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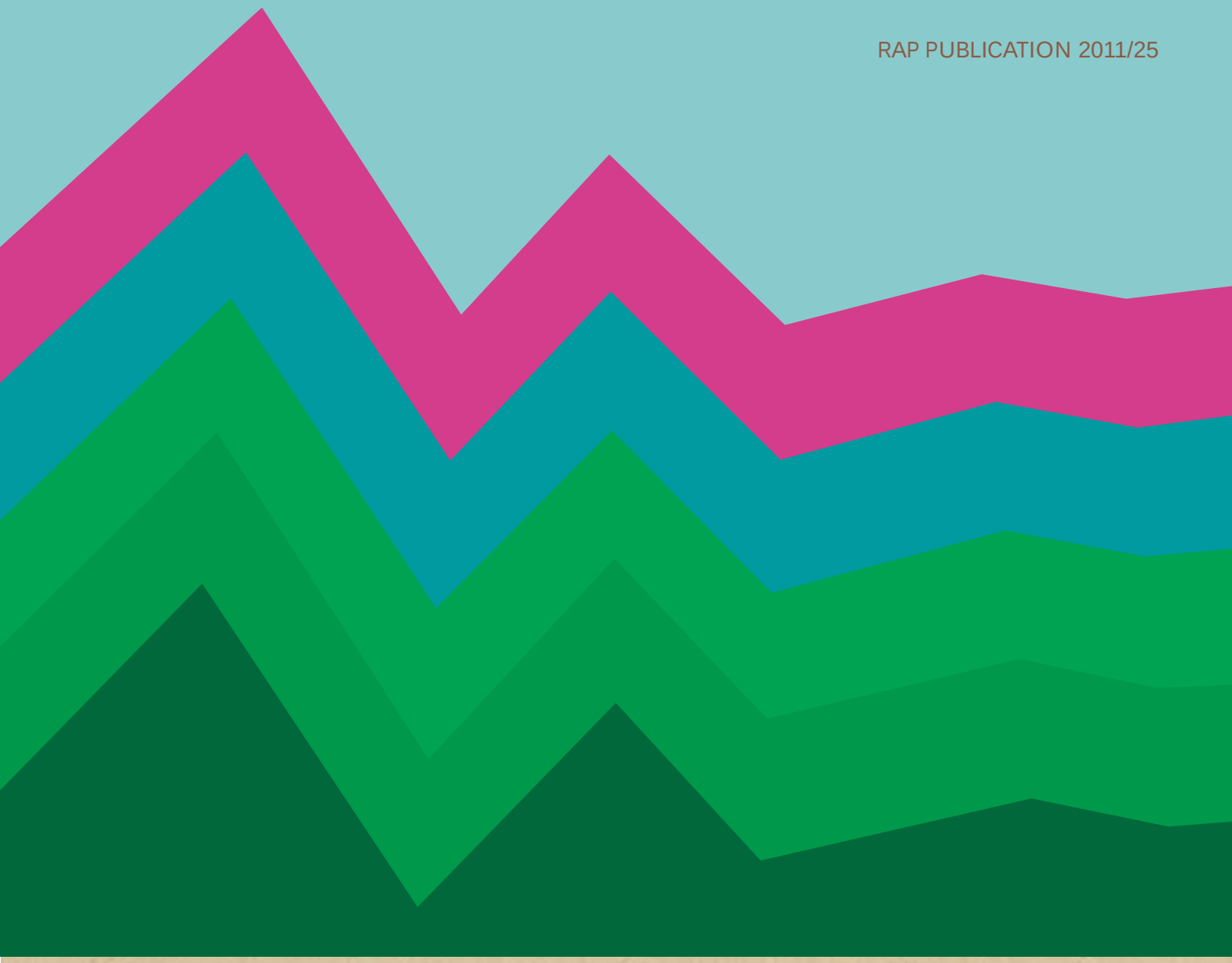

FOOD PRICES

FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY

2011 World Food Day celebration report

RAP PUBLICATION 2011/25

FOOD PRICES

FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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Between 2005 and 2008, the world's staple food prices soared to their highest levels in 30 years. During the last 18 months of that period, maize price increased by 74 percent while that of rice almost tripled, climbing a whole 166 percent.

Food riots broke out in more than 20 countries. Editorialists decreed the end of cheap food. Economists believed that the kind of price roller-coasters experienced since 2006 are likely to recur in the coming years. In other words food price volatility – the technical term for the phenomenon – has probably come to stay.

"Food prices – from crisis to stability" has been chosen as this year's World Food Day theme to shed some light on this trend and what can be done to mitigate its impact on the most vulnerable.

Price swings, upswings in particular, represent a major threat to food security in developing countries. Hardest-hit are the poor. According to the World Bank, in 2010-2011 rising food costs pushed nearly 70 million people into extreme poverty.

At the level of net food importing countries, price spikes can hurt poor countries by making it much more expensive for them to import food for their people. At the level of individuals, people living on less than US$1.25 a day may need to skip a meal when food prices rise. Farmers are hurt too because they badly need to know the price their crops are going to fetch at harvest time, months away. If high prices are likely they plant more. If low prices are forecast they plant less and cut costs.

