



CALL FOR ACTION

WORLD FOOD DAY 2020

“Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future.”

World Food Day is a day of action against hunger.

Founded in 1945, to unite all nations in the fight against hunger, the FAO celebrates its anniversary on 16 October through a worldwide celebration known as World Food Day. World Food Day 2020 marks FAO's 75th anniversary and 40th observance during a very exceptional time as many countries are dealing with the widespread effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In November 1979 the 20th session of the FAO Conference adopted Resolution 1/79 inviting FAO member countries to observe World Food Day (WFD) every year on 16 October. This was followed by Resolution 35/70 during the United Nations General Assembly in December 1980, which urged governments and national, regional and international organizations to contribute to the effective commemoration of World Food Day to the best of their capacity/to the greatest extent possible.

World Food Day should be considered as an opportunity to call for global cooperation and solidarity to help all populations, and especially the farmers and the most vulnerable and to build their livelihoods. It is also an occasion to sensitize the public on how everybody has a role to play in transforming our food systems by changing the way we produce, transform, consume and waste our food. World Food Day promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all. World Food Day promotes worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. The World Food Day 2020 focus on the theme “Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future“. On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC is calling along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to implement concrete initiatives to create a world without hunger. It's a time to look into the future we need to build together.

Importance of the theme

Food is the essence of life and base of our cultures and communities. Preserving access to safe and nutritious food is and will continue to be an essential part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for poor and vulnerable communities, who are hardest hit by the pandemic and resulting economic shocks. In a moment like this, it is more important than ever to recognize the need to support farmers and workers throughout the food system - who are making sure that food makes its way from farm to table even during disruptions as unprecedented from the current crisis.

Let's rebuild better

In recent decades the world has made significant progress in improving agricultural productivity. Although we now produce more than enough food to feed everyone, our food systems are out of balance. Hunger, obesity, environmental degradation, loss of agro-biological diversity, food loss and waste and a lack of security for food chain workers are only some of the issues that underline this imbalance..

World Food Day is calling for global solidarity to help all populations, and especially the most vulnerable, to recover from the crisis, and to make food systems more resilient and robust so they can withstand increasing volatility and climate shocks, deliver affordable and sustainable healthy diets for all, and decent livelihoods for food system workers. This will require better social protection, innovation and sustainable agricultural practices that preserve the Earth's natural resources, our health, and the climate.

It is evident that the crisis has threatened food and other essential commodities supplies around the world and the agro-industrial food systems and transnational supermarket chains are almost paralyzed due to the trans boundary trade and transport distortions. and Smallholder farmers produce up to 80% of the world's food. We should not forget that small-scale farmers have remained central to food production, provision and distribution in all the countries even at this time of crisis through direct sales, short circuit chains, public distribution systems and available local market possibilities. Small scale food producers will continue to play their important roles by promoting an ecologically rational and socially just food system. Thus Agricultural innovations and technologies developed by the farmers should be promoted and up scaled with public support. More over priority should be given to reduce food loss and waste, increase access to nutritious foods, improve water management, fight against pests and diseases, or prepare farmers for disasters. Intensive training to enhance farmers' digital skills, and giving voice to their needs and ideas, will be essential, as well as incentives to encourage the production of nutritious and diverse food.

Let's continue our actions for future

However, no action can aspire to be transformative if it fails to be collective or inclusive. Governments, the private sector, civil society, all of us need to make sure that our food systems grow a variety of food to nourish a growing population and sustain the planet, together. But we all have a role to play, from increasing the overall demand for nutritious food by choosing healthy and sustainable habits. All of us need to make sure that our food systems grow a variety of food to nourish a growing population and sustain the planet, together.

Role of Governments to support sustainable food systems and farmers

Governments around the world need to work together in solidarity and urgently address the devastating effects that the economic slowdown will have on the most vulnerable populations. They need to invest in social protection policies and programmes that ensure safe conditions and decent incomes for smallholder farmers and food chain workers, and adopt measures that avoid economic disruptions:

Target the most vulnerable

Governments should prioritize the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable households and small holder producers by expanding and improving emergency food assistance and social protection programmes, including cash transfers, the establishment of safe conditions and decent incomes that support the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and food chain workers.

Reinforce Food Policies

Establish policy measures and legal frameworks that support sustainable food systems, for example on nutrition, decent employment and soil protection, etc.

