



## NOW from NORTH AMERICA



Climate change is not one sector's problem and it is not for someone else to come up with a solution. We can all make changes in our daily lives to help the health of our planet. [Read more.](#)

### IN THIS ISSUE

- The Role of Trade in Achieving the SDGs
- FAO at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference
- Private Sector Solutions to Food Loss and Waste
- Nutrition-Sensitive Landscapes
- USDA Workshop on Food Loss
- Partner's Corner
- Farewell Boyd Haight
- News from FAO HQ
- FAO Publications

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings and wish you all a very happy new year!

2017 was an eventful year for FAO. The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development endorsed FAO's vision of prioritizing sustainable and resilient food systems with special attention to empowerment of rural communities. COP 23 agreed to include agriculture in the negotiation process to address climate change and FAO became the co-chair of the Global Migration Group for 2018, underlining the strong link between hunger, food security and distress migration. But we had our share of bad news, too. After nearly a decade of decline, chronic hunger witnessed an upward trend with the number of hungry people climbing up from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. Obesity and other forms of malnutrition also saw an increase while the rate of decline in child stunting and wasting remained a matter of grave concern.

2018 calls for immediate and concerted action to reverse this rising trend and to check the unprecedented rise in the number of conflicts globally which in combination with inclement climatic conditions have led to famine or famine-like situation in multiple countries. We at FAO North America believe that none of this is possible without our breaking the silos and joining hands together. The poor and hungry are calling out for help in saving their livelihoods and its time all of us pledged ourselves to their cause. Let 2018 be a year of hope, of action, of results.

Sincerely,

Vimlendra Sharan,

Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America

*"The number of people suffering from hunger in the world increased from 2015 to 2016, after more than 10 years of decline.*

*We need immediate action to reverse this situation. The most important thing to do now is to build the resilience of poor rural people to face the impacts of conflicts and climate change."*

FAO Director-General José  
Graziano da Silva

## NEWS FROM THE LIAISON OFFICE FOR NORTH AMERICA

### The Role of Trade in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



From left to right: Gordon Bacon (Pulse Canada), Cheryl Christensen (USDA), Vimlendra Sharan (FAO), Kimberly Ann Elliot (Center for Global Development) and Eugenio Dias Bonilla (IFPRI) discussed the role of trade in achieving the SDGs.

6 December 2017, Washington, DC — Against the backdrop of the World Trade Organization's 11th Ministerial Conference being held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, FAO North America hosted a roundtable discussion on the **Role of Trade in Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. The event was moderated by **Kimberly Ann Elliot**, Visiting Fellow, Center for Global Development and it featured experts from FAO, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Pulse Canada and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), who addressed the gaps and linkages of trade in achieving food security through the multilateral trading system.

Participating remotely from FAO headquarters in Rome, **Jamie Morrison**, Strategic Program Leader of the Inclusive and Efficient Agricultural and Food Systems Program (SP4), delivered the keynote remarks. He emphasized that trade in agricultural and food products will play an increasingly important role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to income growth, climate change, urbanization and technological change. However, the way trade is managed will have significant implications for agriculture in terms of structural transformation, food safety, increased incidence of transboundary diseases and poor nutritional outcomes.

**Cheryl Christensen**, Branch Chief, Food Security and Development Branch of the USDA and **Gordon Bacon**, Chief Executive Officer of Pulse Canada emphasized the need for increased predictability and transparency in the global trading system. In addition, **Eugenio Dias Bonilla**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at IFPRI highlighted several key priorities for the development agenda during the WTO Ministerial Conference, including public stockholding offered by governments to purchase stockpile and distribute food to people in need, as well as domestic support through which governments provide subsidies that can lead to overproduction of agricultural products and can affect world market prices. He also noted the importance of market access to reduce the level of protection and create concrete economic opportunities.

### TAX CORNER

Each month, this section will introduce news from the tax unit located at FAO North America which processes requests by FAO/WFP/IFAD staff members.