Rapid price swings make that calculation much more difficult. Farmers can easily end up producing too much or too little. In stable markets they can make a living. Volatile ones can ruin them while also generally discouraging much-needed investment in agriculture.

Recognizing the major threat that food price swings pose to the world's poorest countries and people, the international community, led by the G20, moved in 2011 to find ways of managing volatility on international food commodity markets.

In order to decide how, and how far, we can manage volatile food prices we need to be clear about why, in the space of a few years, a world food market offering stability and low prices became a turbulent marketplace battered by sudden price spikes and troughs.

The seeds of today's volatility were sown last century when decision-makers failed to grasp that the production boom then enjoyed by many countries might not last forever and that continuing investment was needed in research, technology, equipment and infrastructure.

In the 30 years from 1980 to date the share of official development assistance which OECD countries earmarked for agriculture dropped 43 percent. Continued under-funding of agriculture by rich and poor countries alike is probably the main single cause of the problems we face today.

Contributing to today's tight markets is rapid economic growth in emerging economies, which means more people are eating more meat and dairy produce with the need for feedgrains increasing rapidly as a result. Population growth, with almost 80 million new mouths to feed every year, is another important element. Population pressure is compounded by the erratic and often extreme meteorological phenomena produced by global warming and climate change.

A further contributing factor may be the recent entry of institutional investors with very large sums of money into food commodity futures markets. Lastly, distortive agricultural and protectionist trade policies bear a significant part of the blame.

Responding to food price volatility therefore involves two different kinds of measures. The first group addresses volatility itself, aiming to reduce price

swings through specific interventions while the other seeks to mitigate the negative effects of price swings on countries and individuals.

Greater policy coordination in international food trade can reduce volatility by helping maintain an assured flow of goods. FAO supports the multilateral negotiations under the World Trade Organization and the elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies in rich countries.

On speculation, FAO's research suggests that while this might not trigger price movements, it could exaggerate their size and duration.

More and better information is needed to allow greater transparency in trade on futures markets. This would help ensure that governments and traders make informed decisions and avoid panic or irrational reactions.

As to mitigating the effects of volatility, national or regional safety nets, possibly featuring emergency food reserves, can help assure food supplies to needy and vulnerable population groups during crises. Poor consumers can also be assisted with cash or food vouchers and producers helped with inputs such as fertilizer and seeds.

Market-based mechanisms can help low-income developing countries to meet higher food import bills. At country level, governments can protect themselves from food price increases through a variety of financial arrangements such as call options, which would give them the right to buy food at a set price even months ahead, regardless of how the market has moved in the meantime. At international level, compensatory facilities can help low-income developing countries meet escalating food import bills. Concessional financing facilities such as those provided by the IMF helped countries contend with the balance of payments problems that soaring food prices provoked in 2007-2008.

Ultimately though, stability in the food market depends on increased investment in agriculture, particularly in developing countries, where 98 percent of the hungry live and where food production needs to double by 2050 to feed growing populations.

Investment in infrastructure, marketing systems, extension and communication services, education, as well as in research and development, can increase food supply and improve the functioning of local agricultural markets, resulting in less volatile prices. In this way, markets can work for the poor people who bear the burden of food price volatility. The level of net investments required is around US$83 billion a year which would help millions of people around the world escape poverty and help restore long-term stability to agricultural markets.

On World Food Day 2011, let us look seriously at what causes swings in food prices, and do what needs to be done to reduce their impact on the weakest members of global society.

Address by the Guest of Honour

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

I am pleased to address this 2011 Asia-Pacific World Food Day celebration. The theme of this year's world food day, "Food prices – from crisis to stability" is extremely topical. High and volatile food prices over the past three years have pushed tens of millions of people who were already struggling to survive, into further poverty and hunger. We can be justifiably proud that Asia and the Pacific region has maintained a high economic growth rate despite the economic problems affecting the world. Yet this region still contains over three-fifths of the world's under-nourished population and nearly two thirds of its poor population. As the poor spend as much as 75 percent of their income on food, high and volatile food prices can spell disaster for them. When faced with high prices, poor households have to skip meals or eat poorer quality food, which affects their health. They may be forced to send their children to school hungry – which means those children cannot learn. They may be forced to sell off their assets, especially productive assets – which means that their future earning capacity is compromised.

High and volatile food prices also create problems for farmers. When farmers plant their crops, they want to be reasonably sure about the price they will get for their crops at harvest time. If prices are volatile, this makes it difficult for them to make the right decisions on what crops to plant and what acreage to plant them in. Farmers can then end up planting too much or too little for the prices that their produce will eventually fetch in the market at harvest time.

High and volatile food prices also create problems for nations if they have to pay more for the food they import. This can be a crippling burden for poor countries which may already be facing balance of payment problems. The effect is compounded by price volatility because it is not clear in advance how much additional foreign exchange will be required.

How did we get into this situation? It was not so long ago that we thought the world's food problem was on the way to being solved. Food prices have always fluctuated, of course, because of erratic weather, pest and disease outbreaks and so forth. But the wild swings of the sort seen in the last three to four years were not there.

