



Portugal - Secretary of State of Food and Agro-Business Research

ICN 2 - International Conference on Nutrition

Rome - 20 November 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen

The last two decades were prodigious in great changes, causing deep political, economic and social transformations.

These 20 years long, resulted in a clear and effective improvement in the struggle against hunger and malnutrition worldwide.

However, this process has been slow, uneven and unacceptably incomplete.

Nowadays, eight hundred and five million people are still in a situation of hunger or malnourished.



It is not acceptable or correct that in our days, society and the governments forget or minimize the importance of this problem.

The world demands a strategy, the society claims for actions and the Governments must implement policies.

Hunger and malnutrition causes less human immunity, harms the physical and the mental development and also reduces well-being and life quality of world's population.

All these factors present high consequences, not only in public health or food safety, but mainly in the economy and, most specifically , in the society.

So, it's essential that the access to food meets the nutritional necessities of the populations and it is



crucial to set strategies based not only on common will, but also using efficiently all the available resources.

Portugal had always been and still is highly concern with this subject.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In fact, the Portuguese Government had established (and is fulfilling) an agriculture and agri-food development strategy that it's clearly directed to ensure food safety and food security to our population.

As so, Portugal wants, and is on its way to achieve, food self-sufficiency, in value, by 2020.

The vision and the will to be self-sufficient in 2020 made the Portuguese Government set policies and,



in addition, a number of initiatives and actions that ensure decent, safe, adapted and nutritionally balanced nourishment to all.

We must state: More than a right, food and a fair nutrition should be an universal reality.

To fulfill this important aim, Portugal intervened at different levels, from the production to the commercialization, including education and regulation.

A particular and careful concern was devoted to family-based agriculture, by the:

- the promotion of adapted production to our local resources and to climatic changes;
- the use of local and endogenous resources;
- the support the renewal and fixation of the farmers.
- the investment in training and research;



Furthermore, the Portuguese Government is creating the suitable conditions to establish short food circuits and local markets, a step that will facilitate the actions of local farmers.

On the other hand, for a better and higher equity of the value distribution along the food chain we promoted the dialogue among all the food chain partners in order to regulate and increase market transparency.

This year, following the joint recommendation of the Portuguese-speaking countries Organization (CPLP), Portugal also created the Food Safety Commission, with the objective of discuss the food safety related issues.



In an international perspective, and maintaining history and tradition, Portugal cooperate also with other nations.

In this perspective, a number of agricultural and agri-food Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with different countries were establish, with special emphasis to the Portuguese-speaking ones.

This shows our commitment and willingness to cooperate with other nations in order to:

- Develop agriculture;
- Improve life quality;
- Fight Hunger;
- Create a new and fair society

Ladies and Gentlemen



Food Waste is an unacceptable problem of our economically developed societies.

While many are hungry and experience major food shortages, massive amounts of food are wasted.

In Portugal this is also a problem to be solved. Although the food waste is minor to the registered in other developed countries, the level of food waste is always too high.

This is truly unacceptable and, therefore, is our responsibility to act and fight this problem.

We took action.

Last month, the Portuguese Government, along with other food chain stakeholders, undertook a common project, aiming to reduce food losses through an engaged, organized, structured and coordinated way.



Mr. Chairman

Ladies and Gentlemen

We know that there are no easy and quick solutions, but our will, together with the support of all the actors in the food chain is a strong guarantee for the success of this national strategy.

This is a certainty, not only mine but for all the Portuguese, that we are on the right direction.

We know that Portugal is not alone in this path, My will and desire, and also, my confidence is that working together we can reduce food waste, fight hunger and build a more just, equal and developed society.

Thank you all!