#### Important upcoming dates:

- 15 January 2018 - 4th Quarter Estimate payments due to the IRS
- 28 February 2018 - FAO Administrative Circular approval (estimate date). Tax Unit begins processing 2017 tax reimbursements.

Please email the Tax Unit if you have questions:  
low-ustax-settlement@fao.org

### FAO at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference



10-13 December 2017, Buenos Aires - Edona Dervisholli, Trade Analyst at FAO North America and other FAO members attended the WTO Ministerial Conference in Argentina. During the Conference, FAO in collaboration with UNCTAD launched the [Commodities and Development Report 2017](#). This report examines the interactions between commodity prices, economic growth, and human development, and provides lessons and proposes policy options to address commodity dependence and its effects on socio-economic development by using several country-level commodity case studies to illustrate these effects.

FAO also co-hosted multiple side events at the WTO conference on topics such as 1) Fish trade, fishery subsidies and Sustainable SDG 14; 2) International Trade and Food Security - The Vision of Food Exporting and Importing Countries; 3) Agri-Food Trade, Climate Change and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals; 4) Agricultural Trade, Employment and Poverty Reduction: Experiences from Latin America and the Caribbean Region; and 5) National and International Food Systems, Agriculture Trade and the Challenges Ahead.

Although nothing was delivered on agriculture issues during the conference, the side events demonstrated that trade is important and its influence on food security should not be underestimated.

Read more about the side events [here](#).

### FAO participates in USDA workshop to address farm-to-retail food loss in produce

12 December, 2017, Washington, DC - The Economic Research Service (ERS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) hosted a workshop on **Farm-to-Retail: Food Loss in Produce** to present current and planned efforts at measuring food loss in produce, identify knowledge gaps, and discuss the causes and economic drivers of change in food loss from farm to retail.

**Carola Fabi**, Statistician and Leader, Methodological Innovation Team, Statistics Division represented FAO at this workshop. She highlighted FAO's work related to [SDG 12:3](#) on cutting in half per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reducing food loss along production and supply chains (including post-harvest losses) by 2030. **Susan Fraser**, Head, Landfill Gas and Organics Unit, Waste Reduction and Management Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada discussed Statistics Canada's efforts to collect and quantify data from the waste management industry to understand quantities of organic waste diverted from landfills, as well as sources of waste sent to landfills.

Experts from academia, the private sector and non-government organizations also offered their views and experience in how to tackle food loss in the farm-to-retail value chain. One conclusion of the workshop was that more needs to be done to refine estimates and create greater awareness of the amount of food loss—and where the loss occurs. This could result in changes in government policies, food handling practices and technologies, consumer habits, and other actions that reduce food waste and conserve resources.

## NEWS FROM THE LIAISON OFFICE FOR NORTH AMERICA

### Private Sector Solutions to Food Loss and Waste



20 December 2017, Washington, DC - FAO North America hosted a well-attended roundtable discussion on **Private Sector Solutions to Food Loss and Waste**. The event included participation from a broad range of actors such as private sector associations, research institutes, academia, USDA and the World Bank. **Tom Pesek**, Senior Liaison Officer at FAO North America moderated and opened the discussion, emphasizing the private sector's critically important role in reducing food loss and waste, particularly given the scale and magnitude of the challenge.

**Rosa Rolle**, Senior Enterprise Development Officer in the Nutrition and Food Systems Division at FAO presented remotely from Rome on [FAO's work on Food Loss and Waste](#) and introduced [SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction](#). She announced that in 2018, FAO will convene an expert meeting to revise current guidance on food loss and waste reduction and invited all interested partners to participate in this consultation.

**Laura Abshire**, Director of Sustainability Policy and Government Affairs, US National Restaurant Association (NRA) presented the efforts of chefs and restaurants to tackle food waste. NRA has launched [Conserve](#), a platform to help restaurant owners to save money while greening their restaurants. Laura outlined that for many restaurants, the initial challenge is to measure the amount and identify the source of food waste.