The causes of these price swings are many. For example, high and volatile petroleum prices influence food prices because farmers use fertilizer, diesel, pesticides etc., all of which use petroleum. An additional link between food and fuel prices arises from the growing production of biofuels, which becomes more profitable when petroleum prices rise. Moreover, it is likely that the weather has become more erratic than before as a result of climate change. Another link – that between the prices of agricultural commodities and those of financial assets – is also a source of instability. Moreover, distortionary agricultural and protectionist trade policies also played a role in worsening food price fluctuation.

All these factors undoubtedly contributed to price volatility. Yet, if there is a single underlying cause,it lies in the fact that the world had grown complacent. The very success of the green revolution in providing food for billions of people bred a sense of complacency. We thought the problem was solved, and we did not make the necessary investments in irrigation, in rural roads, in agricultural market and storage infrastructure, in agricultural research and extension, and in many other things that were required for agriculture to keep growing and providing food for a growing population.

For this region, the need to increase agricultural investment is particularly urgent. The region already contains the majority of the world's population, and nearly 38 million more are added every year.

Its land and water resources are stretched to their limits both in quantity and quality. Unless we make the required investments in agriculture research, better seeds, infrastructure of all sorts and a host of other measures, we will fail the people of this region and especially the poor.

A solution to this problem is urgently needed and I am encouraged to see FAO working in partnership with its member countries, but also increasingly with private sector and civil society to call attention to this problem and to find solutions.

The 2011 World Food Day theme "Food prices – from crisis to stability" is highly appropriate. Much

needs to be done to reduce price volatility by, for example, increasing market transparency, improving international policy coordination, reducing trade distortions, regulating financial markets better, and so forth. It is also important to mitigate the impact of high and volatile food prices on the poor through social protection measures in which the society recognizes its obligations to and solidarity with all members of society.

In this context, it is important to recognize the key role played by the Kingdom of Thailand in keeping international food markets stable, not only the market for rice but also other food products such as fish and livestock, among others. The Kingdom has prided itself on being a reliable source of food supply within as well as beyond the region, which is critical to world food security. The Kingdom has been striving for decades to develop its agriculture through various measures with the aim of becoming the Kitchen of the World.

In today's increasingly interdependent and globalized world, where the actions of one nation or group of nations can affect the prosperity and indeed food security of others, it is vital that the nations of the world learn to work together to ensure that everyone has enough food to live a healthy and productive life.

On this World Food Day 2011, let us resolve to work together with all the key players to raise the resources needed to tame food price volatility and ensure that enough food can be produced sustainably to reach the mouths of those who need it most.

Indeed, it is women in most cases who chose the type of food to cook and feed her family members, including children. I urge policy makers to pay more attention to the role of women, not only in agriculture but also in nutrition; for a closer integration of food and nutrition security – resulting in better lives for the most vulnerable segments of society: poor women and children.

I join you all in conveying the solidarity and support of the Thai people to FAO in its efforts towards addressing the challenges of ensuring food security for all.

Thank you.

FAO Director-General's message

Jacques Diouf

"Food prices – from crisis to stability" has been chosen as this year's World Food Day theme to shed some light on a trend that is hurting the poor consumer, the small producer and agriculture in general. Food prices, which were stable for decades, have become increasingly volatile.

If we are to seriously address the issue of world hunger, more effort has to be made to address the problem of food price fluctuations, particularly for those who spend most of their incomes on food, to ensure that they can return from the market with enough for their families to eat nutritiously.

The causes of food price instability are well known but what can be done about it requires political will.

The global food market is tight, with supply struggling to keep pace with demand and stocks are at or near historical lows. Droughts or floods hitting key producing regions squeeze prices further. Agriculture cannot respond fast enough with increased food production because of long-term under-investment in research, technology, equipment and infrastructure.

Increased wealth means many people worldwide are eating more meat and dairy products, driving up the price of animal feed. Eighty million people are born every year, creating more demand for food.

A further contributing factor may be the recent entry of institutional investors with very large sums of money into food commodity futures markets. Lastly, distorting agricultural and protectionist trade policies bear a significant part of the blame.

At the level of net food importing countries, price rises can hurt poor countries by making it much more expensive for them to import food for their people. Farmers are hurt too because they badly need to know the price their crops are going to fetch at harvest time, months away. If high prices are likely they plant more. If low prices are forecast they plant less and cut costs. Rapid price swings make that calculation much more difficult.

Greater policy coordination in international food trade can reduce volatility by helping maintain an assured flow of goods. FAO supports the elimination of trade-distorting agricultural subsidies in rich countries.

On speculation, FAO's research suggests that while this might not trigger price movements, it could exaggerate their size and duration. More and better information is needed to allow greater transparency in trade on futures markets. This would help ensure that governments and traders make informed decisions and avoid panic or irrational reactions.

As to mitigating the effects of volatility on the poor, national or regional safety nets, possibly featuring emergency food reserves, can help assure food supplies to the needy during crises. Poor consumers can also be assisted with cash or food vouchers and farmers helped with inputs such as fertilizer and seeds.

Various financial mechanisms can help governments protect consumers from food price increases. One example is call options, which would give governments the right to buy food at a set price even months ahead, regardless of how the market has moved in the meantime.

