



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



FAO Tanzania Newsletter

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Special edition on the World Food Day 2020



Photo: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela

FAO Tanzania Country Representative a.i , Stephen Kargbo (3rd left) and UNHCR Country Representative, Antonio Canhandula (3rd right) listening to one of the food heroes in Njombe at the Ikuna Village, during Health Nutrition Day on 15 October. The event was organized to promote healthy diets during celebrations of the World Food Day week.

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16 October 2020
World Food Day

Ending malnutrition is within our hands

Dear esteemed partners and readers,

Welcome, and warm Greetings from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Malnutrition remains a serious burden to many countries, including Tanzania. Available information indicates that about one third of children under five in Tanzania are suffering from stunting. One third of women aged 15- 49 years are overweight or obese, and one third affected by anaemia. However, Food production is thriving in the country, with regions such as Mbeya, Rukwa, and Ruvuma producing over 40 percent more food than what their populations need.

Paradoxically most high food-producing regions are those with the highest rates of stunting. Economic growth has also caused new forms of malnutrition, such as overweight and obesity, which are on the rise, together with diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

These two apparent paradoxes teach us a lesson that population growth calls for even greater concerted efforts if we want to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. They remind us that producing more food does not automatically reduce undernourishment or stunting. And they highlight the need for sustained interventions to address multiple dimensions of food security and nutrition.

A recent report by the Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme - a partnership between the Government of Tanzania, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the European Union (EU) reinforces the importance of investing in healthy diets.

Climate change and other shocks seem to have an adverse impact on food & nutrition security as well. Between 1961 and 2016, the country's average monthly temperature increased by 0.6 degrees Celsius,

and rainfall decreased by 6.4 mm. These changes have tended to undermine food production and aggravate pest incidences such as the Fall Army Worm (FAW), in some areas of the country.



Charles Tulahi

The report calls for enhanced investments in systems that will reduce the fragility of farmers, pastoralists, and fisherfolk and support them to adapt to a changing climate, the report insists. It also calls for enhanced interventions that focus on building climate resilience and enabling environment that attracts private sector (from smallholders to big farming industries) investments. Developing and promoting the adoption of appropriate climate-smart agriculture technologies in all agroecological zones is one of many promising and viable options.

Through qualitative and quantitative analysis and extensive consultations with key stakeholders in the food, and nutrition sectors, the report has identified three major avenues that could accelerate progress in ending hunger and malnutrition;

First, the blooming Tanzanian agriculture offers excellent potential for contributing towards ending malnutrition through a more nutrition-sensitive approach. Besides food availability, deliberate interventions that focus on dietary diversity and food safety for all will have a lasting positive impact on human resource development. Increasing the production and consumption of nutrition-dense commodities such as fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts, fish, and livestock products has a

very significant impact on reducing malnutrition.

To this end, awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of dietary diversity would help consumers make healthier choices and send the right signals to farmers, marketers, and other actors in the food value chains to adopt practices that better link agriculture and nutrition.

Secondly, enhanced training programs around nutrition and agriculture to both nutrition and agriculture personnel, and strengthening coordination between the health and agriculture sectors would strengthen the fight against malnutrition.

Lastly, little can be done without resources. Despite its importance, agriculture needs enhanced investments for nutrition-sensitive interventions. Earmarking investments for the agriculture sector (especially for research on how agriculture can help prevent NCDs or adapt to climate threats), tracking commitments, and mobilizing additional resources are effective policy options. Given that Tanzania has entered the Middle-income economy status, deliberate enhanced investments have to be made in human resource development to reverse prevailing stunting levels that impair the physical and cognitive abilities of a significant proportion of children under five years of age.

With so many competing priorities, along with Post Covid-19 responses, public funds will never be enough. Development partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), the private sector, and other interested parties need to engage and get involved in the nutrition agenda if we are to leave no one behind by the year 2030. Nutrition and health is everybody's business. Everybody should come on board; especially the youth and women, as they hold the keys to success. Grow. Nourish. Sustain. Together. Our Actions are our future.

