude of stakeholders is supported by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), which since October 2009, has been providing independent science and evidence-based reports to support policy recommendations negotiated within CFS.

AN ENGAGED CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR

With the Committee's reform, civil society has a voice and has found a place where voices which are not usually heard when discussing global food security policies, of small farmers, fishermen or indigenous

peoples, among many other groups, can be represented. These groups can help implement the various policies. Under this model, countries remain the primary force, but the goal is to also create a more balanced sense of common responsibility and to include those most



affected by food insecurity or malnutrition in defining solutions. The private sector has embraced the process and an increasing number of companies from across the food production chain are becoming ever more involved. Ultimately they all share an interest in food security and nutrition, which exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. CFS funding is provided by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) which each contribute a third of the regular budget and provide substantial technical input to the work. Donors make voluntary contributions to supplement the budget for particular themes and to support the HLPE and the CFS Civil Society Mechanism.

A MODEL TO REPRODUCE

CFS is the forum where issues such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security have been negotiated. Before their endorsement in 2012, the content of these guidelines was negotiated among all of the different interest groups, and has since become a global standard.

In October 2014, CFS approved the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, a framework that member states can adopt

voluntarily to develop policies or corporate social responsibility programmes, for example. In October 2015, the Committee endorsed the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises.

Following the CFS endorsement of these key global policy products, FAO is playing an important role in working with countries and other stakeholders to implement them. This platform, which reports to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council each year, is a unique opportunity to bring the body's three food-related agencies closer together. And it is not just hunger and poverty that are addressed: debates also focus on other issues such as natural resources, education and gender equality. It is a way to create consensus between the various partners and achieve progress in a more sustainable way.

It is not always easy for partners who disagree on important issues to see eye-to-eye. But the mere effort to enter into dialogue is progress in itself. This work has been well received by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, who is in favour of the CFS's inclusive model and the cooperation between FAO, IFAD and WFP. CFS is a source of inspiration when it comes to establishing a model to implement the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda. While the UN agencies aim to help countries meet these objectives, CFS can be the platform where countries share the progress they have made, as well as experiences and lessons learned with other partners. In the future, networks and advisory work can strengthen this model. It is an initiative that, after just six years since its 'rebirth', will drive the global development agenda. ●

ROME. 41ST SESSION OF CFS

View of plenary session during a meeting of CFS.
©FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto



ROME. 40TH SESSION OF THE CFS
View of the Malaysia Room during a meeting between an advisory group and the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition.

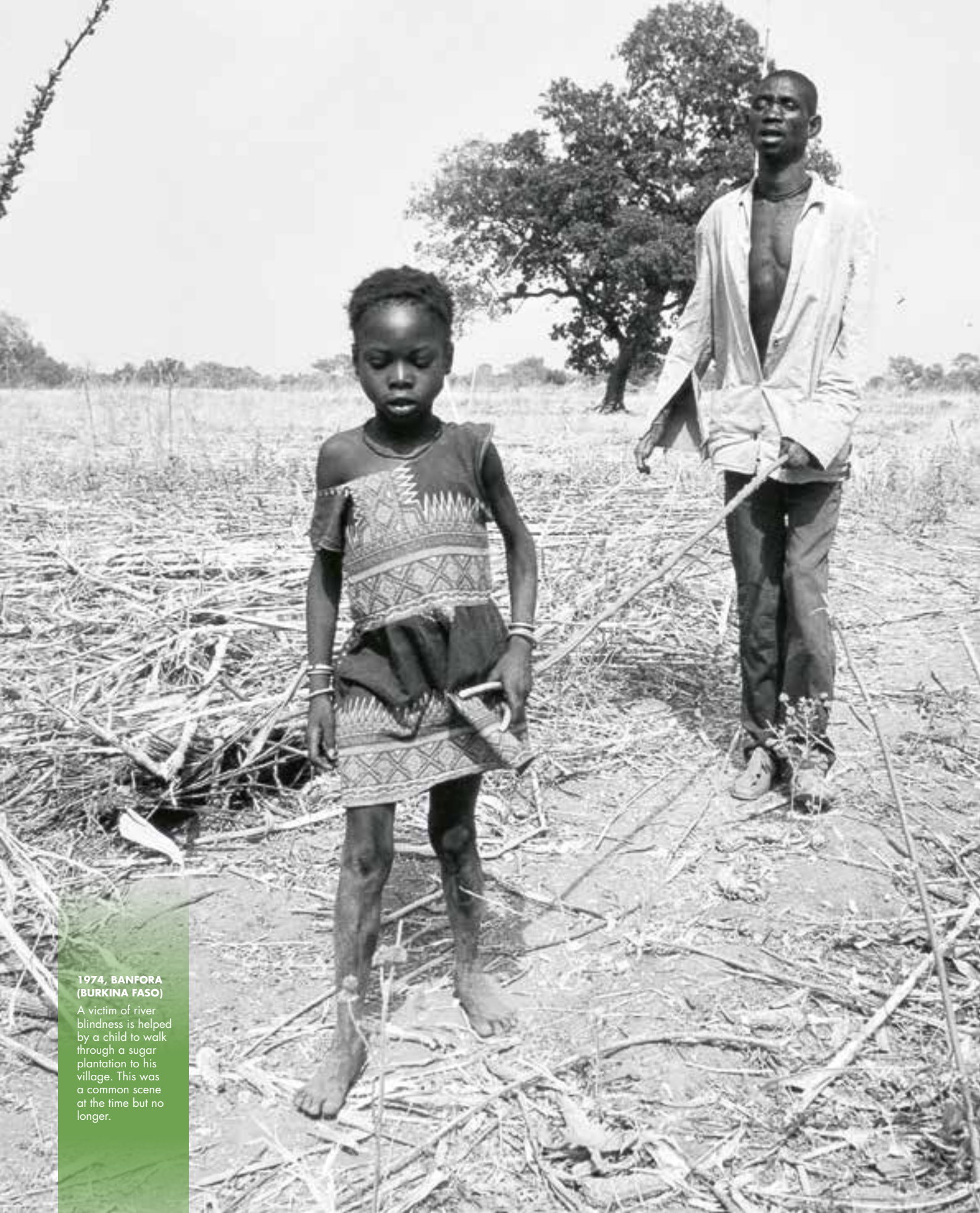
A PANEL OF EXPERTS TO INFORM AND ADVISE THE COMMITTEE

The High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) was created in October 2009 as the science-policy interface of CFS. The HLPE produces, at the request of the Committee, independent assessments which provide analysis, and recommendations on important policy issues. The HLPE aims to help CFS

improve its understanding of the diversity of issues and the evidence behind them, including outlining the background and rationale of controversies, and identifying emerging issues. The reports are produced by combining expertise from a range of disciplines, backgrounds, and knowledge systems. HLPE Reports enable CFS

to address difficult issues by establishing a starting point of shared knowledge in a single evidence-based document that brings all perspectives together. This model further reinforces the Committee's commitment to inclusiveness by creating a level playing field of shared understanding among all participants in CFS discussions. Since 2011,

the HLPE has produced nine reports to inform the debates of CFS on issues ranging from price volatility, climate change, social protection, biofuels, food losses and waste, investments in smallholder agriculture, fish and aquaculture, to water. All reports were followed by the adoption of key policy recommendations by CFS.



**1974, BANFORA
(BURKINA FASO)**

A victim of river blindness is helped by a child to walk through a sugar plantation to his village. This was a common scene at the time but no longer.

THE ERADICATION OF 'RIVER BLINDNESS' IN WEST AFRICA

A programme launched by FAO, WHO, UNDP and the World Bank in 1974 led to the eradication of onchocerciasis, or 'river blindness', in 11 West African countries. The challenge continues in other parts of the world.

Tens of thousands

of people were left blind by river onchocerciasis in West Africa. Around 60 percent of the adult population of river valleys suffered the disease. From 3 to 5 percent of sufferers lost their sight. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), onchocerciasis is the world's fourth most common cause of avoidable blindness, after cataracts, glaucoma and trachoma. Symptoms range from severe itching to skin lesions.

To escape the disease, many people were forced to abandon their communities. They were fleeing from the parasite transmitted by infected Black flies that bred in fast-flowing rivers and streams, particularly in remote villages where the population depended on agriculture. Onchocerciasis, known as 'river

blindness', had devastating consequences in West Africa. Annual losses to the value of US\$30 million were estimated, since the disease posed a major obstacle to socio-economic development.

By 1974, when the Onchocerciasis Control Programme in West Africa was launched, some of the most fertile lands adjacent to rivers were uninhabited. FAO sponsored the initiative alongside WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and other partners. Together they invested some US\$ 600 million over two decades in order to control the flies carrying the parasite that caused the disease. Benin, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo were the eleven countries where the programme was implemented.

LIFE CYCLE OF THE PARASITE THAT CAUSES ONCHOCERCIASIS

The parasite that causes *onchocerciasis* is transmitted from person to person via bites from the Black fly vectors. The adult *Onchocerca volvulus* worms can live for fifteen years in the human body. The males and females intertwine and mate in the skin's subcutaneous tissue. After mating, the female worms release around 1 000 larvae of the parasite. These larvae live from one to two years, and when they die they cause an inflammatory response that leads to skin lesions. They can also cause eyesight complications and blindness.





OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO)

Eye testing at the *Onchocerciasis* Centre in the capital of Burkina Faso, one of the countries where the programme to eradicate the disease has been undertaken.

© WHO / FERING WANDEWANN

► FLY CONTROL

To control the disease, eco-friendly insecticides were used, attacking the larvae of the Black flies. The air over rivers and streams where the insects reproduced had to be fumigated every week. For over 14 years, this method was used in order to terminate the parasite's life cycle in combination with a large-scale ivermectin treatment programme from 1989. This product, donated by the pharmaceutical company Merck to the countries where the disease was endemic, relieved the intense itching, halted the progression towards blindness and reduced transmission of the disease.

Through this programme, which spanned 1.2 million square kilometres, river blindness in West Africa was controlled. It prevented the infection of 40 million people and blindness in 600 000 individuals, and it meant 18 million children were born free of the

threat of the disease. In economic terms, 25 million hectares of farmland that had been abandoned were recovered for settlement and agricultural production, with the potential to feed 17 million people each year. These results demonstrate the importance of the relationship between health and socio-economic development in neglected areas.

TOWARDS TOTAL ERADICATION

The programme came to an end in 2002 after the transmission of the disease was stopped in all of the participating countries except Sierra Leone, where operations were interrupted by the civil war. The majority of cases of onchocerciasis have been recorded in Africa, although isolated cases have been detected in Yemen and Latin America.

Based on the success stories of West Africa, the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control

was set in motion in 1995 to limit the disease in the countries where it remained endemic. In 2009, the objective changed from controlling river blindness to its complete eradication. In 2013 alone, almost 100 million ivermectin (medicine to treat parasitic infections) treatments were distributed in a community-driven scheme, representing 60 percent of therapeutic coverage, according to WHO.

More recently, America has also been a focus of attention. The Onchocerciasis Elimination Program for the Americas was launched in 1992. In late 2011 the transmission of the disease had been interrupted in ten of the 13 foci in the region. In recent years Colombia and Ecuador have been declared free of onchocerciasis, while efforts continue in other regions.

ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

However, the problems did not end with the eradication of the disease. In West Africa, the end of onchocerciasis meant that large numbers of people returned en masse to land that had been abandoned, taking claim to the land but using unsustainable farming practices. Deforestation, erosion and overgrazing have threatened

the ecosystem. The populations in these regions have also faced other difficulties such as isolation and a lack of basic services. Without roads, markets, schools or drinking water, living conditions became very tough. Demotivated, the majority of young people opted to move to the cities in search of work.

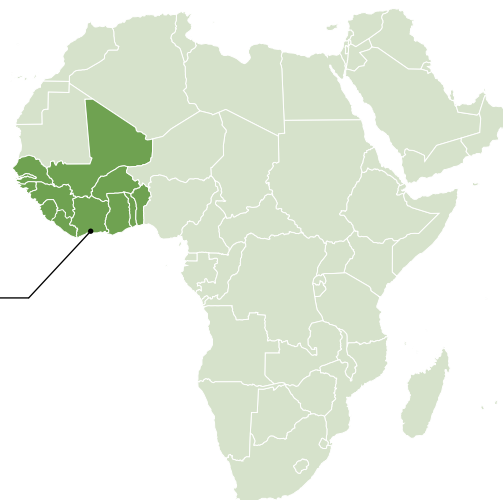
It was also difficult to establish who the owners of the land were and who had cultivation rights. The occupation of fertile land by newcomers placed them in conflict with the former owners. Initially, land was occupied by people from areas where different agricultural conditions prevailed; while marketing their produce was another challenge to be overcome.

Following the unplanned reoccupation of the sanitised areas, the need arose to solve the problems of land tenure, ensure the participation of the newcomers in the community and provide basic services and infrastructure. Hence the West African countries and the donors involved have continued to hold meetings to find a solution to the problems in the areas freed of onchocerciasis. Their aim is to ensure that the eradication of river blindness is not just about the disease but that in its absence prosperity and environmental sustainability are possible in its wake.



ONCHOCERCIASIS CONTROL PROGRAMME IN WEST AFRICA

The eleven African countries where the programme was launched in 1974, spanning over 1.2 million square kilometres, to protect 30 million people from the effects of river blindness. With the exception of Sierra Leone, the disease was eradicated in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.



DONG SON (VIETNAM)

A farmer cutting grass on a rice paddy. Farmers' access to inputs, infrastructure and markets contributed to economic development in Southeast Asia.



THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN ASIA

The Green Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s contributed to ending hunger for hundreds of millions of people, particularly in Asia. This was achieved by unprecedented increases in food production resulting from the massive cultivation of improved varieties of cereals, especially wheat and rice, and the adoption of modern crop production practices.

The story of Norman Borlaug's life is the story of the Green Revolution. This American agronomist who specialised in the genetics and improvement of crops travelled to Mexico to develop high-performance wheat varieties. Together with local counterparts, he devised new techniques that would increase the productivity of crops. In particular, the resulting offspring of the cross between local wheat and a dwarf variety from Japan were disease resistant, and semi-dwarf with stiff straw which made them withstand rain and wind. The new varieties produced more grain and had a shorter stalk that made them more responsive to fertilisers and water. The experience motivated scientists and the development partners that supported their work to cross other species such as rice especially in the Philippines, with the aim of developing similar productive and input use-efficient varieties.

It was not just Mexico that benefited from these advances. The governments of other developing countries like India and Pakistan soon took an interest in the new varieties and distributed them across their lands, bringing hundreds of millions of people out of hunger in the 1960s and 1970s. In recognition of his work, Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. "It is a temporary success in man's war against hunger and deprivation", he said of his efforts.

FAO Leader of the Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team of the Plant Production and Protection Division, Chikelu Mba, highlights some factors that made these results possible namely cooperation between scientists in different countries-which, for instance, facilitated the exchange of parents for breeding, investments in agricultural research and development, and the good policies of governments wanting to end hunger. Enhanced extension services resulted in the adoption of the improved varieties and their accompanying good agronomic practices. Also, greater farmers' access to the quality seeds of the new varieties, fertilisers, infrastructure, irrigation and markets also contributed to the massive increase in food production, and economic development of the countries that took advantage of the Green Revolution. China, Southeast Asia and South Asia benefitted from this transformation, though the impact was minor in other places. Africa, for instance, was left behind.

The new varieties of wheat and rice became an important part of the agriculture of a number of developing countries. In Asia, almost 90 percent of wheat fields were sown with modern varieties, and rice fields of high-yielding varieties grew from 12 to 67 percent from 1970 to 1990 during which period the use of fertilisers, pesticides and irrigated land multiplied. In the last 50 years, it is estimated that the world's cereal crop production has tripled while the cultivated surface area has only increased by 30 percent. ▶

► COLLATERAL EFFECTS

The Green Revolution placed these new varieties within the reach of millions of small farmers. The public sector played an important role in the research that led to the development of the new varieties and in disseminating them along with the production technologies, which in many cases were adapted to local conditions and farming practices. However, the countries that took the most advantage of these opportunities were the ones that either already had extensive agricultural research capabilities, or created them. To a large extent, this factor determined access to the technologies, including new biotechnologies, the research into which is mostly being conducted by private companies based in industrialised countries.

The massive cultivation of improved crop varieties also led to fears that genetic diversity would diminish if only the most suitable varieties were selected and cultivated, discarding traditional varieties. “We have the science and technology to ensure that we don’t lose that diversity. We can incorporate many attributes from various genetic backgrounds into a single variety. The investments of governments and the international community in the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture has resulted in the many national, regional and international genebanks where these



2010, ROME.

The daughter and granddaughter of Norman Borlaug during the presentation of the prize that bears his name on the occasion of World Food Day.



2013, ROME.

Professor Amartya Sen gives the McDougall Memorial Lecture during the 38th session of the FAO Conference.

RESEARCH HERITAGE AT THE CGIAR

The Green Revolution is closely linked to scientific research and, more specifically to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). As Mba recalls, FAO realised from the outset that the research in Mexico was important, and that technical training had to be supported. In 1960, the Organization asked Borlaug to study the problems and potential of wheat production from Libya to India. Years later, after receiving the Nobel Prize, the agronomist, in a letter to FAO, declared that few advances could be expected if young scientists were not trained in the field.

This interest in training and international cooperation was a feature of the expert’s career. In 1944 Borlaug accepted a position on the Cooperative Wheat Research and Production Program in Mexico, funded by the Mexican government and the Rockefeller Foundation. The Ford Foundation joined forces with them and together they set up the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT, its Spanish acronym) from this national program. There, Borlaug had young scientists learn research methods, which enabled them to play important roles in spreading

the principles of the Green Revolution to their respective countries. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) was also created in the Philippines as was the Green Revolution rice (IR8), which was not only high yielding and semi-dwarf but drought tolerant as well. Spurred on by the successes of CIMMYT and IRRI, the World Bank, FAO, the United Nations Development Programme, the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations and other partners created a network of centres, the CGIAR, to address issues of food security and nutrition in developing countries in 1971. This consortium

currently has 15 independent International Agricultural Research Centres that carry out research and development activities aimed at alleviating hunger and malnutrition. Biodiversity, forests, livestock, crops water and fisheries are some of the areas in which they are working. From their headquarters and stations in different countries, these centres are generating global public goods as a continuation of the work of Nobel Laureate Borlaug, who developed improved wheat varieties in Mexico that would change the story of hunger across the world.

resources are safeguarded”, says Mba. The specialist also refers to other socio-economic changes, such as rural-urban migration and the dwindling proportion of the population engaged in agriculture. “We must recognise that fewer people are working on ever larger farms and that the private sector is playing a greater role in crop improvement. The increase in monoculture is a fact of modern life”, he adds.

But the fact that monoculture has become the norm on many farms and plantations does not mean that diversity is no longer needed. Climate change has created significant levels of uncertainties and we do not know precisely the environmental conditions under which we shall grow our crops in the coming years. Going by the ever increasing frequencies of extreme weather conditions, such as flooding, drought, soil contamination with salt, high temperatures, and so forth, it is safe to say that the impacts of climate change are already being felt. As weather conditions change, we should also expect greater incidences of new strains of pests and diseases. As the population continues to grow, natural resources like soil and water have become scarce in many areas. Looking ahead, peoples’ preferences will also continue to change, and they will want new products as evidenced by the increasing demand for animal proteins.

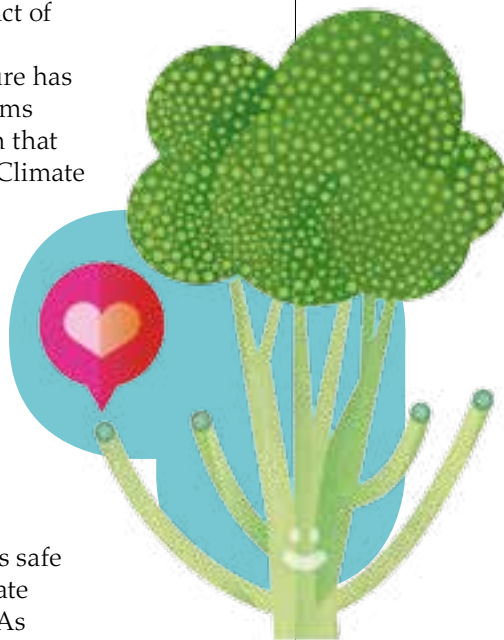
Mba explains that new varieties suited to the new circumstances are needed. The more genetic resources, including the uncultivated wild relatives of crops, that are conserved, the better. We should not be complacent or think that food production is now guaranteed. In his view, we must continue our research efforts, conserve germplasm, study their traits and harness their potential to create “smart crop varieties” that “produce more with less”. The sustainability of food production is at stake but the application of science and technology can enable us to unlock the potential of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the same way that Borlaug and others did for the Green Revolution cereals.

THE NEXT REVOLUTION

Against this background, the need for a new era in the wake of the Green Revolution is emerging. This is partially due to the problems already noted and also because the efficiency and sustainability of resources, generally, have been in question for some time. Misuse of irrigation systems, pesticides and fertilisers can harm the environment and place future production at risk. The key is to use only what is needed. Furthermore, alternative ecosystem-based methods might be found to control pests or intensify food production systems. In nature, for instance, there are pollinators on which many crops depend. There are also microorganisms that help improve soil fertility and hence food production. Planting varieties that can withstand adverse conditions, recycling biomass, crop rotation and management to control pests and diseases are other options. “To minimise the negative side effects of intensive agriculture and to extend the benefits of the Green

Revolution to poor farmers and areas that were missed in the original phase, a new Green Revolution must be knowledge-intensive rather than input-intensive and will therefore require significant investments in education, research and development and extension services”, stresses FAO official, Mba.

The man known as the Indian father of the Green Revolution, Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, recognised at the time that an “evergreen revolution” is needed in order to improve crop productivity permanently without causing economic or social damage. His compatriot Amartya Sen, a Nobel Laureate in Economics in 1998, argued that hunger and starvation are not caused by a lack of available food, but because some people do not have access to enough food. As Sen explained during the FAO Conference in 2013, to end hunger, all of its causes must be addressed at the same time, and particularly poverty, rather than just focusing on producing more food. This revolutionary approach has changed the way we now fight hunger and poverty.



AGRICULTURAL MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM (AMIS)

Created in order to help prevent food price crises, the Agricultural Market Information System is designed to make the food commodities market more transparent.



The sudden rise

in food prices between 2007 and 2008 had for many a devastating effect. The price of basic food commodities such as rice and wheat skyrocketed, increasing the number of the hungry and leading to political unrest in several developing countries. Food security was at stake. Markets shook again in 2010 after a drought in Russia saw the country ban cereal exports to ensure sufficient supplies for its population, demonstrating once more that

price volatility puts stability at risk. In response, the Group of 20 (G20) asked various international organizations to propose ways to reduce this volatility, one of them being the creation of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which was launched in September 2011. It took shape as a platform between various international agencies and participating countries to promote transparency in global food commodities markets and to coordinate policy measures in response to market risk. ▶

Sacks of rice in a warehouse. Better information also contributes to the decision-making that prevents food crises.