Protect Natural Resources and Diversify Healthy Diets

Promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices, such as agroecology, that preserve the Earth's natural resources, our health, and the climate and can also slow the habitat destruction that contributes to disease outbreaks. Support nutrition-sensitive and biodiversity-smart food production for improved dietary health and protection of natural resources.

Global Solidarity

Enhance international cooperation and funding to help avoid devastating impacts on smallholder famers in countries with very limited fiscal capacity.

Role of Private Sector

Private businesses need to invest in sustainable, resilient food systems with decent employment and social protection programmes to protect the most vulnerable. and to develop, adapt and share technologies that transform food systems.

Terms of Loans

Banks and financial institutions can help farmers with outstanding loans by waiving fees, extending payment due dates, or offering alternative repayment plans for farmers who cannot work or sell their produce due to pandemic restrictions.

Sharing of Knowledge

Companies can share expertise or technologies with public and other private entities to help improve sustainable food production and livelihoods especially where highly perishable goods are involved (fruit, vegetables, fish, aquatic products, etc.)

Conclusion

Governments need to urgently address the devastating effects that the economic slowdown will have on the most vulnerable populations as a delayed response could create global knock-on effects, and ultimately prove more expensive. They need to build effective social protection responses and policies that ensure safe conditions and decent incomes for smallholder farmers and food chain workers, and adopt measures that avoid food price volatility. It is fundamental that governments everywhere treat food production, transport, marketing and distribution as essential services that must be sustained. There needs to be strategic policy coordination between health, agriculture and social protection.

We all need to make food choices that improve both our health and that of our food systems, preserve habits that support them, respect food and food producers and join in any global solidarity efforts wherever possible, despite these uncertain times.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 2 billion people experience moderate or severe food insecurity, meaning they have difficulty in regularly accessing enough nutritious food.
- More than 113 million people across 53 countries experience acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance.
- The global population is expected to reach almost 10 billion by 2050, which will significantly increase the demand for food.
- Approximately 14 percent of food produced for human consumption is lost each year before reaching the wholesale market.
- Over 3 billion people in the world lack access to internet and most of them live in rural and remote areas. Smallholder farmers need greater access to finance, training, innovation and technology to improve their livelihoods.
- Intensified food production, combined with climate change, is causing a rapid loss of biodiversity. Today only nine plant species account for 66 percent of total crop production.
- A combination of poor diets and sedentary lifestyles has led to soaring obesity rates, not only in developed countries, but also low-income countries, where hunger and obesity often coexist. No region is exempt.
- If our food systems are not transformed, undernourishment and malnutrition will greatly increase by 2050. This could increase more if there is further deterioration in income inequality, employment or basic access to services.
- The impact of malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, as well as overweight and obesity – on the global economy is estimated at USD 3.5 trillion per year.

Source: FAO

FIMARC CALLS TO ACTION

This World Food Day is an occasion to focus our attention for the realization of Zero Hunger World through healthy diets. Run up to the World Food day 2020, we 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 proposals of actions in line with the theme of the World Food Day 2020 are mentioned below. But each movement can organise activities based on their own reality.

- Choose healthy and diverse:** A healthy diet contributes to a healthy life. When we choose to eat diverse foods, we encourage a variety of foods to be produced. Remember, a diverse diet favors biodiversity!
- Choose local:** Support farmers by buying locally grown fresh food, such as from a farmers' market in your community and thus you are supporting local economy and you are encouraging crop diversity.
- Choose Seasonal:** When food is out of season in one part of the world it has to be imported and travel a long way before it arrives to your local grocery store or market. So choose seasonal
- Grow Food at Home:** If you have a green space at home, access to a garden, or a balcony with space for plant pots, you can learn how to grow your own fruits, vegetables and herbs
- Respect Food and Farmers** :*Food loss and waste can occur throughout the food system, once it arrives at your table .Learn how to store uneaten food properly for another day's meal to avoid wasting perfectly good food and to respect the farmers*
- Organise Recreation and sports activities** *such as a run, a march, a walk or even a marathon against hunger and malnutrition.*
- Organize conferences, debates and public round tables** *with political leaders, educators, scientists and farmers*
- Organize food donations** *that would otherwise be wasted or lost in accordance with local regulations. Link to local shops, restaurants, etc*
- Plan a WFD exhibition** *to support the agricultural products in your region.*
- 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 awareness raising activities and campains** *for promoting agroecology and sustainable food systems*

During this world food day of 2020, FIMARC requests all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions on "Grow, nourish, sustain, Together. Our actions are our future "and to Lobby the governments for the same. 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 2020

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Reference –www.fao.org
