The International Year of Pulses
Final Report

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CONTENTS

Foreword ................................................................. vii
Acknowledgements ................................................... x
Abbreviations and acronyms ................................. xi

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND .................. 1
   The IYP Action Plan................................................ 2
   Funding..................................................................... 2

2. RESULTS .......................................................... 3
   Awareness raising .................................................... 3
   Promotion and visibility .......................................... 4
   IYP Dialogues ........................................................ 6
   Major outputs of the IYP Action Plan ....................... 7

3. THE WAY FORWARD .......................................... 9
   FAO proposals ....................................................... 10

REFERENCES ......................................................... 13
ANNEX 1: IYP STEERING COMMITTEE ....................... 15
ANNEX 2: DECLARATION OF OUAGADOUGOU FOR THE
INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PULSES ...... 17
ANNEX 3: FAO CORPORATE COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES ....................... 19
ANNEX 4: IYP EVENTS POSTED ON THE IYP WEBSITE ....................... 21
Foreword

Agriculture began more than 10,000 years ago when gatherers and hunters turned into farmers; since then, pulses have been part of the human diet. Lentils (*Lens culinaris* Medik.), chickpeas (*Cicer arietinum* L.), peas (*Pisum sativum* L.) and bitter vetch (*Vicia ervilia* [L.] Willd.) are Neolithic founder crops, as they were among the plant species that were domesticated by early farming communities in the Fertile Crescent region and have since accompanied humankind.

Pulses are nutrient-rich crops. They are an excellent source of plant-based protein and micronutrients and low in fat and high in dietary fibre. Eating pulses as part of a healthy diet can contribute to addressing the multiple facets of malnutrition, ranging from undernutrition and micronutrient deficiency to overweight and obesity. Furthermore, pulses, and legumes in general, play an equally important role in soil health maintenance and improvement. The ancient Roman scholar Marcus Terentius Varro, in his *Rerum Rusticarum* (37 BCE), recommended that legumes be planted in poor soils because they do not require many nutrients. These crops should not only be planted for an immediate return, namely high yields, but because they will also enrich the soil for subsequent crops.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP) to raise awareness about the importance of these plants and highlight their role in healthy diets and family farmers’ livelihoods as well as their contribution to soil health and the environment. Additional benefits of pulses include helping to eradicate hunger, increase agricultural productivity, improve human health and reduce soil degradation, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was mandated to facilitate the implementation of the IYP, together with all relevant stakeholders. FAO and its partners carried out many worldwide awareness-raising events and activities on the benefits of pulses for food security, nutrition and sustainability of agricultural systems. Public and private sector entities, research centres, educational institutions and media also contributed to these activities. The IYP prompted a significant momentum that has changed the public’s perception of pulses. It is hoped that this change will enable the remodeling of production and consumption patterns of pulses to further enhance the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition and to increase the sustainability of agricultural and food systems.
This document reports on the activities and results of the International Year of Pulses and aims to motivate relevant stakeholders to continue working on these very important crops. It is also a useful reference for researchers, policymakers, donors and other stakeholders.
Acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks to all individuals and organizations that have supported and worked diligently on making the International Year of Pulses (IYP) a success. Special thanks to the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Fertitecnica Colfiorito and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey for the financial support. We also acknowledge the generous, unceasing support of all staff at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Additionally, the authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to Claudia Nicolai, Diana Gutiérrez, Fabrizio Puzzilli, Pedro Javaloyes, Francesco Farne, Patrizia Graziosi, Gauri Salokhe, Mattia Romano, Emanuele Papa and many others who have supported the IYP Secretariat throughout the IYP. We would like to thank Ruth Duffy for the final editing in FAO editorial style and Suzanne Redfern for the document layout and cover design.

Lastly and most important, we would like to thank all members of the IYP International Steering Committee, whose contributions before, during and after the IYP ensured that the IYP was a very successful event.
### Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>CCP</td>
<td>Committee on Commodity Problems</td>
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<td>COAG</td>
<td>Committee on Agriculture</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAFTA</td>
<td>The Grain and Feed Trade Association</td>
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<td>GFAR</td>
<td>Global Forum on Agricultural Research</td>
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<td>GHG</td>
<td>Greenhouse gas</td>
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<td>GPC</td>
<td>Global Pulse Confederation</td>
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<td>ICARDA</td>
<td>International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>ISC</td>
<td>International Steering Committee</td>
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<td>IYP</td>
<td>International Year of Pulses</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>Special Ambassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>SIAL</td>
<td>Salon International de l’Agroalimentaire</td>
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<td>UNGA</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFO</td>
<td>World Farmers’ Organization</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
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1 Introduction and background

This report is a modified version of the article Legacy of the International Year of Pulses published in the journal Environmental Earth Sciences (Calles, Xipsiti and del Castello, 2019).

