



CALL FOR ACTION

WORLD FOOD DAY 2016

"Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too."

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World Food Day is a day of action against hunger. On October 16, people around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate hunger in our lifetime. Because when it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number in the world is zero. World Food Day celebrates the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on October 16, 1945 in Quebec, Canada. First established in 1979, World Food Day has since then been observed in almost every country by millions of people. The global message for World Food Day 2016 is **"Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too.** On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC is calling along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to address food and agriculture in their climate action plans and invest more in rural development

Why FIMARC care about hunger?

Because the right to food is a basic human right. Every human being has a fundamental right to be free from hunger and the right to adequate food. The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child has the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.

In a world of more than 800 million people, one in nine worldwide, live with chronic hunger. The costs of hunger and malnutrition fall heavily on the most vulnerable.

*60% of the hungry in the world are women.

*Almost 5 million children under the age of 5 die of malnutrition-related causes every year.

*4 in 10 children in poor countries are malnourished damaging their bodies and brains

How does Climate effect Agriculture in the World

One of the biggest issues related to climate change is food security. The world's poorest - many of whom are farmers, fishers and pastoralists - are being hit hardest by higher temperatures and an increasing frequency in weather-related disasters. At the same time, the global population is growing steadily and is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. To meet such a heavy demand, agriculture and food systems will need to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and become more resilient, productive and sustainable. This is the only way that we can ensure the wellbeing of ecosystems and rural populations and reduce emissions.

To fully appreciate the urgency of climate change, it's important to understand the ways it affects society and the natural environment. Sea levels are rising and glaciers are shrinking; record high temperatures and severe rainstorms and droughts are becoming increasingly common. Changes in temperatures and rainfall patterns alter plant and animal behavior and have

significant implications for humans. Rapid climate change could jeopardize agriculture, forestry, and biodiversity worldwide.

Climate-related threats to global food production include risks to grain, vegetable, and fruit crops, livestock, and fisheries. Changes in the world's climate will bring major shifts in food production. In some places, temperatures will rise and rainfall will increase; in others, rainfall will decrease. In addition, coastal flooding will reduce the amount of land available for agriculture.

In general, food crops are sensitive to climate change. Such change, which affects soil temperature and moisture levels, also determines the vitality of both beneficial organisms and pests. Global warming is likely to alter production of rice, wheat, corn, soybeans, and potatoes--staples for billions of people and major food crops in the world

Nations that lose arable land and critical fisheries may not have the resources or climate to pursue reasonable-cost options for maintaining food security. Some nations are also more vulnerable to unfavorable international trade agreements and regional strife that may interrupt food distribution. We can summarise the major effect of climate change in Agriculture as follows

- **Reduced yields.** The productivity of crops and livestock, including milk yields, may decline because of high temperatures and drought-related stress.
- **Increased irrigation.** Regions of the world that now depend on rain-fed agriculture may require irrigation, bringing higher costs and conflict over access to water.
- **Planting and harvesting changes.** Shifting seasonal rainfall patterns and more severe precipitation events—and related flooding—may delay planting and harvesting.
- **Decreased arability.** Prime growing temperatures may shift to higher latitudes, where soil and nutrients may not be as suitable for producing crops, leaving lower-latitude areas less productive.
- **More pests.** Insect and plant pests may survive or even reproduce more often each year if cold winters no longer keep them in check. New pests may also invade each region as temperature and humidity conditions change. Lower-latitude pests may move to higher latitudes, for example.
- **Risks to fisheries.** Shifts in the abundance and types of fish and other seafood may hurt commercial fisheries, while warmer waters may pose threats to human consumption, such as increasing the risk of infectious diseases. Extreme ocean temperatures and ocean acidification place coral reefs—the foundations of many of the world's fisheries—at risk.

What can we do?

Everyone has a role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change. Countries need to invest in smallholder farmers and sustainably increase food production, but there are also a number of actions that we can take to help. Over 1/3 which means about 1.3 billion tons per year of food produced worldwide is lost or wasted. Methane is emitted by rotting food and is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. By being conscientious or ethical consumers and changing simple day-to-day decisions, for example, by wasting less food, or eating less meat and more nutritious pulses, we can reduce our environmental footprint and make a difference.

Climate change's negative impact on natural resources, from declining global water supplies and quality to soil degradation, underlines the increasing importance of using these resources sustainably. Good soil and forestry management, for example, can lead to the natural absorption

of carbon dioxide, thereby decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Deforestation and forest degradation account for an estimated 10 - 11% of global GHG emissions. We can take initiative for tree plantation and can use FAO tool box to manage forests sustainably.

We can grow food in a sustainable way which means adopting practices that produce more with less in the same area of land and use natural resources wisely. It also means reducing food losses before the final product or retail stage through a number of initiatives including better harvesting, storage, packing, transport, infrastructure, market mechanisms, as well as institutional and legal frameworks. By strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, we can guarantee food security for the planet's increasingly hungry global population

This World Food Day is an occasion to focus the world's attention on the effects of climate change in Agriculture. Run up to the World Food day 2016, I would like to call upon all our member movements around the world to take up concrete actions in your movements in relation to the theme of the year. I thank all the movements that were involved in various actions last year

Some proposal of actions in line with the theme of the World Food Day 2016 are mentioned below but each movement can organise activities based on their own reality.

- Organise a common campaign for afforestation in all member countries with a slogan -"One FIMARC member -ONE TREE"
- Organise sessions with a view to raise the debate on effect of Climate Change in Agriculture
- Organise meetings with politicians and local self-governments to demand support for the climate mitigation and adaption initiatives of the small scale farmers
- Share the best practices and knowledge on climate adaptation and mitigation techniques and local seed varieties that resist climate change among the members of our grass root groups
- Organise Corner meetings ,press conference , press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society
- Organise one day volunteer work to save money and to support hunger eradication projects in your own places or send to the FIMARC World Food Day fund to support other people who are in need around the world
- Make any solidarity action like fasting to collect money to support the needy or to provide one nutritious meal to the hunger
- Make awareness raising activities against wasting of food or eating less meat
- Organise local food fair to raise awareness to consume more locally

During this world food day of 2016, FIMARC requests all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions to raise the debate on Climate change and its effect in Agriculture all over the world and to Lobby for the policies that support a family based peasant agriculture which effectively adapt and mitigate the effects of the Climate change and We urge all the members to organise a common action day to raise awareness on this topic and send us the news about your activities.

Wish you all the best for your world food day actions of 2016

George Dixon Fernandez

Secretary General

ASSESE, 06/09/2016