Grains of rice being processed.

© FAO/ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO // GIULIO NAPOLITANO

WHAT IF CEREAL PRICES SOAR?

In 2012 a drought in the United States of America, one of the world's leading maize producers, set off alarm bells. In July that year, the price of maize shot up by 23 percent and the general food price index rose by 6 percent. Such heavy market turbulence brought back memories of the 2007/08 crisis, thus expectations were high that AMIS would intervene, for example by calling an extraordinary session of the Rapid Response Forum. Following a thorough analysis of the situation and intensive information exchanges between the Secretariat and participating countries, AMIS opted not to call for an emergency meeting. Market observers agreed that the drought in the United States of America wouldn't necessarily have serious implications for global market stability, as good crops from other countries would be able to partly compensate for the shortfall. The markets eventually calmed down and normal conditions returned. AMIS seems to have survived the acid test, establishing itself as a new tool to address food price volatility. The particular structure of AMIS allowed countries to consult each other early on, preventing panic and influencing the market in a more positive way than might have been expected.

- ▶ The AMIS Project Manager, Denis Drechsler, recalls the strong commitment to addressing food crises in the political agenda. "There were preliminary meetings with country representatives and experts to analyse how to reduce food price volatility", he says. Market analysts agreed that one of the reasons for excessive volatility was a lack of reliable market information that is linked to a mechanism for policy dialogue, so AMIS tries to provide just that.

AN INFORMATION SYSTEM

In addition to the G20 and Spain, which had called for the creation of AMIS, another seven countries were invited to participate in the initiative given their importance in the international markets for wheat, maize, rice and soybeans – the basic food commodities that AMIS is monitoring. Together, the participating countries represent between 80 and 90 percent of global exports in these foods: a significant enough share to effectively influence global markets. "The seven countries were carefully selected before being



ROME

The opening of an AMIS meeting in the Red Room at FAO headquarters.



Meeting of the AMIS Rapid Response Forum.

THE PARTICULAR STRUCTURE OF AMIS ALLOWS COUNTRIES TO CONSULT EACH OTHER EARLY ON.

invited to participate in the initiative”, says Drechsler. Vietnam and Thailand are leading rice producers. The Philippines and Nigeria are major rice buyers, while Egypt is the biggest importer of wheat. The Ukraine and Kazakhstan are major producers of wheat and maize. The European Union, meanwhile, is a major player as it represents all of its 28 member states. For even greater relevance and outreach, AMIS also maintains contact with partners in the private sector, such as commodity associations and institutional investors.

ALL ABOUT THE DATA

Detecting current and future trends in international food markets is essential for preventing potential crises. AMIS monitors several market drivers, such as energy prices, exchange rates and the commitment of traders in international futures markets. It also keeps a close eye on policy developments that may create uncertainties in the market, such as trade restrictions, biofuel mandates and domestic support policies.

Having access to the latest data and the most reliable forecasts on agricultural production, trade and utilization is vital in order to help governments and other stakeholders make well-informed and timely decisions. This is why AMIS works with countries to improve their market information systems and harmonises the data globally. Drechsler explains: “The less developed countries are not necessarily the most backward in terms of data generation; there are also industrialised states that need to improve their information systems”. Through its exchange programme, AMIS has already welcomed experts from China, India, South Africa and Vietnam for training, and is looking forward to continuing this knowledge exchange with other countries in the future. The exchange programme is an important to promote good international practices and the adoption of common methodologies. But the countries have also started helping each other. The Philippines and Thailand, for example, organised two joint workshops, while the United States



Selling rice at a privately owned mill, where it is taken after harvesting to be processed and placed on the market.

©FAO/SARAH ELLIOTT

▶ of America and Indonesia have engaged in a mutual learning exchange. According to Drechsler, promoting this cooperation constitutes “the greatest possible achievement of AMIS. Countries have started to share their experiences, to offer each other help and to accept help when it is required. Trust is growing”, states Drechsler.

Meetings to assemble all of the participating countries are regularly held, such as the Global Food Market Information Group, which meets twice a year, or the Rapid Response Forum, which meets once a year or more often, in the event of a food crisis warning. These meetings bring together political representatives and technical specialists to share their experiences and explain their needs. The objective of AMIS is not to steal information, but to share it for the benefit of everyone and to limit the space for financial speculation in commodities markets. If nobody has more information and market transparency is increased, speculating on rising or falling prices will be much more difficult.

COOPERATION BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS

Cooperation does not only involve close exchanges with participating countries. AMIS also works with related initiatives like Geoglam, a platform launched by the G20 to coordinate satellite observations and ground-based monitoring to assess crop growing conditions. AMIS uses this information

COUNTRIES SHARE EXPERIENCES AND HELP EACH OTHER THANKS TO A GROWING LEVEL OF TRUST.

to check the soundness of its production forecasts. The AMIS Market Monitor is another example of successful collaboration. Published ten times a year, the monitor represents the collective assessment of the ten international organizations that form the AMIS Secretariat concerning the international market situation and outlook. For the Monitor, FAO particularly benefits from inputs of the International Grains Council (IGC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, and the World Food Programme (WFP) are also important contributors. ●

FAOSTAT

A GLOBAL REFERENCE SOURCE



1 ROME

Event during the 145th FAO Council Session on FAOSTAT data dissemination and the Greenhouse Gases (GHG) database, held in the Red Room at FAO headquarters.

2

Screenshots of the FAOSTAT page on the Internet.

3 ROME

Chilean governmental statisticians take part in a training session on the CountrySTAT system in the David Lubin Memorial Library at FAO headquarters.

©FAO/ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO

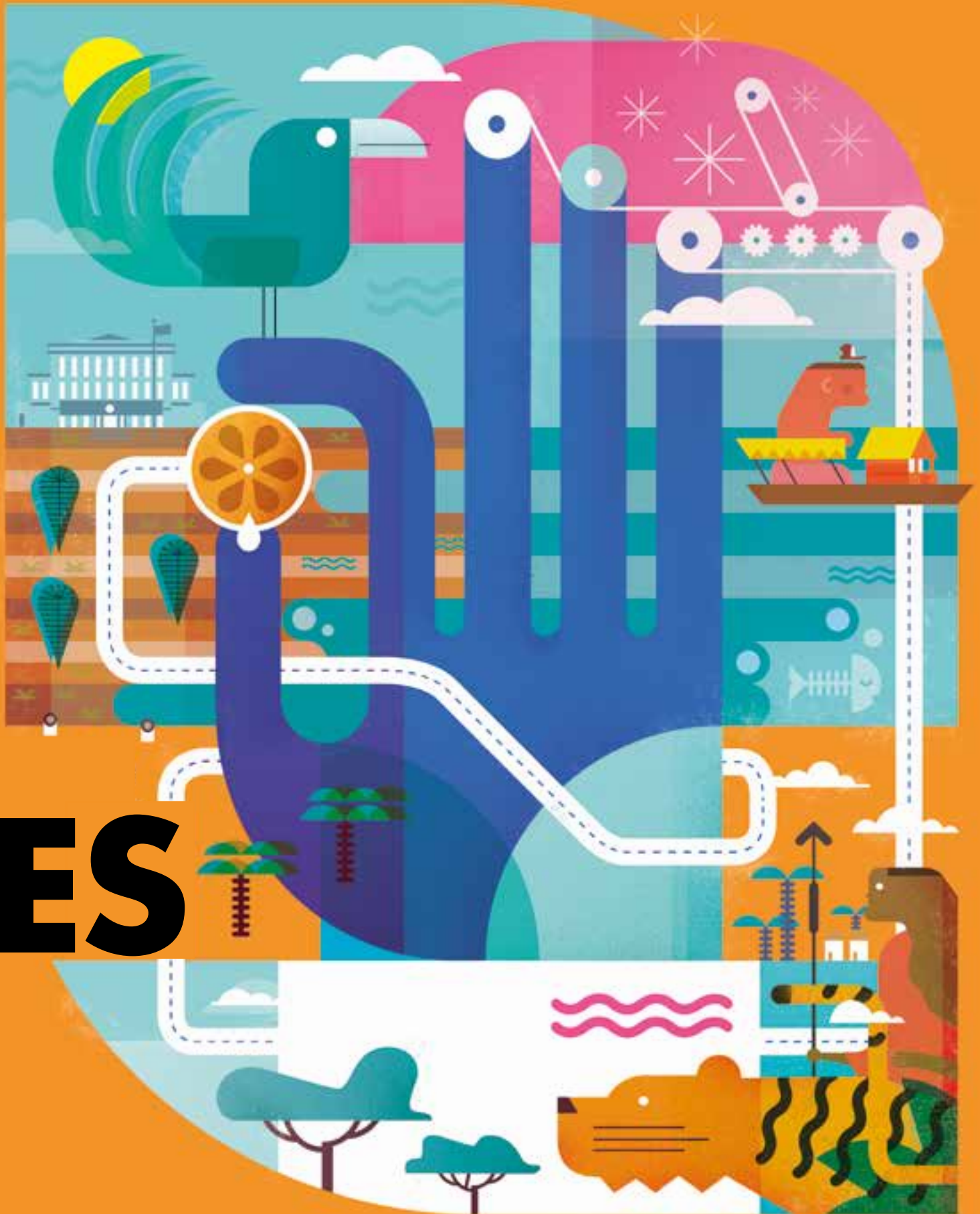
Awareness is growing of the importance of formulating policies based on solid data. So says the Director of FAO Statistics Division, Pietro Gennari, who argues that “statistics provide the basis for analysis, since they identify the problems that must be addressed when designing and guiding needed political interventions”. FAO aims to contribute in this area through the collection, analysis and dissemination of a wide range of statistics. Its FAOSTAT database provides time series and cross-industry data on food and agriculture in some 200 countries. The statistics include figures on crop, timber and livestock production, the trade and supply of agricultural products, greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural waste, producer price indices and other indicators. FAO also produces staple food price indices and continuously updates data on prospects in the

world’s cereals markets, detailed information on water, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and information on gender issues and land rights. Solid information is the key aspect of early warning systems which can help governments, the private sector and civil society manage crises and foster resilience. In addition to FAOSTAT, another important tool is the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS), which provides data on food production and food security. Warnings, bulletins and various reports are also available through the FAO website. The role of the Organization is in helping member states to improve their agricultural and rural statistics. These can be used by both farmers in their forward-planning and economic decision-making and by governments to formulate and supervise policies that tackle, for example, poverty, food insecurity and climate change.

5

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THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF FAO



ES

MAJOR CHALLENGES

The challenges that FAO faces in the Twenty-First Century are increasingly international in nature and a direct reflection of an interconnected, interdependent and globalised world. The Organization's two main priorities are to first, eradicate hunger and achieve food and nutritional security, and second, to alleviate and adapt to the effects of climate change.



FS Eradicating hunger and achieving food security.

Ending hunger is the first priority for action for FAO and is its most ambitious goal yet, one that is possible. This section also looks at other challenges directly related to food and nutritional security, such as combating rural poverty and inequality, feeding a growing population, raising nutrition levels and improving the resilience of communities that are most vulnerable to threats and crises.

CC Tackling climate change.

A second priority is to combat and alleviate the effects of climate change as a way to ensure sustainable agriculture. This section also deals with other important challenges that fall under this priority, such as managing maritime resources, addressing water shortages and preserving natural resources, including soils, forests and biodiversity as a whole.

ERADICATING HUNGER AND ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY

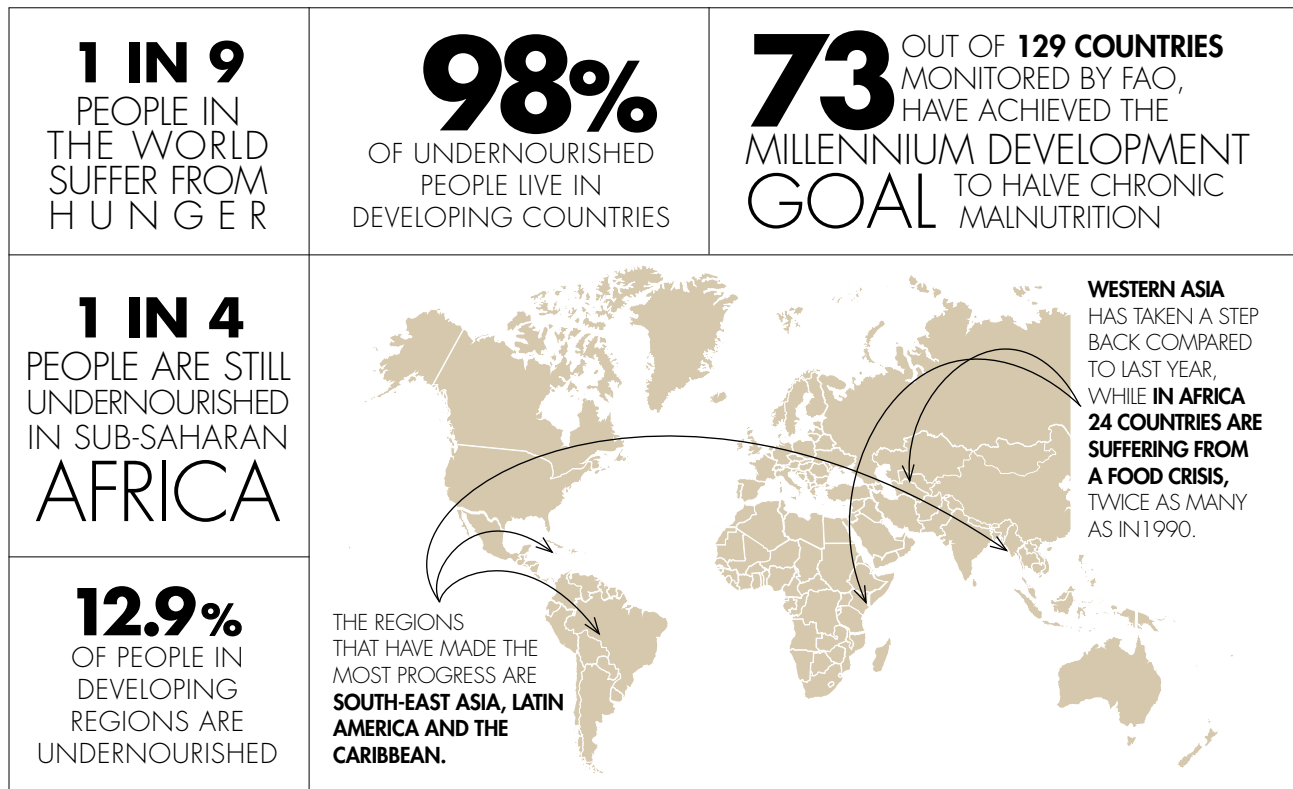
Today, FAO faces its greatest challenge ever: ending hunger in the world. Its report entitled "Achieving Zero Hunger" demonstrates that it is possible. All that is needed is the political will to make it happen.

The will to guarantee food security in a world where there are still 795 million hungry people, according to figures in 2015 – is the magnitude of the challenging task before FAO. One of these reasons is the gradual fall in the

total number of people suffering from hunger in recent years.

With just US\$ 160 a year per person living in a situation of extreme poverty, hunger can be eradicated from the world and done so in a sustainable way by 2030. According to the

report produced in July 2015 by FAO, IFAD and WFP, this means an average of around US\$ 267 billion a year. This figure might seem high, however, it represents only 0.3 percent of global GDP in 2014. "I personally think it



- is a relatively small price to pay to end hunger”, declared José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General during his presentation of the report.

The aim is to invest this money in rural development, agriculture and urban areas to primarily benefit poor people, who must also receive social protection. This will allow these people to access the food they need for a balanced diet and to improve their livelihoods. By contrast, if these additional funds are not found and we continue in the same way, the UN estimates that, far from eradicating hunger, there will still be over 650 million undernourished people by 2030.

Ending the cycle of poverty and hunger once and for all deserves our extra effort. Investing in the poorest people and providing them with social protection also means improving their resources and capabilities so that their incomes can rise above US\$ 1.25/day, which is the poverty line set by the World Bank. Under the proposed model, the majority of the funds would come from the private sector, though these funds must also be supplemented by additional investment from the public sector in rural infrastructure, transport, health and education. In agriculture, for instance, there are many action areas: from developing small-scale irrigation and reducing losses in food processing, to improving access to resources, credit and markets. ●

9 KEY FACTS ABOUT HUNGER IN THE WORLD

1 Is it possible to eradicate hunger from the world? Yes it is possible, and it depends entirely on the political will to combine public social protection systems with pro-poor investments. An investment of US\$160 per year until 2030 would be needed for each person living in poverty. This amounts to a total of US\$267 billion a year, which is equivalent to 0.3% of the global Gross Domestic Product.

2 Hunger is synonymous with chronic undernourishment. Undernourishment means that a person is not eating enough calories to meet daily minimum dietary energy requirements, over a period of one year.

3 Food insecurity exists when people lack secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development, and an active and healthy life. There are many causes: having no food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution or inadequate use of food in the home, among others.

4 Malnutrition is caused by insufficient, excessive or an imbalanced consumption of nutrients. This concept includes hypernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and undernourishment.

5 Undernourishment can cause people to be underweight for their age, short for their age (stunting), dangerously thin for their height (wasting), and deficient in vitamins and minerals (micronutrient malnutrition). Over 2 billion people suffer from “hidden hunger”, which means they are deficient in one or more micronutrient.

6 Out of the 129 countries monitored by FAO, 73 have achieved the target of halving the proportion of the hungry in their populations and by so doing, have reached the first of the MDG. A country is also considered to have achieved this target when it reduces the percentage of hunger to 5%.

7 Where is the most progress being made in the fight against hunger? Latin America is the region making the most progress. According to figures released in



Cover of the report: *Achieving Zero Hunger: The critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture.*

2015, the number of undernourished people in Latin America and the Caribbean is 34.4 million, equating to 5.5% of the population, which is less than half the figure from 25 years ago at 14.7%.

8 Some 73% of the global population lack access to adequate social protection. The majority of these people live in rural areas of developing countries, many of whom rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Poor rural households also have limited access to resources, low productivity and poor markets, which restricts their resilience to economic and natural threats.

9 Which information systems help to prevent food crises? The Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) issues periodic reports on the supply and demand of food production in the world, and issues early warnings to prevent food crises in individual countries. Among other instruments, FAO and other organizations contribute to the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) that was established by the G20 with a view to improving the transparency of the market and political coordination.



**MAURITIUS**

Girls benefiting from a school food programme in Mauritius. Investments help the population escape poverty and hunger in the cities.

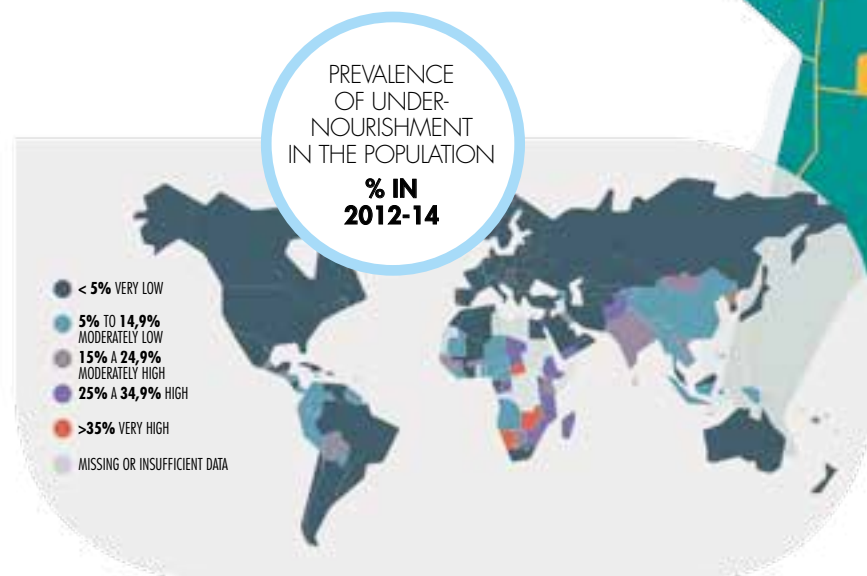
**NGOZI (BURUNDI)**

Inhabitants of the Kibenzi camp for internally displaced persons having lunch.

HUNGER MAP

Hunger targets of the first Millennium Development Goal and the World Food Summit

BY THE FAO STATISTICS DIVISION



ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS FROM 1990-92 TO 2014-16

- TARGET 1C ACHIEVED
- TARGET 1C NOT ACHIEVED, WITH SLOW PROGRESS
- TARGET 1C NOT ACHIEVED, WITH LACK OF PROGRESS OR DETERIORATION
- MISSING OR INSUFFICIENT VALUES
- NOT ASSESSED

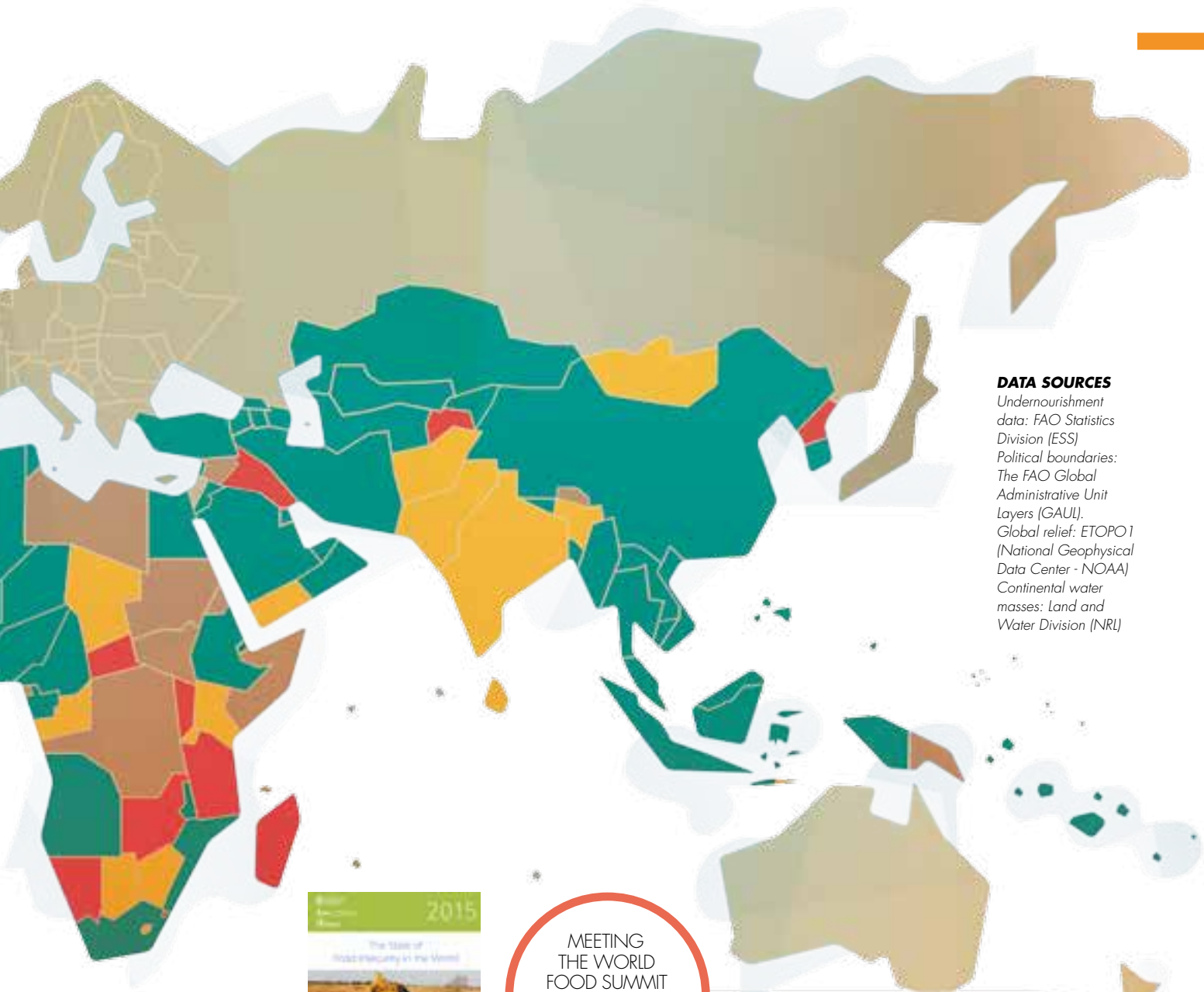
NOTES

First Millennium Development Goal, Target 1C: to halve the proportion of people suffering from undernourishment or to reduce this proportion to below 5% between the periods 1990-92 and 2015. The indicator measures the proportion of the population below the minimum calorie intake (undernourishment). Developed regions are not assessed.

