

43rd Session of the Conference

Introduction to Item 15.2: Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2021 the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV or the Year) and designated the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as lead agency to celebrate the Year in collaboration with governments, international organizations and relevant non-state actors. As per UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/244, FAO presented the *Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021* to inform Members on the successful implementation of the Year.

The main objectives of the IYFV were to: raise awareness of, and direct policy attention to, the nutritional and health benefits of fruit and vegetables; highlight the contribution of fruit and vegetable consumption to the promotion of diversified, balanced, and healthy diets and lifestyles; reduce loss and waste of fruit and vegetables; and endorse sustainable agricultural practices.

A Global Action Plan was prepared in collaboration with the IYFV International Steering Committee to guide the activities and events of the Year, centred along four main lines of action: i) advocacy and awareness raising; ii) knowledge creation and dissemination; iii) policy making; and iv) capacity development and education.

The IYFV was promoted through an intensive communications campaign, making particular use of social media, a designated website and the production of promotional videos. Events, workshops and webinars were held throughout the regions, organized by a variety of actors, disseminating information on the importance of consuming fruit and vegetables, as well as ways to reduce food loss and waste and to support more sustainable production practices.

The IYFV closing ceremony was held virtually on 24 February 2022, during which a general desire was expressed to see the momentum of the IYFV carried beyond the closure of the official Year.

The attention of the Conference is drawn to the importance of maintaining this impetus and continuing to promote increased fruit and vegetable consumption as part of a healthy balanced diet and lifestyle, improving sustainable food production through innovation, and using technology to reduce food loss and waste to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Organization.

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