Following the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey and Resolution 6/2013 of the 38th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP). The UNGA mandated FAO with its implementation in collaboration with governments, other UN organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders. The aim of the IYP was to raise public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production aimed towards improving food security and nutrition. More specifically, it highlighted the role of pulses in balanced and healthy diets, their contribution to soil fertility and the environment, as well as research needs relating to nutritional content, processing and consumption of pulses.

FAO hosted the secretariat of the IYP and facilitated its implementation under the guidance of an International Steering Committee (ISC); the ISC was established in April 2015 and it was co-chaired by the Permanent Missions to FAO of Pakistan and Turkey and composed of representatives of FAO Member Countries, civil society, farmers’ organizations, the private sector, FAO technical divisions, research centres, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and Bioversity International.¹

FAO Director-General Mr Jose Graziano da Silva officially launched the IYP on 11 November 2015 under the slogan “Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future”. The following key messages accompanied this slogan:

- Pulses are highly nutritious.
- Pulses are economically accessible and contribute to food security at all levels.

¹ A full list of members is provided in Annex 1.
• Pulses have important health benefits.
• Pulses foster sustainable agriculture and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
• Pulses promote biodiversity.

The IYP Action Plan
An action plan was prepared in collaboration with members of the ISC in order to provide a set of guidelines, activities and events to be implemented during the year. The main activities of the IYP Action Plan include:
• Regional and global consultations with pulses experts, policymakers, and producer and trade organizations.
• Global and regional awareness campaigns – through online fora, the Web and social media.
• A food composition database of pulses.
• Production of documents and scientific studies – e.g. Pulses by-products as animal feed (Sherasia, Garg and Bhandari, 2017).

Funding
In line with the UNGA Resolution, all activities arising from the implementation of the IYP were met through voluntary contributions. A multilateral trust fund was established at the beginning of 2016 to pool together funds from various donors. These included: the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC); the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey; the International Fund for Agricultural Development; and Fertitecnica Colfiorito.
Results

Awareness raising
The overarching objective of the IYP was to raise awareness on the many benefits of pulses for food and nutrition security, by opening up opportunities for information exchange, improving mutual understanding through education and communication activities, promoting appropriate policies and developing the necessary skills to enhance the production and trade of pulses.

Thanks to their low-fat content, absence of gluten and richness in vitamins and minerals, pulses are essential for health, preventing diseases and combating malnutrition and undernourishment. Pulses can decisively contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2 of Agenda 2030, as well as to SDG 13 as their production is highly water efficient.

Awareness-raising activities were carried out worldwide by FAO and its partners as well as by public and private sector entities, research centres, educational institutions and media. The IYP prompted a considerable response by governments, non-state actors, civil society and academia in terms of commitment and involvement in the organization of technical workshops, regional and national events and education programmes. More than 150 events worldwide were posted on the FAO/IYP website² and according to the IYP Final Report of the Global Pulse Confederation, 12 countries have committed to promoting the production and consumption of pulses as part of their food security policies (GPC, 2017).

Awareness was effectively raised among a variety of actors including policymakers, pulse producers, processors and traders, restaurant and catering

² A list of events is provided in Annex 4.
operators, health and nutrition practitioners, and schoolchildren. The public at large has also been the focus of an intensive information and educational campaign through mass media (print, radio, TV, Web) and face-to-face events, such as cooking demonstrations, exhibitions, museum displays and international fairs. Pulse recipes and educational materials have particularly attracted public attention and have been widely distributed on demand or downloaded from the IYP website (FAO, 2016a).

Statistical data from the GPC–IYP Final Report, estimated a 16 percent increase in per capita consumption of lentils in 2016 and a 25 percent increase by the end of 2017 (GPC, 2017). Incidentally, based on an analysis done by Public Health England, pulse consumption in the country increased by 85 percent with respect to 2015 baseline data (Scarborough et al., 2016). The GPC report also shows indicative pulse production increases (pending the 2016 FAOSTAT Report) in major pulse-producing countries such as India (23%), Canada (38%), Australia (55%), Argentina (62%), Brazil (142%), Myanmar (1.3%) and the United States of America (136%) (GPC, 2017).