Ultimately though, stability in the food market depends on increased investment in agriculture, particularly in developing countries, where 98 percent of the hungry live and where food production needs to double by 2050 to feed growing populations.

On World Food Day 2011, let us reflect seriously at what causes swings in food prices, and articulate alternatives on what needs to be done at national, regional and global levels to reduce the impact on almost a billion people who do not have enough to eat.

Assistant Director-General's statement

Hiroyuki Konuma

FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Jacques Diouf, my colleagues and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure to welcome you to the World Food Day Regional Observance.

We are honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. We are grateful to Your Royal Highness for your gracious acceptance of our invitation. We are also very privileged to have the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, who is with us today as our keynote speaker.

This year World Food Day came with one of the worst floods in the recent history of Thailand. I wish to express, on behalf of FAO, our deep condolences to families who lost lives, assets and have suffered from social and economic losses. I also wish to convey our special appreciation to those who exerted great efforts to controlling floods and made today's World Food Day possible.

Despite our efforts and rapid economic growth in the past quarter century, the world is still home to 925 million chronic hungry people as last year, which increased by 9 percent from the level in 2006-2008. It stood at 16 percent of the world's population and was far behind the MDG goal of 10 percent by 2015. Asia and the Pacific region, which recorded the highest economic growth in the past decade, accounted for 62 percent, nearly two-thirds of the world's chronic hungry population. A question arises – who gained the benefit of remarkable economic growth that Asia has achieved? It appears that the economic growth centred on national development often underminded the importance of equitable growth and social protection to those who were left behind. Indeed, it resulted in a widening disparity and inequality between the rich and the poor in many countries in Asia.

This year, FAO selected "Food prices – from crisis to stability" as the theme for World Food Day. This comes at a time when food prices continued to be high and volatile, and when the world economy is slowing down, shattering the hopes of hundreds of millions of people living in poverty and hunger. Indeed, the food price hike and volatility are the added main causes of hunger, in addition to the consequences of poverty. The poor suffered most from the food price increase who spent the vast bulk, as high as 70 percent of their household income, on food. Thus, even earning the same income, the food price increase of 20-50 percent would result in catastrophic consequences. FAO's food price index rose to its highest level in the history at 238 point in February this year, which was 28 percent higher than one year ago, but since then it lowered slightly but remained almost at a similar level until today. The retail price of rice, for example, increased by nearly 20 percent in the past one year in many countries including Thailand, which also led to higher national inflation.

High food prices have often resulted in increasing frustration of consumers and are also affecting middle income countries, as symbolized in incidents seen in Tunisia and Egypt. The possibility of social and political unrest caused by high food prices cannot be ruled out. Controlling high and volatile food prices should thus not be treated as a question of justice, but also as a fundamental requirement for political and social stability.

According to ESCAP's report, the high food prices in 2010 prevented over 15 million people in this region from escaping poverty and have pushed an additional 3.7 million people below the poverty line. Thus, it also increases the number of poor. The high food prices would likely remain or remain unpredictable in coming years, to say the least.

In addition to the present short-term food insecurity challenges resulting from high and volatile food prices, the world is facing another serious medium to long-term challenge. Indeed, to feed the growing world population which is projected to reach 9.1 billion by 2050, the world is expected to increase food production by 70 percent (100 percent in developing countries alone) in the next 40 years. This has to be attained under existing constraints such as:

- Rapid increase of demand of food grains for human consumption, animal feeds and bio-fuel, and tightening food supply-demand balance;
- Decline or stagnation of crop productivity growth, especially rice and wheat, resulted in a sharp decline of investment in agriculture including agricultural research over the past three decades;
- Soaring crude oil prices which increased over 4 times in the past decade, and is pulling up the price of bio-ethanol and food grains, especially maize, and the production cost of agricultural commodities due to the cost increase of chemical fertilizer, irrigation and transport;
- Unpredictable policy measures such as export restrictions and trade distortions by some food exporting countries;
- Increasing interest in food commodity trade and speculations, and lack of a regulatory framework to control speculations beyond acceptable limits;
- Scarcity of water and stagnation of the growth of arable land; some of Asian countries such as China and Viet Nam already started to decline;
- Increasing competition of land and water between food crops and bio-energy crops;
- Increasing frequency of the occurrence of natural disasters (which doubled in the past decade in Asia) and negative impact of climate change.

These are the challenges which we have to overcome together to enable to feed our children and future generations. Otherwise, social and political stability would be compromised and world security would be threatened.

FAO has been placing its top priority to promoting food security and has initiated various measures which include:

- Launching the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices in December 2007 and helped distribute key inputs such as fertilizer and seeds to poor farmers in more than 10 countries in the region to produce more food and enhance their income;
- Monitoring food prices of key commodities at country level, and producing and distributing monthly and weekly food price information and analyses;
- Organizing regional, subregional and national forums and consultations for policy and programmatic actions to address high food prices;
- Formulating Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics in headquarters, and linking it with regional action in collaboration with ESCAP and ADB, and hosting the secretariat in the regional office;

- Promoting regional collaboration and cooperation among UN Agencies and development partners on food security and nutrition, including signing a partnership agreement with ADB and IFAD, and expanding it to other agencies including WFP, the World Bank and ICARDA;
- Promoting partnership with the private sector and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to promote a football against hunger campaign;
- Promoting FAO's field programme and mobilizing resources to implement food security and related projects which doubled the delivery level of US$250 million (including emergency projects) in 2010 from that of 2009.