Prevalence of undernourishment: The indicator measures the probability that a randomly selected individual in a population consumes insufficient calories to meet his or her energy needs in order to live an active and healthy life.

Goal of the World Food Summit: to halve the total number of undernourished people between 1990-92 and 2015.

The designations used and the presentation of material in the maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or territorial waters, or concerning the delimitation of borders.



DATA SOURCES

Undernourishment data: FAO Statistics Division (ESS)
 Political boundaries: The FAO Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL).
 Global relief: ETOPO1 (National Geophysical Data Center - NOAA)
 Continental water masses: Land and Water Division (NRL)

THE STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WORLD REPORT (SOFI) provides

information that is used to analyse the prevalence of hunger or undernourishment. Produced by FAO, IFAD and WFP, the study compares the progress of countries and regions, and sheds some light on key factors in the fight against hunger. Its 2015 edition shows the degree of achievement by countries to reach the goal of halving the percentage of undernourished people between 1990 and 2015: 73 out of the 129 monitored countries, achieved it.



MEETING THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT TARGET FROM 1990-92 TO 2014-16

- TARGET ACHIEVED
- TARGET NOT ACHIEVED, WITH SLOW PROGRESS
- TARGET NOT ACHIEVED, WITH LACK OF PROGRESS OR DETERIORATION
- MISSING OR INSUFFICIENT VALUES
- NOT ASSESSED







COMBATING RURAL POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Improvements in living conditions of rural populations will only be made when a number of vicious cycles have been broken.

DANAO (PHILIPPINES)

Family scene.
Food insecurity is directly
linked to rural poverty.

► **In recent decades** the number of undernourished people in the world has fallen steadily. And yet, the dynamics of globalisation are causing various forms of inequality. These dynamics are reflected in the persistence of human deprivation, such as hunger and rural poverty. Mass migration to cities, increased pressure on natural resources, low-quality employment and the obstacles facing women in rural areas to access resources and services are pressing concerns.

We need to improve living conditions in rural areas that are affected by poverty, says Rob Vos, an expert in the field and FAO coordinator of Strategic Objective 3 to reduce rural poverty. This is a “moral obligation”. “A world where poverty persists”, he adds, “is not a fair or sustainable world”. He believes that it is no coincidence that the new sustainable development goals call for the eradication of poverty and hunger. Ultimately, he explains, food security must be ensured for everyone, developing agriculture in a sustainable way.

THE HUNGER LINK

Food insecurity is directly linked to rural poverty. Seventy-eight percent of people living in extreme poverty in the world live in rural areas, and most of them depend on agriculture. Vos stresses that to eradicate hunger and poverty once and for all, food systems must be created to provide everyone with enough food to eat every day of the year. At the same time, we cannot forget to increase the incomes of rural populations and ensure that our natural resources are used sustainably.

Inequality has become one of the main trends of globalisation in the Twenty-First Century. This is clearly shown by the differences in income and in access to services between urban and rural people. According to statistics, a child born in the countryside in a developing country is three times more likely to grow up in a situation of extreme poverty than a child living in a city. Rob Vos

“FOOD SECURITY IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO RURAL POVERTY”.

explains that extreme poverty is found above all in areas where infrastructure and basic services are of poor quality or even non-existent. These areas lack full access to healthcare and basic education, there are no social protection programmes and they are vulnerable to natural disasters. All of these factors perpetuate inequality. But there are other factors as well, Vos points out, such as limited access to markets, credit and technology. Without these resources, family farmers cannot improve their productivity or standard of living. For job opportunities in non-farming activities, many people, especially the young, are forced to emigrate.

CREATING HIGH-QUALITY JOBS

Despite this grim picture, it is possible to break the vicious circle of poverty. Vos says that the fastest reduction in poverty has been seen in areas where obstacles to agricultural development have been removed and new job opportunities have been created. But not only are more jobs needed – they must also be of high-quality. In low-income countries, however, most of the rural workforce is made up of farmers who work for themselves or in the casual labour market, says Vos. They have no workers’ rights or social protection whatsoever. Their vulnerability to the variability of the markets and the weather tends to make their incomes highly unstable; and the conditions in which they work are sometimes hazardous to their health, due to their exposure to chemicals and pesticides without protection, for instance.

Children are also victims of this problem. In fact, 60 percent of child labour in the world is in agriculture, affecting some 100 million children. “We’re not talking about helping out a bit. We’re talking about child labour, children who spend many hours tending cattle or doing other dangerous jobs, which stop them from receiving an education and has an impact on their health”, says Vos. The lack of opportunities also results in many young people leaving rural areas and migrating to the cities, and the greatest challenge, Vos notes, is to keep the talent of new generations so that it can be used in agriculture.

OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS

So how do we prevent migration to the cities? Sometimes it is not just about the lack of opportunities, which is a compelling reason in

itself. A family might only have an acre of land, and it cannot be divided between four or five children, so some are “effectively banished to the cities”, says Vos. On other occasions, young people reach a higher level of education and then tend not to see the primary sector as a place of opportunity. According to Vos, this would not happen “if there were the possibility for rapid growth in productivity in food production”.

This kind of migration also leads to ageing farmers. This phenomenon can be observed everywhere. Even in Asia and Africa where the average age of farmers is around 60 years old and their level of education is generally low. “In these circumstances it is unlikely that new practices and technologies will be adopted to transform agriculture into a more productive and sustainable system”, he explains.

Vos wants young people to play a central role in transforming agriculture. Agroecology, for instance, is one area with the potential to generate many high-quality jobs. FAO works with countries to develop this potential,

but much more can be done. “Non-farming activities must generate much more employment opportunities. We must inject some dynamism between agricultural activities on the one hand and agro-industry and services on the other”.

“IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1.2 BILLION PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE STILL LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY”.

It is not enough just to promote youth employment in industrial activities, as Africa is doing. With 27 million young people joining the labour market each year in the region, Vos adds that, even with

non-farming activities growing by more than 10 percent each year, no more than a modest proportion of young adults will find jobs. That’s why for the medium-term, at least, agricultural employment must become an important part of the solution to the problem of youth unemployment.

WORKING WOMEN

Women will also play a key role in ending rural poverty. They make up almost half of the workforce in agriculture. In developing countries, many women are in charge of agricultural production units, in spite of the many more obstacles they have to face to access inputs and resources.

Vos points out that in some countries, women are not permitted to formally own land, which makes access to credit and therefore buying the resources needed for production, more difficult. “If we do not reduce these gender inequalities, it will be very difficult to alleviate rural poverty”, he says, and it is “very important” that social protection programmes benefit women. “This will contribute very positively to food security”, he concludes. ●



KEY FACTS RURAL POVERTY

It is estimated that **1.2 billion people** in developing countries are still living in extreme poverty.

Moderate poverty (people living on less than US\$2 per day) has fallen at a much slower pace; when in fact many could have been lifted out of extreme poverty,

this progress is easily accelerated.

Both extreme and moderate poverty are primarily rural, with over **75 percent of the world's poor living in rural areas** and relying heavily on agriculture.

The poor have very few decent job opportunities,

as most of them live in **low-productivity areas** where the local economy lacks diversification, unemployment rates are high and jobs are insecure.

Poverty pushes many children into the labour market. **Almost 60 percent of child labour in the world is found in**

agriculture, where children often work in dangerous conditions, endangering their health, education and life opportunities.

Gender differences are often more pronounced among the poor. For example, the gap between poor men and women in the number of

years of schooling they receive, is more than double that of the non-poor.

People with low incomes are at higher risk of **suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition**.

FEEDING A GROWING POPULATION

Sufficient and sustainable global food production becomes ever more critical as the Earth's population increases to 9 billion people by 2050.

To feed the global population, new approaches have emerged to ensure food security through the use of efficient sustainable systems. This task is made more difficult by the fact that the population is expected to grow sharply in some of

the areas where food insecurity is currently most acute. Not only will more food have to be produced, but food waste will also have to be significantly reduced. The question is, how will every person's right to food be fulfilled?



AGRICULTURE OF THE FUTURE

While they may not be the only way to feed a growing population, agro-ecology and climate-smart agriculture are some examples of alternative measures that are gaining ground and could contribute to ensuring sustainable food production and food security. These new approaches can also help to combat malnutrition, and at the same time, help to adapt to climate change.



2010, ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN)

Feeding a growing population that will increase from 7 to over 9 billion people by 2050, is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today.



© FAO/FAROOQ NAEEM

Agro-ecology

Agro-ecology is a practice that helps make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable. From the outset agro-ecology has been developed with a strong social component, respecting the innovatory role of farmers. In its attempt to give impetus to ideas like these, civil society has furthered projects like agro-ecological farms, which under certain conditions can be more productive than conventional ones. These farms can also add value by protecting the environment, keeping it free of chemical products.

FAO is working on demonstrating scientifically how agro-ecology delivers positive results in terms of environmental sustainability and nutrition, particularly for small farmers. As a neutral platform, the Organization is enabling knowledge-sharing between producers, particularly in Africa where a network of researchers in the field is being built. In the Americas, it is helping to strengthen the legal framework, while in Asia, it is encouraging political dialogue.

Climate-smart agriculture

Climate-smart agriculture aims to increase agricultural productivity and profit while adapting to climate change, and if possible, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Another benefit of this alternative approach is that it contributes to improving the resilience of food security in the fastest-growing urban populations. The idea is that it will enable local communities to cope with extreme weather conditions and other undesired consequences of climate change.

It is expected that by 2020 at least 25 countries will have developed their policies or programmes so that 25 million rural homes can adopt climate-smart agriculture approaches in practice. It is already up and running in some countries, such as Kenya and Tanzania, where FAO is carrying out its Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture project (MICCA), and taking into account the agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions.



MORE INFORMATION: SAVE AND GROW. A POLICYMAKER'S GUIDE TO THE SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF SMALLHOLDER CROP PRODUCTION.
WWW.FAO.ORG/AG/SAVE-AND-GROW/ES/INDEX.HTML

FOOD LOSSES

If just a quarter of today's food losses and waste were saved, every hungry person in the world would be fed.



What is food?

Food is the part of a product that is produced with the intention of being eaten by human beings. For instance, a banana skin is not considered food because it is not intended for human consumption.

What are food losses?

This is a reduction in the quantity or quality of food. Specifically, they are agricultural or fisheries products intended for human consumption that are not ultimately consumed or whose reduction in quality is reflected in how safe it is to eat or its nutritional and financial value. They imply a significant waste

of the natural resources used in production (water, soil and greenhouse gas emissions,) They occur mainly in production, harvesting and the various stages of processing along the supply chain, including distribution.

What is food waste?

This is food that is initially intended for human consumption and thrown away or used for something else (i.e. not eaten), whether by choice or because it has been left to spoil or expire through negligence, even if the food is in perfect condition to be consumed. It occurs at the end of the chain where the consumer is involved.

Where do food losses and waste mainly occur?

The majority of losses occur in developing countries along the supply chain before reaching the consumer. Most wastage happens in developed countries after purchase, which suggests that consumer education and information is needed to alleviate the problem.

What would reducing food losses mean?

Reducing food losses through better harvesting, storage, processing and distribution practices would increase food supplies, bring prices down and reduce the pressure on land and other scarce resources.

KEY FINDINGS. NUMBERS TALK



Roughly one-third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year (approximately 1.3 billion tonnes) is either lost or wasted.

Industrialised and developing countries waste roughly the same quantities of food (respectively 670 and 630 million tonnes).

Every year, consumers in developed countries waste almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes).



Food loss and waste also amount to a major squandering of resources, including water, land, energy, labour and capital and needlessly produce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global warming and climate change.

Per capita waste by consumers is between 95-115 kg a year in Europe and North America, while for consumers in sub-Saharan Africa, south and Southeast Asia, this figure is only 6-11 kg a year.

In developing countries, 40 percent of losses occur at post-harvest and processing stages while in industrialised countries more than 40 percent of losses happen at retail and consumer stages.

The food currently lost or wasted in Latin America could feed 300 million people.



Food losses and waste amount to roughly US\$680 billion in industrialised countries and US\$310 billion in developing countries.



Fruit and vegetables, including roots and tubers, have the highest wastage rates of any food.



At retail level, large quantities of food are wasted due to quality standards that over-emphasise appearance.

The food currently wasted in Europe could feed 200 million people.

The food currently lost in Africa could feed 300 million people.

Food losses during harvest and in storage translate into lost income for small farmers and into higher prices for poor consumers.

FOOD LOSSES

The *Save Food* initiative offers comprehensive data on food waste which ironically have no waste. With the examples accompanying major statistics, it is easy to see the magnitude of this problem, which occurs mainly in developing countries and has a serious impact on food and nutritional security.

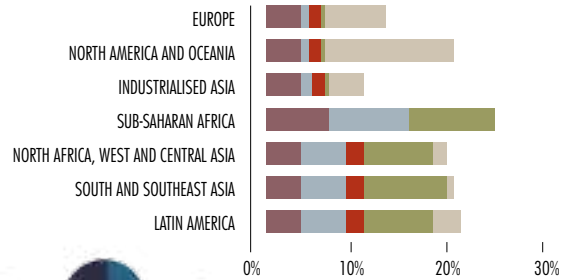


20% DAIRY PRODUCT LOSSES

In Europe alone, 29 million tonnes of dairy products are lost or wasted each year.



574 BILLION EGGS

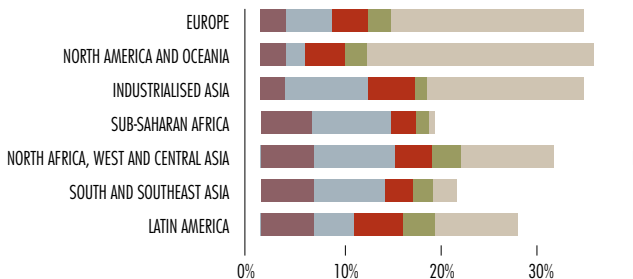


30% CEREAL LOSSES

In industrialised countries, consumers waste 286 million tonnes of cereal products.

763 BILLION PACKS OF PASTA

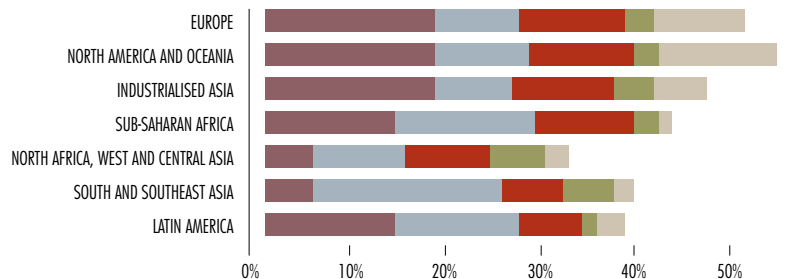
- Agriculture
- Post-harvest
- Processing
- Distribution
- Consumption



45% ROOTS AND TUBER LOSSES

In North America and Oceania alone, 5 814 000 tonnes are wasted at the consumption stage

ALMOST A BILLION SACKS OF POTATOES





■ Fisheries
■ Wasted Catch
■ Processing
■ Distribution
■ Consumption

35% FISH LOSSES

8% of the fish caught globally is returned to the sea, in most cases the fish are dead, dying or seriously damaged.

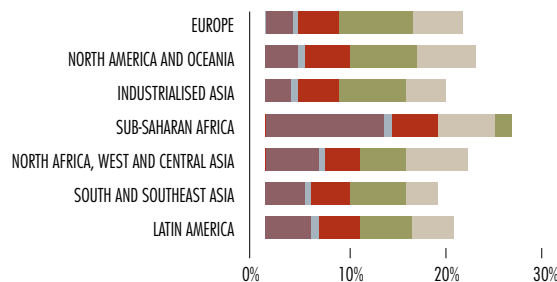
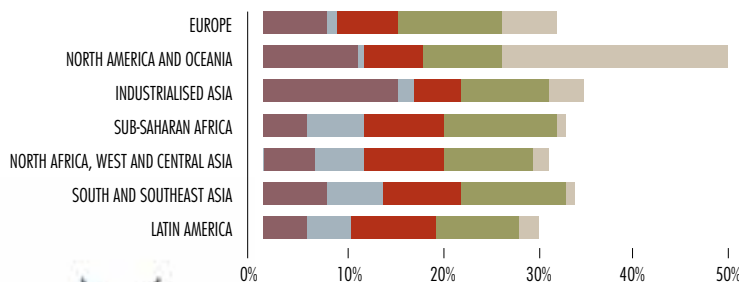
ALMOST 3 BILLION ATLANTIC SALMON



20% WASTE OF BEEF

Of the 263 million tonnes produced globally, some 20 percent is lost or wasted.

EQUIVALENT TO 75 MILLION COWS



45% WASTE OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Alongside roots and tubers, wastage rates are much higher than any other type of food: almost half of all production is wasted.

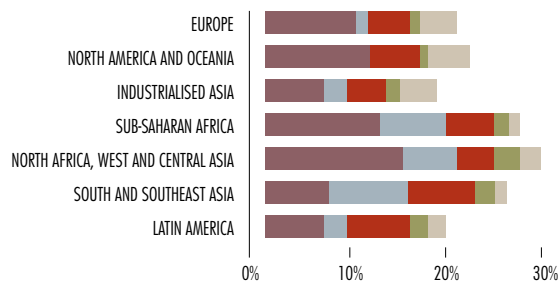
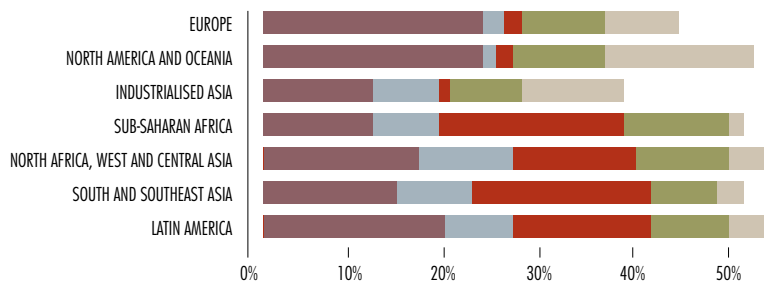
3.7 TRILLION APPLES

■ Agriculture
■ Post-harvest
■ Processing
■ Distribution
■ Consumption



22% PULSES AND OLEAGINOUS PLANT LOSSES

EQUIVALENT TO THE AMOUNT OF OLIVES NEEDED TO PRODUCE ENOUGH OIL TO FILL 11 000 OLYMPIC-SIZE SWIMMING POOLS



RAISING LEVELS OF NUTRITION

Malnutrition is the common denominator of millions of people in the world who are either undernourished or overweight. The lives of Loveness and Fernando, two children from different countries, represent the two bitter sides of this problem.

FERNANDO IS 10 YEARS OLD AND HE IS OBESE. HE WEIGHS 70 KILOS BUT HAS ANAEMIA. HE LIVES IN MEXICO, WHERE ONE IN FOUR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE.

In fact, Fernando is addicted to sugary drinks. He drinks them while he watches television for several hours a day. His parents do not have time to play with him, and physical exercise is not part of his life. His father does not like vegetables and his mother cooks with fat and sour cream. With this upbringing, and though new school standards mean that the school canteen is offering more fruit and vegetables, Fernando always finds a way to get his hands on cookies and ice cream. His parents believe he is in good health because he's "chubby", but really he is anaemic. He lacks micronutrients.

LOVENESS IS 7 YEARS OLD AND UNDERNOURISHED. SHE LIVES IN MALAWI, WHERE ALMOST HALF OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE HAVE CHRONIC MALNUTRITION AND STUNTED GROWTH DUE TO A DIET THAT DOES NOT PROVIDE ENOUGH CALORIES OR NUTRIENTS.

Loveness' mother, Joyce, used to feed her daughter with plain porridge. Now she is learning about nutrition in an FAO educational project. Joyce has started adding nourishing ingredients to the porridge, and since she introduced these changes, Loveness "has only been sick once and that was from malaria", she says. Loveness' health is gradually improving, though some effects of her malnutrition will stay with her for life. She will probably neither



develop intellectually nor grow to her full potential. Nutrition from 6 to 18 months is vital for a person's development.

Fernando has learned to live with his illness. His health is delicate and his situation is becoming increasingly irreversible. He is suffering the consequences of the cultural shift that goes hand in hand with a diet that is too rich in sugar and fat, and too low in fruit and vegetables. Fernando is subjected to a continual bombardment of advertising for processed food with a high sugar and fat content. This environment makes it difficult for him to choose healthy food that lack the commercial appeal to which Fernando is irresistibly attracted. Aged ten, he is very impressionable.

At 79 years of age, Loveness' grandfather, Chikonde, also takes part in the education sessions on nutrition. He has understood the importance of hygiene and has realised that ever since the mothers have begun enriching their porridge with vegetables, peanuts, greens and eggs, "the children have put on weight, they suffer less from diarrhoea and are less prone to illness", Chikonde explains.

The obesity that Fernando suffers from affects another 600 million people around the world. Another 1.3 billion people are overweight. Both obesity and excessive weight are risk factors for diseases associated with diet, such as diabetes, heart problems, strokes and some types of cancer.