Promotion and visibility
Within the scope of the IYP Action Plan, the International Year of Pulses was promoted worldwide through various channels, highlighting the importance and the benefits of pulses. The IYP website, released in March 2015, has been the main IYP communication tool. Fully translated into seven languages, it has received more than 1.3 million page views. The corporate FAO Social Media, with over 1.7 million followers, was used to promote the IYP including multimedia with interviews, videos and audio files.

Outreach was achieved by releasing publications, leaflets and factsheets containing the IYP key messages (FAO, 2016b). Other complementary communication tools included: a blog with submissions from all around the world, weekly posts, educational materials for kids, recipe collections, a cookbook and a variety of infographics. The GPC report estimates a global audience reach of 5 billion people by the end of 2016 through dedicated websites, social media, videos, pictures, recipes and articles.

In order to promote the IYP and draw attention to its activities, FAO appointed six IYP Special Ambassadors (SAs), one for each region, with the objective of supporting FAO in raising public awareness on the important contribution of pulses to food security and nutrition (FAO, 2016c). The Zimbabwean organic
farmer and agriculture activist Ms Elisabeth Mpofu was appointed as the SA for Africa, and for Europe the British writer, teacher and blogger Ms Jenny Chandler. The leading Canadian scientist Dr Joyce Boye became the SA for North America while Prof Kadambot Siddique was appointed for the Asia and the Pacific Region. The Egyptian food stylist and entertainer Ms Magy Habib was selected as SA for the Near East and North Africa, while the Mexican agronomist Ms Patricia Juárez Arango was appointed for Latin America and the Caribbean. The SAs are prominent experts from various parts of the world who offered their names, talents and time to reach out to different audiences in their professional capacities, through international events and media. The SAs were also involved in activities aimed at increasing opportunities for dialogue, participation and access to information on pulses; they motivated relevant stakeholders to take advantage of the IYP to encourage connections throughout the food chain, further global production of pulses, promote crop rotations and address the challenges in the trade of pulses. The commitment of the SAs spanned the globe as they actively participated in major international events such as the World Food Day celebrations with Pulses in Canada, the Pan-African Grain Legume and World Cowpea Conference, the International Conference on Pulses in Marrakesh, the Regional Dialogue in Latin America, television programmes in the Near East, the international food exhibition in France (SIAL) and the International Consultation on Pulses in Chennai.
Online discussions and webinars facilitated by FAO’s Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) were held around the following main topics:

- Pulses are praised for their health, environmental and economic benefits. How can their full potential be tapped? (FAO, 2016d)
- Pulses: Innovations from the field to the cooking pot (FAO, 2016e)

The discussions stimulated an active exchange of ideas among experts, stakeholders and the public at large by linking practical experiences and research. The participants stressed the importance of promoting production and consumption of pulses by supporting seed and mixed cropping systems, facilitating access to markets and value addition, establishing stronger networks between the different actors in the pulse value chain, and the need for awareness raising on the health and nutrition benefits of pulses in addressing malnutrition and non-communicable diseases.

IYP Dialogues

A series of face-to-face consultations were held in five regions to engage pulse experts and relevant stakeholders in discussions around the issues in pulse production, consumption and trade. The IYP Dialogues highlighted context-specific issues and current challenges that the pulse sector is facing and provided a forum for information exchange, networking and partnership opportunities among participants.

The results of the Regional Dialogues (reports are in the process of being uploaded on the IYP website) fed into the IYP Global Dialogue, held towards the end of 2016, where pulse experts came together to discuss the outcomes of the Regional Dialogues, define and agree on a set of recommendations for follow-up to the IYP 2016. The recommendations of the Global Dialogue can be summarized as follows:

Pulse research

- Strengthen national and international research on pulses and create synergies among ongoing initiatives in line with the 2030 Agenda and follow up to the 2014 Second International Conference on Nutrition (i.e. 10-year pulse research strategy, Global Soil Partnership, International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources).

3 Latin America and the Caribbean Region – Quito, Ecuador on 29 November 2016; Africa Region – Marrakesh, Morocco on 16 April 2016; Near East and North Africa Region – Cairo, Egypt on 2 November 2016; Europe and Central Asia Region – Rome, Italy, on 12 October 2016; Asia and the Pacific Region – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 24 October 2016.
• Encourage and support training programmes on the value of pulses, particularly for schoolchildren, farmers and extension personnel.
• Provide adequate support to policy and programme development by strengthening the evidence basis on pulses.