In addition, FAO is actively working with the G20 agriculture ministers' Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture. In broad terms, the Action Plan calls for increasing agricultural production and productivity, increasing market transparency, developing mechanisms to help the poor and vulnerable cope with high and volatile food prices, and strengthening international policy coordination and financial market regulation.

We have huge tasks ahead of us to accomplish. I fully believe that we can attain the goal if we are united, and work together in partnership.

On this occasion, please allow me to share good news. After your advice, we conducted an in-depth assessment and analysis, jointly with the Office of Agriculture Economics (OAE) and other agencies on the proportion of undernourished population in Thailand. We found that there were some missing items in the food basket and unfamiliarity with the calculations. After all adjustments, we are now confident that Thailand's undernourishment figure would change from the present 16 percent to less than 10 percent shortly.

Finally, to conclude my speech, I wish to think about food and food security once again. There are nearly one billion people on the planet suffering from chronic hunger due to lack of adequate food. And almost the same numbers of nearly one billion people suffer from being overweight, naturally resulting from over intake of food. Indeed, there are people who have plenty of food, and contrary, there are people who do not have enough food and suffer from malnutrition or go to bed with empty stomachs. We were all born and equal as human beings and live on the same planet. We are dependent on each other for our security, safety, health, and so on, irrespective of whether we choose or desire it or not. If we wish to live in a safe and healthy environment, we need to help others do the same. Otherwise, it may affect our own safety. And most importantly, food is the most essential human right. All of us have a right to access adequate and nutritious food, irrespective of whether we are young or old, or rich or poor.

On the occasion of World Food Day, I wish to express the importance of promoting global awareness of the importance of food, and creating a sense of strong solidarity at all levels, including school children, to help each other, to help those suffering from hunger,

It is our duty to produce more food at an affordable price to meet the nutrient requirement of all citizens on the planet, including those left behind by economic growth, and of our children and future generations to come.

Thank you for your attention.

Model farmers

Awards for outstanding achievements

Satoko Anzai

A model horticulturist from Japan

Coming from a silk farming family, Ms Satoko Anzai graduated from high school and fell in love with a local fruit farmer named Chusaku. After they were married, Ms Anzai turned to farming.

Anzai-san and her husband are natives of Fukushima prefecture. Until recently, Fukushima city was best known for the quality and tastiness of its fruits. Whatever knowledge Ms Anzai originally lacked about growing fruits she more than made up for with ideas about how to grow the family business.

Her first idea was to shun pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals. The blueberries grown on her 4.5-hectare farm are 100 percent organic, while the peaches, apples, cherries, peaches and persimmons are cultivated with as few chemicals as possible. This gave her family's fruits an advantage with consumers, as Japan's people were becoming more health conscious. She was also the first to make smoothies and jams from her fruits and market them in her region.

Another innovation was to sell the rights to her fruits directly to consumers. For example, a customer can buy the rights to all the apples from one of her trees. The plan has proved popular with tourists who have visited Fukushima, and the Iinuma Tourism Board was impressed enough to promote the plan, linking her up with local inns and hotels.

More than half of Japan's farmers are women, and Ms Anzai feels strongly that they should be recognized. In the 1990s she became a member of the Fukushima Prefecture Rural Women Empowerment Association, and the Fukushima Female Business Entrepreneurship Society, and was later voted chairperson of the Society. She was also elected chairperson of the National Female Farm Management Council. The Council has over 200 women members, and while their farming enterprises range from big to small, all of them are the CEOs or board members of their businesses.

Ms Anzai also feels strongly about community. She says: "Our community is our strength." And so, she works with the elderly and educates school children about farming, healthy foods and nutrition. She has also worked with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, teaching visiting farmers from countries in Asia and Africa how to grow fruits with less pesticides and chemicals.

Today Fukushima is known more for its recent tragedies than its fruits. Ms Anzai was fortunate in that her farm did not suffer significant damage from the earthquake or tsunami, and she has provided assistance to those who have been affected. The reputation of fruits and other agricultural produce from the area, however, did suffer because of fears about contamination from a damaged nuclear power station.

Now, Ms Anzai has dedicated herself to educating others that fruits and other produce from the region are regularly tested and are safe. She has created marketing events and joined with the Institute for Regional Brand Strategies at Fukushima University to disseminate information about the safety of fruits from Fukushima. Anzai-san says: "Everyone should have safe food. That is something I truly believe in."

It may take time, but Fukushima will recover. With farmers and community leaders like Ms Anzai, that is something everyone can believe in.

Souksakhone Somphone

A model aquaculture farmer from Lao PDR

If you ask Souksakhone Somphone, a fish breeder from the Lao People's Democratic Republic about being named a Model Farmer for 2011, she will tell you that the award isn't for her. She is accepting it on behalf of her late husband Khamseng who passed away last year after a long battle with cancer.

