



World Food Day 2016
Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too.
17 October 2016, 1:15-2:30pm
Conference Room 12, UNHQ
Draft Concept Note v.7 October

One of the biggest issues related to climate change is food security. The world's poorest - many of whom are farmers, fishers and pastoralists - are being hit hardest by higher temperatures and an increasing frequency in weather-related disasters. As key actors in food systems and in ensuring adequate nutrition of families, rural women are at the center of this challenge and, yet, continue to face structural barriers and remain especially vulnerable. At the same time, the global population is growing steadily and is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050.

To meet such a heavy demand, agriculture and food systems will need to adapt to become more resilient, productive and sustainable, reduce food loss and waste that affects one third of all food production and address the adverse effects of climate change, while unleashing the potential of rural people, especially women, and ensuring equal access to and control over productive resources, financial inclusion and capacity building. By strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, we can guarantee food security for the planet's increasingly hungry global population, ensure the wellbeing of ecosystems and reduce emissions. Community-based approaches and community-driven development are particularly effective in helping poor rural communities cope with climate change.

The world aims to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. Climate change is a challenge that must be addressed collectively in order to win the fight against hunger and malnutrition and leave no one behind. To make significant progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries need to address climate change adaptation and mitigation in their food and agriculture plans and invest more in gender-responsive rural development. This is why our global message for World Food Day 2016 is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too." It resonates with the crucial time in which the day will be observed, just before the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP 22, from 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco.

Objectives

The event will aim to:

1. Increase awareness on the impacts of climate change on agriculture, particularly on rural communities.
2. Highlight importance of climate change adaptation, building resilience, and improving the lives and livelihoods of rural women and men.
3. Highlight the potential of rural women as critical agents of change in sustainable food systems, and actions addressing climate change.
4. Provide information about agricultural practices that can increase agricultural production and at the same time decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Tentative Programme

- Welcoming remarks by Moderator, Ms. Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office with UN
- UN Secretary General message on World Food Day
- FAO Director-General message on World Food Day (Video)
- Remarks by Ambassador Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations
- Remarks by Member States (TBC)
- World Food Day Video
- Remarks by Cheryl Rogowski, Rogowski Family Farms (www.rogowskifarm.com) (TBC)
- Remarks by UN-Women
- Remarks by Ms. Erika Joergensen, Director, WFP Office in New York
- Remarks by Mr. Zachary Bleicher, Head of the Office, IFAD Office in New York
- Launch of Research Guide on Food Security and Nutrition – Dag Hammarskjöld Library
- Q&A
- Closing by Moderator

Additional information on World Food Day: <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2016/home/en/>