



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

2021

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of various colorful, rounded shapes representing different vegetables and fruits, such as a green cucumber, a red chili pepper, a yellow banana, an orange, a purple eggplant, and a green bell pepper.

**Launch Event - Agenda**

Join by webinar  
or webcast

15 December 2020  
13:00-15:30 CET

## Opening

Moderator: Ms **Marcela Villarreal**, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration, FAO

*Screening of the official video for the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables*

Opening and launch of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables

- Mr **QU Dongyu**, Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Message: Mr **António Guterres**  
UN Secretary-General
- His Excellency **Antonio Walker**  
Minister of Agriculture of Chile
- Her Excellency **Teresa Bellanova**  
Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy
- His Excellency **Abdelwahab Mohamed Elhijazi Mohamed Khair**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan to FAO
- High level representatives from other regions: Africa, Asia

## Panel discussion

Keynote: Ms **Helena Laurent** Director General, Consumers International

*Roundtable discussions*

### Panel 1

- Dr **Simon Barquera**  
Director, Center for Research in Nutrition and Health, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico
- Dr **Fernando Vio**  
President of the Corporation 5 a day Chile, Member of AIAM5 and Member of the Academy of Medicine of Chile
- Mr **Andre Leu**  
Organic fruit grower / Ambassador, IFOAM – Organics International
- Mr **Christophe Rabatel**  
CEO, Carrefour, Italy
- Message:  
Mr **Katsuhiko Nakamura**  
Chef and FAO National Goodwill Ambassador for Japan

## Panel 2

- Mr **Saad Dagher**  
Farmer, agronomist and agroecologist / Member of Urgenci International Mediterranean Network, Palestine
- Mr **Timothy Laku**  
CTO, Bringo Fresh, Uganda
- Mr **Guillaume Pagy**  
Managing Director, Pagysa, Turkey

### *Regional perspectives*

What actions are planned?

- Africa:
- Asia and Pacific:
- Europe: Dr **Filiberto Altobelli**,  
Agricultural Expert of the Permanent Representation of Italy to FAO
- Latin America and Caribbean: Mrs. **Nereida De León**,  
National Deputy Director of the National Institute for Student Welfare of the Dominican Republic (INABIE)
- Middle East and North Africa:
- North America: Ms **Wendy Reinhardt Kapsak**,  
President & CEO, Produce for Better Health Foundation

One wish: what should this year do?

- Dr. **Lusike Wasilwa**,  
Director Crop Systems,  
Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization
- Mr. **Juan Lucas Restrepo**,  
Director General of the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT
- Dr. **Yüksel Tüzel**,  
President of International Society for Horticultural Science
- Mr **Yacob Ahmad**, Advisor, International Tropical Fruits Network (TFNet)

Wrap-up: Ms **Marcela Villarreal**, Director, Partnerships and UN Collaboration, FAO