Souksakhone's country of Laos is one of the poorest in Asia. Its people lack protein in their diets. Its farmers lack many things, but especially knowledge. Together, Khamseng and Souksakhone made a difference in the lives of hundreds of poor farmers in the Vientiane province of Laos.

Using their own modest resources, they founded a fingerling breeding farm. It was hard work. They dug the ponds themselves and invested their own funds in the land, the fingerlings and the equipment.

After two or three years their business began to take off. Farmers from around the province began buying their fingerlings and breeding fish, mostly to feed their own families, but also to sell. Few farmers in Laos, however, had any experience breeding fish. For some it was a struggle.

But Khamseng and Souksakhone were always there to help – visiting farms to teach how to raise the fish, and opening their doors, even at night, to listen to these new fish farmers' problems and offer advice.

Their shop became an informal center where farmers exchanged knowledge and information. And Souksakhone would often travel to see farmers having trouble, inspect their ponds and give guidance. She never charged for this help. She just wanted to see these farmers succeed.

Few people who knew Khamseng Somphone would have predicted he would become a fish breeder. For years he worked as a dentist in a government hospital. But as Laos began opening its economy in the 1990s, Khamseng wanted to do something to help his country develop.

He started a brick-making company, and it did well. But soon there was plenty of competition. So he traveled to Khon Kaen province in neighbouring Thailand to study fish breeding in a program offered by Thailand's Department of Fisheries.

With this knowledge, and their small profits from the brick company, Khamseng and Souksakhone bought a small plot of land and began digging their ponds. Khamseng did most of the breeding and research, while Souksakhone visited the farmers. Before long, they were raising ten varieties of fresh water fingerlings, including tilapia and giant catfish.

When Avian Influenza forced farmers to cull their poultry, and an epidemic felled many of their swine, more farmers turned to Khamseng and Souksakhone to learn to breed fish. They now supply over a thousand farms. And their oldest daughter Thipphasone is studying aquaculture at the Nong Khai campus of Khon Kaen University to carry on the family business.

Sadly, Khamseng developed cancer. But he lived several years longer than his doctors expected. Says Souksakhone: "He was able to live for so long because he was happy with what he was doing with his life. He was happy helping people.'' She insists it is Khamseng who deserves this award. But if he were here today, without a doubt Khamseng would say he could not have achieved anything without his devoted partner and beloved wife, Souksakhone Somphone.

Gameera Adam

A model small island farmer from the Maldives

It would be hard to find a farmer more determined than Gameera Adam of Maldives. Although she came from a farming family on the island of Thoddoo, it's not common for women to do farm work in Maldives. Gameera's family, however, encouraged her to be independent, and never told her she couldn't be a farmer. So when she was 17, she and her husband Ali Waheed looked for land of their own to cultivate.

Maldives is a double chain of 26 atolls, or groups of islands, in the Indian Ocean. Many are small and deserted. Gameera found an uninhabited island. She approached the man who held the lease form the government, and as he hadn't done anything with the land, convinced him to let her family farm there.

From earlier trips to the capital of Male', a four-and-a-half-hour journey by boat from Thoddoo, Gameera had seen all sorts of fruits and vegetables at the market. In Thoddoo, most farmers had tiny plots of land and could only grow watermelons. Gameera bought a variety of seeds from Male' to plant on her new farm. With Ali Waheed, she began working the land, growing chilies, cucumbers and variety of gourds.

Her neighbours on Thoddoo did not approve. They told her farming was not appropriate work for a woman; that her skin would turn dark. But Gameera was determined to farm. After harvesting her crops, Ali Waheed took them by boat approaching the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture and explaining her plight. He agreed to allow her to farm on an unleased uninhabited island, and is working to see that she gets a lease for the land.

With their profits they expanded. Gameera scouted for other uninhabited islands. After a few years, she and her growing family and staff were farming on seven of them, subleasing all of them from men who had left them undeveloped.

Each time, they started with nothing: building basic infrastructure for shelter and clean water, and risking personal safety and security. And each time, the men who held the leases for these islands from the government eventually saw how well Gameera's business was doing, and demanded at least half of her profits.

Gameera refused. She lost her farms, but not her determination. Instead, she went right to the top, to contribute to the development of Maldives through agriculture and other fields." Gameera Adam is the perfect example of the strong contributions women can make to their countries and societies.

The minister recognized a pioneer when he saw one: Gameera Adam is the first, and still the only woman to farm on uninhabited islands. But she may not be the last. These days she also uses her farm to demonstrate to the younger generation that farming can be a good business and provide for a good life. And that includes women.

For the future, Gameera would like her government to keep pressing the world community on climate change, as she sees soil erosion increasing on the islands. And, Gameera says: "I want them to do more to enable women to nearby resorts and sold them. Gameera took what was left to the market in Male.

Tafi Keus

A model forester from Papua New Guinea

Raised in the village of Gogol Naru in Madan Province, Papua New Guinea, well known for its tree farms, Tafi Keus taught primary school for 29 years in some 17 different primary schools while also working as an agroforester. Keus grows Accacia mangium trees on about 210 hectares of his 500-hectare farm. He also grows garden foods like taro, bananas and tapioca. Accacia mangium plays a major role in providing commercial tree products while reducing pressure on natural forest ecosystems. But, for local agro-foresters in Papua New Guinea, Accacia mangium provides much needed income to help with school fees and other necessities of life.

