Welcome to the
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY:
FOOD-BASED APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING
DIETS AND RAISING LEVELS OF NUTRITION

UNITED AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations welcomes participants to this International Symposium on "Food and Nutrition Security: Food-based Approaches for Improving Diets and Raising Levels of Nutrition". The purpose of the Symposium is to increase awareness of policy makers and programmers of the benefits nutrition-sensitive, food-based approaches have for improving diets and raising levels of nutrition. Papers will be presented by leading experts that clearly demonstrate the nutritional benefits of food-based approaches and for incorporating nutrition objectives into agriculture, food security, economic and other development policies and programmes. Opportunities and challenges will be identified for promoting nutrition-sensitive, food-based approaches and for enhancing and monitoring their impact on food and nutrition in terms of food quality and safety, food consumption and diets and nutritional outcomes.

The 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 second joint FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition (ICN+20) which is planned to be held in Rome in 2012, that is, 20 years after the first ICN in 1992.

Website: http://www.fao.org/ag/humannutrition/nationalpolicies/meetings/en/

General Information

Participants

Participants will include experts and policy makers who will be invited to critically appraise the contributions and give useful inputs for the improvement and refinement of the presentations.

Expected outputs

After the Symposium, the presentations will be available online. On the basis of the discussions carried out during the Symposium and issues raised, authors will further develop their papers and submit them within three months. A draft of the proceedings containing the papers will then be compiled by AGN. Once finalised, the proceedings will be translated into French and Spanish and published in three languages, both electronically and in hard copy for online and personal distribution. Finally, a booklet containing the abstracts of the papers with key words will be produced. The booklet will be translated into Spanish and French and published in the three languages.

For further Information, please contact:

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Expected impact

The findings of the Symposium will be used to provide practical guidance to FAO, and ultimately, to its Member Countries, for future work utilizing nutrition-sensitive, food-based approaches for improving food and nutrition security and for overcoming specific nutrient deficiencies. In the medium and long-term, taking into account FAO’s mandate and comparative advantages, as well as its Core Functions and Strategic Objectives.

Food and Nutrition Security: Food-based Approaches for Improving Diets and Raising Levels of Nutrition
Contributions of homestead food production to improved household welfare, Council, Cape Town, South Africa

10.00

Keynote Addresses

10.00 • Perspectives on nutritional problems in developing countries - explicitly improving food and nutrition security - Part 2

10.30 • Improving food and nutrition status in Lao PDR through policy support and capacity building, Phnom Penh: Outlining, Deputy Director General, Planning Department, MPI, Lao PDR

11.00 • Integrating nutrition into agriculture and rural development policies and programmes - an innovative food and nutrition security approach in Brazil, Luciana Butti, Professor at the Federal University and Counsellor at the National Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA), Brazil

11.30 • Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance (GINA) and Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program, Cheryll Jackson, Senior Nutrition and Health Advisor, USAID, Washington D.C., USA

12.00 Cocktail in the Aventino Room, 8th Floor, Building B

12.30 Lunch

14.00 • Critical issues to consider in the selection of crops in a food-based approach to improve vitamin A status, Mike Faber, Senior Specialist, Nutritional Intervention Research Unit, Medical Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa

14.30 • Contributions of homestead food production to improved household food security and nutrition status - lessons learned from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal and Philippines, Zaman Salleh, Country Director Cambodia and Regional Food Security Advisor, Asia-Pacific, Helen Keller International (HKI)

15.00 • The under-estimated impact of food-based interventions, Ian Darnton-Hooker, Adjunct Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition and Policy, Tufts University, USA; and Adjunct Professor, Boden Institute of Obesity, Nutrition and Exercise, University of Sydney, Australia

Session 2: Policy

Presentations and plenary discussion

09.00 • Current nutritional status in China, Prof. Chen Chunming, International Life Science Institute, Focal Point in China

09.30 • Improving food and nutrition security in Lao PDR through policy support and capacity building, Phnom Penh: Outlining, Deputy Director General, Planning Department, MPI, Lao PDR

10.00 • Integrating nutrition into agriculture and rural development policies and programmes - an innovative food and nutrition security approach in Brazil, Luciana Butti, Professor at the Federal University and Counsellor at the National Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA), Brazil

10.30 • Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance (GINA) and Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program, Cheryll Jackson, Senior Nutrition and Health Advisor, USAID, Washington D.C., USA

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Session 3: FAO Departments and Divisions on their contribution for explicitly improving food and nutrition security - Part 1

11.00 • Presentations and plenary discussion

• Animal Production and Health Division (AGA)
• Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)
• Animal Production and Health Division (AGA)
• Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)
• Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA)
• Statistics Division (ESS)
• Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division (ESW)
• Rural Infrastructure and Agri-Industries (AGS)
• Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP)
• Animal Production and Health Division (AGA)
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• Statistics Division (ESS)
• Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division (ESW)
• Rural Infrastructure and Agri-Industries (AGS)

11.45 • Medium scale fortification: a sustainable food-based approach to improve diets and raise levels of nutrition, Miriam Van Niersel, Nutrition Capacity Building Specialist, World Vision International, Mississauga, Canada

12.15 Lunch

13.45 • Towards long-term nutritional security, the role of agriculture in dietary diversity, Janice Mower, FAO Consultant

14.15 • Building nutritional self-reliance, George Kord, Professor of Political Science, University of Hawai‘i, Honolulu, Hawai‘i, U.S.A

14.45 Recommendations

15.15 Session 4: School feeding

Presentations and plenary discussion

15.15 • School feeding in Bangladesh: The Growing Connection Project – Mexico case study, George Kent, Professor of Political Science, University of Hawai‘i, Honolulu, Hawai‘i, U.S.A

15.45 Coffee break

16.00 Session 5: Food-based Approaches - Part 2

Presentations and plenary discussion

15.45 • Biofortification: breeding crops for better nutrition, Howhout Boulanger, Director, HarvestPlus, Washington, D.C., USA

16.00 • Presentations and plenary discussion

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16.40 Drafting Committee - Recommendations