



## *NOW from NORTH AMERICA*



7 July is International Day of Cooperatives. Inclusive and efficient cooperatives and producer organizations empower their members economically and socially, and create sustainable employment.

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“Today it is crucial to produce  
and consume food that is  
healthy and nutritious, while  
facing the increasing impacts  
of climate change. For that, we  
cannot focus predominantly  
only on the production side,  
but on the food systems as a  
whole. It is not by chance that  
the word food comes before  
agriculture in the name of this  
Organization”

**José Graziano da Silva,  
Director-General of FAO**

159th Session of FAO Council  
4 June 2018

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Reader,

Food systems are complex pathways by which food travels from farm to fork. Understanding the complexities, challenges and inequalities at each level of the system is essential to create a sustainable food system whereby everyone can access healthy and nutritious food to lead a healthy and active life. To shed light on the intricacies involved in food systems, we hosted a variety of events in June.

On 5 June, World Environment Day, our roundtable “She Feeds the World,” co-hosted with CARE Canada in Ottawa discussed the importance of empowering and investing in women in agriculture.

In our roundtable with GAIN, we discussed the importance of integrating biofortification into agriculture policies and programs. The EcoAgriculture - FAO North America event examined the critical role of property rights in integrated landscape management.

At the congressional briefing with the Alliance to End Hunger and the Senate Hunger Caucus, the role of research and technology in paving way for better nutritional outcomes was critically analyzed. The event was well received on Capitol Hill.

The month ended with FAO North America collaborating with the Danish Embassy to highlight the issue of global food loss and waste with a screening of the movie “Wasted – the Story of Food Waste” and an extremely engaging roundtable thereafter.

With the onset of summer, the flurry of activities at FAO North America will ebb and pick up again in September. We will meet you with our next issue on 7 October. Until then, have a pleasant summer and enjoy this issue of Now from North America.

Sincerely,

**Vimlendra Sharan**

**Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

### Women Play a Key Role in Food Security and Resilience



From left to right front: Pierre Kadet, Jennifer Muldoon, Renaud DePlaen, Juan Echanove. From left to right back: Thomas Pesek, Katie Ward, Catherine Abreu, Shaughn McArtyhur, Jacquelyn Wright and Vimlendra Sharan.

5 June 2018, Ottawa, ON - In recognition of World Environment Day, FAO North America and CARE Canada co-hosted “She Feeds the World,” a high-level public event with practitioners and policy-makers. The event addressed the critical role of women in agriculture in the face of climate change. In light of Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), the event shared best practices to ensure that women and girls reap the benefits of their contribution to agricultural growth and climate resilience.

Jacquelyn Wright, CARE Canada’s Vice-President for Partnerships for Global Change, welcomed participants, emphasizing the need to build just and sustainable food systems through the “right interventions, at the right time” to shift gender dynamics, and by “empowering women farmers and working with them to tackle gender inequality, in their own midst and around the world”.

Following Jacquelyn’s welcome message, Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, provided remarks on behalf of the Government of Canada. Caesar-Chavannes highlighted the interconnectivity between agriculture and climate change and explained how climate change affects women farmers most, although they contribute the least to the problem. Linking this evidence to the ambitious Canadian Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), she then briefly presented the FIAP which provides a strong vision for supporting small-scale women farmers, and ensuring their full participation in finding solutions.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, echoed Caesar-Chavannes’ call for “leaving no one behind” by pointing out that “global hunger could be reduced by 17% and 150M people lifted out of poverty if we close the gender gap and inequality that result in women producing less than their male counterparts”.

Panelists included Katie Ward (Women’s President of the National Farmers Union); Renaud DePlaen (Program Leader of Agriculture and Food Security at IDRC); Juan Echanove (Senior Director for Food Security and Climate Change at CARE USA); and Thomas Pesek (Senior Liaison Officer for FAO North America).

The discussion highlighted the importance of putting women at the center of international agriculture assistance and climate resilience strategies to ensure that they have access to productive resources in order to build a food and nutrition secure world. [Read full article](#)

### Food Waste is a Massive, yet Solvable Problem



From left to right front: Patrick Bultema, Liz Crampton, Anna Chai, Nari Kye, Elise Golan. From left to right back: Jonathan Bloom, Kai Robertson, H.E. Lars G. Lose, and Vimlendra Sharan.