In another example of poor nutrition, Loveness displays the three classic symptoms of undernourishment. She is too short for her age, too thin for her height and she suffers what is known as 'hidden hunger' due to a lack of ▶

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION



FAO/IGILIO NAPOITANO

2014, FAO, ROME (ITALY).

Queen Letizia of Spain, appointed as special FAO Ambassador for Nutrition, and Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

A global plea to tackle the main challenges posed by nutrition - was made at the Second International Conference on Nutrition that took place in November 2014 at FAO headquarters in Rome. Held in conjunction with WHO, the conference brought together delegates from 172 countries, 150 civil society representatives and almost a 100 from the private sector, as well as some important figures.

Pope Francis attended and urged political leaders around the world to consider food, nutrition and the environment as global public issues. The Pope called for solidarity and to guarantee food security for everyone, stressing that

the right to healthy food is a matter of dignity and not charity. He also said that the fight against hunger and undernutrition is being hampered by "the priority of the market and the pre-eminence of profit, which have reduced food to a thing to be bought and sold, and subject to speculation".

Queen Letizia of Spain, appointed as the FAO Special Ambassador for Nutrition, underlined the importance of women in family nutrition and called for investment to improve nutrition, not least as a sensible measure from an economic point of view. The conference was attended by other distinguished guests such as the First Lady of Peru, Nadine Heredia; the King of Lesotho, Letsie III; and Princess Haya bint Al Hussein of the United Arab Emirates.

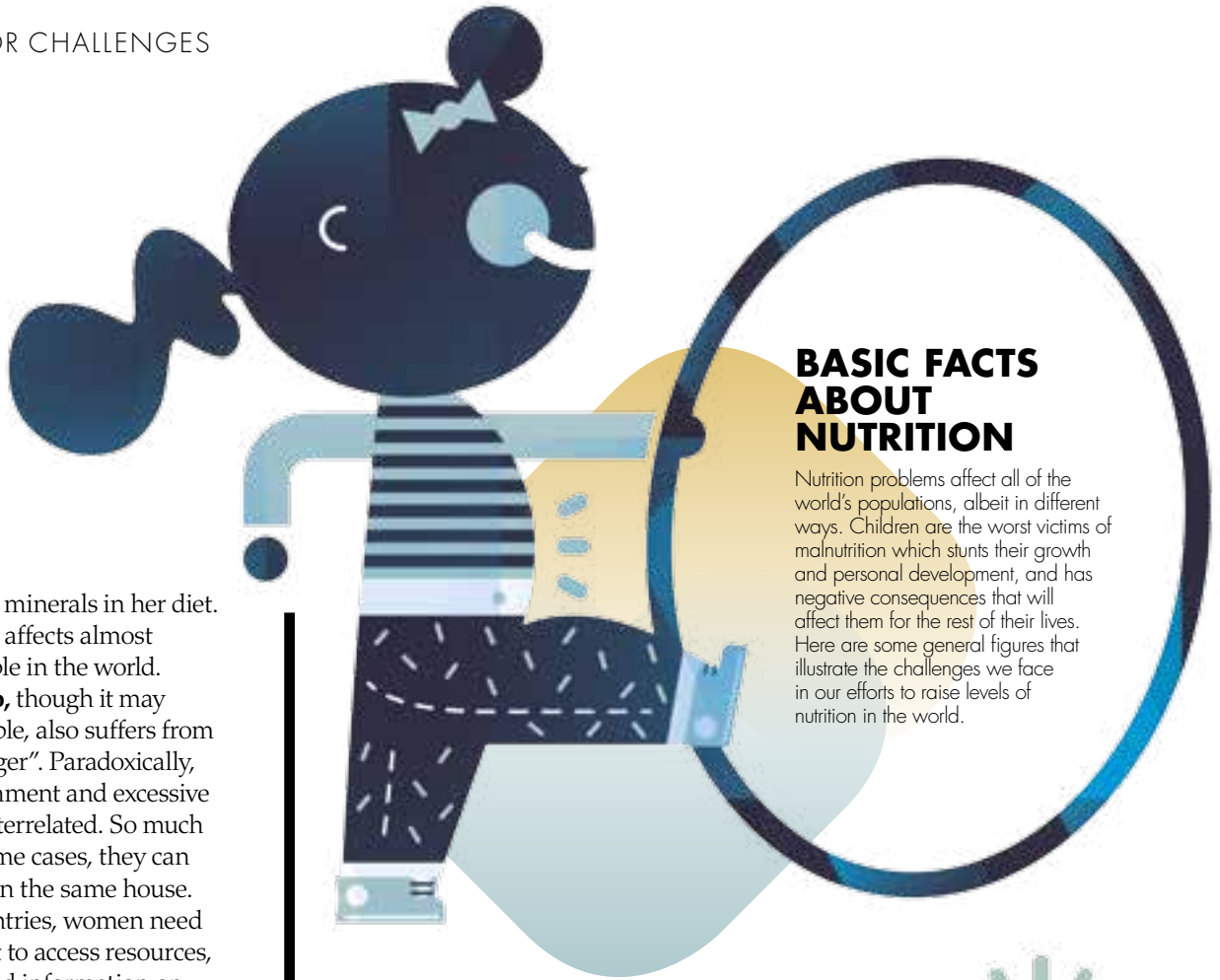
"Nutrition must become a political issue", argued José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, who remarked that "for the first time in history, humanity can say that destitution is not fate and that hunger is completely preventable". The world leaders approved the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. These are two documents that contain voluntary principles aimed at addressing the main challenges of nutrition, such as finding ways to tackle obesity, combating micronutrient deficiencies and ensuring access for every person to healthy food.

- ▶ vitamins and minerals in her diet. This problem affects almost 2 billion people in the world.

Fernando, though it may seem incredible, also suffers from “hidden hunger”. Paradoxically, undernourishment and excessive weight are interrelated. So much so that, in some cases, they can even coexist in the same house. In many countries, women need more support to access resources, healthcare and information on nutrition, because they have the most influence on nutrition at home. Joyce’s family is a good example of how education in nutrition can change the lives of children and of future generations.

Loveness and Fernando represent two bitter sides to the same problem of poor nutrition, which affects all aspects of people’s development. It affects pregnancy, school performance, and immunity to infections, adult quality of life and one’s ability to earn a living.

FAO has established nutrition as a priority alongside food security. Good nutrition is needed to live a full, dignified and healthy life, which contributes to creating societies that can achieve their human development potential. The key lies in political commitment. ●



BASIC FACTS ABOUT NUTRITION

Nutrition problems affect all of the world’s populations, albeit in different ways. Children are the worst victims of malnutrition which stunts their growth and personal development, and has negative consequences that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Here are some general figures that illustrate the challenges we face in our efforts to raise levels of nutrition in the world.



795 MILLION
PEOPLE SUFFER
CHRONIC
HUNGER



51 MILLION
CHILDREN SUFFER
EMACIATION
CAUSED BY ACUTE
MALNUTRITION



AROUND
45%
OF INFANT DEATHS
ARE RELATED TO
MALNUTRITION



161 MILLION
CHILDREN
UNDER FIVE
ARE STUNTED



3.4 MILLION
PEOPLE DIE EACH
YEAR DUE TO BEING
OVERWEIGHT
OR OBESE



1400 MILLION
PEOPLE ARE
OVERWEIGHT
500 MILLION
ADULTS
ARE OBESE



99 MILLION
CHILDREN ARE
UNDERWEIGHT

IMPROVING THE RESILIENCE OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE TO THREATS AND CRISES

Resilience is a new concept in the world of development cooperation that seeks to prevent, anticipate and mitigate risks.



2015, MAKHANGA (MALAWI)

Land degraded by flooding.
FAO has been working
closely with the Malawian
Government to reduce the
country's exposure to threats
like floods and drought.

© FAO/LUCA SOLA

- **While the FAO Strategic Objectives** signify a return to its roots – to the initial mandate that gave rise to the Organization – they also include two novel concepts: sustainability and resilience. Improving the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises has become a central part of the FAO mission. It is vital work which, alongside sustainability, ensures that development happens in the most enduring way possible. Resilience could be described as an ability to prevent disasters and crises, as well as to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover from them in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner.

For instance, if an area is prone to earthquakes, the focus is put on developing the area while taking into account that an earthquake could happen, so that when it does, the impact of the disaster and the time it takes for the area to recover, are reduced as much as possible.

This means that agriculture and food systems that are exposed to threats must be protected, restored and improved to mitigate the impact on farming, food and nutritional security, and food safety.

CRISIS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

Bird flu, ovine rinderpest, locust infestations, wheat, cassava, maize and banana diseases, food-borne pathogens and mycotoxins are some examples of threats to the food supply chain that may impact human health, food security, livelihoods, national economies and global markets. The negative effects of these threats impact

2007, CASUDRE, HAITI. FAO provides aid for farmers affected by the floods in west and south Haiti



2010, MUZAFFARGHAR, PAKISTAN. A family hit by floods flees the area in a boat.



1998, SAN PEDRO SULA (GULF OF HONDURAS). Sugar cane crops devastated by Hurricane Mitch



PUSA (INDIA). A woman working in a lab inoculating wheat plants with wheat rust disease at the Agricultural Research Institute.

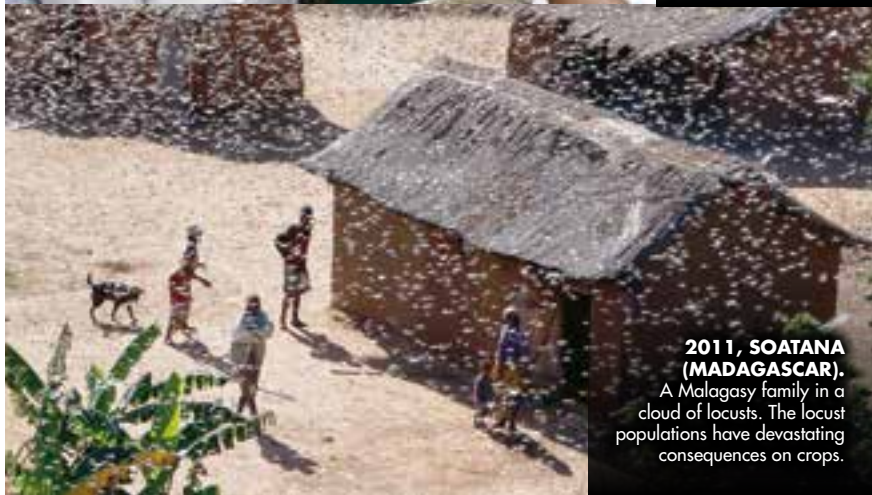
2011, CORAILE, HAITI. A woman waters chard plants grown in tyres distributed by the Urban Agriculture Centre for victims of the 2010 earthquake who live in tents.



2005, BANDA ACEH (INDONESIA). After the tsunami, FAO helped restore around 7 000 hectares of paddy fields by distributing seeds, fertiliser and farm equipment.



2011, SOATANA (MADAGASCAR). A Malagasy family in a cloud of locusts. The locust populations have devastating consequences on crops.



2004, KENDHIKULHUDHOO (MALDIVES). The population receive farming equipment after the tsunami that hit the coasts of 12 countries in the Indian Ocean, killing 200 000 people and leaving almost a million more homeless.



on food security, human health, livelihoods, domestic economies and global markets. Through the Food Chain Crisis Emergency Prevention System (FCC-EMPRES), FAO oversees animal health, plant protection and food safety.

NATURAL THREATS

Climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent all over the world, and they are expected to continue to intensify with climatic changes. The effects on households are devastating. For instance, flooding can destroy assets built up over generations in minutes, while prolonged drought gradually erodes livelihoods: crops wither, animals die and the shortage of resources triggers displacement and violence. Preventing and preparing for disasters is essential, which is why adequate investment is needed.

PROTRACTED CRISES AND CONFLICTS

Protracted crises are one of the most difficult contexts in which to fight hunger, malnutrition and poverty. They have recurring causes, whether man-made or natural. These often occur simultaneously and result in protracted food crises, the deterioration of livelihoods, food systems and governance, and an institutional inability to deal with the situation. Prolonged violent conflict is another example.

To build resilience to these crises, innovative political frameworks, a better understanding of structural causes and coordinated measures are needed to reduce communities' exposure to disruptions.

MAJOR CHALLENGES (II)

Mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change



KIROKA, TANZANIA

A woman crosses one of the streams that feed an irrigation channel used for climate-smart agriculture.

© FAO/DANIEL HAYDUK



Climate change poses multiple threats to agriculture.

The rising temperatures and more frequent extreme weather phenomena will have direct negative effects on crop, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture productivity in the coming years, as the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly shows. Vulnerable populations that depend on agriculture in the developing world are particularly at risk.

But at the same time, the urgent need to meet the challenges posed by climate change is an

opportunity to transform the way food systems use natural resources, to improve the sustainability of agriculture, to reduce poverty and to promote economic growth.

FAO also favours an integrative approach, known as climate-smart agriculture, which has three major goals: 1) to increase agricultural production and incomes in a sustainable way; 2) to help rural communities and poor farmers to adapt; and 3) to be more resilient to the effects of climate change, reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions where possible.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE

For a clearer picture of how FAO is meeting this challenge, here are five good examples that show how improving the yields and income of the poorest and most vulnerable, need not compromise the planet:

1. Climate-smart agriculture for small farmers in Kenya and Tanzania.

The work with farmers in Kenya and Tanzania in field schools has helped to identify and develop resilient climate-smart agricultural systems adapted to local conditions. Some 2 500 farmers in Tanzania and Kenya (of which 46 percent are women) were trained on climate-smart agriculture, generating 33 500 planted seedlings, 44 nurseries, 235 terraces to preserve soil and water, 2 biogas digesters to produce renewable energy from cow dung, and 300 energy-efficient kitchens to reduce deforestation.

2. Developing the ability to understand and address the gender dimensions of climate change and agriculture in India.

In India, a project is unlocking the potential of women as agents of social change to promote climate-smart farming practices. The Organization's work on gender and climate change in Andhra Pradesh, India, identified the need to improve research tools to fill the gaps in our

understanding of gender and climate change issues. This led to a joint effort between FAO and the Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) aimed at understanding better and addressing gender issues within their programmes.

3. An ecosystem approach to policymaking, planning and monitoring in the Kagera River Basin.

The purpose of the Transboundary Agro-ecosystem Management Project for the Kagera River Basin (Kagera TAMP) is to adopt an integrated ecosystems approach in the management of the soil resources of the Kagera Basin. This project is carried out by FAO and is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The river basin is shared by Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. Through its ecosystem approach, the project's benefits include: restoration of degraded lands, carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, while improving agricultural production, rural livelihoods and food security.

4. Andean agriculture: the importance of genetic diversity.

In the Peruvian Andes, FAO promotes the preservation of local corn, potato and quinoa varieties that have been improved over the centuries to grow in specific climates and altitudes. Ensuring good agricultural and livestock biodiversity will be critical in farming's adaptation to climate change.

5. An ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture for food security in Nicaragua.

This initiative supports coastal communities in Nicaragua to develop their own natural resources management plan and rural development strategy. This is to reverse environmental degradation and improve resilience in the area. In Estero Real, Nicaragua, the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture increases the supply and income from seafood, while preserving ecosystem services and improving resilience to climate change.

MANAGEMENT OF SEA AND OCEAN RESOURCES

The fishing industry is worth billions of dollars and plays an important role in relation to food, nutrition, employment and trade

Global aquaculture production recorded a historic high of 90 million tonnes in 2012, including almost 24 million tonnes of aquatic plants. China accounted for more than 60 percent of the total according to figures from the FAO SOFIA 2014 report entitled *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014*.

According to the latest estimates provided by the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook, 2015-2024, aquaculture production is predicted to surpass fishing catch in 2023, which is earlier than expected.

THE INCREASED USE OF AQUACULTURE IMPROVES THE DIET OF MANY PEOPLE ESPECIALLY THOSE LIVING IN POOR RURAL AREAS.

However, SOFIA 2014 warns that in order to continue growing sustainably,

aquaculture must be less dependent on wild fish for feed, and must also introduce a wider variety of species and practices to fish farms. This growth in aquaculture contributes to improving many people's diets, particularly in poor rural areas, where the presence of essential nutrients in food is often scarce.

The challenge will be to promote the consumption of small species, since consumer preferences and other factors have led to a shift towards larger farmed species, whose bones and heads are often discarded.

THE BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE

TODAY'S FISHERIES sector is a multi-billion dollar industry that is a vital source of food and nutrition, employment, trade, economic well-being and recreation.

WHAT IS BLUE GROWTH?

The concept of a "blue economy" came out

of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference and emphasises conservation and sustainable management, based on the premise that healthy ocean ecosystems are more productive and are essential to sustainable ocean-based economies. To support a shift to this new approach, FAO launched the Blue

Growth Initiative to assist countries in developing and implementing blue economy and growth agendas.

WHY BLUE GROWTH?

Blue growth looks to further harness the potential of oceans, seas and coasts to:

1. Eliminate destructive fishing practices and overfishing and instead

incentivise approaches that promote growth, improve conservation, build sustainable fisheries and end illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU);

2. Ensure tailor-made measures that foster cooperation between countries;

3. Facilitate policy development, investment



**MAE NANG
KHAO,
THAILAND.**

A fish in the nets of an aquaculture cage, supplied by FAO.

© FAO/SAEED KHAN

and innovation in support of food security, poverty reduction, and the sustainable management of aquatic resources.

HOW WILL IT BE IMPLEMENTED?

1. Aquaculture: promote policies and good practices for farming of fish, shellfish and marine plants in a

responsible and sustainable manner.

2. Capture fisheries: support implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and related instruments to restore fish stocks, combat IUU and promote good fish production practices and growth in a sustainable manner.

3. Seafood systems: promote efficient seafood value chains and improved livelihoods.

4. Ecosystem services: promote regulatory regimes and approaches to restore vital coastal habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem services (including carbon capture, storm and wave defences, tourism etc).



DID YOU KNOW?

80%
OF ALL LIFE
ON EARTH
IS IN THE
OCEANS

THE OCEANS
PROVIDE
**HALF OF THE
PLANET'S
OXYGEN**

**13 OF THE
WORLD'S 20
MEGALOPOLISES
ARE ON COASTS**

BLUE CARBON
SINKS (MANGROVE
FORESTS, SEAGRASS
MEADOWS, OTHER
MARINE HABITATS
WITH VEGETATION)
CAN RETAIN UP TO

**FIVE
TIMES
MORE
CARBON THAN
RAINFORESTS**

OVER **40%**
OF THE GLOBAL
POPULATION LIVES LESS
THAN 100 KM
FROM COASTLINES

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

A symbol of vulnerability to climate change the threat that hangs over humanity.

WHAT ARE THE SIDS?

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a group of countries that share similar sustainable development challenges. Their growth and development are often impeded by high transportation and communication costs, and by their inability to create economies of scale.

With small populations, limited resources and dependency on international trade, the SIDS are highly vulnerable to natural disasters and external shocks, which are becoming increasingly recurrent and unpredictable due to the effects of climate change.

The Fijian Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, **Inia Seruiratu**, and the Maldivian Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, **Mohamed Shainee**, explain the problems faced by SIDS.

THE COST OF INACTION

"The cost of inaction is linked to our very existence", says Shainee. "Although we're just a few dots on the map of the Indian Ocean, we have the right to exist. The inaction of the developed countries could take that right away from us", explains the Maldivian minister

"Fiji cannot afford to be inactive itself because of its vulnerability. We are focusing on reducing the risks because, if we continue to delay taking action, we will pay a very high price in the future", Seruiratu explains.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SIDS

"Our two biggest challenges are shifting and irregular weather patterns and rising sea levels. Both factors impact on our food security", says the Fijian minister.

"Climate change challenges our country's very existence", argues the Maldivian Minister. "It affects the tuna catch, for instance. If surface water temperatures rise, it forces the tuna to swim in deeper waters and it hampers fishing, which provides the country's main source of protein. Another serious problem is water: in the capital, Malé, everyone now relies on desalinated water because it is impossible to depend on rainwater", says the Minister.



APIA, SAMOA.
FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva with Sangster Saulala, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries of Tonga during the 3rd International Conference of SIDS.

THE ROLE OF FAO

"A global effort to fight climate change is essential for the development of the SIDS", said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva after his re-election, making this issue, one of the priorities of his term of office.

"I recognise the significant contribution FAO has made to the development of the SIDS through the various agreements and partnerships in place. Unlike the Caribbean, the Pacific and Africa, the case of the Maldives is unique, because it is not surrounded by other countries that share similar risks and vulnerabilities. FAO can therefore help by acting as a catalyst between the Maldives and the rest of the SIDS' programmes to reduce the differences in their ability to address these vulnerabilities", explains the Maldivian Minister, Shainee.

WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN?

"The Maldives Government is heavily reliant on sea barriers to protect the population from the swell, erosion and rising tides. The government is working hard to improve the resilience of fisheries and agriculture by diversifying these industries", says Shainee.

"Fiji, alongside its development partners, is trying to mitigate the risks by relocating its people, implementing cost-effective eco-engineering solutions, promoting climate-smart agriculture, conducting research and raising awareness", says Minister Seruiratu.



THE ARCTIC OCEAN AND FOOD SECURITY

That the ice of the Arctic Ocean has been melting fast in the last few years, is a well-known fact. We also know that it is melting faster than expected. However, perhaps there is a general lack of awareness of the full implications of this issue on global food security.

With delicate ecosystems, the Arctic is one of the world's regions that is most vulnerable to the effects of climate change which is warming at a faster rate. This is due to the loss of the albedo effect –the earth's ability to reflect thermal radiation into space, or in other words, to avoid global warming– caused by an increased presence of CO₂ in the atmosphere, which means rising temperatures leading to thawing ice.

The absence of snow and ice means that more energy is

absorbed, due to the exposure to the sun of darker land and sea surfaces in these polar regions. In turn, this absorbed energy feeds back into the global warming process, contributing to the overall rise in temperatures and, to close the circle, it leads to the thawing of the Arctic. However, this thaw presents new opportunities (new transport routes, fishing and sizeable hydrocarbon reserves.) and offers benefits for some, but serious consequences for the rest of the world. The rising sea levels, or changes in salinity and currents,

will have harmful effects for many. The first victims will be the SIDS.

In this thawing process, the ice has a tipping point, which means that the transformation of ice into water is non-linear. In other words, the changes occur suddenly. Of the 14 'tipping elements' that exist in the earth's climate, six are in the Arctic. The scientific community therefore advises prudent human activity in the area and urges international cooperation to deal with the global environmental risks, marrying environmental protection with national interests.

DAMBAS, KENYA

A woman collects water in a contaminated canal. Due to lack of drinking water, many people are suffering from diarrhoea, cholera, malaria and other diseases.



COPING WITH WATER SCARCITY

Water is a shared resource that crosses political and geographical boundaries; cooperation between countries will be critical to ensuring its sustainable use and management.

“Water scarcity is one of the most pressing threats to food security in Near East and North African countries due to the close relationship between water and food production”.