**Pulse production**

• Focus policies and programmes on pulse producers, especially smallholders and youth, including support in terms of knowledge provision, improved inputs, credit, insurance, and research investment and involvement.
• Preserve and apply indigenous knowledge production and agricultural practices.
• Open up new markets by processing pulses into other foods (biscuits, flakes, snacks etc.).

**Pulse consumption**

• Increase consumer awareness and knowledge on pulses through nutrition education, school nutrition/feeding programmes, better evidence basis, public procurement schemes and pulses food labelling.
• Include pulses in nutrition policy and programmes.
• Promote the consumption of pulses (through celebrity chefs, restaurant chains, take-away, new recipes and pulse products).

**Major outputs of the IYP Action Plan**

• The publication, Pulses: *Nutrition seeds for a sustainable future* (FAO, 2016f), is a cookbook, which has not only recipes but also a large amount of information about pulses.
• Two food composition databases on pulses were published in 2017: *FAO/INFOODS Global food composition database for pulses* (Grande et al., 2017a) and the *FAO/INFOODS Global database for pulses on dry matter basis* (Grande et al., 2017b).
• Scientific publications were produced: *Soils and pulses: Symbiosis for life* (Altobelli et al., 2016), *Pulses and their by-products as animal feed* (Sherasia, Garg and Bhandari, 2017) and *Pulse crops for sustainable farms in sub-Saharan Africa* (Snapp, Rahmanian and Batello, 2018).
• A report on the global economy of pulses has been drafted and will be published soon.
3 The way forward

A major success of the IYP was the huge number of outreach activities, including educational and promotional events, organized worldwide in different languages and for different types of audiences. These have significantly contributed to raise the awareness and profile of pulses among all sectors of the population as well as increase the level of collaboration and partnerships among key players.

Thanks to this success, there has been a sound call to keep the momentum of the IYP 2016 alive and continue its awareness-raising activities beyond 2016. At the 2016 sessions of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), members acknowledged the contribution of pulses to enhancing food security, improving nutrition and increasing environmental protection. They encouraged governments to engage in public awareness events and to develop and implement appropriate policies for promoting the improved production and consumption of pulses. The FAO Council in December 2016 endorsed the COAG and CCP reports and requested that FAO, Member Countries and all relevant stakeholders take advantage of this momentum to continue the work on pulses and put forward proposals for concrete actions.

Governments and FAO are therefore encouraged to continue promoting the messages and themes of the IYP beyond 2016 (FAO, 2017a). Drawing on the outcomes of the International Year of Pulses, particularly the issues identified during regional and international consultations, it is recommended that governments and other key pulse actors (farmers’ organizations, agricultural research centres, academia and the private sector), establish multistakeholder fora to strengthen information exchange and policy dialogue at national and regional levels on pulse production, consumption and trade (FAO, 2017b).
The closing ceremony of the IYP was hosted by the Government of Burkina Faso and held in Ouagadougou on 10–11 February 2017. The participants at the closing event presented a draft declaration for the Institutionalization of a World Pulses Day to be celebrated on 10 February (see Annex 2). The proposal was endorsed by the 156th FAO Council in April 2017 and by the FAO Conference in June 2017. The proposal has been officially sent to the UN General Assembly for approval and an answer is expected by the end of 2018.

**FAO proposals**

Pulses play a key role in simultaneously addressing food security and climate change challenges by providing proteins and lysine to complement cereals in human alimentation, contributing to diversified crop rotations, and fixing nitrogen in the soil thus reducing the use of fertilizers and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore, pulses improve food security while helping to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

In order to draw attention to the above benefits and in line with the recommendations of the COAG and Council related to the IYP, FAO will be strengthening the programme on pulses as part of its regular work in the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), and exploring joint initiatives with the other Rome-based agencies to provide policy advice and support to Member Countries, on the production, consumption and trade of pulses. FAO will also facilitate linkages and partnerships with ongoing programmes that
promote sustainable pulse value chains, such as the Mountain Partnership Product Initiative supported by the Italian Development Cooperation and the Slow Food movement.

In response to the 155th Council recommendations and based on the results of the consultations held during the IYP 2016, FAO is putting forward the following proposals endorsed by the 40th FAO Conference:

1) **Pulses Action Network.** Among the activities included in the work programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (UN, 2016) is the creation of thematic action networks, such as the Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, which is led by Norway (NMTIF, 2018). These networks are informal coalitions of countries aimed at advocating for the establishment of policies and legislation around a specific nutrition-related theme, allowing the exchange of knowledge and good practices, highlighting successes, illustrating challenges and providing mutual support to accelerate implementation. A similar network on pulses can be established, under the leadership of FAO Member Countries who have been instrumental in the implementation of the IYP and have a common interest in taking action on this topic. To start the process of establishing an action network under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, the country committed to taking the lead would need to communicate the action network’s title, objectives, scope and initial programme of work to the Decade’s joint FAO/WHO Secretariat as well as identify and invite other partner countries to join.\(^4\) An action network may be regional or global. The Pulses Action Network’s leading country will be responsible for deciding how a network will engage with civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector, particularly the Global Pulse Confederation, with due consideration to conflicts of interests.