29 June 2018, Washington, DC – FAO North America and the Danish Embassy co-hosted a screening of the movie “Wasted! The Story of Food Waste” together with directors Anna Chai and Nari Kye. The film thoughtfully outlines the problem and travels around the world to prove how accessible and satisfying solutions to food waste can be. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with thought leaders about concrete solutions to reduce food waste, and government policies that can help push forward this agenda in a North American as well as a global context.

H.E. Lars G. Lose, Ambassador of Denmark to the United States, highlighted Denmark’s international leadership role in finding solutions to tackle food loss and waste.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, emphasized that food loss and waste are lost opportunities to feed the world, and put unacceptably high economic, environmental and social costs on our planet. He emphasized that even if just one-fourth of the food currently lost or wasted globally could be saved, it would be enough to feed all hungry people in the world.

Movie directors and Emmy Award winners Anna Chai and Nari Kye explained that “when we delved into the topic of food waste, we were shocked about the extent of the problem. Food waste is one of the most pressing challenges of our generation, and in Wasted we tried to focus on all the solutions which already exist around the globe.”

The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring Elise Golan (Director for Sustainable Development, USDA), Kai Robertson (Lead Advisor on Food Loss and Waste at WRI), Jonathan Bloom (Journalist) and Patrick Bultema (CEO at FoodMaven), which was moderated by Politico’s Liz Crampton.

The panel concluded that solutions are readily available, that it is key to educate children, and that partnerships are central to tackle food loss and waste as one of the most pressing social, economic and environmental problem of our time.

[Read full article](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

### Advancing Research and Technology for Zero Hunger



Ambassador Tony Hall and panelists debating the role of research and technology.

20 June 2018, Washington, DC - FAO North America, in partnership with the Alliance to End Hunger and the Senate Hunger Caucus, hosted a discussion entitled, "Research and Technology: Providing 'Bang for the Buck' in Global Agricultural Development." The event gathered staff from congressional offices, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions to discuss how different entities are leveraging research and technology to improve agriculture globally.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Tony Hall, President Emeritus of the Alliance to End Hunger, emphasized that "innovation and technology can help us achieve Zero Hunger, but only through collaboration and working together."

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, emphasized the importance of smallholder farmers in his opening remarks and said, "when we think about agriculture research and technology, we have to keep in mind that 70 to 80 percent of global agriculture is done by smallholder farmers. We cannot leave them out."

Featured panelists included Stephanie Schollaert Uz, Applied Sciences Manager at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), who highlighted how NASA has long been using earth-system science to monitor weather, soil moisture and changes in land vegetation to provide valuable information on agricultural trends and progress on specific targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist of the Bureau for Food Security at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), shared examples of how the Agency is leveraging science to advance its work. By reducing postharvest loss, increasing water efficiency, improving soil health, genetic improvement and improved weather predictions, many countries under USAID's Feed the Future Initiative have seen increased food production. He also highlighted the effectiveness of USAID's collaboration with FAO to combat fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in Africa through a mobile phone app.

Bob Fries, Executive Vice President of Technical Learning and Application of ACIDI/VOCA, shared how his organization is deploying research and technology to identify effective, accessible and affordable technologies to help farmers access markets. One in particular is an entrepreneurial endeavor by university students in Kenya called Savannah Circuits, a milk collection and cooling system transported with a motorcycle connected to an electronic payment system.

Peter Rowan, Senior Director of Federal Affairs at Mars Inc., emphasized the importance of collaboration as he shared accounts of how Mars is working on incentivizing their value chains to meet the Paris Accord as well as providing micro-financing opportunities for women to have greater impacts on their communities.

The roundtable discussion underscored how research and technology is already playing a role in agriculture development outcomes. These technologies are paving the way for improved food security at the household, community and national level. [Read full article](#)

### Partner Corner: CARE Canada

In this section, FAO's Liaison Office for North America invites a different partner organization each month to comment on how the partnership has benefitted both organizations.



CARE was founded in 1945 with the mandate to overcome poverty and inequality by increasing capacity for self-help and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. In fiscal year 2017, the CARE International Confederation worked in 93 countries around the world, supporting poverty-fighting development and humanitarian aid projects, to reach more than 62 million people. CARE seeks a world of hope, inclusion and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and all people live with dignity and security. CARE puts women and girls in the center because poverty cannot be overcome until all people have equal rights and opportunities.

Together with local partners, CARE focuses on: Humanitarian Action; food, nutrition and resilience to climate change; sexual, reproductive and maternal health and a life free from violence; and women's economic empowerment.