Keus came by tree farming naturally. His father was an agroforester, planting the first Accacia mangium trees in the Gogol Naru project in the early 1980s. Over the years Keus grew concerned that the country's native hardwood trees, like kwila and rosewood, were rapidly disappearing because of illegal logging and the need to provide firewood and charcoal for cooking. In a country where many tribes in the isolated mountainous interior had little contact with one another, let alone with the outside world, Keus decided he would have to begin saving the country's endangered trees on his own. Around 1995 he set aside land on his own farm to preserve threatened trees native to Papua New Guinea.

Because so many indigenous hardwood trees were already extinct, Accacia mangium forms the country's first line of defense against the growing effects of climate change. "We try to reduce the amount of trees we harvest each year by as much as 20 percent. But, at the same time, we continue to plant even more trees because they provide much needed nutrients for the soil and also help protect against erosion and landslides during the rainy season."

The idea, says Keus, is to have a well-balanced system of agroforestry that will sustain the project over time so it can benefit many future generations.

Today Keus is the Deputy Chairman of the Gogol Naru tree plantation project. He organizes the many groups of people involved in planting and harvesting trees on the 17 000-hectare project. He works

tirelessly to cement good relations among all the plantation's stakeholders and he also shares his passion for conservation with these groups while working to improve forestry incomes and the quality of life in rural Papua New Guinea where some 80 percent of the country's people live with few of the facilities of modern life in a largely non-monetized economy that is mostly based on subsistence agriculture.

"Working in agroforestry," says the soft-spoken Keus, "is very rewarding because it helps people develop their own rural areas and provides them with a better overall standard of living. It will always be rewarding because we replant more trees than we harvest to ensure a promising future for generations to come."

In spite of his generally positive outlook, Keos warns that a dark side is looming in agroforestry. "People would have more interest in planting trees and sustaining the plantation if timber companies would pay a better price for the wood. Maintaining the plantations and harvesting the trees is very difficult work and currently prices don't reflect that. So, many agroforesters are giving up and looking for better sources of income."

Keus is married with three grown daughters and an 18 year-old son, who is still completing his studies. Asked if he'd like his children to follow in his footsteps, he smiled and said: "Two of my daughters already help me with the forestry work. The third is a Catholic nun. As for my son, well, that's a decision for him to make on his own."

Papaise Mankatekit

A model rice farmer from Thailand

A humble rice farmer from central Thailand, Prapaise Mankatekit, never had much formal education. And yet, she gained knowledge. She never had great ambitions. And yet, she became a leader.

As a young girl in Uthai Thani province during the 1950s, Prapaisee attended primary school in her village of Nong Waen, a small farming community of about 200 people. However, she missed home so much that she quit school after the fourth grade. “I love my village,’’ she says. “When it’s time for the harvest, everyone helps each other. It’s tradition and our traditions are important to us.’’

Although she did not finish school, Prapaisee did love to learn. In fact, she married a teacher, her late husband Prayod. But a teacher’s salary is low, and so with a plot from her family Prapaisee and Prayod also farmed the land, growing rice, sugar cane and vegetables.

Life was still hard. When sugar prices fell, the family suffered. They tried their hands at Eucalyptus trees and – at the urging of a company, pig farming. They learned more about farm management, and applied those lessons to growing crops. But they were also required to buy chemicals and other inputs from the company, and that left them with little profit.

After reading books and talking to agricultural extension workers, they decided they would farm naturally, without using chemicals. That was a radical notion at the time. In those days, few in Thailand had heard the term ‘organic.’

Tragedy struck Prapaisee when her husband died in a farm accident in the late 1990s. Around the same time, Thailand’s economy crashed. But Prapaisee persevered. She was elected to her village committee, first as a member and later on as the village headperson – a rare honor for a woman in Thailand.

As headperson, she accelerated her learning, completing courses offered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in pig farming, reforestation, biodiversity and organic farming. And she shared her knowledge with her neighbours. Prapaisee used the village budget to take farmers and teachers in her community to visit the Royal Demonstration Projects of His Majesty King Bhumibol at Chitralada Palace in Bangkok. “We gained so much knowledge there,’’ she says. “And it was knowledge we could use.’’

They learned how to build their own small rice mill, and working as a cooperative, she and her neighbours now mill their own organically grown rice and sell it directly to markets and other customers.

Prapaisee and her community have been recognized for their achievements. The government awarded her village its Outstanding Community Award in 2007, and gave Prapaisee its Gold Lion Award as an excellent leader for village development in 2008.

Now, as more Thais are becoming health conscious and buying organic products, Prapaisee’s countrymen are finally catching up with her. “Eating natural food has kept me healthy and strong,’’ she says. And if its farmers are healthy and strong, so is the country of Thailand.