Charles Tulahi
FAO Tanzania Assistant Country Rep
(Programmes)

World Food Day 2020 celebrations highlights

Platform sufficiently used to promote healthy diets, lifestyles

In the run up to the World Food Day on 16 October 2020, FAO in Tanzania organized a series of events in different parts of the country as part of promoting awareness and a call to action to specifically eliminate malnutrition – by way of adopting to healthy diets, and lifestyles.

World Food Day (WFD) is celebrated each year on October 16 to promote worldwide awareness and action to eliminate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

“Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our Actions Are Our Future,” was heralded as the theme for this year’s WFD. Activities conducted during the week included a High level panel discussion at the University of Dodoma, projects’ field visits in Dodoma, Iringa and Njombe. There was also another activity in the promotion of healthy diets - the Village Health Nutrition Day

in Njombe, prior to the climax event for the WFD. Collectively, the activities had reinforced the need to eliminate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Throughout the week-long WFD activities, FAO in Tanzania enjoyed a robust collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, and a record participation from other UN agencies, including WFP, IFAD, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UN WOMEN. The key message put together observed the need to support the food heroes - farmers and workers throughout the food system - who are making sure that food makes its way from farm to table.

This year’s WFD had also seen FAO celebrating its 75th anniversary. Along with the planned activities during the WFD week, it was indeed a moment to reignite FAO’s ambitions towards the attainment of the broader strategic objectives.



Photo: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela

Towards end of the High Level Panel Discussion in Dodoma, the University of Dodoma (UDOM) community led by Ag. UDOM Vice Chancellor, Prof. William Mwegoha (2nd left) presented a cake to FAO Tanzania Assistant Country Rep. (Programmes) Charles Tulahi to mark 75th Anniversary of the FAO.

On 12 October – High Level Panel discussion in Dodoma

Former PM challenges scientists to research, advise on ending malnutrition

Researchers, policymakers, private sector, farmers, academicians, students, media, and members of the general public, among others had on 12 October convened for the High Level panel discussion at the University of Dodoma (UDOM).

During the event, the guest speaker and former Prime Minister, Mizengo Pinda, challenged researchers to come up with new breeds of crops that can help Tan-

zania to successfully fight malnutrition, especially stunting for under-fives.

Speaking at the event FAO Rep. i.a, Stephen Kargbo said, even with Tanzania entering the middle-income economy status, deliberate investments have to be made in human resource to reverse prevailing stunting levels.

“FAO, other UN agencies and the European Union (EU) are in support of efforts taken by the government of Tanzania towards ending malnutrition through the nutrition-sensitive approach,” he said.



Former Tanzania Prime Minister, Mizengo Pinda making his remarks during the event, on his right the FAO Rep. i.a Stephen Kargbo exchanging notes with IFAD Country Programme Officer, Ms. Jacqueline Machangu-Motcho (left).



Photos: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela



On 12 October 2020 - Field visit to the WFP Boresha lishe Nutrition Project at Ilindi village in Bahi district, Dodoma region

Blossoming orange fleshed sweet potatoes inspire nutrition drive

Immediately after the High Level Panel discussion, FAO Tanzania together with other participating UN agencies had a field visit to the WFP Boresha lishe (Nutrition) Project implemented by FarmAfrica at Ilindi village in Bahi district, Dodoma region.

The village hosts an orange fleshed sweet potatoes farming – the gardening activity, that's part of off season activities being promoted by WFP to ensure farmers have vegetables throughout the year, thus linking farming and nutrition. The village has a population of 1,790 people , WFP supports 642 farmers.



Photos: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela

Some of the gardening activities at the WFP Boresha lishe (Nutrition) Project implemented by FarmAfrica at Ilindi village in Bahi district, Dodoma region.



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On 13 October - Field visit in Iringa – Itunundu/ Pagawa

Market linkage initiative connects farmers with the market

The participating UN agencies, then marched on to Itunundu in Iringa region where there's paddy processing and storage, established with the support from the IFAD funded MIVARF Programme.

The programme had constructed a 1000 tonnes capacity warehouse, which has a paddy processing facility. The paddy processing facility is worth over TZS 180,000,000. Farmers can now

sell their produce in bulk with a more well-established warehouse receipt system.