2) **Publication on underutilized pulse species.** There are a number of pulse species of minor relevance at the international level, which can be used for specific niches because of their adaptation to marginal environmental conditions. Pulses such as Bambara beans (*Vigna subterranea* [L.] Verdc.), have an important social value in promoting indigenous, underutilized pulses. In addition to contributing to local economies, they can also help in preserving culturally appropriate foods while contributing to balanced diets. The publication, under the responsibility of FAO’s AGP Division, will compile

information on agronomy, nutrition and trade of underutilized pulse species such as African yam bean and winged bean.

3) **Revision of international statistical classifications on pulses.** Contribute to the improvement of international statistical product classifications by reviewing taxonomic information and adding detail on beans to differentiate between two distinct genera that have different environmental and market niches. The IYP Steering Committee has also supported FAO’s proposal to improve the international Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) by disaggregating classes and differentiating between up to nine products with different environmental and market niches. The improvement of international statistical classifications will improve the statistics of pulse production and food consumption at country and international level.
References


Annex 1

IYP Steering Committee

- Co-Chairs: Turkey and Pakistan.
- FAO regional groups represented by: United States of America, Canada, Turkey, Hungary, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, Pakistan, India, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Brazil.
- UN organizations: World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- Farmers’ organization: World Farmers Organization (WFO).
- Private sector: Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) and Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA).
- Agricultural research: Bioversity International, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).
Annex 2

Declaration of Ouagadougou for the institutionalization of an International Day of Pulses

We, governmental actors, intergovernmental, national, regional, continental and international organizations, non-state actors, committed to the development of Agriculture:

Recognizing the importance of pulses in agricultural production systems, managing soil fertility, reducing the adverse effects of climate change and enhancing resilience especially for the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children;
Recognizing the importance of pulses in reducing cardiovascular diseases related to overweight;
Recognizing the importance of pulses in food and feed especially during lean periods in food- and nutrition-insecure countries;
Recognizing that pulses are an important source of income for the most vulnerable households in developing countries around the world;
Recognizing the need to strengthen support for pulse research and popularization of research achievements;
Recognizing the importance of strengthening the synergy of action between the different actors in the pulse value chain;
Conscious that pulses account for a relatively large share of world trade through processing and marketing processes;
Conscious that the achievement of food security and the development of sustainable animal production relies largely on pulse crops;
Recalling the potential impact of pulses in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which are:

**Goal 1**: Eliminate poverty in all its forms and around the world;

**Goal 2**: Eliminate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

**Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

**Goal 8**: Promote sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;

**Goal 12**: Establish sustainable consumption and production patterns;

**Goal 13**: Take urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts;

Welcoming the commitment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Members to promoting pulses worldwide through its regional programmes for agricultural development and food and nutrition security;

Noting with concern that research and communications have highlighted the main constraints to the development of pulse value chains;

Meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 10–11 February 2017, on the occasion of the closing of the International Year of Pulses;

Recommend the institutionalization of an International Day of Pulses by the United Nations General Assembly, which could be scheduled on 10 February of each year.

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 11 February 2017

The participants
Annex 3

FAO corporate communication activities

IYP website: http://www.fao.org/pulses-2016/

- More than 700,000 sessions and 1,390,000 page views on the IYP website since its launch
- Almost 100 highlights on the IYP website
- Almost 150 events
- 23 FAO publications on the IYP website
- > 35 blogs from more than 15 countries
- > 70 recipes from all around the world
- Multimedia: 33 videos and audio files

IYP material produced by FAO

- IYP logo – translated into 33 languages
- Photo exhibit panels
- FAO books: Pulses: Nutritious seeds for a sustainable future (FAO, 2016f); Soil and pulses: Symbiosis for life (Altobelli et al., 2016); Pulses and their by-products as animal feed (Sherasia, Garg and Bhanderi, 2017); Pulse crops for sustainable farms in sub-Saharan Africa (Snapp, Rahmanian and Batello, 2018)
- IYP posters – translated into all official languages and 4 non-FAO languages
- IYP leaflet – translated into all official languages and 6 non-official languages
- 5 factsheets – translated into all official languages
- 6 infographics – translated into all official languages and 9 non-FAO languages
• FAO comic strip for kids
• FAO Kids series: 3 episodes on pulses translated into all official languages and 1 non-FAO language