Dawn breaks and the call to prayer echoes from thousands of mosques in the Near East. The scene is repeated a little later all over North Africa. At the same time, the sun is already beating down when millions of farmers throughout the region begin their day. They work hard to produce food for a population growing by 2 percent per year which is double the global average. From Morocco to Yemen, they are united by a common challenge that faces the whole region. These include water scarcity, which threatens their livelihoods, and food security in the region.

Water scarcity is one of the most pressing threats to food security in Near East and North African countries due to the close relationship between water and food production. The availability of fresh water in the region is expected to fall by 50 percent by 2050, according to FAO forecasts, to a large extent

THE AVAILABILITY OF FRESH WATER IS EXPECTED TO FALL BY 50% IN THE NEXT 35 YEARS.

due to the negative effects of climate change.

This lack of water undermines the region’s ability to maintain per capita food production, and to meet domestic, industrial and environmental water needs. The dependence on this resource by these countries is a serious issue: over 60 percent of the region’s water resources come from beyond its national and regional borders.

Furthermore, the situation is getting worse. The per capita availability of fresh water in Near East and North African countries, just 10 percent of

the global average, has fallen by two-thirds in the last 40 years, which has led to growing concern over the loss of water quality and the impact of climate change.

Uncertainty

The farmers of this region, rise each day with uncertainty created by low and variable availability of water, rising soil salinity – which reduces crop productivity – and nutrient depletion due to the degraded land, undermining its quality. The effects of climate change also increase the unpredictability of the traditionally known rain and temperature patterns, which are increasingly susceptible to higher temperatures, to more frequent drought and to torrential rains.

“This is the toughest situation for farmers who have to practice rain-fed agriculture, because they rely entirely on rainwater”, says Pasquale

- Steduto, coordinator of the FAO Water Scarcity Initiative in the region. This is the case of 60 percent of crops, where the scarcity of water makes crop productivity rates, plummet. At least there is one positive side: it forces farmers to make reasonable and prudent use of the water they are able to store.

On average the farming industry accounts for 13 percent of the regional GDP (excluding some Gulf States) and it ranges from 2 percent in Jordan to over 20 percent in Sudan and Syria. It provides employment for 38 percent of the region's active population, and food exports contribute significantly

Groundwater management

Demographic growth adds a layer of urgency to the problem. Chronic undernourishment in the region is estimated at 11.2 percent based on figures from the 2010-2013 period. While the population continues to spiral upwards, this means that agricultural production will have to increase by 60 percent by 2050 to meet

future demand. Another reason

for concern, in a region that has such limited surface

water resources, is

the management

of groundwater.

Although it is a

valuable source

for multiple

uses, "extracting

groundwater

and water

from aquifers

for irrigation

has spread

progressively

and in an

unsustainable

way. This

overexploitation

will threaten

the well being of farmers in the coming years", Steduto explains.

Although significant progress

has been made in recent decades

in the development of the

region's water usage and storage

capabilities, there is still a lot of

work to be done in many areas.

Improvements in managing and

allocating water resources in a

sustainable manner, ensuring

the efficient use of water in

farming while protecting its

quality, and in addressing

challenges associated with

climate change are

urgently needed.



In the case of irrigation farming, modern irrigation systems need less water, less energy and less manpower to improve yields for farmers. However, many farmers, and particularly small-scale growers, cannot afford to modernise their systems.

The farming industry

Of all the economic sectors, it is in agriculture where water scarcity has the biggest impact, since agriculture is by far the largest consumer of water. It uses 85 percent of the freshwater resources available in the region.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IS ANOTHER CAUSE FOR CONCERN

to the economy of many of the region's countries, enabling them to import the foods that they cannot produce. Access to high-quality water is therefore vital for economic prosperity and for achieving better living conditions.

HEALTHY SOIL FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Conservation of natural resources requires a long-term vision for which future generations will be grateful, and that conservation will help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Soils are hugely important in global food production – they make our lives possible every day – but we do not pay enough attention to our “silent ally”, warned FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva on the eve of World Soil Day, held on 5 December 2014.

Healthy soils are not just the basis for food, fuel, fabrics and medical products; they are also essential to our ecosystems and play a critical role in the carbon cycle, in the storing and filtering of water, and towards improving the resilience of farmers to flooding and drought.

The United Nations declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils in an effort to raise awareness and encourage a more sustainable use of this vital resource.

In 2015, 795 million people suffered from hunger and malnutrition. The growing population will require food production to increase by around 60 percent. Given that much of our food depends on soils, it is easy to understand how important it is to keep them healthy and productive. Unfortunately, a third of global soil resources are degrading.



Also, human pressure on soils is reaching critical levels, reducing, and sometimes eliminating, the soil's basic nutrients. By so doing, it also compromises the ability of farmers to grow the food that is needed by a world population that is estimated to reach nine billion by 2050.

As well as being the International Year of Soils, the year 2015 is especially important for the future sustainability of the planet with a new set of global goals. A commitment to healthy and productive soils will be vital to ensuring food security and nutrition for all.

SOILS: A KEY RESOURCE UNDER THREAT

FAO estimates that a third of all soils are degrading due to erosion, compaction, sealing, salinisation, depletion of organic matter and nutrients, acidification, pollution and other processes caused by unsustainable land management practices.

Unless new approaches are adopted, in 2050 the global productive arable land surface area per person will be a quarter of what it was in 1960. Soil is a non-renewable natural

- ▶ resource. Once it is lost it cannot be recovered within a human lifetime. One centimetre of soil can take up to 1 000 years to form, and with 33 percent of global soil resources degraded, and growing human pressure, critical levels are being reached, making good management of soils, a matter of urgency.

Poor agricultural practices include intensive tillage, elimination of organic matter, over-irrigation using poor-quality water and excessive use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides. These practices deplete nutrients in the ground faster than they are capable of forming, and in turn, lead to a loss of soil fertility, and soil degradation. Some experts believe that the number of years of fertile soil left on the planet is comparable to the estimates for oil and natural gas reserves. At least 16 percent of African land has been affected by soil degradation. Globally, 50 000 km² of soil, an area the size of Costa Rica, are being lost each year, according to the Global Soil Partnership.

At least a quarter of global biodiversity is underground, where the earthworm, for instance, is a giant next to tiny organisms like bacteria and fungi. These organisms – including plant roots – are the main nutrient-recycling agents, and they help plants by improving their nutrient intake, which in turn contributes to maintaining biodiversity aboveground.

Better management can ensure that these organisms –which usually go unnoticed–



ANOTHER CAUSE FOR CONCERN IS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

increase the soils' ability to absorb carbon and mitigate desertification, so that they can even capture more carbon, helping to compensate for the greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

MAPPING THE SOIL

FAO has implemented more than 120 soil-related projects around the world and produced the Soil Map of the World alongside UNESCO. The most urgent priorities include updating, standardising and improving

the accessibility of global knowledge on soil types and their distribution.

Until that time, soil data tended to be obsolete, fragmented and limited in scope. One FAO priority has been to establish a global information system on soils, providing reliable facts and figures that can be used in decision-making processes related to soil management.

FAO has launched a series of initiatives, including the Global Soil Partnership, which has set up the Healthy Soils Facility as its operational arm.

Investing in sustainable soil management makes economic and environmental sense.

Sustainable soil management costs less than rehabilitating soil or restoring its functions. In Honduras, an FAO project developed the "Quesungual Slash and Mulch Agroforestry System" to replace the ancient slash-and-burn farming method, which led to a reduction in moisture and fertility. It resulted in increased productivity and incomes for farmers in the region.

In Honduras, up to 78 percent of the land used for agriculture is on hillsides. Due to periods of drought and seasonal water scarcity, water supply varies. Coupled with soil erosion, these are the main problems facing the region, which are further compounded by climate variability and change. As a result, generations of farmers and their livelihoods have been directly impacted, as have food production and the area's environment.

When the Lempira system was developed, named after the department in south-west Honduras, most of the region's farmers were using the traditional slash and burn method, clearing part of the forest by cutting down the vegetation and then burning the debris. Crops were grown on a plot for one to three years, until its yields fell due to declining moisture and fertility. Farmers then had to move to another plot to clear, burn and plant again.

This farming method was not appropriate for a region where most of the fields are on hillsides and where the soils are fragile and acidic. These practices were having a growing adverse impact on the region's resources and food security.

To address these issues, almost 20 years ago, FAO and local small-scale producers developed the Quesungual agroforestry farming system, which was tailored to the region's biophysical and socio-economic conditions.

By improving soil quality and management, the Quesungual system has increased production, resilience and sustainability in the region. The yields have almost doubled; less labour is required to establish and maintain the plots; and the soil retains moisture better, enabling crops to withstand the regular droughts that afflict the area and minimising the risk of erosion and landslides. This low-cost system has also brought down greenhouse gas



emissions and increased carbon retention.

Ultimately, this project has changed the lives of people for the better. Farmers harvest more for less money and they have also improved their diets, with more nutritious food. Sustainable soil management has produced results in Honduras. ●



DID YOU KNOW?

95%

OF OUR FOOD IS PRODUCED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM OUR **SOILS**

IT TAKES UP TO **1 000 YEARS** FOR ONE CENTIMETRE OF SOIL TO FORM

SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT WOULD ENABLE

58% MORE FOOD TO BE PRODUCED

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA, LAND IS AVAILABLE BUT **OVER 70 % HAS SOIL AND TERRAIN-RELATED LIMITATIONS**

33% OF SOILS ARE MODERATELY TO HIGHLY DEGRADED

PROMOTING CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND ECOSYSTEMS

Conservation of natural resources requires a long-term vision for which future generations will be grateful and that will help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Forests and trees provide us with food, protection, the air we breathe and the clean water we drink; they house and safeguard the planet's biodiversity and act as our natural defence against climate change. Life on earth is possible and sustainable thanks to our forests and trees.

In 2015, forests were at the centre of the global agenda with the 14th World Forestry Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, under the auspices of FAO from 7 to 11 September 2015. The Congress plays a vital role as a forum for discussing emerging issues in the forestry sector and setting out the principles that will enable us to address these issues in the coming decades.

The 14th Congress was held under the title *Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future*. It demonstrated that investments made in the forestry sector are investments in people and, in turn, in the economies of countries and in sustainable development. The event focused on people-orientated forestry, socio-economic problems and the roles that forests, trees and forestry activities play in a country's economic



development. It examined key environmental problems like climate change, water supply and sustainable firewood supply, which is particularly critical in Africa. The Congress also looked at new governance structures that promote sustainable forestry management.

The event was held at an ideal time to discuss the United Nations agenda for the post-2015 period and the Sustainable Development Goals. The potential of forestry activities is immense: for people's training and development, for the eradication of poverty and for sustainable management of forestry resources.



DID YOU KNOW?

FORESTS ARE HOME
**TO OVER
80% OF LAND
ANIMALS
AND PLANTS**

FORESTS COVER
**31%
OF THE
WORLD'S
LAND SURFACE**

THE COUNTRIES WITH
THE LARGEST AREAS
ARE RUSSIA, BRAZIL,
CANADA AND THE USA

ALMOST
**AS MUCH
CARBON**

IS STORED IN FORESTS AS
IN THE ATMOSPHERE

WE EAT ALMOST
**11 KG OF
FOREST FOODS**
PER PERSON EACH YEAR



DID YOU KNOW?

OF THE 8 800 KNOWN ANIMAL SPECIES, **7% ARE ALREADY EXTINCT AND 17% ARE IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION.**

FISH PROVIDES ALMOST **20% OF THE ANIMAL PROTEIN** INTAKE OF 3 BILLION PEOPLE.

OVER 80% OF THE HUMAN DIET COMES FROM PLANTS

FIVE CEREALS PROVIDE 60% OF OUR DIETARY ENERGY (**RICE, WHEAT, CORN, MILLET AND SORGHUM**)

OF THE **30 000 KNOWN EDIBLE LAND PLANTS,** 7 000 ARE CULTIVATED OR COLLECTED BY HUMANS FOR FOOD

Biodiversity

Crops, livestock, aquatic organisms, trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates – thousands of species and their genetic variability – make up the web of biodiversity on which the world’s food production depends.

Biodiversity is indispensable, whether it be the insects that pollinate the plants, microscopic bacteria used to make cheese, the various breeds of livestock that are people’s livelihoods in inhospitable environments, or the thousands of crop varieties that sustain food security worldwide. Biodiversity is essential to achieve nutritional diversity in diets – a varied food basket – which is important for human health and development.

However, biodiversity, and genetic diversity in particular, is being lost at an alarming rate. The threats to genetic diversity include prioritisation of the development and use of just a few commercial crop varieties, neglecting locally adapted varieties and breeds and their important properties; the effects of increasing population pressure; the loss of natural habitats and environmental degradation, including deforestation, desertification and river basin modification; and climate change.

Plants, animals, micro-organisms and invertebrates are able to

adapt and survive when their environments change thanks to genetic variability. The challenges of the future will therefore only be met by maintaining and using a wide genetic range. For example, plants and animals that are genetically tolerant to high temperatures or drought, or resistant to pests and disease, are vital in our adaptation to climate change.

Maintaining biodiversity for food and agriculture is a global responsibility. With climate change, the conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity are more important than ever.

The challenge of preserving and using genetic resources sustainably belongs to all continents and ecosystems and requires a comprehensive response. The year 2015 marks the 30th anniversary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the only permanent forum where governments discuss issues relating to biological diversity for food and agriculture. The commission’s main goals are to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.



6

THE FAO HEADQUA

A NEUTRAL FORUM





RTERS



1951, ROME.

The FAO headquarters is located in the heart of Ancient Rome, close to the Baths of Caracalla. With views of the Roman Colosseum, it was first built to house the Ministry of the Italian Colonies in East Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya and Somalia), on what used to be Viale Africa (now Viale Aventino) from 1938 to 1945. Construction work began in 1938. From the FAO headquarters, the historically and architecturally important obelisk, Axum Stele, could be seen, though it was later returned to its place of origin in Ethiopia.



ROME
August 1951 - Headquarters of the United Nations Food and Agriculture
Organisation in Rome.



THE STORY OF HOW THE MINISTRY OF THE ITALIAN COLONIES IN EAST AFRICA BECAME THE FAO HEADQUARTERS

In 1949, the FAO Conference accepted the Italian Government's offer to move the permanent headquarters from its temporary site in Washington to Rome. The move took place two years later in February 1951. The new FAO headquarters occupied the building that was originally designed for the Ministry of the Italian Colonies in East Africa, located near the Baths of Caracalla. The first problem encountered was that the building needed a large assembly area that could accommodate all of the representatives of the member states and was equipped to host high-level international meetings. There were only a few months to go before the FAO Conference (to be held that November) that meant creating a new space in record time.

That was when the part of the headquarters building, known as Building A, was purpose-built to house the main meeting room known as the Plenary



Hall; the two Committee rooms, the Red Room and the Green Room; the library and the radio studio. The project was funded by the Italian Government and overseen by the Italian Ministry of Public Works.

In conjunction with the architect Vittorio Cafiero, the building was constructed at unprecedented speed. Efforts were redoubled to complete the project in time and on 19 November, the 6th FAO Conference was held in the newly built Plenary Hall.

After the Conference, a number of construction and maintenance projects continued. There was a new spirit of resurgence and the FAO headquarters was seen as an opportunity to exhibit arts and crafts of the member States. In Resolution No. 90 adopted by the Conference, countries were invited to donate furniture and other examples of their national and, in particular, rural crafts.

FAO HEAD-QUARTERS: A NEUTRAL FORUM FOR DISCUSSION

PHOTOGRAPHS THOMAS CANET
FAO PHOTO SERVICE

FAO plays a proactive role in disseminating knowledge and information to provide assistance to countries, supporting agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as food security and nutrition.

Every year, a large number of meetings are held at FAO headquarters in Rome, making the Organization an important forum for discussion and negotiation, often resulting in fundamental international agreements and conventions.

FAO has also become a centre for prominent conferences.

There are a total of 24 meeting rooms at headquarters. The gatherings may be technical or on economic issues, and include seminars, training courses and workshops.



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From the top and left to right: **1.** View of the Plenary Hall during the 39th FAO Conference, June 2015; **2.** Event on Food Security; **3.** Atrium of the FAO building; **4.** The building's exterior; **5.** The Bird, donated by sculptor Roberto Rota; **6.** Close-up of the staircase fresco leading to the Iran Room; **7.** and **11.** The King Faisal of Saudi Arabia Room; **8.** A view of the Ethiopia Room; **9.** Workshop of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO); **10.** FAO headquarters; **12.** View of a Council meeting held in the Red Room; **13.** Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures; **14.** One of the delegates from the member states during the vote for Director-General, June 2015; **15.** Preamble to the FAO Constitution, the lobby.





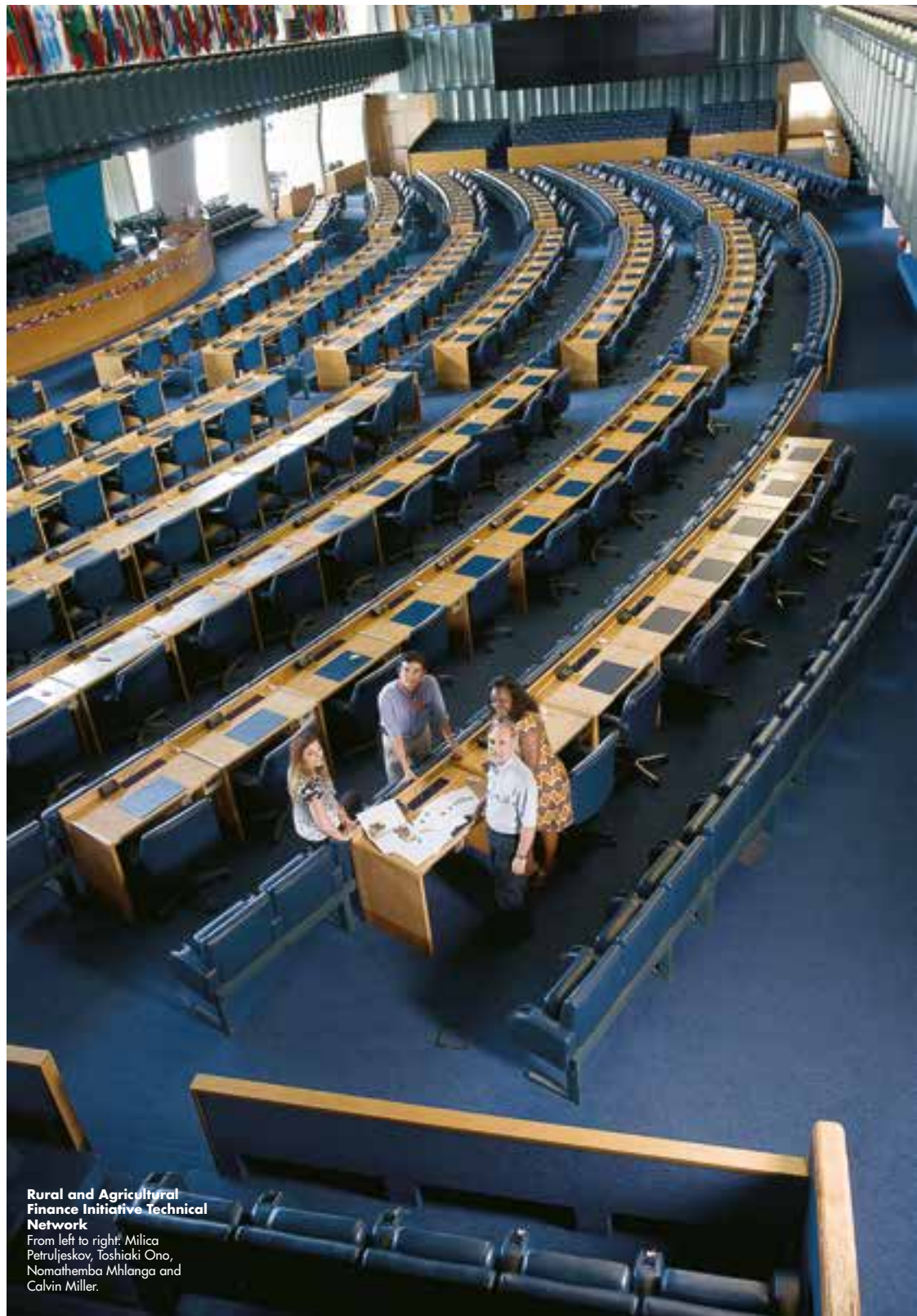
THE PLENARY HALL

The Plenary Hall is the most important room in the building, especially designed to hold high-level meetings. These include the biennial FAO Conference and its governing bodies' sessions, summits and ceremonies. The dominant colour in the hall is blue, a reminder of the blue of the United Nations flag. It has a seating capacity of 1 180 on the main floor and in the galleries. It is equipped so that speakers can be heard in seven languages through simultaneous interpretation in the six FAO official languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic) plus one other language when required. Although the hall retains some of its original features, in 1951 it was quite different. ▶

- It has undergone a number of renovations due to the growing number of member states joining the Organization over the years. New seats and new simultaneous interpretation booths have since been added.

**THE CEILING:
AN EXAMPLE OF
FIGURATIVE ART**

The Plenary Hall ceiling was decorated by the renowned Italian sculptor, painter and engraver Mirko Basaldella. Commissioned by the Italian Government, the artist designed and completed an extraordinary example of figurative art. It covers around 500 m² and is composed of 18 panels. In his masterpiece, Mirko, offers an allegoric representation of the sky and the ocean floor. The décor was also designed with important technical considerations in mind: first, to improve the hall's acoustics with its embossed surface, and second, to incorporate air-conditioning outlets.



**Rural and Agricultural
Finance Initiative Technical
Network**

From left to right: Milica Petruljeskov, Toshiaki Ono, Nomathemba Mhlanga and Calvin Miller.



Nutrition Group.
From left to right: Lee Warren, Gyose Boitshupo, Ellen Muehlhoff and Anna Larley, Director of the Nutrition Division.





**RED ROOM,
INTERPRETATION BOOTH**
Blandine Jeanne, interpreter.





Working group on Strategic Objective 4 (OE4)

From left to right: Eugenia Serova, Divine Njije, respectively, Director and Deputy Director of the Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division (AGS), Carlos da Silva and Jamie Morrison.

THE RED AND GREEN ROOMS

Donated by the Italian Government, both were inaugurated in 1951.

The Red Room was designed to host meetings of the FAO Council, the executive body of the Conference which normally holds at least five sessions in-between meetings of the Conference. It was designed to ensure that the 49 member states – serving three-year rotating terms – and the European Union have seats in front of the platform chaired by the Independent Chairperson of the Council, and that observers can participate from their seats. The room has a capacity to hold 455 people, who can listen to the session in the six FAO official languages. It is decorated with portraits of its former Chairpersons.

The Green Room has 496 seats. With its austere and simple design, functionally it complements the Red Room. The member states' flags are displayed behind the platform.