"The partnership between CARE and FAO will amplify the respective engagements of each organization with the Government of Canada on public policy in support of just and sustainable food systems that empower women and provide profitable livelihood options for youth." - Laura Blair, Director (interim), Program Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, Partnerships for Global Change Unit, CARE Canada.

<http://care.org>

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

### Biofortification for Better Nutrition



Panelists debating the potential of biofortification.

28 June 2018, Washington, DC - FAO North America hosted a roundtable on biofortification in collaboration with Global Harvest Initiative (GHI), HarvestPlus and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

FAO North America Director Vimlendra Sharan opened with a key takeaway message from the roundtable: the world needs to move from feeding to nourishing vulnerable people, and biofortification can be a strong tool in the effort to address micronutrient malnutrition, which affects two billion people worldwide.

Moderator Bonnie McClafferty called on participants to work together to expand access to biofortified foods that have been “proven to be nutritionally efficacious.” Partnerships will be key to scaling up these nutritious crops.

FAO Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer Dr. Jessica Fanzo, joining online from FAO headquarters in Rome, underscored the adverse consequences of micronutrient deficiencies, particularly the cognitive impairment caused by stunting. FAO’s role in promoting biofortification includes working with governments, some of whom are already rolling out biofortification programs, and with the Codex Alimentarius, the standard-setting body that is currently developing a formal definition of biofortification.

HarvestPlus founder and 2016 World Food Prize laureate Howarth “Howdy” Bouis gave an overview of biofortification’s evolution from a theory that was initially greeted with skepticism, to an interesting research project, to an evidence-based intervention that has now reached more than 50 million people around the world.

Margaret Zeigler, Executive Director of the Global Harvest Initiative, described GHI’s role in bringing together the private sector and other multi-sectoral stakeholders to harness science and innovation to improve the agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers worldwide.

USAID Bureau of Food Security Chief Scientist Rob Bertram emphasized that stunting is one of the Feed the Future initiative’s topline indicators. Maps depicting stunting and micronutrient deficiency overlap significantly – a marker for inadequate diets. Biofortification is a “pro-poor safety net” that is an important part of USAID’s broader food quality agenda.

Vimlendra Sharan closed by thanking participants for their engagement and suggestions, which FAO will take into consideration. [Read full story](#)

### Property Rights are Key for Landscape Management



Panelists highlighting the importance of property rights.

26 June 2018, Washington, DC - While Integrated Landscape Management gains momentum as a vehicle through which diverse conservation and Sustainable Development Goals may be realized, FAO North America and EcoAgriculture Partners organized a roundtable to turn attention towards critical issues around land governance and property rights.

In his opening remarks, FAO North America Director Vimlendra Sharan emphasized that “for integrated landscape management to be practical, we need to look at land tenure and property rights.”

Sara Scherr, President at EcoAgriculture Partners, stressed that the question of property rights in integrated landscapes poses additional challenges, as interdependencies or conflict between right owners and de facto land users can emerge.

Louise Buck, Director of Innovations in Collaborative Landscape Management at EcoAgriculture Partners, highlighted that key issues realizing land governance and property rights in integrated landscapes includes the need for more nuanced approaches and an understanding of the constellation of rights.

Augusta Molnar, Senior Advisor at the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), introduced the Tenure Facility launched in 2014, which provides small grants to help civil society organizations engage with governments in their country to safeguard the rights of indigenous people and local communities.

Eileen Wakesho, Women Land Rights Lead Advisor at Oxfam, underscored that land governance and land use planning has to be cognizant of managing competing interests.

Fabiano de Andrade Correa, Legal Consultant at FAO, highlighted that the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security \(VGGTs\)](#) can provide an enabling framework to recognize land tenure in integrated landscape management.

Read more about FAO’s work on the [Governance of Tenure](#).

## FAO NORTH AMERICA EVENTS & TAX CORNER

### 2018 WORLD FOOD DAY COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES IN NORTH AMERICA

Celebrated annually on 16 October, World Food Day (#WFD2018) promotes global awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger, and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all.



16 October 2018

**World  
Food  
Day**

The FAO Liaison Office for North America is planning to convene a World Food Day Coordinating Committee to organize its 2018 World Food Day activities and those planned by partners in the U.S. and Canada. As in the past, FAO will play a facilitating role, empowering WFD Coordinating Committee members and other partners to host appropriate WFD activities within their respective institutions. Through the new [FAO North America website](#), WFD Committee members and other partners will be able to report back on activities undertaken by their institutions. Please be on the lookout for an invitation to start preparations for the 2018 World Food Day celebration.