“Through the warehouse over 300 people are connected with a well-functioning warehouse receipt system. We now have more bargaining power, as we sell our produce in bulky at higher price to well-established markets in Dar es Salam, Kigoma, Iringa and Zanzibar,” says Twalib Ubwa, Itunundu warehouse keeper and MIVARF project manager.



Photos: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela

On the left is Mr. Twalib Ubwa, Itunundu warehouse keeper and MIVARF project manager. On the right, Twalib briefs FAO Representative i.a Stephen Kargbo (2nd left) and UNHCR Country Representative Antonio Canhandula (3rd left) on a visit to a paddy processing and storage facility managed by an IFAD project.



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On 13 October - Field visit in Iringa – Isele/ Pawaga

Newly constructed warehouse to increase post-harvest management, competitiveness

Visiting the RICE project at Isele/ Pagawa in Iringa region which is being implemented by FAO through the European Union funding, the FAO Rep a.i Stephen Kargbo encouraged the paddy farmers at Isele that great times are ahead of them when it comes to managing their harvests.

“I believe this warehouse will increase your production, packaging of processed rice, hence higher incomes. We at FAO feel proud of the efforts you are making. We were able to facilitate construction of this warehouse through the financial support of the European Union,” said Kargbo.

The newly constructed warehouse at Isele is tipped to increase post-harvest management, and enhance competitiveness. The RICE project

has also introduced Time and Labor Saving harvesting Technologies (TLST) i.e reapers and threshers to support farmers during paddy harvesting activities.

At Magozi, the farmers were in full joy and ecstasy – thanking FAO for the support. Mr. Kargo was then presented with Chief Mkwawa's attire in appreciation of the project support.

The farmers were also in appreciation of the training provided on the collective actions related to storing and marketing of produce, along with the entire post-harvest management. With 220 farmers being empowered, Magozi warehouse saw an increase in stock storage from 0.3 tonnes to 532.7 tonnes. The same attributed to market linkages with Chereko Star Company Ltd leading to successful rice business transactions worth TZS 214,560,000 during the 2019/2020 harvest season.



Photo: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela

Group photo at the newly constructed warehouse at Isele/ Pawaga Village Iringa region built by the RICE project—implemented by FAO through EU funding.



On 15 October - Village Health & Nutrition event at Ikuna Village, Njombe

Promoting healthy diets, lifestyles...

The Village Health Nutrition Day (VHND) provided a comprehensive package of health and nutrition services to children, women and their families.

The VHND event was designed to cover both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition specific awareness

interventions. The aim was to bring the much-needed behavioral change in the community leading to better health and nutrition outcomes.

Key nutrition messages were packaged by way of translating the WFD 2020 theme into their every day lives.



Some activities at
the Village Health &
Nutrition Day at
Ikuna Village,
Njombe.



Photos: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela



On 13 October - visit to Maheve Avocado farms in Njombe

The avocado motivation - Nemes Mlimbira's and Bruno's avocado farms

Nemes lost his job as an office cleaner way back in 2007, a job that used to earn him TZS 45,000 per month. He saw an opportunity on the avocado farming back at his home in Njombe, and went on to establish small company named Nemes Green Garden Company. Living his dream, he started with 9 trees only and eventually ended up with over 5,000 trees – which even the WFD

2020 participating UN Agencies had the opportunity to visit and see.

He says, he now earns between TZS 300,000 and TZS 700,000 per a tree depending on good farm management. He has also employed more than 40 people including one extension worker. Apart from commercial and residential buildings, he also owns vehicles. He is happy that he can afford to meet his family needs and wants, and sometimes supporting communities in need – all coming from the avocado farming.

For his part, another avocado farmer Bruno Mwepelo says, most of them practice organic farming and have signed a contract with one company which exports the commodity to abroad. The contracted company has trained personnel to support fruit picking that meet exportation criteria.

Through avocado farming both Nemes and Bruno earn millions of Shillings by selling the fruits to the company. Unfortunately, the local market is yet to be fully exploited as they both depend much on the international market.



