



CALL FOR ACTION

WORLD FOOD DAY 2016

“Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development”

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World Food Day is a day of action against hunger. On October 16, this year again the people around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate hunger in our lifetime. Because it is not acceptable that millions go to bed with empty stomachs every day. 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 2017 is “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development. On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC is calling along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to address migration by investing for in sustainable food systems and rural development

The world is on the move. More people have been forced to flee their homes than at any time since the Second World War due to increased conflict and political instability. But hunger, poverty, and an increase in extreme weather events linked to climate change are other important factors contributing to the migration challenge. Large movements of people today are presenting complex challenges, which call for global action. Many migrants arrive in developing countries, creating tensions where resources are already scarce, but the majority, about 763 million, move within their own countries rather than abroad. Three-quarters of the extreme poor base their livelihoods on agriculture or other rural activities. Creating conditions that allow rural people, especially youth, to stay at home when they feel it is safe to do so, and to have more resilient livelihoods, is a crucial component of any plan to tackle the migration challenge.

Rural development can address factors that compel people to move by creating business opportunities and jobs for young people that are not only crop-based (such as small dairy or poultry production, food processing or horticulture enterprises). It can also lead to increased food security, more resilient livelihoods, better access to social protection, and reduced conflict over natural resources and solutions to environmental degradation and climate change.

By investing in rural development, the international community can also harness migration’s potential to support development and build the resilience of displaced and host communities, thereby laying the ground for long-term recovery and inclusive and sustainable growth.

Migration is part of the process of development as economies undergo structural transformation and people search for better employment opportunities within and across countries. The challenge is to address the structural drivers of large movements of people to make migration safe, orderly and regular.

Fast Facts (According to FAO)

- In 2015, there were **244 million** international migrants, 40% more than in 2000.
- People who move within national borders were estimated at **763 million** in 2013, meaning that there are more internal migrants than international migrants.
- About **one-third** of all international migrants are aged 15-34. Nearly half are women.
- In 2015, migrants sent over **USD600 billion** in remittances to their countries of birth. Of that, developing countries received about USD441 billion, nearly three times the amount of official development assistance.
- A large share of migrants come from rural areas where more than **75%** of the world’s poor and food insecure depend on agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods.

- Most migrants, whether **international** or **internal**, originate in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.
- In 2015, **65.3 million people** around the world were forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution, including over 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million IDPs.
- **A quarter** of global refugees reside in only three countries (Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon).
- In 2015, more than **19 million people** were internally displaced because of natural disasters. Between 2008 and 2015, an average of 26.4 million people were displaced annually by climate or weather-related disasters.

THE ROOT CAUSES OF RURAL MIGRATION

- **Rural poverty and food insecurity:** More than 75% of the world's poor and food insecure live in rural areas, mostly depending on agricultural production for their subsistence. The rural poor, and especially smallholder family farmers, face considerable difficulties in accessing credit, services, technologies and markets that would allow them to improve the productivity of their natural resources and labour. This forces the rural people to migrate in search of livelihoods.
- **Lack of employment and income generating opportunities:** Most available jobs in agriculture are associated with low and unstable incomes, poor safety and health conditions, gender inequality in pay and opportunities, and limited social protection. Due to restricted access to training, financial and extension services and processing facilities, more attractive prospects are limited in rural areas.
- **Rural -Urban Inequality:** Rural and Urban Inequality: Rural areas lack better employment opportunities and improved access to health, education, and basic services
- **Limited access to social protection:** About 73% of the world population have no adequate access to social protection. The majority live in the rural areas of developing countries, where they face difficulties in managing social, economic and environmental risks.
- **Climate change:** Smallholder family farmers, small-scale fishers, forest-dependent communities and pastoralists are hardest hit by weather related disasters, which are increasing in frequency and intensity. Droughts and related food price volatility increase poverty and hunger, and the need to find viable options elsewhere.
- **Depletion of natural resources due to environmental degradation and climate change:** Land degradation and desertification affect around one-third of the land used for agriculture and about 1.5 billion people worldwide, undermining farmers' productivity and resilience. Climate change and the use of inappropriate farming techniques further exacerbate these challenges.

POTENTIAL OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture and rural development can make a strong contribution to meeting the global challenge of addressing large scale migration. Scaling-up the support to smallholder family farmers and creating alternative and sustainable livelihood options in rural areas, with a special focus on women and youth, is fundamental to addressing the root causes of rural distress migration. This requires :

- Public policies targeting smallholder family farmers and promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.
- Diversification to off-farm activities, effective rural services and investments in value chains linked to sustainable agriculture.
- Rural education and vocational training that match labour market needs.

- Sustainable agricultural practices to limit the impact of climate change, promote sound natural resource management and increase productivity.
- Inclusive social protection systems that cover rural populations and financial inclusion in rural areas, especially for women and youth.

Everyone has a role to play in dealing migration issues in our own countries. Countries need to invest in smallholder farmers and in sustainable food production and more over in sustainable rural development .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 increasing implications of internal and external migrations all over the world. Run up to the World Food day 2017, 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 2017 are mentioned below but each movement can organise activities based on their own reality.

- Organise discussion forums on the impact of migration in own locality
- Organise debates on the negative effect of migration in rural areas
- Organise meetings with politicians and local self-governments to demand support for small scale business and rural projects with a view to resist the forced migrations.
- Organise migration help desks at local level
- 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
- Organise forums to share the experience of internal and external migrants
- Organise Territorial analysis to identify the potentials in rural areas with a view to implement sustainable livelihood projects

During this world food day of 2017, FIMARC requests all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions to raise the debate in all over the world on the theme of the year “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development” and to Lobby for the policies that support local and national food security and sustainable rural development .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 2017.Let us continue our efforts to build lively rural areas and to create a dignified rural life.

George Dixon Fernandez

Secretary General

ASSESE, 05/09/2017