**THE GREEN ROOM
Global Information and Early Warning System**

From left to right: Concepción Calpe and Shirley Mustafa.





THE SHEIKH ZAYED CENTRE

Built as an international knowledge centre, the Sheikh Zayed Centre is a state-of-the-art meeting place. Inaugurated in 2012, the room was funded by the United Arab Emirates. The entrance to the room welcomes visitors with the famous quotation "Give me agriculture and I will give you civilization", repeated in seven languages and in hieroglyphics, illustrating the crucial role that farming has played in human progress and the way writing has been an essential part of this civilising process. ▶



► The artist Sadica Keskas designed the glass panelling together with the architect Marco Felici. The artwork includes other symbolic elements such as palm trees and birds depicted on the top panels. The palm trees represent the connection between the various religions – they are considered sacred in

the holy texts – and also, like the birds, a source of life.

The concept of life can also be seen in the golden trees decorating the platform. The idea is to imagine the tree as a means of interaction between land and sky: the roots of the tree penetrate the soil, while the branches spread towards the sky, a metaphor for

communication, information and knowledge, as well as a meeting point between cultures.

With its 170 seats and seven language channels, the Sheikh Zayed Centre is generally used for press conferences, screenings, publication launches and briefings. It has also been used as a set for television programmes.



BELOW: Some experts from the **Strategic Group on Climate Change**. From left to right: Jeffrey Griffin, Alexandre Meybeck and Fred Snijders.



THE ETHIOPIA ROOM

Inaugurated in 1965, it was refurbished in 2013. The room's interior design reflects the country's culture, while the bright colours are a reference to its flag. The painting on the main wall was digitally designed by Italian artist Adriano Nardi. The wall decoration depicts an iris flower, known as a symbol of faith, courage, wisdom, protection, hope and goodwill. Its two sides complement each other, with an abstract depiction of a woman in profile looking into the distance on the left side, and a man wearing traditional Ethiopian dress on the right. The artwork forms the DNA double helix symbolising the origin of the human species, created by the union between man and woman. This piece of modern art represents the balance between nature and the human spirit. The room has a seating capacity of 86 people.



THE MALAYSIA ROOM

The Malaysia Room, inaugurated in 1965 and renovated in 1997, was built and furnished with materials from that country. With the capacity to seat 116 people, the room has frequently been used for high-level intergovernmental negotiations.

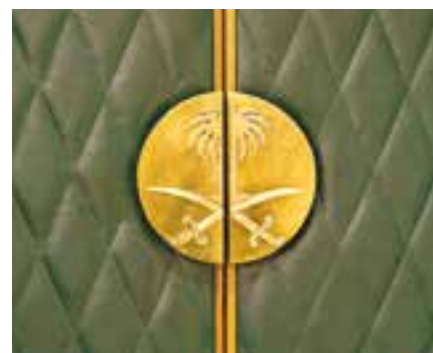


THE NIGERIA ROOM

Inaugurated in 1973 and fully renovated in 2009, among the room's main features are a vast oval wooden table, coloured light fittings and a separate breakaway area for small group discussions. The room seats 25 people.



Code of Conduct / Blue Growth Group.
From left to right: Lahsen Ababouch, **Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and Policy Division**; Yvette DieiOuadi, Matthew Camilleri and Arni Mathiesen, **Assistant Director General for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department**.



THE KING FAISAL ROOM

Inaugurated in 1981, the room is named after the Saudi Arabian King who reigned from 1964 to 1975. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia donated this room to FAO in recognition of the Organization's critical role in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Its design reflects Islamic art. Its walls are adorned with a portrait of King Faisal sculpted in white marble, a mosaic of Mecca and verses from the Koran. It has been designed to accommodate 116 people.



1. THE PHILIPPINE ROOM

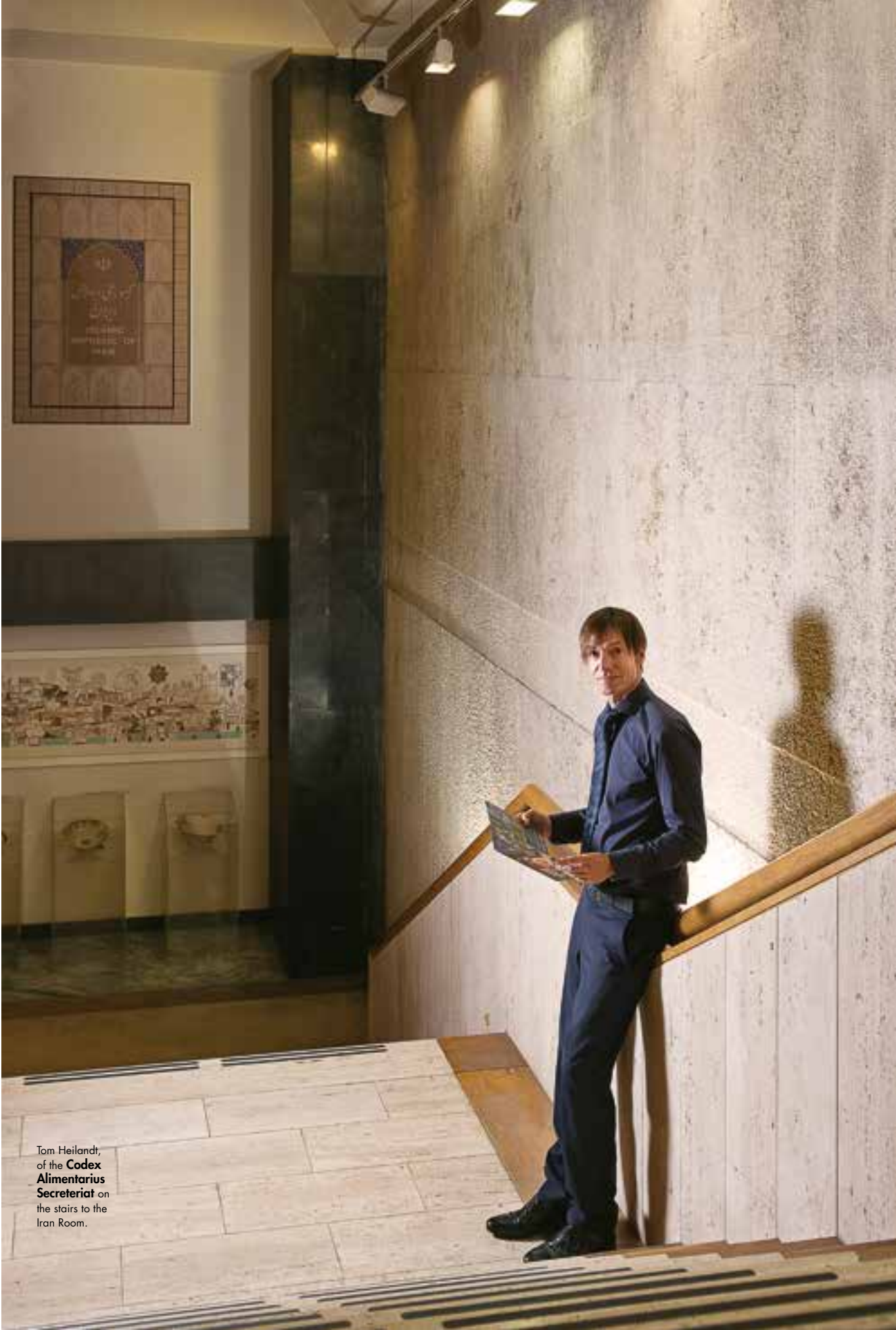
It was inaugurated in 1965 and renovated in 2013. A painting hanging from its main wall depicts a Filipino landscape with its sea, vegetation and rice terraces. The room has a capacity to seat 61 people.

2. THE MEXICO ROOM

The Mexico Room was inaugurated in 1981 and renovated 20 years later. The tapestry by artist Pedro Ramírez Vázquez is particularly striking, running the length of the wall behind the main speaker's chair. The room has the capacity to seat 58 people.

3. THE IRAN ROOM

In 1996, the Islamic Republic of Iran donated this room to demonstrate its commitment to the FAO mission and ideals. The space has a seating capacity of 105 people. The room was designed as a multimedia auditorium and permanent exhibition area and is frequently used for launches of major publications; for lectures and debates.



Tom Heilandt,
of the **Codex
Alimentarius
Secretariat** on
the stairs to the
Iran Room.

6

FAO A NEUTRAL FORUM

1. THE QUEEN JULIANA ROOM Food Security Group

From left to right: Filippo Gheri, Piero Conforti, Evgeniya Koroleva and Giulia Ponzini.
Economic and Social Development Department.





2

2. THE DAVID LUBIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY. South-South Cooperation.

From left to right: Jong-jin Kim, Director of the South-South and Resource Mobilization Division, Peter Anaadumba, Nadine Valat and Ali Athifa.



3

3. Projects of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

From left to right: Marcelo Vasconcellos, Abdellah Srour, Claudia Escutia and Nicoletta Milone.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in the Fisheries Meeting Room.

4. Martin Frick, Director of the Climate, Energy and Tenure Division.

5. Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development.

6. THE AUSTRIA ROOM. Rodrigo de la Puerta, Director of the Office of Support to Decentralization.

FAO A NEUTRAL FORUM

1. Kenneth MacDicken, **Forestry Department.**

2. Juan Lubroth, **Head of the Animal Health Service and Chief Veterinary Officer.**

3. TERRACE
Denis Drechsler, **Trade and Markets Division.**

4. THE LOBBY Team - Food for the Cities. From left to right: Jia Ni, Yota Nicolarea, Louison Lancon, Jieun Kim and Lorenza Sganzzetta. **Plant Production and Protection Division.**





2



THE INDIA ROOM

Inaugurated in 1957, the room's unique character begins at its handmade timber double door, brought directly from India. Indian craft objects and wooden lattices also decorate the space along with a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. The room has a seating capacity of 30.



THE GERMAN ROOM

Inaugurated in 1966, it has since been renovated twice, most recently in 2008. When the German Government decided to donate a meeting room to FAO, German artists agreed that it would have a modern and functional design that would be practical for discussions and negotiations. As Hans von Herwarth said, the room was “a sign of friendship and esteem from the German people for FAO’s work”.

One of the key elements of its decoration is the line of quotations on the wall. They are taken from the Right to Food Guidelines, adopted by the Council in 2004. It has a seating capacity of 90.

THE IRAQ ROOM

Inaugurated in June 2015, it has a capacity to seat 250 people. At the main entrance, the name of the room appears in seven languages (Arabic, Aramaic, English, Kurdish, Mandaic, Turkmen and Sumerian Cuneiform). The second entrance is decorated with panels depicting images of the palm trees found at the Ishtar Gate (the eighth gate to the inner city of Babylon), dating from around 575 BC. The Iraqi Embassy donated three works by the artist Michele Martinelli: two copies of the ancient lions and flowers that adorned the Ishtar Gate’s Processional Way, reconstructed at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin from excavated materials; and a copy, made from resin, of a winged bull with a human head, representing a lamassu or shedu, an Assyrian protective deity.



1



2



6



5

1. THE LEBANON ROOM

The Lebanon Room was inaugurated in 1963. Each of the main walls around the central table is home to an important work of art. Through a sculptured three-light window – behind the main speaker's chair – a painting by set designer Giorgio Jefferson depicts a cedar, the ancient ruins of Baalbek and the ancient port of Sidon. At the other end of the room there are two reliefs of sarcophagi of the Beqaa Valley, dating back to the second century BC. The room seats 66.

2. THE PAKISTAN ROOM

This room was inaugurated in 1961 and renovated twice in 1996 and most recently in 2002. The main feature is a carved wooden map of Pakistan running the length of the main wall. It has a capacity to seat 24.

3. THE AUSTRIA ROOM

Inaugurated in 1965, it was designed like a cinema and is often used to screen documentary films on development issues. After its renovation in 1988, it became a multimedia auditorium. 101 red seats combined with the light timber walls represent the red and white of the Austrian flag.



4. THE CUBA ROOM

With a seating capacity of 18, the room was inaugurated in 1972 and refurbished in 1989. The Cuba room has been the scene of important encounters between Heads of State and Government during major events such as the 1996 World Food Summit.

5. THE QUEEN JULIANA ROOM

This room is dedicated to Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. It was inaugurated in 1955, and renovated twice in 1981 and in 1996. The original design was by Prof. Eschauzier, a prominent Dutch architect, and the work was performed by leading craftsmen and furniture makers. The renovation carried-out to mark the FAO 50th Anniversary conferred a thoroughly modern appearance to the room. The doors to this state-of-the-art room were built in Holland and installed in Rome by Dutch craftsmen. It can accommodate up to 36 people.

6. THE CANADA ROOM

Accommodating a maximum of 24 people, the room was inaugurated in 1953 and renovated in 1999. A relief map of Canada in carved wood dominates the main wall with indigenous motifs lining a side wall.



From left to right: Xuan Li, Simplice Ngathe, Werner Deutsch and Marta García Jiménez. Office of the Director-General, and the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division.



4

4. THE CHINA ROOM

The China Room was inaugurated in 1985 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of FAO and is used by the Director-General to receive distinguished guests. In 2015, it was fully renovated. A copper map of China is engraved with the country's main agricultural products, such as rice and wheat. These are just two examples providing a glimpse of China's abundant natural resources.



3

3. THE MOROCCO ROOM

Also known as the King Mohammed V Room, this reception area was donated by the Kingdom of Morocco. It was inaugurated in 1965 and renovated in 1967 and again in 1987. The Room includes a dining area and lounge and is used by the Director-General to welcome high-level visitors. Guests can enjoy a traditional Moroccan ambience: the floor and walls are covered with Moroccan hand-painted tiles and the space is sumptuously furnished with Moroccan rugs, leather upholstered sofas, wooden beams and two fountains separate the sitting room from the main area.

1

1. THE AUSTRALIA ROOM

Inaugurated in 1955, this room was rebuilt and finally renovated in 2011. The room was designed to host high-level FAO meetings at Headquarters. This area is decorated with aboriginal themed artwork by artist Eddie Blitner, both adding colour and intended to show a deeper view of our world represented by the aboriginal peoples of Australia.



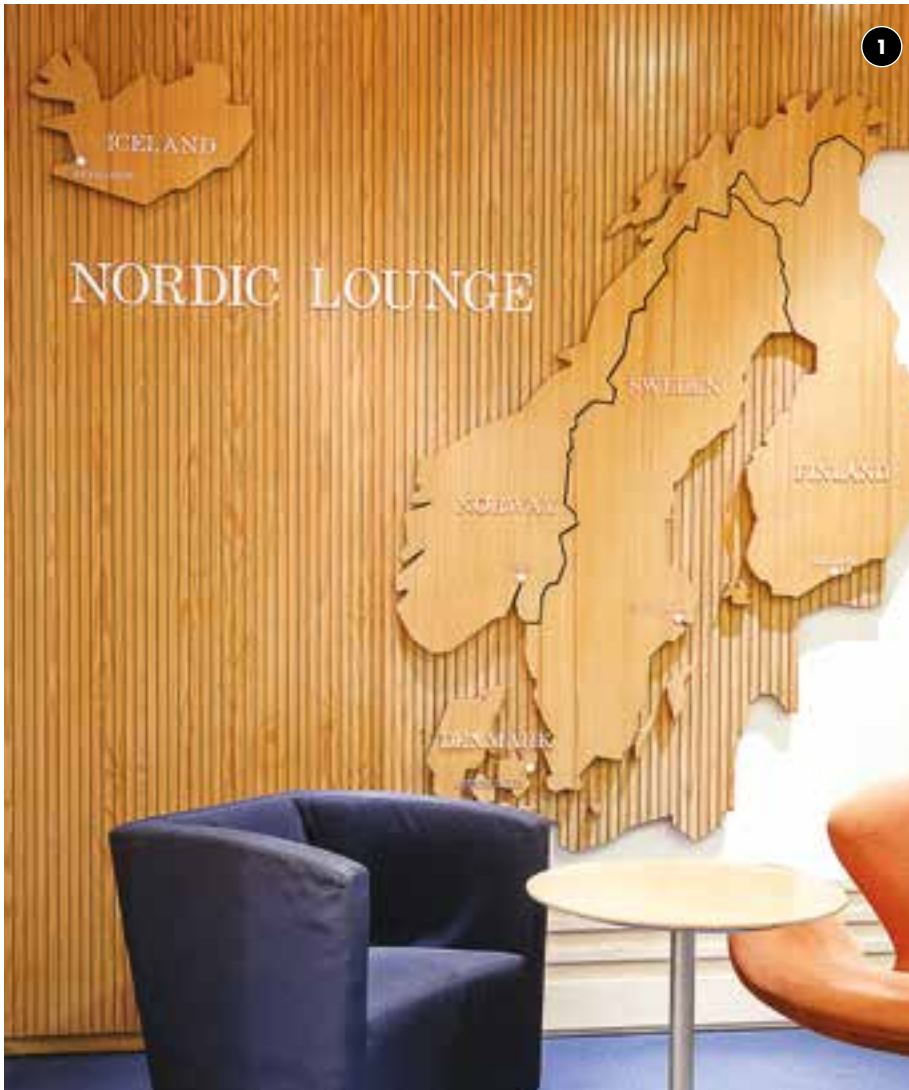
2. THE INDONESIA ROOM

Inaugurated in 1969 and renovated 24 years later, it includes a lounge and a dining area for special receptions. The room is decorated with narrative and symbolic elements. The entire room is decorated with carved wooden panels depicting scenes from the life of King Rama and his wife Sita. The story recounts the kidnapping of Queen Sita by the giant Rahwana. Rama's defeat of Rahwana represents the victory of virtue over evil, while the queen's return to Rama's kingdom symbolises the return of wealth and abundance to the people. The Hindu queen is also seen as the incarnation of Dewi Sri, the goddess of rice, one of the most important staple foods in Indonesia and Asia, generally. The room houses other engravings of symbolic value, including a bird of paradise (a symbol of nature), a white heron (a symbol of fertility), a peacock (a symbol of the Indonesian teak forests) and the Gunungan (the tree of life and symbol of the universe).



OTHER ROOMS

FAO headquarters houses several areas designed as pleasant spaces for delegates of the member states and other guests attending meetings. Located near the main conference halls, they were donated to FAO by countries to show their commitment to the Organization.

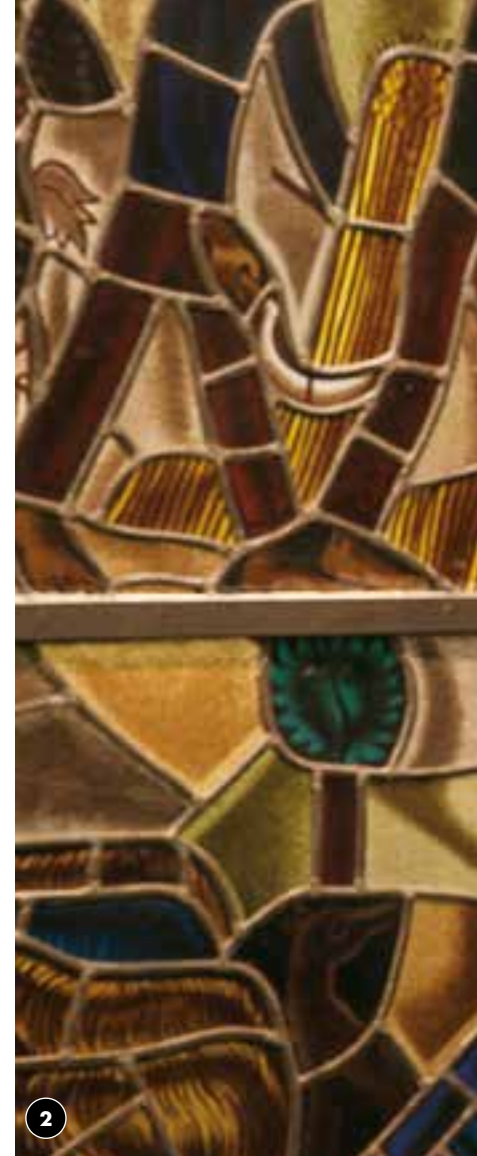


1. THE NORDIC LOUNGE

Inaugurated in 1977 and renovated in 2001, it was donated by the governments of the Nordic countries. The Nordic character of this meeting area is accentuated by a carved wooden map hanging from a wall and photographs showing landscapes of the region.

4. THE SLOVAK DELEGATES' LOUNGE

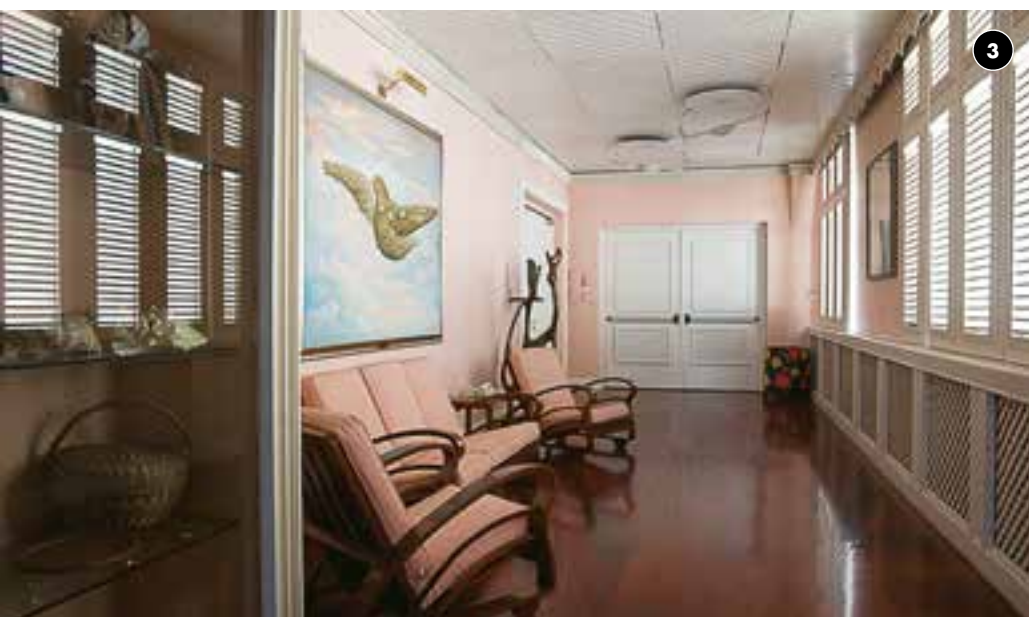
Donated by the Government of the Slovak Republic, this light and airy lounge is a multifunctional workspace equipped with the latest technology and reserved for the use of delegates and special guests.





2. THE BELGIUM LOUNGE

Donated by the Belgian Government, it is located at the entrance to the Plenary Hall. Inaugurated in 1953, and renovated in 2001, this room houses portraits of the former FAO Directors-General.



3. THE CARIBBEAN LOUNGE

Inaugurated in 1995 and later renovated in 1999, it was donated to FAO by the governments of the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). This elegant space, located to the right of the Plenary Hall, has been decorated by the CARICOM countries with furniture, art and mahogany craft objects in the Caribbean Art Deco style.