**Meghan Stasz**, Senior Director, Sustainability, US Grocery Manufacturers Association, introduced the [Food Waste Reduction Alliance](#), an initiative which aims to 1) reduce the amount of food waste generated, 2) increase the amount of safe, nutritious food donated to those in need, and 3) recycle unavoidable food waste.

**Lana Coppolino Suárez**, Associate Chief, Sustainable Management of Food, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), emphasized that understanding what is in the trash is the first step to address food waste. She introduced the [EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy pyramid](#), and invited all actors to review the [EPA website with guidance materials](#), and share their materials there.

### Resilience through Nutrition-Sensitive Landscapes



1 December 2017, Washington, DC - FAO North America co-hosted a roundtable discussion with EcoAgriculture Partners on **Nutrition-Sensitive Landscapes: Strategies to Strengthen Resilience for Vulnerable Populations**. The event was opened by **Tom Pesek**, Senior Liaison Officer of FAO North America, who emphasized that the topic is of great and increasing importance to FAO, one that cuts across virtually all strands of our work.

**Günter Hemrich**, Deputy Director of FAO's Nutrition and Food Systems Division, participated remotely from Rome as a panelist. He highlighted FAO's work and engagement in promoting nutrition-sensitive landscapes, particularly through a food systems approach, noting that they can be transformed in ways that reduce poverty and improve food and nutrition security.

**Jessica Fanzo**, Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Global Food and Agriculture Policy and Ethics at the Berman Institute of Bioethics, the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at the Johns Hopkins University summarized the recently launched [Global Nutrition Report](#), pointing out that diets are the most prominent cause of morbidity and mortality. She also highlighted during the report that nutrition could contribute to and benefit from the SDG's, and one key area is food systems: small and medium sized farms that produce 53-81% of key micronutrients in food supplies.

**Gina Kennedy**, Senior Scientist at Biodiversity International highlighted key findings from the [CGIAR's Nutrition-Sensitive Research Program](#), which looks at the interactions between the SDG's and biodiversity.

**Constance Neely**, Senior Advisor at the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), gave an overview of a joint project of EcoAgriculture Partners and ICRAF in Kenya. The roundtable closed off with a discussion on how diverse stakeholders and sectors can play an integral role in cross-sectoral communication, planning and sharing of data to link food-based dietary guidelines back to agriculture and policy implementation. Read more about FAO's work to improve diets and raise levels of nutrition through a people-centered approach [here](#).

### FAO North America Partner Corner: Alliance to End Hunger

In this section, a selected partner of the FAO Liaison Office for North America will comment on how the partnership has benefitted both organizations.



The Alliance to End Hunger was established in 2001 as a platform for both secular and faith-based organizations to join together in the fight against hunger. Consisting of a diverse coalition of more than 90 members – corporations, non-profit groups, universities, associations, individuals, health care providers, foundations, and faith-based organizations – the Alliance to End Hunger develops innovative partnerships among its members; political commitment among leaders; and connections among groups working to end hunger domestically and internationally.

"The partnership between the Alliance to End Hunger and FAO North America is a natural fit for both organizations. The expertise and global perspective of FAO has added to the diverse, multi-sector collaborative work of the Alliance in a way that is adding unique takes and solutions to both domestic and international food security issues.

In 2017, this partnership provided opportunities to collaborate in a variety of forums – from the World Food Prize, to congressional briefings, to expert roundtables. The Alliance looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership in 2018, and is eager to unlock new ways to tackle hunger issues everywhere." - Alliance to End Hunger

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## NEWS FROM FAO HEADQUARTERS

### FAO Director-General urges commitment to bring the hunger numbers down

4-8 December 2017, Rome – The 158th Session of the FAO Council was held at FAO headquarters in Rome. The Council is the executive arm of FAO's top-level governing body, and is made of up 49 member countries. It convenes to provide advice and oversight related to programmatic and budgetary matters.

Opening the deliberations, Director General José Graziano da Silva recapitulated FAO's achievements in 2017 but also reminded the members of the growing number of hungry people in the world.

