



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Post-2015 and SDGs

Nourishing people, Nurturing the planet

e-bulletin • May 2015 • Issue No.5

Welcome to FAO's e-bulletin on the post-2015 development agenda. In this issue, we bring you news of a side event organised by the UN Rome-based agencies on financing SDG2 ahead of July's Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Rural actors and agents of change are the focus of a feature article and photo gallery. Boubaker Ben-Belhassen, FAO post-2015 focal point, writes on the comprehensive approach to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture of SDG2. We present a booklet listing 100 facts linking people, food and the planet, and, in the international year of soils, deliver a story-video-infographic package on the natural resource's links to sustainable development.

– FAO's Post-2015 team

Smallholder farmers in focus as UN Rome agency event zeroes in on financing

Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture – SDG2 – will require commitment and action at the national level, supported by engagement from the international community. That was the main message from a side event held in New York on 17 April on the margins of the [Second drafting session](#) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3).

The panel discussion, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – the Rome-based agencies of the United Nations, brought together multiple voices to explore the policies and investments needed to successfully implement SDG2 of the [July 2014 proposal](#) of the intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) of the UN General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event took place immediately ahead of a joint session (20-24 April) of the Financing for Development process and UNGA intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, and less than three months before the FfD summit which takes place in Addis Ababa between 13 and 16 July.

Identifying investments that go beyond business as usual, financing mechanisms from a global partnership perspective and the challenges countries will face in financing SDG2 as an integrated package stood out among lively exchanges between panellists and participants from member states, civil society, the private sector and research institutions in the discussion chaired by Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations.

“With the SDGs we have raised the level of ambition,” said keynote speaker George Wilfred Talbot, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations, beginning his address. “I think it is absolutely imperative that we find the ways and means of addressing this challenge. Why? Because [hunger] is depriving hundreds of millions of people from the opportunity to fulfil their potential and to contribute to the progress of humanity.”

Mr Talbot, who is co-facilitator of the Financing for Development negotiations, said he and his colleague - Geir Pedersen, Permanent Representative of Norway - had flagged the SDG2 area as one requiring “special attention” in the process.

“In addressing the challenge of hunger and food insecurity, we are contributing to the potential for achieving other goals,” he said. “It is critical to poverty, as more than 75 percent of the poor live in rural areas and are heavily dependent on agriculture.





“One of the challenges we face is to transform the agriculture sector to make it viable and sustainable. We need to get youth to see a future in agriculture.”

The relationship between SDG2 and other goals was picked up on by Susan Eckey, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, who focused on biodiversity, resilience, fisheries and gender equality.

“Agricultural biodiversity is critical to ensure the stability, resilience, nutrition and continuing evolution of farming and thus long-term food security and livelihoods for small-scale farmers,” she said.

Cost of hunger

Guy Evers, Deputy Director of FAO’s Investment Centre, stated that the fight to eliminate poverty and hunger would be won or lost in rural areas.

“Despite significant rural to urban migration, extreme poverty is becoming more concentrated in rural areas, where there are lower levels of public and private investments, poorer infrastructure and fewer services targeted to the most vulnerable,” he said. “Growth in agriculture is more effective in reducing poverty than growth in other sectors. We need more and better investment in agriculture.”

FAO, he revealed, is updating a report that will include calculations of the level of investment needed to support the required expansion in food production for ending hunger by 2030.

While pointing out the importance of scaling up best practices, Josefina Stubbs, IFAD Associate Vice-President, highlighted the value of focusing on smallholders, who represent the biggest investors in agriculture. “Most of the food that people are consuming around the world comes from smallholder farms,” she said. “They are not the problem, but part of the solution. We see the need of smallholder farmers to have access to markets and to have access to credit.”

Amir Abdulla, WFP Deputy Executive Director, outlined the common vision the three Rome-based agencies share in “working together towards eliminating the root causes of hunger, poverty and malnutrition”.

“We stand united in the discussions and consultations that are going on around the means that are necessary to realise the new agenda,” he said before drawing attention to a Think-Piece contribution by the Rome-based agencies entitled Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Agriculture at Centre Stage on the Road to the Addis Ababa Conference that had been circulated among the audience ahead of the event.