Photos: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela

Some motivation on avocado farming. Bruno's avocado farms on the left briefing FAO Representative i.a Stephen Kargbo (left) and UNHCR Country Representative Antonio Canhandula (2nd left). Pictured on the right is Nemes Mlimbira of Nemes Green.



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On 16 October – World Food Day climax event in Njombe

Minister revisits the national multisectoral plans to improve food security

Minister of Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga and UN Resident Coordinator, Zlatan Milišić honored the climax event with their presence alongside, the PS for Ministry of Agriculture, and for the Ministry of livestock and fisheries.

The event attracted more than 2,000 participants from Njombe region, neighboring regions, agriculture sector lead ministries, UN Agencies, private sector, academia and research, and the media.

For the 1st time RCO, UNHCR, UN Women and UNICEF participated, as a commendable One UN support to the hosting government's effort to achieving SDGs.

Minister Hasunga, said the government is working to improve food security as well as nutrition through implementation of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan, 2016/17 – 2020/2021 and the Agriculture Sector Development Plan II (ASDP II).



Top left, Minister of Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga and UN Resident Coordinator, Zlatan Milišić gracing the climax event. Next is a media interview opportunity featuring Assistant FAO Country Rep. Programmes, Charles Tulahi. Below is an exhibition stall showcasing components of the RICE project as implemented by FAO through the European Union funding.





Media coverage — WFD 2020

Throughout the week-long WFD activities, there was media positive coverage with almost all WFD activities being captured in key media channels. Specifically on social media, the event enjoyed a seamless flow of tweets with key messages embedded via targeted hashtags #WorldFoodDay; #Sikuyachakuladuniani; and #FoodHeroes.

There was adequate visibility on the demonstrated joint effort by participating UN Agencies into the WFD 2020 activities (embracing the One UN spirit) as well as increased awareness and a call to action to specifically eliminate malnutrition – by way of adopting to healthy diets, and lifestyles.

High Level Panel Discussion at the University of Dodoma on 12 October 2020

Researchers, policymakers, private sector, farmers, academicians, students, media, and members of the general public, among others had convened for the High Level panel discussion at the University of Dodoma (UDOM).

Output: Below is the level of media presence/ coverage achieved, with hyperlinks created to help document specific media products:

- ITV (local TV channel) primetime news bulletin – lead story. Video clip was made available through this relevant [link](#)
- TBC1 (National Television) prime time news bulletin. Relevant [link](#) to the video clip, was made available, starting from minute 39.
- Live streaming: 'FIRST' Conversations: Week of the World Food Day 2020 - Dodoma, 12 October. Relevant [link](#) was shared widely.
- Global TV Online – coverage of the High Level Panel discussion. Relevant [link](#) was made available.
- Ngassa Online TV – coverage of the High Level Panel discussion. Relevant [link](#) was made available.
- Gilly Bony Online TV – coverage of the High Level Panel discussion. Relevant [link](#) was made available.
- News article by *The Guardian* Newspaper - IPP Media. Relevant [link](#) was made available for more details.
- Uhuru FM Radio news bulletin – partnering with UN Radio Correspondent. Relevant [link](#) was made available for more details.

Social media activity on the High Level Panel Discussion:

Twitter posts were released on time, with relevant links being shared widely for more retweets. See the conversation [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).



Media coverage — WFD 2020 (Cont...)

...More on social media activity on the High Level Panel Discussion

[Here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Aided with the generated hashtags, the WFD key messages got trending, hence building the conversation. To follow the conversation, colleagues were encouraged to visit:

#Sikuyachakuladuniani

#WorldFoodDay

#FoodHeroes

Field visits in Dodoma, Iringa on 12 & 13 October

Output: Below is the level of media presence/ coverage achieved, documenting the relevant media products:

- Radio news documentary by the UN radio. Relevant [link](#) was shared widely for more details into the media product.

Also, the field activities were posted on Twitter with relevant links ([here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) shared widely.

Village Health & Nutrition event at Ikuna Village, and at Maheve Avocado farms in Njombe – on 15 October

The Village Health Nutrition Day (VHND) provided a comprehensive package of health and nutrition services closer to children, women and their families. The VHND event was designed to cover both nutrition-sensitive and specific awareness. The aim was to bring the much-needed behavioral change in the community leading to better health and nutrition outcomes. Key nutrition messages were packaged by way of translating the WFD 2020 theme.