Consensus prevailed during the week of deliberations which saw the Council approve FAO's financial carry over and adjustments to its 2018-19 Programme of Work and Budget while welcoming efficiencies and savings achieved, particularly in areas of general administration and travel.

Members supported FAO's work on climate change and encouraged partnerships with other main actors, including the private sector. The Council commended the recent progress in collaboration between FAO and other Rome based UN agencies – WFP and IFAD and encouraged continuation in the same vein. Read more [here](#).



FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva urged to bring new hunger numbers down.

**"The most important thing to do now is to build the resilience of poor rural people to face the impacts of conflicts and climate change. We must do this by combining humanitarian assistance with developmental actions"**

- FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva

### Farewell Boyd Haight

"As many of FAO's US and Canadian staff and friends may know, our longstanding colleague Boyd Haight retired from FAO at the end of December after 35 years of service. He started his FAO career in Kenya in 1983 as an aquaculture extensionist and worked in several countries of Eastern and Southern Africa before moving to Rome in 1996.

His "second career" in FAO headquarters placed him in a series of critical roles and since 2009 he has been Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management (OSP).

While heading OSP he played a truly outsized role in shaping FAO's programs and budgets as well as in the implementation of FAO reforms, starting with the Independent External Evaluation and carrying on through the most recent changes in setting up FAO's new Strategic Programs and Results Framework.

For both FAO Management and Members Boyd was an immensely valuable point of reference on how the Organization functions, based on his deep institutional knowledge and practical experience, and was unfailingly helpful in resolving key management issues.

While his constant presence will be sorely missed, he will continue to provide inputs from time to time, dividing his time between Maine and California, and hopefully with occasional visits back to Rome."

- Daniel J. Gustafson, FAO Deputy Director—General (Operations)



Boyd Haight has been Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management (OSP).

## NEWS FROM FAO HEADQUARTERS

### Director-General attends One Planet summit in Paris and renews partnership with France



FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva and Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

12 December 2017, Paris - Along with numerous heads of state, the UN Secretary-General, and the President of the World Bank, Graziano da Silva attended French President Emmanuel Macron's climate summit high-level segment. The meeting was held to celebrate the second anniversary of the Paris climate agreement where the international community made concrete pledges to keep temperature from rising more than two degrees by the end of the century.

The One Planet summit seeks to accelerate climate actions, encouraging and enabling governments and the UN and organizations to roll out solutions as swiftly as possible. The message from the Summit complemented FAO's message, that rapid action to adapt to and mitigate climate change's impact on poorer developing countries is an essential investment for the longer-term Sustainable Development Agenda, above all the goal of ending hunger by 2030.

On the sidelines of the One Planet summit in Paris, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva and Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, signed the new framework agreement guiding the two parties' cooperation through 2021, putting climate change, sustainable agriculture, the eradication of hunger, rural development and efficient use of natural resources at the center of their joint strategic actions in coming years. Read more [here](#).

### Conflicts and drought spur hunger despite strong global food supply

#### 37 countries require external assistance for food

7 December 2017, Rome - Strong cereal harvests are keeping global food supplies buoyant, but localized drought, flooding and protracted conflicts have intensified and perpetuated food insecurity, according to the new edition of [FAO's Crop Prospects and Food Situation report](#).

Some 37 countries, 29 of which are in Africa, require external assistance for food, according to the report. Ongoing conflicts continue to be a key driver of severe food insecurity, having triggered near-famine conditions in northern Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen, as well as widespread hunger in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo - and Syria.

Adverse weather conditions are taking their toll on farm food outputs in some regions, notably due to drought in East Africa and floods in parts of Asia.

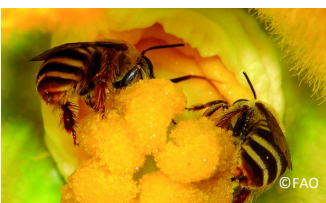
The 37 countries currently in need of external food assistance are Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Conflict exacerbates food insecurity by impeding productive activities and hindering both access to food and its availability.

Despite local negative trends, overall global food production is booming. In addition, production gains are being recorded in many Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, where the aggregate cereal output is forecast to grow by 2 percent this year. Read more [here](#).