1

1. THE KOREA CENTRE Donated by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 2001, it is a multifunctional space equipped with computers, serving as a rest, information and document distribution area. The centre is decorated with oil paintings by Korean architect and artist Tai Nam Jung. The walls are also decorated with *samul nori* folk instruments and examples of ancient popular farmers' poems written in Korean calligraphy. Several photographs show Korean architecture, landscapes and agricultural scenes.

2. THE UEMOA ROOM The UEMOA press room was inaugurated in 1999, and refurbished in 2003. The room is a workspace equipped for use by journalists. It is decorated in wood and leather with typical artwork and craft items provided by UEMOA member states.

3. THE THAILAND LOUNGE Located near the Caribbean Room, it acts as a corridor between the office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Plenary Hall. This space was donated in 1955 by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. It is decorated in traditional Thai style with a large gong and photographs showing scenes of the country's agricultural and religious life.

4. THE JAPAN LOUNGE Donated in 1957, this seating area is located to the left of the Plenary Hall forming one of the main entrances to the Plenary and has a separate room for discussions.



2



3



4



5

5. THE DAVID LUBIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Established in 1952, the Library was named after David Lubin to honour the founder of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA). The establishment of such a library is reflected in Article I of the FAO Constitution which states “The Organization shall collect, analyse, interpret, and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture”.

The David Lubin Memorial Library houses a priceless collection of more than one million volumes, including the entire collection of the IIA and **a rare book collection dating back to 1500. Among several of its more remarkable collections are the incunabula (first modern books)**

donated by Marquis Cappelli; pamphlets, bulletins and periodicals donated by Arturo Marescalchi (Undersecretary of State in the Italian Ministry of Agriculture); pamphlets on agriculture given by Professor Giglioli (a renowned agricultural chemist at the University of Pisa, he also participated in the foundation of the IIA), the publications of the German collection of the *Berlin Centre International de Sylviculture*, and the David Lubin Archives which include correspondence, writings and IIA images of agriculture-related issues and activities.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Library underwent renovations which were completed in 2005. The new library, designed by architect Piero Sartogo, features glass, including glass floors, floor-to-ceiling glass windows and black glass display columns as well as black marble walls and supports. The library offers its visitors access to both electronic resources, and multifunctional meeting rooms.



6

6. THE TURKISH REGISTRATION CENTRE

Located at the entrance to the main building, it was inaugurated in 2001. Donated by the Government of the Republic of Turkey, this large airy space is decorated with Turkish ceramics and was designed to help FAO fulfil its growing role as an important United Nations conference centre.



7

7. THE ESPACE GABON

The Espace Gabon was inaugurated in 1999 and renovated in 2003. The room was designed as a modern audio-visual meeting area – generally used for meetings involving the decentralised offices – as well as high-level meetings with FAO delegates and others. The room has a capacity to seat 26.



7

234 Partnerships

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FAO OPEN TO EVERYONE



PARTNERSHIPS

For a world free from hunger

Eradicating hunger is a challenge that FAO cannot – must not – face alone. Cooperation with civil society and the private sector is crucial.

In 2012, FAO adopted an open-door policy in order to strengthen ties with civil society, the private sector, academic organizations, research bodies, the media and cooperatives.

Marcela Villarreal, director of FAO's Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, explains it very concisely: "FAO has understood that to eradicate hunger another step forward is needed; it must open up to the world and begin to join forces with everyone who is involved in our struggle. Partnerships are a vital tool for achieving the Organization's Strategic Objectives. In doing so FAO fulfils its mission to be the world's leading forum for discussion on the topic of food and agriculture".

To do this in an effective way, FAO has established mechanisms to determine what real or potential risks are entailed in partnering with

non government entities, and to manage these risks it has set up an internal Partnerships Committee, convened at the highest level of the Organization and chaired by the Director-General.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

According to Villarreal, "It is a mistake to see the private sector only as a source of funding. Companies can make contributions in kind such as agricultural inputs and logistical support; they offer services and support for workers and for the communities where they are based; they create capability in rural communities and share knowledge and expertise. So the private sector is a valuable source of information and know-how, which can help FAO improve its operations in the food production industry and reduce hunger around the world".

COOPERATIVES AND PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS

Cooperatives are autonomous member-driven organizations. They adopt principles of non-discrimination and offer a range of services for their members, including market opportunities, while empowering all of them: women, men and young people. They represent a unique business model with a social conscience. Food and agriculture cooperatives are important vehicles for reducing poverty and creating jobs; they contribute to socio-economic development and, ultimately, to food security.

Food and agriculture cooperatives are a central part of the global cooperative sector in both developing and developed countries: 30 percent of 300 of the largest cooperatives belong to the farming industry. They can take a variety of forms, from small grassroots associations, to syndicates, federations and farmers' unions. Globally, cooperatives have



©FAO/A. BENEDETTI

BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

In collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO is involved in a number of projects in the field of statistics and agricultural policies. Bangladesh for example, is receiving support to improve their agricultural market information systems, using innovative methods and digital technology.

over a billion members, many of whom are in the farming industry.

FAO is the main body that ensures that agricultural cooperatives are recognised and have a presence on the international agenda.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

The academic sector and research centres foster critical thinking and generate knowledge and innovations essential in the fight against hunger and food insecurity. The challenge now is to implement these advances to achieve tangible results in the field.

Through alliances with academic institutions, FAO seeks to close the gap between the research and innovation itself and their implementation. This includes suitable agricultural policies, technologies and best practices. Strategic use of knowledge can increase agricultural production, income and food security, improving the welfare of small-scale farmers and their families.

“THE PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE”

JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSO)

They play a crucial role in food security and poverty reduction and increasingly demonstrate their capacity for development and implementation of projects at every level. In recent years, civil society organizations have managed to create a space for dialogue

with member states and other stakeholders at regional and global levels. CSOs skills and knowledge contribute to creating policies as well as relevant regulatory debates. FAO has worked alongside many CSOs on technical matters, on the field and in training workshops. In recent years, civil society organizations have made progress in terms of coordination, structure, dissemination, mobilization and in their ability to be an influential voice. FAO has given a new impetus to decentralization; it has revised its strategic framework which has among its basic tasks, to facilitate agreements with the associations in order to reduce poverty and food insecurity. In all these processes, FAO has established mechanisms to ensure the impartiality of the Organization while maintaining its key characteristics: that of a neutral forum for debate whose work is based on expertise to improve livelihoods.

Examples of partnerships with civil society and the private sector

LEFT: Queen Máxima of the Netherlands with Graziano, during the conference sponsored by Rabobank Food First. ©FAO

BELOW: Graziano and Walt MacNee, Vice President of MasterCard Worldwide. ©FAO/Alessia Pierdomenico



Rabobank Foundation

Small farmers' access to credit in Africa is improving through a combination of Rabobank's financial expertise and FAO's technical know-how within its local networks. In Tanzania, small farmers are supported to obtain formal loans, which enable them to fund and undertake food production activities, making their businesses profitable. In Kenya, loans are provided at preferential rates to groups of farmers practising conservation farming. In Ethiopia, the cooperative capabilities of producers and small- and medium-sized enterprises are strengthened so that they can access agricultural financing.

MasterCard

This initiative will benefit from the advantages of each organization: MasterCard's expertise in payment technology and FAO's global reach and experience in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. The first joint effort between these partners focused on the Kajuma refugee camp, in the Turkana district of Kenya, which is currently home to 170 000 refugees who have fled the wars and violence in nearby countries. The camp's residents will have prepaid cards that will enable them to buy charcoal produced locally by the host community. This charcoal is

certified sustainable and eco-friendly. The plan has been designed to improve the incomes of Turkana's inhabitants, reduce social tensions between the local population and the refugees, and ease the pressure on the environment. MasterCard will provide its expertise in the technology and a significant financial contribution to set up the enterprise, supplying 1 240 host families with improved ovens for charcoal production and 7 000 refugee families with energy-efficient stoves and enough credit to buy 25 percent of their annual charcoal requirements.

Agrinatura

FAO and Agrinatura – a consortium of 31 European universities and research centres – have partnered to accelerate agricultural innovation and boost cooperation between universities and research centres throughout Europe and in developing countries. Through a European Commission-funded project, the partnership seeks to promote agricultural innovation among small farmers in countries in Asia (Bangladesh and Laos), Africa (Angola, Ethiopia, Niger and Rwanda) and Latin America (Guatemala and Honduras). Another



2013. From left to right: Rodrigo Castañeda, head of the FAO branch of associations and promotion; Nicola Farinetti (third from the left) CEO of Eataly; beside him, Graziano da Silva and next to him, Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Division of Associations, Promotion and Institutional Capacity Building FAO; and Annamaria Pastore, FAO expert. ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Graziano da Silva and President and founder of Slow Food, Carlo Petrini, in the market of Sao José. ©FAO/Giuseppe Bizzarri



example of collaboration in the academic world is with the International Institute of Social Studies, an international postgraduate school of social sciences of the Erasmus University. FAO and this institute are conducting regional and national case studies in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to identify challenges and opportunities to improve the governance of land tenure in communities, with the aim of improving access to land, fisheries and forests and their distribution. These studies are an opportunity to improve cooperation between various stakeholders in order to protect the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalised populations.

Eataly
The agreement reached with the Eataly food marketplace sets out various initiatives, notably the joint mobilisation of resources in support of family farmers in Africa and Latin America. Some of the proceeds from the sale of certain products in Eataly establishments will be used in FAO projects in developing countries.
 Eataly and FAO will also share knowledge and educational activities: technical experts from FAO will take part in Eataly activities to promote good practices in nutrition, food waste and responsible use of natural resources among consumers, in particular, families and students.

Slow Food
In the context of the International Years of Quinoa, in 2013, and of Family Farming, in 2014, FAO and Slow Food joined forces to raise global awareness of the important role of quinoa and family farming in sustainable food production and poverty eradication. Activities included the publication *Quinoa in the Kitchen*, a collection of quinoa-based recipes from the best chefs, and the Family Farming Expo held in June 2014.

Family Farming Knowledge Platform
FAO coordinated the International Year of Family Farming 2014, focusing specifically on raising global awareness of family farming and encouraging a political

commitment to it, emphasising its vital contribution to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable rural development. From there FAO's Family Farming Knowledge Platform was launched, providing the world's largest high-quality digital collection of materials related to family farming.

World Vision International
In March 2014, FAO and World Vision International jointly distributed 3 000 emergency fishing kits in Unity State, South Sudan, reaching around 9 000 people. The counties of Fashoda, Manyo, Melut and Renk in Upper Nile State were also provided with emergency farming and fishing kits.



2014. Signing of the agreement between FAO and the Thomson Reuters Foundation.
©FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

Thomson Reuters Foundation

The agreement reached with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable body of this leading global news and information agency, aims to improve information and raise awareness about food and hunger. The main outcome of this agreement is a new section on the Thomson Reuters Foundation's website, devoted entirely to news on these issues. The articles are produced and supplied by the Thomson Reuters Foundation and made freely available. The topics include food production, security, safety and waste; farming and land use; undernourishment and



malnutrition; and access to food, among others. The agreement was signed in July 2014.

EFE news agency
FAO and the Spanish news agency EFE, the most important Spanish-language agency in the world, are partnering to circulate information

and undertake joint initiatives on issues relating to FAO's mission. The activities currently underway include information-sharing and organising interviews and reports. FAO and EFE also train journalists in FAO's activities and information related to its Strategic Objectives.



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2015. Filming of the programme Scala Mercalli, broadcast by RAI3, at FAO's Sheikh Zayed Centre. Second on the left: Mario Lubetkin, Directeur de Cabinet in the Office of the Director-General of FAO.

2015, MOSCOW. The Director-General with Sergei Mikhailov, CEO of TASS News Agency.
©ITAR-TASS/A. Novoderezhkin

TASS news agency

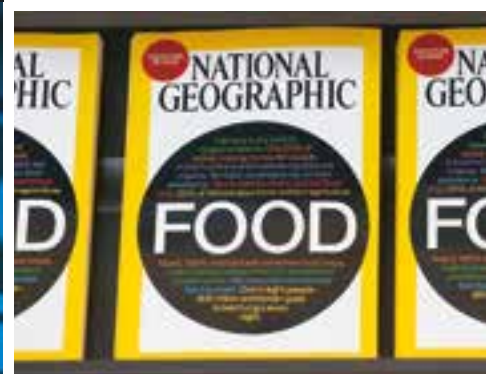
The Russian news agency
TASS and FAO have agreed to work together to raise public awareness about food security, food safety and nutrition. The purpose of the agreement is to encourage production and circulation of Russian-language news on these



©FAO/A. FERDOMENICO



©FAO/G. COSIUCH



2014. National Geographic exhibition in the atrium at FAO headquarters to celebrate World Food Day.

©FAO/G. CAROTENUTO

National Geographic Society

Under this partnership, in 2014 the National Geographic published a monthly series on food-related topics. The series brought together in the publication *The Future of Food*, food security issues such as the sustainability of resources, food waste, land grabbing, drought, soil and the evolution of eating habits. The series of reports was the subject of an exhibition at FAO headquarters. National Geographic and FAO have also partnered to organise round tables and a 'hackathon' (a software development marathon) in which scientists, journalists and programmers developed applications and tools to find solutions to feed the planet, exploring FAO's extensive databases of information on the distribution, transportation, cost and environmental legacy of food in the last 50 years.

and other related issues such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, climate change and sustainable development. TASS has been Russia's leading news agency since 1904. It has 70 centres and regional offices in Russia and 68 decentralised offices in 63 countries.

Radiotelevisione italiana (RAI)

Early in 2015, the Italian public broadcasting company RAI agreed with FAO to use the Organization's multimedia conference room, the

Sheikh Zayed Centre to film a series of live educational programmes. Given a prime-time slot on Saturday evenings on the RAI3 channel, consisted of talks covering topics such as climate change, pollution, thawing glaciers, land grabbing, fracking and recycling. The programme was based on FAO data and research, and it highlighted the Organization's projects in various countries through images and interviews both in the field and at FAO headquarters.

Federation of Agricultural Journalists

The International Federation of Agricultural Journalists

(IFAJ) is an independent non-profit organization based in Arnhem (Netherlands) which has over 3 000 affiliated journalists from 32 national associations. These journalists cover a wide range of topics, from agricultural markets and rural development policies to biofuels and sustainable production, nutrition, and the challenge of feeding a growing population. FAO and IFAJ have joined forces to improve the exchange of agricultural information around the globe and raise the profile of FAO's activities in specialised agricultural media worldwide. The agreement also includes joint events and an FAO news section on the IFAJ website.

COMMUNICATIONS

The importance of the message

Communication and raising awareness are at the heart of what FAO does. They are essential to the Organization's mission.

For this task FAO has a team of professionals whose role it is to get the Organization's message out to a vast global audience comprising governments of member countries and their agricultural experts, the scientific community, the media and the general public.

To communicate FAO's message to so many different audiences, a complex set of communication tools is utilised: keeping the website up-to-date; preparing press releases; producing and distributing audio and video content, photographs and infographics; keeping the social media up-to-date (FAO is active on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, Instagram, Pinterest, SlideShare, YouTube and Flickr); producing technical and educational publications; and coordinating interviews with FAO technical experts and others, are just some examples. In the context of decentralisation



Enrique Yeves, Director of Communications at FAO and Vanessa Curcio of the Communications Division. ©FAO

that is a central feature of today's FAO, the effectiveness and credibility of the message depends to a large extent on FAO's ability to communicate

not just globally but also locally. The communications teams in the regional, sub-regional and local offices are key parts of the system.

2013. Liliane Kambirigi interviews Mamadou Dekamo Kamara, Ambassador of the Congo to Italy and FAO. ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

2015. From left to right: Jomo K. Sundaram (FAO), Stanlake Samkange (WFP), José Graziano da Silva, and Josefina Stubbs (IFAD), during the launch of the latest edition of the State of Food Insecurity in the World. ©FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

The photo archive contains some 75 000 images about food and agriculture. It is updated daily and is freely available online for media worldwide.



THE NEWSROOM

A team of journalists and communications professionals translates technical knowledge into accessible language and manages press relations all over the world.

The team publishes press releases in at least the six FAO official languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic) and these usually include links, photos, videos and audio.

As a result, each year over 20 000 articles are published in media worldwide, citing information or statements from FAO experts.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Managing the photographic archive so that it can be accessed by users all over the world is just part of the work carried out by the FAO photography team, which also cover events taking place at FAO headquarters (technical meetings, presentations and visits from representatives from all over the world) and activities in the ►



- ▶ field. The photo archive contains some 75 000 images on food and agriculture. It is updated daily and is freely available online.

RADIO

Radio is one of the most accessible and immediate sources of information for people around the globe,, including in rural areas where FAO's work has the most direct impact. Against this background, FAO produces hundreds of recordings each year, making them available to radio stations across the five continents. At the same time FAO technical experts frequently liaise with journalists everywhere.

The radio archive includes almost 2 000 recordings of international leaders and experts who have visited FAO and shared their experience and recommendations for moving towards a hunger-free world. The oldest recording dates back to 7 June 1943, when US President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the United Nations Conference on Food.

VIDEO

A team of TV camera operators and reporters works at FAO headquarters in Rome, and all over the world to shoot, process, store and relay images of FAO projects, programmes and their beneficiaries, contributing to circulating knowledge about the Organization's work to audiences worldwide.



This room hosts part of the team of the corporate communication office of FAO. Pictured from left to right: Daniele De Mitri, Beatriz Beekmans and Muriel Sarr.

**THE
PHOTOGRAPHIC
ARCHIVE
CONTAINS MORE
THAN 75 000
IMAGES. IT IS
UPDATED DAILY
AND IS AVAILABLE
FREE- OF-CHARGE
TO EVERYONE.**

Equipped with the latest technology, including high-definition TV studios, the video department facilitates and conducts interviews with FAO experts, supplies images to the media, provides video coverage of projects in the field, records and broadcasts major events, and manages the video archive. The two oldest videos among the thousands that make up the FAO archive are the British documentaries directed by Paul Rotha: the 1948 Oscar-nominated *The*



The FAO video team interviewing a farmer in Lesotho on the effects of climate change on local farming.

BORJA ANGUELEZ

World is Rich, and A World of Plenty (1943), which examine the situation and prospects for world food distribution at the time. In addition to focusing on the hunger and poverty that hit Europe after World War II, the two documentaries explain the challenges of the developing world and the motivation behind the founding of FAO.

They include scenes from early meetings and an interview with the Organization's first Director-General, John Boyd Orr.

NOTES FROM AN FAO FILMING MISSION TO LESOTHO

Boudicca Downes, the FAO video coordinator, tells us about one of the most recent documentaries produced by FAO in Lesotho, on the effects of climate change on local farming.

The average life expectancy in this area is 52 years. Rammitsane Matela is 90 and lives in a remote area in the northern plains. Wrapped in a traditional wool blanket, has sitting in front of a thatched hut, with his great grandchildren. We ask Rammitsane about the effects of climate change on farming in Lesotho, but like almost everyone his age, he wants to talk about his health problems

and tell us about how in the past he used to wander the mountain paths day and night. Then he recalls how agriculture has changed since he was a boy. "The whole family was involved in working the land and we could live on what we harvested, but now the yield is poor," he reflects. "The problem of the torrential rains and dry spells started recently. A few years ago we had the worst period of drought ever seen, followed by floods that made it impossible for us to work the land". The only question he is unable to answer is how many grandchildren and great grandchildren he has.

After a heated discussion and repeated attempts to count all of his family members on his fingers, he gets to 50 and gives up. "There are too many to count," says one of his ten children shrugging his shoulders.

PUBLICATIONS

Every year more than 400 books are published. They are available free-of-charge from FAO's digital archives.

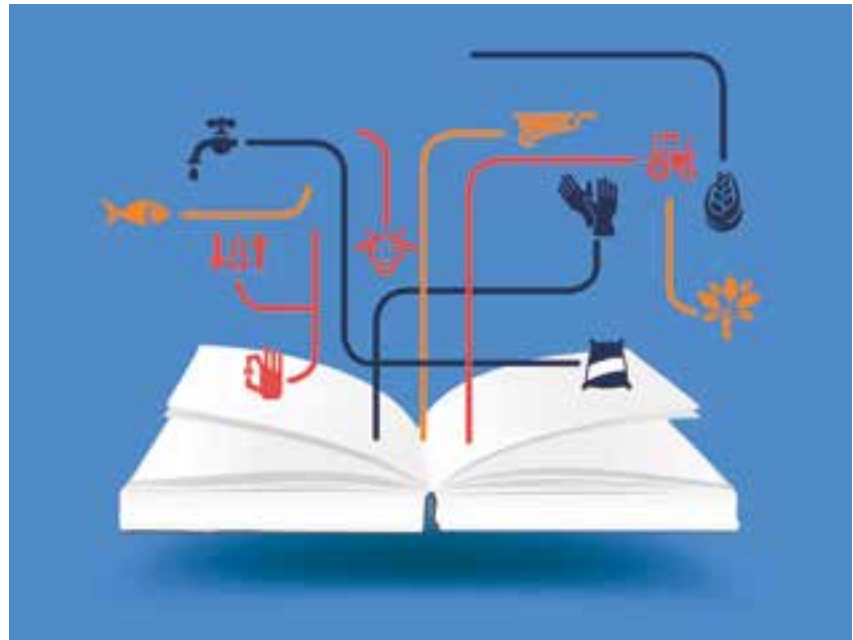
The Flagship publications are the most important publications on the state of world agriculture, commodities, fisheries, forestry and food insecurity, produced annually or every two years by FAO. They represent a global reference of technical knowledge, statistics and emerging issues.

Technical and educational publications provide an alternative perspective on critical world issues for readers of all ages.

FAO is increasing its scope and range of publications in e-book formats. The e-book formats allow greater access to FAO publications, helping deliver FAO knowledge to a wider audience.

FAO's online archive for digital copies provides access free-of-charge to the Organization's vast knowledge base to ensure that all publications are available to the widest possible audience. It contains 65 000 publications, journals, official meeting documents, technical reports and information materials produced by FAO offices worldwide.

The FAO publications are also available in QR card format, or cards that have a bar code on the back. The code allows easy and immediate access to the entire publication by a QR code reader, with which you can download in pdf format.



fao.org/2/02215e

Scan the code with a QR code reader to download the book

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A virtual dialogue with millions of followers around the globe.

Millions of users worldwide access the FAO website regularly to read news, find statistical data, read information about projects, consult technical documents and view infographics. **FAO's website dates back to 1994.** At that time, it was an innovative and experimental initiative from the Technology and General Information Departments. By mid-1996, the website covered most of the Organization's technical areas. Today, www.fao.org is the leading reference source for anyone wanting to keep up-to-date

with issues relating to farming, food, fisheries, forestry and animal health. The Organization produces a considerable amount of information and unique expertise in diverse technical fields. Access to this data is extremely important for both the agricultural institutions of member states as for universities, researchers, journalists, and the general public.