For more resources and ways to engage, visit [www.fao.org/world-food-day/2018/](http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2018/)

For more information, contact Gabriel Laizer, Strategic Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator, at [Gabriel.Laizer@fao.org](mailto:Gabriel.Laizer@fao.org)

### TAX CORNER

This section provides important updates from the tax unit located at the FAO Liaison Office for North America, which processes tax reimbursement requests by FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) staff members.

The IRS expects taxpayers to make estimate income tax payments on a quarterly basis, per the following deadlines (these dates can change, depending on whether the 15th is a business day or holiday/weekend):

15 April  
15 June  
15 September  
15 January

Please go to the IRS website for more detailed information: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/the-basics-of-estimated-taxes-for-individuals>

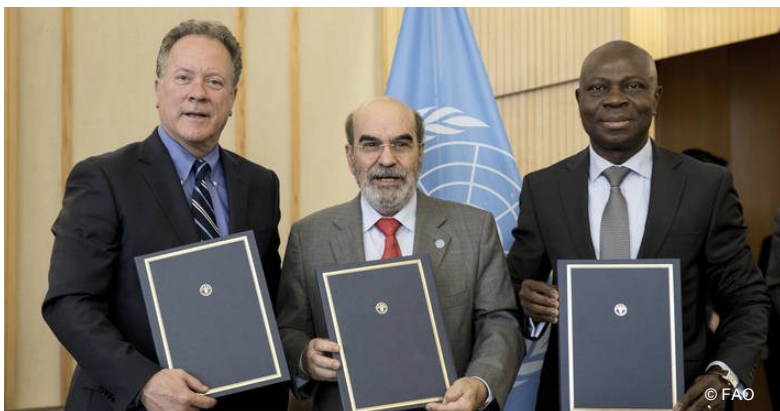
To assist our U.S. taxpaying colleagues, the FAO Tax Unit offers tax advances to staffers who are eligible (only full time one or two -year fixed term or continuing contracts – this does not include short term staff).

Tax advances are LOANS from The Organization to help pay estimate income tax. Further, staffers are REQUIRED to provide the details of the actual tax liability for the year they've requested and received a tax advance. That is accomplished by creating a tax reimbursement for that tax year and uploading all of the necessary supporting documentation. So, if a staffer received a 2018 tax advance this year, then they MUST create the 2018 tax reimbursement next year when they file their actual tax returns.

The internal deadline to create the 2018 tax reimbursement (if the staff person received a 2018 tax advance) is 15 September 2019.

## FAO GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### UN Food Agencies Commit to Deeper Collaboration to Achieve Zero Hunger



Left to right: WFP's Executive Director David Beasley, FAO's Director-General José Graziano da Silva and IFAD's President Gilbert F. Houngbo after signing a new agreement to deepen their collaboration for Zero Hunger.

6 June 2018, Rome - The three United Nations agencies tasked with ending hunger and boosting rural development have committed to strengthening their collaboration to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a special focus on achieving Goal 2 Zero Hunger. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding. "This Memorandum will be very important to enhance even more the collaboration, coordination and synergies between the three agencies, especially at country level. Working closely together is fundamental to better support our Member Countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," said FAO's Director-General José Graziano da Silva. [Read more](#)

### Rockefeller Foundation and FAO Support Africa to Halve Food Loss



21 June 2018, Rome - Food that 'disappears' from the food chain after harvest due to spoilage could feed an estimated 48 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa. A project by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the African Union and The Rockefeller Foundation aims to help countries drastically reduce these post-harvest losses by 2030 through strengthening policies and strategies. Policy and strategic solutions are being developed and implemented at the African Union and in the pilot countries. Assessments of the extent of post-harvest losses for each country's priority crops are being carried out, including in the maize, milk and tomato supply chains, and technical working groups have been formed to develop national strategies and coordinate post-harvest activities in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. [Read more](#)

### McGill University Honors Anna Larrey as a "Leading Voice in the Field of Global Nutrition"



8 June 2018, Montreal, QC - Anna Larrey, Director of FAO's Food Systems and Nutrition Division (ESN), received a Doctor of Science *honoris causa* from McGill University for being "one of the leading voices in the field of global nutrition." She was honored for her research on maternal and child nutrition which contributed to international policies and programs - such as WHO's International Child Growth References used by over 140 countries - and for expanding FAO's mandate on nutrition by implementing the [2nd International Conference on Nutrition](#) and the [International Decade of Action on Nutrition](#).