Key outreach events
• Pulses market
• Pulses book exhibition
• FAO library book covers exhibition

IYP Newsletter
• 6 issues in all FAO official languages sent out to our subscribers list and posted on the IYP website
• > 670 subscribers

Pulses mailbox
• 3,667 emails sent
• 2,511 emails received

FAO Social Media
IYP promoted on all FAO corporate channels which have over 2 million followers. Specifically the IYP was promoted through:
• Facebook ~ 300 posts
• Twitter ~ 900 posts
• Google+ ~120 posts
• LinkedIn ~ 180 posts
• Instagram ~100 posts
Annex 4

IYP events posted on the IYP website (http://www.fao.org/pulses-2016/en/)

- 27 February 2017: “International Year of Pulses farewell at the Embassy of Pakistan, Rome”, Embassy of Pakistan, Via della Camilluccia 682, Rome, Italy.
- 31 December 2016: “Lutte contre la Pauvreté, Mapex Légumineuses”, UWI Open Campus Saint Lucia, P.O. Box 306, Castries, Saint Lucia.
• 15 December 2016: “International Year of Pulses (IYP) Symposium”, Agriculture lecture hall, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.
• 14 December 2016: “Las Leguminosas en la Agricultura Española”, Salón de Actos del IFAPA, Alameda del Obispo (Junta de Andalucía), Cordoba, Spain.
• 8 December 2016 “Pulses Recipe Competition and Exhibition”, BARC Complex, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
• 7 December 2016: “Quelle Complémentarité entre Protéines Animales et Végétales en Restauration Scolaire?”, Espace Culturel Bonne Fontaine, Forcalquier, France.
• 5–7 December 2016: “Week of Pulses”, Omsk State Agrarian University named after Petr A. Stolypin, Omsk, Russian Federation.
• 2 December 2016: Workshop “I Legumi: Semi Nutrienti per un Futuro Sostenibile”, Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Pisa, Via del Borghetto 80, Pisa, Italy.
• 1 December 2016 – 10 January 2017: “II Concurso de Navidad del Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad de Santiago de Compostela”, Museo de Historia Natural da USC, Parque Vista Alegre s/n, 15782 Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
• 30 November 2016: “Jornada sobre la Importancia de las Legumbres en el Sector Agroalimentario”, Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenierías Agrarias, Universidad de Valladolid, Palencia, Spain.
• 22 November 2016: Conferencia sobre “Las Legumbres en la Dieta Mediterránea”, Salón de Actos de la Real Sociedad Económica, Calle Bernabé Soriano, Jaén, Spain.
• 21–30 November 2016: “Jornadas sobre el Papel de las Legumbres en la Alimentación y la Agricultura”, Centro de Documentación del Agua y del Medio Ambiente (CDAMAZ), Zaragoza, Spain.
• 19 November 2016: “11th International Innovation Day – 2016”, City Montessori School, Jopling Road Campus, 2-A Jopling Rd, 226001 Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.
• 19 November 2016: “Survey results: Hong Kong – International Year of Pulses 2016”, Taipo Mega Mall, Tai Po Centre, Hong Kong, China.
• 12–14 November 2016: “Pulses for Nutritional Security and Agricultural Sustainability”, New Delhi, India.
• 11 November – 1 December 2016: “I Legumi, Semi Nutrienti per un Futuro Sostenibile”, Centro Commerciale “Le Centurie”, Via Caselle 1, 35010 San Giorgio delle Pertiche (PD), Italy.
• 8 November 2016: “Quelle Place d’Avenir pour les Légumineuses en Wallonie?”, Gembloux, Belgium.
• 5–6 November 2016: “Slow Beans”, MUSE, Museo delle Scienze di Trento, Italy.
• 29 October 2016: “Festival del Legume”, Via Badia 28, 67039 Sulmona (AQ), Italy.
• 28 October – 6 November 2016: Mostra interattiva “Il Fagiolo è Magico?”, Cisterne di Palazzo Ducale, Piazza Matteotti, Genoa, Italy.
• 26 October 2016: International Agriculture Seminar “Légumineuses: Quelle Place dans les Systèmes Agricoles?”, Maison de l’Agriculture, Chaussée de Namur 47, Gembloux, Belgium.


• 19–20 October 2016: “The International Year of Pulses (IYP) Regional Dialogue for Latin America and the Caribbean”, Santiago, Chile.