The website is available in the six official languages of FAO (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian).



**FAO
UP CLOSE**



Facebook: More than 600 000 followers.

Twitter: More than 400 000 followers.

Accounts: FAOKnowledge, FAOnews, FAOforestry, FAOAfrica, FAOclimate, FAOemergencies, FAOfish,

FAONearEast, FAOnoticias, FAOstatistics, FAOanimalhealth, FAO4Members, FAOFSNforum.

LinkedIn: More than 75 000 followers.

Instagram: More than 7 000 followers.

YouTube: 2 channels: FAOoftheUN and FAOvideo

Slideshare

Pinterest

2 accounts on **Flickr:** FAOnews and FAOoftheUN

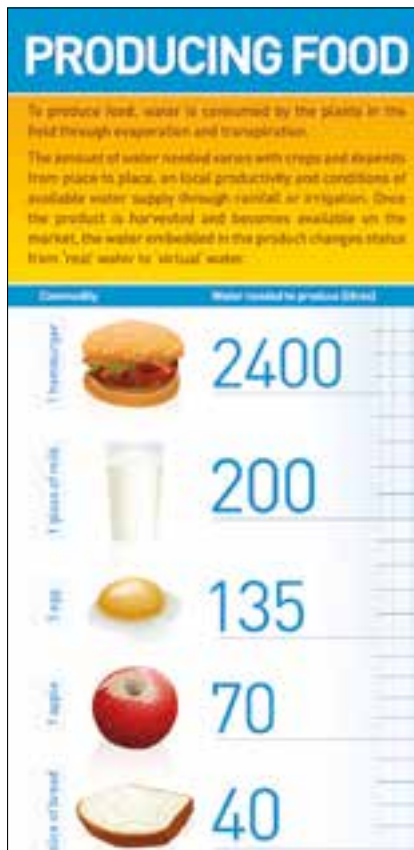
Soundcloud: More than 250 audio tracks.

WHICH THEMES RECEIVE THE MOST VISITS?

1. SOILS
2. ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE
3. FOOD LOSSES
4. SOCIAL PROTECTION
5. CLIMATE CHANGE
6. CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
7. NUTRITION
8. SCHOOL GARDENS
9. FAMILY FARMING
10. CHILD LABOUR
11. BIODIVERSITY

10 THINGS

you wouldn't expect to find when you browse FAO website

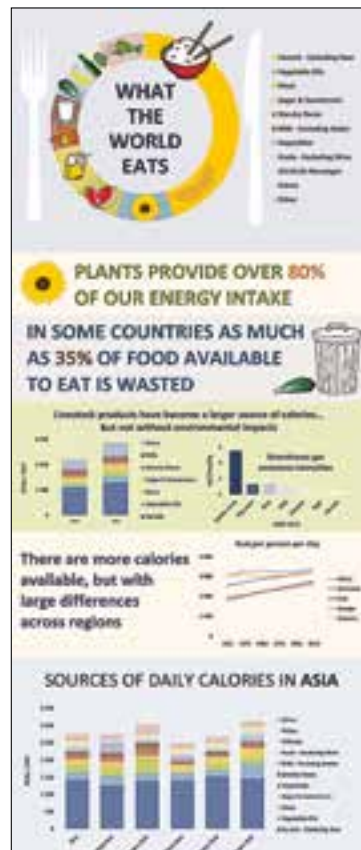


1. INFOGRAPHICS

Did you know that 12 kg of bananas per person are eaten each year? What does the world eat? How much water is needed to produce... a hamburger?

2. FAO WEBCAST

You can watch the events held at FAO headquarters live: www.fao.org/webcast



3. OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD

In addition to its headquarters in Rome (Italy), FAO has an extensive decentralised network of Regional Offices, Subregional Offices, Country Representations and Liaison Offices. Do you want to know where there is an office near you? <http://www.fao.org/about/who-we-are/worldwide-offices/en/>

4. E-LEARNING CENTRE

Are you an agriculture and food security professional? A student? The courses cover a wide variety of topics in the fields of food and nutritional security, social and economic development, and sustainable management of natural resources. Browse the catalogue of courses to see the full range available: <http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/home>



5. THEMES

Do you want to know FAO's priorities in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty? Explore the areas and themes covered here:

<http://www.fao.org/themes/en/> Discover FAO's Strategic Objectives:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/mg994s/mg994s.pdf> <https://youtu.be/-pFi23fJ6s>

6. FAO IN ACTION

Do you want to know what FAO does to free the world of hunger and poverty? Discover our programmes and projects here: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/en/>

7. FAOSTAT

Find your statistical data by exploring the FAOSTAT data domains. With a single click you can view, download, analyse and compare data, as well as explore country profiles with interactive maps. www.fao.org/resources/infographics/en/



8. FAO E-BOOK COLLECTION

If you work or are interested in international development, familiarising yourself with the latest e-books on the subject can be a real challenge. From organic agriculture and livestock management to advances in food security and nutrition, we recommend seven e-books on nutrition and food security in 2015. <http://www.fao.org/zhc/detail-events/en/c/320005/>

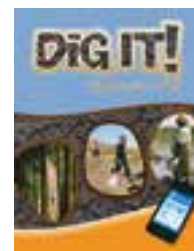


9. VIDEO AND AUDIO

Search our catalogue by theme, from 1941. In the last episode of The Hungry Planet, FAO travels to Honduras to examine the state of food security in the growing melon industry, IFAD examines the situation of migrant workers in Europe who send money home, and a WFP reporter interviews an Ebola survivor. [http://www.fao.org/news/audio-video/detail-video/es/?dyna_feff\[uid\]=11258&uid=11258](http://www.fao.org/news/audio-video/detail-video/es/?dyna_feff[uid]=11258&uid=11258)

10. EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN

Learn more about soils through our educational booklets aimed at children aged 5 to 13 years old. An educator's guide is also available for teachers. <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/resources/educational/en/>



FAO AMBASSADORS AND FRIENDS

Well-known figures in the world of sport and entertainment have collaborated with the various FAO programmes in recent decades in order to raise awareness among the general public about hunger related issues.



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©FAO/CRIS BOURONCLE/GIULIO NAPOUITANO/ROBERTO CENCIARELLI/ ALESSANDRA BENEDETTI/THONY BELZAIRE/ GOH CHAI HIN/ SIMONE CASETTA

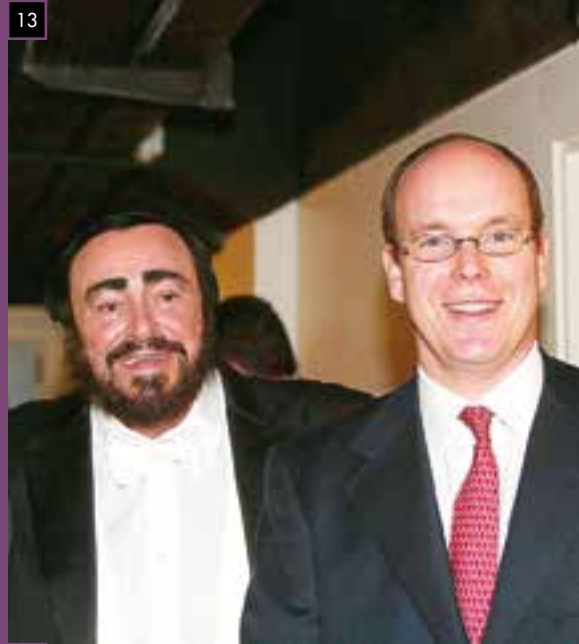


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1. Italian football legend **Roberto Baggio**. 2. Actress and FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Susan Sarandon**. 3. FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Carl Lewis** visiting Haiti one year after the 2010 earthquake and helping school children in Leogane plant fruit trees in a school garden. 4. Fashion designer and FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Pierre Cardin**. 5. Olympic and world champion fencer and YUNGA Ambassador **Valentina Vezzali**. 6. Miss Italia 1996 **Denny Méndez**. 7. Singer **Lea Salonga**. 8. Actress and FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Gong Li**. 9. Jazz musician and vocalist **Gilberto Gil**. 10. FAO Goodwill Ambassador singer **Al Bano**, singer **Maria Abela**, presenter **Lorena Bianchetti** and FAO Goodwill Ambassador actress **Gina Lollobrigida** (Italy). 11. **Lionel Messi** in Match Day Against Hunger. 12. Bulgarian football star **Hristo Stoichkov** visiting a rural village of people affected by the 2010 food crisis in the Sahel. 13. Italian tenor **Luciano Pavarotti** and **Alberto II of Monaco**. 14. FAO Goodwill Ambassador musician **Chucho Valdés**. 15. FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Carla Fracci** (L) pictured with **Rita Levi Montalcini**.



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16. FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Jeremy Irons** meeting the press. World Food Day Ceremony, FAO headquarters (Plenary Hall). **17.** Ill Match Day Against Hunger, **Gonzalo Higuain** and **Cristiano Ronaldo**. **18.** Musical Performance by FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Noa** during the World Food Day Ceremony. **19.** FAO Goodwill Ambassador Indonesian singer **Anggun**. **20.** FAO Goodwill Ambassador footballer **Raul Gonzalez** playing football with two teams from the Farcha Football Center during a visit to Chad in support of joint efforts of FAO and the European Commission to help enable the most affected populations of the Sahel crisis feed themselves again. **21.** FAO Goodwill Ambassador, **Patrick Vieira** talking about Football Against Hunger at the Soccerex European Forum. **22.** Italian actor FAO Goodwill Ambassador **Raoul Bova** addressing the Plenary on the occasion of the World Food Day Ceremony.

OUTREACH AND PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS

Mobilizing the support of society as a whole.



“WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL OF ELIMINATING HUNGER”

JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA

The sum of individual gestures to achieve a common aim.

At first glance, a song performed by a singer from Singapore and a football player kicking a ball in a remote village in Chad have absolutely nothing in common. It is even more difficult to find a link between a race that passes by Rome’s Coliseum, a message from a Hollywood actor and a donation to a small rabbit-breeding project in Kenya. Yet, for FAO, every gesture, every voluntary act, every donation make a contribution to the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

This is why, over the years, the Organization has implemented different campaigns to raise awareness, promote this vital cause and raise funds with the collaboration of all those people and groups that understand that each single person has a role to play in the fight for a world without hunger.

1. **2014, Rome.** RUN FOR FOOD through Rome’s historical centre.

to create school gardens, farms and vegetable gardens in the region.

2. **Monte Coca, Dominican Republic.** FAO Telefood Project

3. The journalist, **Sara Carbonero** pictured in Elle España magazine in

the campaign against hunger.

4. **2008, Rome.** Representatives of the European football leagues and FAO launched a campaign to raise

funds and awareness on the issue of hunger in the world.

5. **2011, Vietnam.** FAO Telefood project for small-scale breeding of freshwater fish.

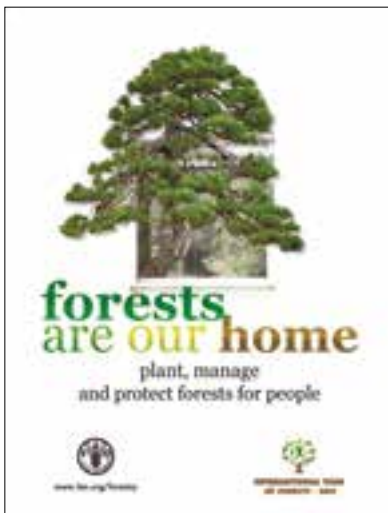
WORLD FOOD DAY

Every year, 16 October marks the celebration of World Food Day in honor of the date on which FAO was founded. The aim is to raise awareness among governments and the public about the nature and scale of the world food problem and involve them in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. In the picture: all the posters from the first World Day in 1981 until 2015.



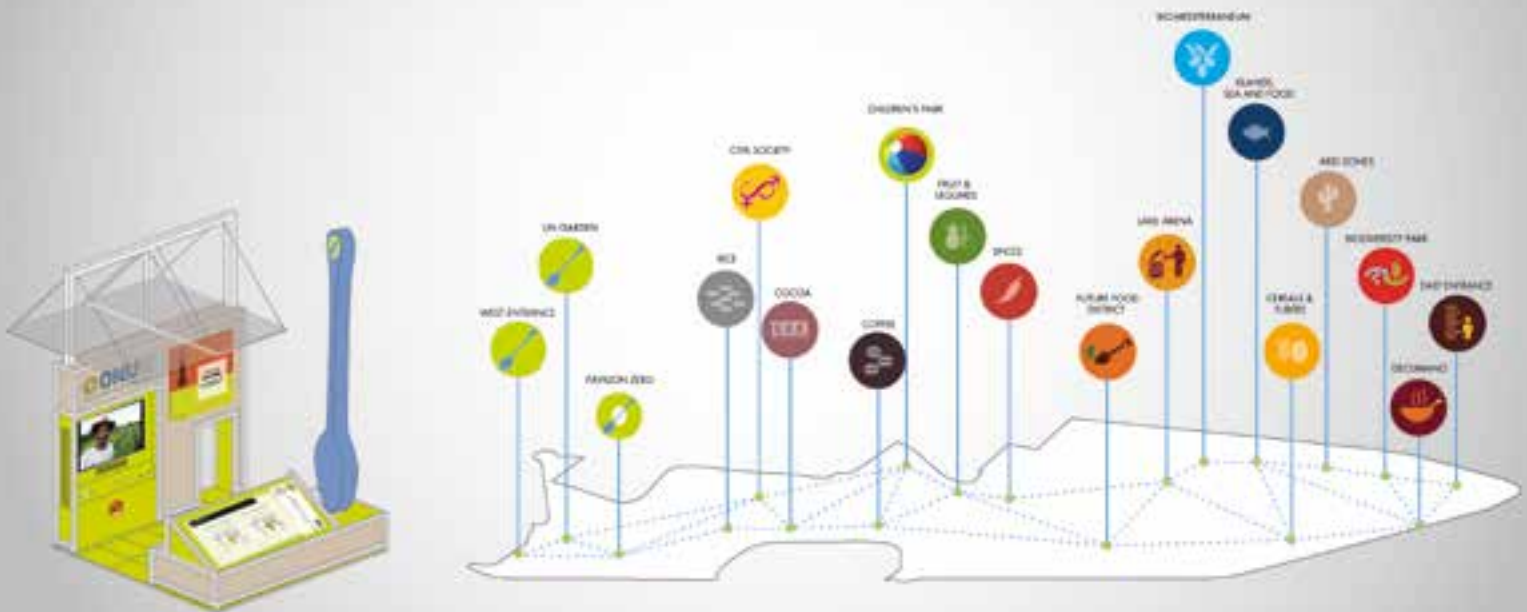
INTERNATIONAL YEARS

The UN General Assembly declared "International Year of Soils 2015 'with the aim of raising awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. The following year has been declared 2016 'The International Year of pulses' and previously it was the International Year of Family Farming (2014); Quinoa (2013); Forests (2011); Natural Fibres (2009); Deserts and Desertification (2006); Rice (2004), Freshwater (2003) and Mountains (2002).



THE UN AT MILAN EXPO 2015

“The Zero Hunger Challenge. United for a sustainable world” was the theme of the UN’s participation in numerous areas of the Milan Expo site. The message to the public was that, if we work together, we can end hunger in this lifetime.



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THE UN ITINERARY linked a series of exhibits around the Milan Expo site based on the theme “The Zero Hunger Challenge. United for a sustainable world”. Instead of a single pavilion, for the first time in the history of universal expositions, the UN had a horizontal presence with content spreading from **Pavilion Zero** to a **UN Garden** and 18 UN spaces in Expo’s main thematic areas. Easily recognizable by their giant blue spoons, the 18 multimedia installations demonstrated how the UN System fights hunger on a daily basis and invited visitors to join the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Milan Expo 2015 aimed at contributing to the debate on nutrition and educating the public about global food issues. Fifty-three of the 145 participating countries had their own pavilions capturing their interpretation of the theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, and the countries’ contribution to gastronomy, food innovation and sustainability. The remaining countries were grouped in thematic pavilions or clusters based on production: rice, maize,

coffee and many others making up another 30 pavilions. The UN participation at Expo was led by FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which together collected multimedia material from over 20 UN agencies. The Zero Pavilion illustrates the five elements of the Zero Hunger Challenge, as well as the themes of women’s empowerment and gender equality.



1. The Zero Pavilion representing FAO and the other UN agencies. **2.** The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon with the then Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini, and the Commissioner of the Government of Italy for Expo Milan 2015, Giuseppe Sala. **3.** Over 19 000 students have participated in the School Project – Expo Milan. **4.** The United Nations garden at Expo. **5.** FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva with the Directeur de Cabinet, Mario Lubetkin and the UN-Expo Project Coordinator Clara Velez-Fraga in the Containers Room, Pavilion Zero. **6.** The core message of the UN presence at Milan Expo on Pavilion Zero's Digital Wall: "Ending hunger is everyone's responsibility. All of us have a role to play, even through the commitment to change simple day-to-day actions or decisions."



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粮农组织章程序言

接受本章程的国家为了下述宗旨：
提高它们各自管辖下的人民的营养
水平和生活标准；
改进一切粮农产品的生产和分配的
效率；
改善农村人口的状况；
从而促进世界经济的发展；
决心加强它们分别的和集体的行动
以提高共同福利，为此建立联合国
粮食及农业组织。各成员将通过本
组织彼此报告在上述行动范围内所
采取的措施和取得的进展。

PREAMBULE DE L'ACTE CONSTITUTIF DE LA FAO

LES ETATS QUI ADHERENT AU PRESENT ACTE,
RESOLUS A DEVELOPPER LE BIEN-ETRE GENERAL
PAR UNE ACTION
LES ETATS QUI ADHERENT AU PRESENT ACTE,
RESOLUS A DEVELOPPER LE BIEN-ETRE GENERAL
PAR UNE ACTION PARTICULIERE ET COLLECTIVE,
AFIN:
D'ELEVER LE NIVEAU DE NUTRITION ET LES
CONDITIONS DE VIE DES POPULATIONS PLACEES
SOUS LEUR JURIDICTION RESPECTIVE;
D'AMELIORER LE RENDEMENT DE LA PRODUCTION
ET L'EFFICACITE DE LA REPARTITION DE TOUS LES
PRODUITS ALIMENTAIRES ET AGRICOLES;
D'AMELIORER LA CONDITION DES POPULATIONS
RURALES,
ET DE CONTRIBUER AINSI A L'EXPANSION DE
L'ECONOMIE MONDIALE
CONSTITUENT PAR LES PRESENTES L'ORGANISATION
DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET
L'AGRICULTURE, PAR L'INTERMEDIAIRE DE LAQUELLE
LES MEMBRES SE TIENDRONT MUTUELLEMENT
INFORMES DES MESURES PRISES ET DES PROGRES
ACCOMPLIS DANS LES CHAMPS D'ACTIVITE
ENONCES CI-DESSUS.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF FAO

THE NATIONS ACCEPTING THIS CONSTITUTION,
BEING DETERMINED TO PROMOTE THE COMMON
WELFARE BY FURTHERING SEPARATE AND
COLLECTIVE ACTION ON THEIR PART FOR THE
PURPOSES OF:
RAISING LEVELS OF NUTRITION AND STANDARDS
OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLES UNDER THEIR
RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS.
SECURING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EFFICIENCY
OF THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ALL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS,
BETTERING THE CONDITION OF RURAL
POPULATIONS,
AND THUS CONTRIBUTING TOWARD AN EXPANDING
WORLD ECONOMY,
HEREBY ESTABLISH THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
THROUGH WHICH THE MEMBERS WILL REPORT
TO ONE ANOTHER ON THE MEASURES TAKEN
AND THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE FIELDS OF
ACTION SET FORTH ABOVE.

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دبلاجة

دستور منظمة الأغذية والزراعة

إن الأمم المعقّرة لهذا الدستور، وقد عقدت العزم على
توطيد الرفاهية المشتركة بدعم العمل الفردي
والجماعي من جانبها لأجل:

رفع مستويات التغذية والمعيشة للشعوب الممانعة
لولاية كل منها؛

وتحسين كفاءة إنتاج جميع المنتجات الغذائية
والزراعية وتوزيعها؛

والتهوؤن بحلقة أهل الريف؛

وبذلك تسهم في خلق الكساد عالمي موسع وتضمن
تحرير البشرية من الجوع؛

تتبنى بهذا "منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة"
المشار إليها فيما بعد بلفظ "المنظمة"، التي يخطر
عن طريقها الأعضاء بعضهم بعضا بما يتخذ من
تدابير، وما يتحقق من تقدم في ميدان العمل المبينة
فيما سبق".

PREÁMBULO A LA CONSTITUCIÓN DE LA FAO

LOS ESTADOS QUE ACEPTAN ESTA CONSTITUCIÓN
DECIDIDOS A FOMENTAR EL BIENESTAR GENERAL
INTENSIFICANDO POR SU PARTE LA ACCIÓN
INDIVIDUAL Y COLECTIVA A LOS FINES DE:

ELEVAR LOS NIVELES DE NUTRICIÓN Y VIDA DE
LOS PUEBLOS BAJO SU RESPECTIVA JURISDICCIÓN.

MEJORAR EL RENDIMIENTO DE LA PRODUCCIÓN
Y LA EFICACIA DE LA DISTRIBUCIÓN DE TODOS
LOS ALIMENTOS Y PRODUCTOS ALIMENTICIOS Y
AGRÍCOLAS,

MEJORAR LAS CONDICIONES DE LA POBLACIÓN
RURAL,

Y CONTRIBUIR ASÍ A LA EXPANSIÓN DE LA
ECONOMÍA MUNDIAL,

CONSTITUYEN POR LA PRESENTE LA ORGANIZACIÓN
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN, POR CUYO CONDUCTO LOS
MIEMBROS SE INFORMARÁN RECÍPROCAMENTE
SOBRE LAS DISPOSICIONES QUE ADOPTEN Y
EL PROGRESO LOGRADO EN LOS CAMPOS DE
ACTIVIDADES ENUNCIADOS ANTERIORMENTE.

ПРЕАМБУЛА УСТАВА ФАО

Принимая настоящий Устав, государства,
преисполненные решимости содействовать
достижению всеобщего благосостояния путем
принятия с их стороны самостоятельных и
коллективных мер в целях:

повышения качества питания и уровня
жизни людей в рамках их соответствующих
юрисдикций;

обеспечения роста эффективности
производства и распределения всех
продовольственных и сельскохозяйственных
продуктов;

улучшения положения сельского населения;

и содействия тем самым росту мировой
экономики;

настоящим учреждают Продовольственную
и сельскохозяйственную организацию
Объединенных Наций, в дальнейшем
именуемую "Организация", через которую
члены будут отчитываться друг перед другом
о принятых мерах и достигнутом прогрессе в
упомянутой выше области.

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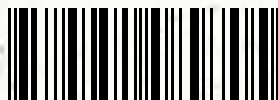


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