The Addis outcome is expected to have a significant bearing on means of implementation for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which will be adopted at a Summit at Heads of State and Government level between 25 and 27 September 2015.

Measuring up to the new agenda

Targets and indicators was the featured topic of discussion at the third session of the UNGA intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda that took place from 23 to 27 March 2015 in New York. In response to a request by IGNP Co-Facilitators Macharia Kamau of Kenya and David Donoghue of Ireland, John Pullinger, Chair of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), presented Member States with a working draft of a [technical report](#) on global indicators for the SDGs and targets. FAO, along with other UN agencies, contributed to recommendations in the draft report for more than 300 global indicators for targets under all 17 SDGs.



Earlier in the month, 3-6 March, the [46th session of the UNSC](#) had endorsed the formation of an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of Member States, and supported the establishment of a High-Level Group (HLG), consisting of national statistical offices (NSOs), to foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination for post-2015 monitoring. Regional and international organizations will participate, as observers, in both new groups.

The Commission also approved a [road map for developing and implementing an indicator framework](#). Key markers include: July 2015 - the development of a first note on possible global indicators and an indicator framework; December 2015 - a



proposal from the IAEG-SDGs on global and universal indicators and an indicator framework for consideration by the UNSC; March 2016 - endorsement of the indicator framework at UNSC47.

A UN Fit for purpose

Meanwhile, discussion on the role, capacity and readiness of the UN system to support countries in implementing the post-2015 development agenda is underway. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has issued a [road map](#) for its dialogue process on "the longer-term positioning of the UN Development System" consisting of seven sessions, seven workshops and three retreats between January 2015 and December 2016.

Five agents of change for a sustainable world

As the focus of the post-2015 development agenda shifts from goals and targets to measures and means, discussion is building on innovative ways to address the world's most pressing challenges. The ambition of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets will mean a significant investment of resources and sharing of knowledge if sustainable development is to become a reality in the post-2015 era.

With smart solutions increasingly courted by decision-makers, policies directed towards five agents of change – **family farmers, rural women, investors in infrastructure, vulnerable people and policymakers** – have the potential to produce dramatic and lasting effects on the economies of developing nations, transforming people into investors and stewards of the environment. Investment in rural development offers multiple benefits in targeting poverty and hunger, driving national growth and promoting the sustainable use and management of natural resources.



With smart solutions increasingly courted by decision-makers, policies directed towards five agents of change – **family farmers, rural women, investors in infrastructure, vulnerable people and policymakers** – have the potential to produce dramatic and lasting effects on the economies of developing nations, transforming people into investors and stewards of the environment. Investment in rural development offers multiple benefits in targeting poverty and hunger, driving national growth and promoting the sustainable use and management of natural resources.

[+ READ THE FULL STORY](#)

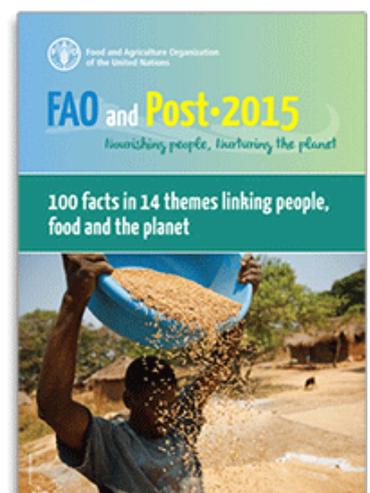
100 facts in 14 themes linking people, food and the planet

Food is life. It is the fundamental connection between people and the planet. The fruits of the earth have long sustained us, but there are increasing signs that our way of working the land and ensuring all are nourished will have to be revisited.

Based on FAO's 14 themes of focus in the post-2015 development agenda, these 100 facts shine a light on the connection between food security, sustainable agriculture and use of natural resources.

1. 805 million people in the world, 11.3 percent of the world population or one in nine, suffer from hunger.
2. The number of hungry has fallen by more than 100 million over the past decade and by 209 million since 1990–92.
3. One in four people living in sub-Saharan Africa suffers from chronic hunger, but the region with the largest number of undernourished is Southern Asia (276 million).
4. The world has the capacity to produce enough food to feed everyone adequately.
5. The right to food goes beyond a moral obligation; it is enshrined in international law.