### FAO hails UN resolutions honoring family farmers, bees, camelids and fisheries

21 December 2017, Rome - FAO welcomed the UN's decision to create a **decade on family farming**, a **World Bee Day**, a day promoting awareness of the need to combat illegal fishing, and declare international years for **camelids** and **artisanal fisheries** and aquaculture.



From now on, May 20 will mark World Bee Day. And 2019 will mark the beginning of the UN Decade of Family Farming, drawing more attention to the people who produce more than 80% of the world's food but whose own members, paradoxically, are often the most vulnerable to hunger. 2024, meanwhile, will be the International Year of Camelids. Earlier in December, the General Assembly proclaimed 5th June as international day to celebrate the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and an international year to promote artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

Commenting on these developments, Director General José Graziano da Silva said, "I welcome the UN member countries' endorsement of these important food and agriculture issues. The observances starting next year will help raise global attention and momentum for the urgent push towards achieving Zero Hunger by 2030". Read more [here](#).

## FAO PUBLICATIONS

### Recent FAO publications on trade for the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference

In a context of increasing global agricultural trade, FAO's data and analyses provide timely insights into key policy questions. Based on country case studies, the [Commodities and Development Report 2017](#), co-published with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), discusses how commodity dependence affects economic growth, macroeconomic stability and Human Development Index values in developing countries.

The selection below covers topical issues that include agricultural commodity, food and feed markets around the world; FAO and WTO efforts to set international food standards; and the need for better alignment of trade, agriculture and food security policies.

- [Commodities and Development Report 2017: Commodity Markets, Economic Growth and Development](#)
- [FAO Trade Policy Briefs No. 22 - 30 \(series\)](#)
- [FAO E-Learning Course: Trade, food security and nutrition](#)
- [Policy Guidance Note: Trade](#)
- [Trade and Food Standards](#)
- [Food Outlook Biannual Report on Global Food Markets November 2017](#)
- [The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2015–16 - Trade and food security](#)



### Shedding light on migration

Recent FAO titles illustrate the role of resilient agricultural livelihoods in addressing the drivers of migration, including rural poverty, food insecurity, inequality, unemployment and climate change. Migration is a growing and complex global phenomenon, with millions of people moving each year. In 2017, the number of international migrants worldwide has reached 258 million, up from 248 million in 2015.

The booklet [Migration, agriculture and rural development](#) gives FAO's perspective on migration and sheds light on the role that agriculture, rural development and the sustainable management of natural resources play in curbing migration pressure in rural areas. It also discusses possible areas of further engagement to maximize the potential benefits of migration on agriculture.

Focusing on a region particularly exposed to migration, the atlas [Rural Africa in motion: dynamics and drivers of migration south of the Sahara](#) includes maps and infographics showing rural migrants' profiles, migration drivers and patterns, remittance flows and much more.

The selection of titles below covers issues such as conflict- and climate-driven migration and rural youth migration due to the lack of employment opportunities. It addresses the challenges of migration for agricultural development and highlights FAO's efforts in integrating migration issues into policy-making.

- [Migration and protracted crises](#)
- [Guidance note: Forced migration and protracted crisis](#)
- [Guidance note: Distress migration and youth in protracted crises](#)
- [Policy guidance note on rural migration](#)
- [Agriculture and migration in the context of climate change](#)
- [Addressing rural youth migration at its root causes: a conceptual framework](#)
- [World Food Day 2017 Brochure](#)
- [World Food Day 2017 Activity Book - Change the future of migration](#)
- [Evidence on internal and international migration patterns in Africa](#)
- [Reducing distress migration through decent rural employment](#)



ACCESS FAO PUBLICATIONS [HERE](#).

## FAO IN THE USA & 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.



[Read more](#) about the United States and FAO.



[Read more](#) about Canada and FAO.

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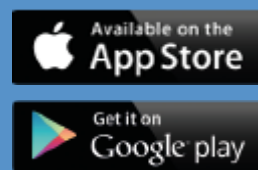
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