Output: Below is the level of media presence/ coverage achieved, with hyperlinks created to document the relevant media products:

- ITV News Bulletin on the village health nutrition event at Ikuna village in Njombe. Relevant [link](#) was made available – clip starting from minute 1.49)
- Also the activities on the Village Health & Nutrition event at Ikuna Village, and at Maheve Avocado farms were posted on Twitter with relevant links ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) being shared widely.



Media coverage — WFD 2020 (Cont...)

On 16 October – World Food Day climax event in Njombe

Minister of Agriculture and UN RC honored the climax event with their presence alongside, the PS for Ministry of Agriculture, and for the Ministry of livestock and fisheries. The event attracted more than 2,000 participants from Njombe region, agriculture lead sector ministries, UN Agencies, private sector, academia and research, and the media. For the 1st time RCO, UNHCR, UN Women and UNICEF participated, as a commendable One UN support to the hosting government's effort to achieving SDGs.

Output: Below is the level of media presence/ coverage achieved, with relevant media products' links:

- A special pull out (Kilimo Kwanza) on the World Food Day with articles authored by FAO and other participating UN agencies, i.e WFP, IFAD, UNICEF, UNHCR and UN Women. The pull out was published on the Guardian newspaper on 16 October. Links to the [FAO article](#), [UN Women article](#), [IFAD article](#), [WFP article](#), [UNHCR article](#), [UNICEF article](#), and [link to the e-paper](#) containing the entire pull out, English version were circulated. For the Swahili articles we had articles from: [FAO](#), [UNICEF](#), [IFAD](#), [WFP](#), and [UNHCR](#)
- Radio news documentary by UN Radio on the Climax of the World Food Day. Relevant [link](#) was shared for more details.
- UN Television news report on the Climax of the World Food Day. Relevant [link](#) was shared for more details.
- Special documentary on ITV - WFD climax event. Relevant [link](#) was shared for more details.
- News bulletin at prime time with the national Television (TBC1). Relevant [link](#) was shared for more details. (The news segment was a lead story)
- News bulletin at ITV (prime time). Relevant [link](#) was shared for more details (Available from minute 28.1 of the clip).
- News bulletin at prime time with Azam TV (local TV channel). Relevant [link](#) was shared for more details (Available from minute 51:01 of the clip)
- News bulletin at Channel Ten (local TV channel). Relevant [link](#) to the clip was shared for more details starting from minute 0:41.
- News article by *The Guardian* newspaper. Link to the full article was shared widely, also found [here](#)
- Also the activity was posted on Twitter, with relevant link shared widely, also found [here](#).



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WFD celebrations in pictures

Prior to a panel discussion at the University of Dodoma (UDOM) the FAO Representative, a.i Stephen Kargbo and FAO Tanzania Assistant FAO Rep. (Programmes) Charles Tulahi paid a courtesy call to the Ag. UDOM Vice Chancellor, Prof. William Mwegoha (right).



Tanzania national anthem underway ahead of the official opening of the High Level Panel Discussion at the University of Dodoma (UDOM). Former Tanzania Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda standing 3rd left, next from the FAO Tanzania a.i Country Rep, Stephen Kargbo.

Here at Magozi, in Iringa FAO a.i. Country Rep. Stephen Kargbo is presented with the Hehe's traditional attire in appreciation for the newly introduced Time & Labour Serving harvesting Technologies (TLST) to support local farmers under the FAO Rice project through the European Union funding.



Photos: FAO/Vincent Nalwendela



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WFD celebrations in pictures



UN Resident Coordinator, Zlatan Milišić delivering his keynote address at the climax of the World Food Day on 16 October in Njombe.



Minister of Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga (with scarf) and UN Resident Coordinator, Zlatan Milišić (2nd left) visiting exhibition stalls at the WFD climax event in Njombe. Top right, are some of the entertainment activities held during the event on 16 October.

Photo: RCO/Istan Mutashobya



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UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



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