• 16 October 2016: “The Pulses Festival”, National Museum of Natural History and Science of the University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal.


• 14 October 2016: “IYP and WFD Commemoration in Cabo Verde”, Praia, Cape Verde.


• 12–13 October 2016: “The International Year of Pulses (IYP) Regional Dialogue for Europe and Central Asia”, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.


• 7 October 2016: “The International Year of Pulses: Research and Policies for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security”, Sala del Mappamondo, Palazzo Montecitorio, Rome, Italy.


• 30 September 2016: “Food Footprints at Researchers Night”, Firth Court, Sheffield University, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

• 29 September 2016: Conference on the occasion of the International Year of Pulses: “Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future”, Ministry of Agriculture,
Budapest, Hungary.

- 29 September 2016: “2016 Ano Internacional das Leguminosas”, Universidade Unilúrio, Campus Universitário de Marrere Barrio de Marrerre, Rua Nr. 4250, km 2.3, Nampula, Mozambique.


- 20 September 2016: “Exhibition – Celebrating the International Year of Pulses”, IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria.


- 19 September 2016: “Ospria Festum 2k16”, Carnival of Pulses RBVRR Womens College, 3-4-527 Narayanguda Rd., Hyderabad 500027, Telangana State, India.


• 9–19 September 2016: “10° Festival della Biodiversità”, Cascina Centro Parco Nord (Via Clerici 150, S.S.G), il MIC – Museo Interattivo del Cinema (v.le Fulvio Testi 121, Milano), Villa Lonati (Via Zubiani, Milano), Oxy.gen (Via Campestre/Via Meucci, Bresso), Ortocomune Niguarda (Via Treniti, Milano), Italy.


• 30 August 2016: Charla-conferencia “Las Apetitosas Leguminosas en los Cuentos no son Sosas”, Biblioteca Pública “Lope de Vega” de Manzanares de Ciudad Real, Spain.


• 25 August 2016: “Bean Field Day” Black Sea Agricultural Research Institute, Samsun, Turkey.

• 17 August 2016: “Cornwallis Community Gardens Association (CCGA) Garden Party”, Cornwallis Park (corner of Brigg Lane and South Broadway), Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, Canada.

• 13 August 2016: “International Year of Pulses Celebration”, Secret Garden, 2710a Harrison St, San Francisco, CA 94100, United States of America.

• 13 August 2016: “Expo-Leguminosas”, Plaza Municipal de Navidad (Región de O´Higgins), Navidad, Chile.

• 11 August 2016: Seminario “2016, Año Internacional de las Legumbres: El Alimento del Futuro”, Auditorio de la Universidad Tecnológica de Chile INACAP, ubicado en la Carretera Longitudinal Sur 441, Chillán, Chile.
• 7–9 August 2016: “Regional Consultation on Enhancing the Productivity and Profitability of Pulses for Addressing Food and Nutrition Security”, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India.

• 1 August 2016 – 31 January 2017: “Workshops: Hong Kong International Year of Pulses 2016”, ten schools and public areas, Hong Kong, China.


• 25 July – 5 August 2016: Training course on “The Use of Stable Isotope Techniques for Improving Nitrogen Management”, Soil and Water Management and Crop Nutrition Laboratory at the FAO/IAEA Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratory, Seibersdorf, Austria.

• 20 July 2016: “Leguminosen im Ökologischen Landbau (The role of legumes in organic farming)”, Experimental Station Kleinhohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany.

• 19 July 2016: “National Edible Grain Legumes Field Day and Workshop”, Transitional Zone Agricultural Research Institute, Eskişehir, Turkey.

• 19 July 2016: “National Pulses Field Day”, Transitional Zone Agricultural Research Institute Eskişehir, Turkey.

• 18–22 July 2016: “Mobile Study Group for Legume”, Ankara, Eskişehir, Bursa, Balıkesir, Turkey.

• 14 July 2016: “CSIDC Field Day and Trade Show”, Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre, 901 McKenzie St South, Outlook, Saskatchewan, Canada.

• 14 July 2016: “Chickpea Field Day”, Black Sea Agricultural Research Institute, Samsun, Turkey.

• 14 July 2016: “Traditional Harvest Festival”, University of Ankara, Faculty of Agriculture, Research and Application Center of Haymana, Ankara, Turkey.


