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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-sixth Session

Rome, 24-28 April 2017

Proposal to declare the annual observance of World Pulses Day (Draft Resolution)

Executive Summary

The Government of Burkina Faso has proposed to declare the annual observance of World Pulses Day on 10 February. The main objective of this initiative is to raise awareness of the contribution of pulses to food security, nutrition and climate change adaptation and mitigation, while preserving and building upon the success of the UN declared 2016 International Year of Pulses. Pulses are important food crops and offer significant nutritional and health advantages due to their high protein and essential amino acid content, being at the same time a source of complex carbohydrates and several vitamins and minerals. They also have nitrogen-fixing properties that help improve soil fertility, as well as low carbon and water footprints, contributing to positive environmental impacts.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to:

- a) Review the proposal to establish observance of 10 February as World Pulses Day, and provide guidance as deemed appropriate;
- b) Submit the proposed draft Conference resolution to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference (July 2017) for approval.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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1. As recommended by the FAO Council (*CL 146/REP*), and by the FAO Conference (*C 2013/REP*), and in recognition of their contributions to food security, nutrition, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2016 the International Year of Pulses, and invited FAO to facilitate the implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with governments, non-governmental organizations, and all relevant stakeholders (*A/RES/68/231*).
2. As part of its activities related to the implementation of the International Year, FAO took part in a closing ceremony held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 10 and 11 February 2017, at which the Ouagadougou Declaration, calling for the institution of a World Pulses Day, was endorsed.
3. There remains vast scope for the production and consumption of pulses to help countries meet the commitments outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly those related to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13, and 15. It is therefore necessary that progress made during the International Year be preserved and expanded upon through the institution of a World Pulses Day, to continue to raise awareness of their benefits among all stakeholders.
4. The draft resolution in Appendix A is being submitted to the 156th Session of the FAO Council for its consideration and endorsement, with a view to forwarding it to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference for approval.

Appendix A

Draft Conference Resolution**THE CONFERENCE,**

Noting that pulse crops such as lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas are a critical source of plant-based proteins and amino acids for people around the globe, as well as a source of plant-based protein for animals,

Recalling that the World Food Programme and other food aid initiatives use pulses as a critical part of the general food basket;

Desiring to focus attention on the role that pulses play as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition;

Recognizing that pulses are leguminous plants that have nitrogen-fixing properties which can contribute to increasing soil fertility and have a positive impact on the environment;

Recognizing that health organizations around the world recommend eating pulses as part of a healthy diet to address obesity, as well as preventing and managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, coronary conditions and cancer;

Recognizing the potential of pulses to further the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and their particular relevance to Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13 and 15;

Believing that such a celebration would create an annual opportunity to encourage pulse research, further global production of pulses and beneficial consumption of pulse-based proteins, better utilize crop rotations, and address the challenges of trade in pulses;

Affirming the need to heighten public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses, and further sustainable agriculture;

Requests the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 10 February as World Pulses Day.