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INVITATION TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS FOR

International Symposium on Food and Nutrition Security: Food-Based Approaches for Improving Diets and Raising Levels of Nutrition

FAO, Rome, 7-9 December 2010

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is pleased to announce the convening of an *International Symposium on Food and Nutrition Security: Food-Based Approaches for Improving Diets and Raising Levels of Nutrition* to be held in FAO Headquarters, Rome 7-9 December 2010. The Symposium, by presenting evidence on the benefits of nutrition-sensitive, food-based approaches for improving the quality of diets and raising levels of nutrition, will raise the awareness of policy makers of the need to place more emphasis on these approaches if the MDGs are to be achieved. The Symposium will help to identify the way forward for FAO and others in promoting nutrition-sensitive development and food-based approaches, and the opportunities for better integrating such approaches into policies and programmes. This event will serve as the basis for future dialogue, debate and information exchange and facilitate wider support for an international movement committed to the implementation of effective, sustainable and long-term nutrition-sensitive, food-based solutions to hunger and malnutrition. The Symposium is envisaged as part of the preparatory activities leading up to the ICN+20 conference anticipated for 2012.

Papers to be presented at the Symposium are now being solicited. Based on submitted abstracts, an Advisory Scientific Committee coordinated by the Secretariat established by FAO, will request experts and policy makers from Ministries of Agriculture and Planning to prepare their contributions for presenting during the Symposium. Preference will be given to abstracts that:

- document the effectiveness of nutrition-sensitive, food-based policies and programmes for overcoming nutritional problems;
- discuss the policy, strategic, methodological, technical and programmatic issues associated with such approaches;
- propose and justify “best practices” pertaining to the design, targeting, implementation and evaluation of specific nutrition-sensitive, food-based interventions, recognising the particular need for improved methodologies for evaluating their efficacy and cost-effectiveness;
- draw practical “lessons-learned” and the way forward for advancing nutrition-sensitive food-based approaches for improving nutrition at policy and programme level.

Submissions may be reviews, specific case-studies, meta-analyses or cross-sectional or longitudinal studies, and may be based on official reports, previous studies or on original research. Topics could relate to, among others: a) initiatives to expand availability and accessibility of plant and animal food in adequate quality and quantity; b) changes of food habits and choices towards more diverse and nutritious diets; c) food processing, preservation and storage at household and community level; d) improved nutrition education and health service delivery; and e) capacity building at community, national and regional levels for improving food and nutrition security and addressing specific nutrient deficiencies. These could be elements within efforts to improve targeting to reduce poverty, gender bias, economic and political exclusion and social marginalization and to promote community action planning.

Abstracts (no longer than 250 words) are welcomed from relevant disciplines such as nutrition; agricultural sciences (horticulture, agronomy, animal science and food marketing); information, education and communication; food technology (preservation, processing and fortification) and development. On the basis of the discussions carried out during the Symposium and issues raised, authors will further develop their papers within three months after the event for publishing in the Proceedings. Abstracts may be sent to AGN-Symposium@fao.org

Further details may be found on the AGN web site http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/index_en.stm
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