• 15 June 2016: “2016 (fifth) RDFZ On-campus Dou/Legume Festival”, The High School Affiliated to the Renmin University of China, 37 Zhongguancun St, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, China.
• 12 June 2016: “Fête Paysanne du Lentillon Champenois”, Chez un producteur de lentillon à Coupéville, Marne, France.
• 11 June 2016, “Porte Ouverte Cavac – Station Légumes Secs”, Station Légumes Secs Cavac, Rue de la Croisée Zone Acty Beaupuy 3 à, Mouilleron-Le-Captif (85), France.
• 5 June 2016: “Celebration of World Environment Day in Brussels”, Parc Cinquantenaire, Brussels, Belgium.
• 31 May – 3 June 2016: “Comer Bien y Cuidar la Tierra”, 7ma Semana del Desarrollo Sostenible, Especial Año Internacional de las Legumbres; Alianza Francesa de Cochabamba, Cochabamba, Bolivia.
• 31 May – 1 June 2016: “INRA Meeting on Grain Legumes (Francophone)”, Dijon, France.
• 23 May – 17 June 2016: “Leader Child Agriculture Camp”, 81 provinces of Turkey, Turkey.
• 22 May – 30 November 2016: “Tutti i Legumi del Mondo negli Orti del MUSE”, MUSE, Museo delle Scienze di Trento (TN), Italy.
• 21 May 2016: “La Soirée des Légumineuses”, Gard, France.
• 10 May 2016: “Pour être Bien dans notre Assiette, Mettons-y des Haricots”, Bibliothèque de Bertrix, Centre Culturel, Bertrix, Belgium.
• 4–6 May 2016: “FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)”, Antalya, Turkey.
• 1–31 May 2016: “Exposición 2016 Año Internacional de las Legumbres”, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (UAB), Facultad de Biociencias, Biblioteca de Ciencia y Tecnología, Campus UAB, Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain.
• 1 May 2016: “Places aux Arbres”, Place Saint-Pierre, Commune d’Etterbeek à 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium.
• 1–31 May 2016: “World Pulses Convention”, Izmir, Turkey.
• 30 April – 1 May 2016: “Alícia’t, la Fiesta de la Cocina Fácil, Sana y Divertida”, Món Sant Benet, Barcelona, Spain.
• 22–30 April 2016: “Le Festival de Films pour l’Environnement (FFPE)”, Portneuf, Quebec, Canada.
• 18 April – 6 May 2016: “Exposition sur les Légumineuses”, Les Sables d’Olonne, France.
• 18–21 April 2016: “15th International Cereal and Bread Congress (15th ICBC)”, Wyndham Grand Hotel, Levent, Istanbul, Turkey.
• 16 April 2016: “Blischenko Congress. Round Table: International Environmental and Food Security: International Year of Pulses”, Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russian Federation.
• 15–17 April 2016: “17a Festa del Pèsol Garrofal de Sant Andreu de Llavaneres”, Sant Andreu de Llavaneres, Barcelona, Spain.
• 7 April 2016: “Las Legumbres en la Dieta Mediterránea”, Centro Cívico Municipal de Lepanto, Ronda del Marrubial, Córdoba, Spain.
• 2 April 2016: “Pulses for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet: Emerging Research and Opportunities at The American Society for Nutrition’s Scientific Sessions at Experimental Biology 2016”, San Diego, United States of America.
• 30 March – 3 April 2016: Rencontres Littérature au Centre “Littérature et Cuisines”, Clermont-Ferrand, France.
• 20 March 2016: “Cognizance 2016 National Signature Dish”, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, India.
• 12 March 2016: “Cognizance 2016 Pulse Pledge”, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, India.
• 9 March 2016: “Disco Soup” PoPart (jardin partagé), Campus des Cézeaux, 24 Avenue des Landais, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, France.
• 9 March – 4 April 2016: Exposition “Cuisines” Clermont-Ferrand, France.
• 4–6 March 2016: “Leguminosa – Evento Internazionale di Slow Food”, Napoli, Italy.
• 22 January – 5 May 2016: “National School Contest for International Year of Pulses”, Greece.
• 10 November 2015: “Official Launch of the International Year of Pulses”, FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.
Pulses have a rich nutritional value and are an important part of a healthy diet, considering that they are a good source of protein and micronutrients. However, pulses, and legumes in general, play an equally important role in soil health maintenance and improvement. The benefits of pulses are often underappreciated and therefore the United Nations General Assembly declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses to highlight the role of pulses in healthy diets and their contribution to soil health and the environment.

This publication reports on the activities and results of the International Year of Pulses. It aims to motivate relevant stakeholders to continue working with these important crops and also is a useful reference for researches, policy-makers and donors.