[Watch the ceremony](#) and [read more](#)

### FAO and Pennsylvania State University Launch Innovative App to Fight Fall Armyworm



25 June 2018, Rome - FAO and Pennsylvania State University joined forces to develop and launch an [innovative, talking app - Nuru](#) - to help African farmers recognize Fall Armyworm, a new and fast-spreading crop pest in Sub-Saharan Africa, so that they can take immediate steps to destroy it and curb its spread. [Read more](#)

### Child labor in Agriculture is on the Rise, Driven by Conflict and Disasters



12 June 2018, Rome - After years of steady decline, child labor in agriculture has started to rise again in recent years driven in part by an increase in conflicts and climate-induced disasters. This worrisome trend, not only threatens the wellbeing of millions of children, but also undermines efforts to end global hunger and poverty, warned FAO as it observed World Day Against Child Labor. The number of child laborers in agriculture worldwide has increased substantially from 98 million to 108 million since 2012, after more than a decade of continuous decline, according to the latest estimates. Prolonged conflicts and climate-related natural disasters followed by forced migration have pushed hundreds of thousands of children into child labor. [Read more](#)

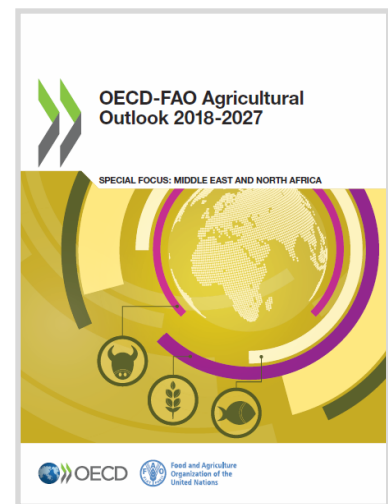
## FAO PUBLICATIONS

### OECD-FAO AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK 2018-2027

The **Agricultural Outlook 2018-2027** is a collaborative effort of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It brings together the commodity, policy and country expertise of both organizations and input from collaborating member countries to provide an annual assessment of prospects for the coming decade of national, regional and global agricultural commodity markets.

This year's edition contains a special chapter on the prospects and challenges of agriculture and fisheries in the Middle East and North Africa.

[Press release](#) | [Report](#)



### THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS

The 2018 edition of The State of the World's Forests shines a light on the profound interlinkages that exist between forests and trees and multiple goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bringing together evidence from a wide range of scientific sources, the analysis indicates how forests are critical to the livelihoods of the world's poorest people and confirms the vital importance of healthy and productive forests to sustainable agriculture. It provides proof of the significance of forests and trees for water quality, climate and biodiversity, for future energy needs and for designing sustainable, healthy cities. SOFO 2018 draws on eight case studies in countries across continents, describing how actions and landscape approaches that simultaneously address forests, agriculture, food, land use, and rural and national development have led to progress.

[Press release](#) | [Report](#)

### THE STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

The 2018 edition of The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture emphasizes the sector's role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and measurement of progress towards these goals. It notes the particular contributions of inland and small-scale fisheries, and highlights the importance of rights-based governance for equitable and inclusive development.

[Press release](#) | [Report](#)



## FAO AND THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has deep roots in North America. The Organization was conceived of during a meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia, United States in 1943 and its first headquarters was located in Washington, DC. In 1945, FAO was formally established as a specialized agency by the newly created United Nations during its very first session, which was held in Quebec City, Canada. FAO's headquarters was permanently moved to Rome, Italy in 1951. The FAO Liaison Office for North America based in Washington, DC continues to strengthen the Organization's partnership with Canada and the United States.

FAO shares with Canada and the United States a vision of how to achieve a world without hunger and poverty. Both member states have been working closely with FAO since its inception more than 70 years ago. Canada and the United States both play critically important leadership roles within FAO and they are also among the Organization's largest financial supporters.

FAO's Liaison Office for North America works to support and implement FAO policies and programs through strategic partnerships with governments and other key stakeholders based in Canada and the United States, including civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, research centers and think tanks, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and the media.

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