[+ OPEN THE BOOKLET TO SEE ALL 100 FACTS](#)



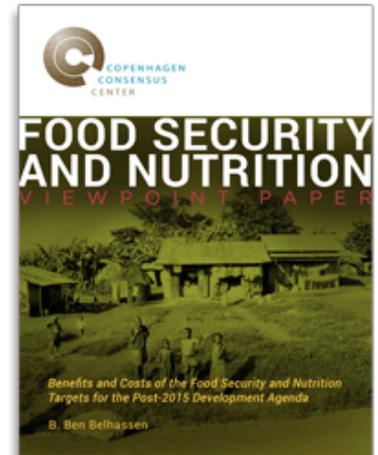


SDG2 - A comprehensive vision

SDG2 of the July 2014 report of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals offers a comprehensive vision for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, and for the sustainable use and management of natural resources, writes Boubaker Ben-Belhassen, FAO post-2015 focal point and Director of the Trade and Markets Division, in a [viewpoint paper](#) published by the Copenhagen Consensus Center.

Contrasting the approach with that taken by the Millennium Development Goals, he highlights SDG2 targets addressing the crucial access dimension of food security, the entire spectrum of malnutrition, the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers, resilience of food production systems and the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources. Various targets under other proposed Goals (1, 6, 12, 14 and 15) complete the picture by addressing rural poverty, land tenure, water resources, governance, food losses and waste, oceans and marine resources, forests, mountains and land and soils.

[+ READ THE FULL PAPER](#)



The year of soils and sustainable development goals

It may not be as visually striking as a green forest or appear as vital as fresh water, but plain-looking soil is a natural resource just as essential to sustaining life on Earth. Soil provides nutrients, water and minerals to plants and trees, stores carbon and is home to billions of insects, small animals, bacteria and many other micro-organisms. Yet the amount of fertile soil on the planet has been diminishing at an alarming rate, compromising the ability of farmers to grow food to feed a global population that is projected to top nine billion by 2050.



One of FAO's 14 themes of focus in sustainable development, soil has been among priority areas discussed at UN headquarters in New York where intergovernmental negotiations for a post-2015 development agenda are currently taking place. Underscoring its importance, 2015, the year in which the world community will agree a new global development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), has been declared the International Year of Soils by the United Nations.

- [Read the full story](#): Five reasons why soil is key to the planet's sustainable future
 - [Watch the video](#): Healthy soils for a healthy planet – Ronald Vargas, FAO Soils and Land Management Officer
 - [View the infographic](#): Soil, where food begins
-



FEATURES



A rural focus

This [photo gallery](#) pictures how investment in rural livelihoods could reap rich rewards in sustainable development.

[+ MORE](#)



FAO news, Guardian style

Follow the latest news, features and exclusive interviews in the FAO-partner page on a special sustainable development section of the Guardian website.

[+ MORE](#)

Timeline

Check out our post-2015 calendar and note down key dates as D-Day to adopt the post-2015 development agenda gets ever closer. [+ MORE](#)



1400+ tweet tweet [@FAOpost2015](#)

Join more than 1400 followers of our twitter account and get all the latest news on the post-2015 process.

COMING SOON...

SOFI 2015 - The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015 (SOFI 2015), an FAO flagship publication providing updated [estimates of undernourishment](#), will be released in May 2015, the year of reckoning for the Millennium Development Goals.

MDG hunger awards – This FAO event in June recognises those countries that have made great strides in [combating hunger](#), by achieving MDG and World Food Summit (WFS) targets.

DID YOU KNOW...?

/// [Malnutrition](#) is the single largest contributor to disease in the world.

FAST FACTS

/// Only 27 percent of the world population enjoys sufficient [social protection](#). Half of the world are excluded.



LINKS

- **Financing for Development website**
<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>
- **The Friends of the Chair Group on broader measures of progress**
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress>
- **Action/2015**
<http://www.action2015.org>
- **UN 2015 is the Time for Global Action**
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>
- **Global Citizen**
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en>
- **Sustainable Development Policy & Practice**
<http://sd.iisd.org>