Annexes

Media coverage

Annex 1


Lao News Agency
Lao
French
English
FAO honours a model farmer from Lao PDR


Bangkok Post
World Food Day
Food prices – from crisis to stability
High food prices are likely to remain with us in the coming years.
Demand from consumers in rapidly growing economies increases; population continues to grow, and growth for biofuels and animal feeds places additional demands on the food system.
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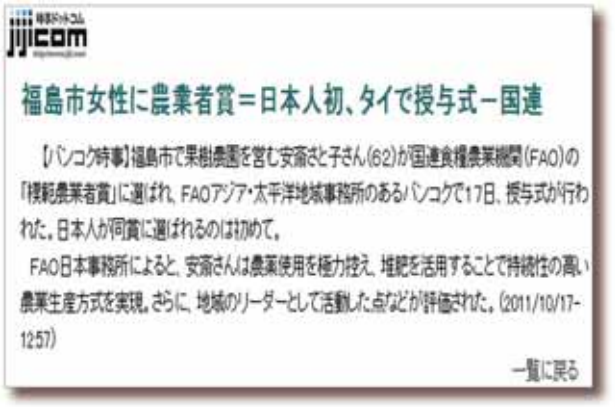
We celebrate 16 October as World Food Day, the day FAO was founded in 1945.
This year's World Food Day comes at a time when the world economy is slowing down, shattering the hopes of hundreds of millions of people living in poverty and hunger. To add to their miseries, food prices remain high and volatile.
Let us create solidarity among all citizens in society to help those suffering from hunger on the planet. Let us stimulate investments in agriculture to achieve food for all, today and for future generations.
Let us think. Act now. Act together to end hunger.
Hiroyuki Konuma
Assistant Director-General
and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
leading international efforts for a food-secure region


jijicom
福島市女性に農業者賞＝日本人初、タイで授与式－国連
【バンコク特事】福島市で果樹農園を営む安斎さと子さん(62)が国連食糧農業機関(FAO)の「模範農業者賞」に選ばれ、FAOアジア・太平洋地域事務所のあるバンコクで17日、授与式が行われた。日本人が同賞に選ばれるのは初めて。
FAO日本事務所によると、安斎さんは農薬使用を極力控え、堆肥を活用することで持続性の高い農業生産方式を実現。さらに、地域のリーダーとして活動した点などが評価された。(2011/10/17-12:57)
一覧に戻る

Sponichi Annex

野球 | サッカー | 格闘技 | スポーツ | 五輪 | 社会 | 芸能 | ギャンブル | ショッピング

政治 | 占い | 将棋 | アニマルランド | スカイツリー特集

FR：【12月末終了】法人顧問サOffice2010のキャンペーン

35回目の結婚記念日に朗報 国連食糧農業機関 福島の女性に模範農業者賞

アジア太平洋地域の農業発展に貢献した個人を国連食糧農業機関（FAO）が表彰する「模範農業者賞」に今年、福島市の安斎さと子さん（62）が選ばれ、バンコクのFAO地域事務所で17日、授賞式が行われた。

日本人の受賞は初めて。FAOは「東日本大震災の被災者を勇気づけたいという思いで授賞を決めた」（小沼広幸アジア太平洋地域代表）としており、自らも被災した安斎さんは授賞式前の16日、「全国の農家だけでなく、被災者全員を代表する気持ちで賞をいただく」と話した。

同市飯坂町で夫の忠作さん（62）、長男の忠幸さん（33）とともに、モモやリンゴ、サクランボなど果樹農業を営む安斎さんは化学肥料や除草剤を使わず、堆肥を利用した持続性の高い生産方式で高収量を実現。消費者が果樹を所有し農家に栽培を委託する「くだものの木オーナー制度」の導入など、消費者と生産者の直接対話を可能にする経営に取り組み、「地域の果樹栽培の先駆者」と評価された。

農業に従事する女性の地位向上にも尽力。1996年に忠作さんと「家族経営協定」を結んで農業労働、家事労働に対する給与の支払いを受け、安定的な収入を確保できるようにした。2009～10年度には全国女性農業経営者会議の会長を務めた。

東日本大震災では、自宅と野菜畑の壁が崩れる被害を受けながら、東京電力福島第1原発近くから避難してきた人たちに食事を提供したり、湯たんぽ代わりにと飯坂温泉の温泉水を入れたペットボトルを配るなど、近隣住民と協力して支援に当たった。

安斎さんにとって17日は35回目の結婚記念日でもある。「最高の記念日になりました」と笑顔を見せた。（共同）

［2011年10月17日 11:18］

CHINADAILY 国际频道

日本福岛县女果农获联合国粮农组织“杰出农民奖”

2011-10-18 11:14:00 来源：人民网-国际频道

[提要] 据日本广播协会（NHK）网站报道，联合国粮食及农业组织（FAO）将“杰出农民奖”授予日本福岛县一名女性，以表彰其对农业发展作出的贡献。” 颁奖仪式结束后，安斎靴子最会热泪地说：“领奖的瞬间，我脑海中浮现出故乡的灾民。

人民网10月18日电 据日本广播协会（NHK）网站报道，联合国粮食及农业组织（FAO）将“杰出农民奖”授予日本福岛县一名女性，以表彰其对农业发展作出的贡献。这是日本人首次获得该奖项。

FAO在每年的世界粮食日，向对农业发展作出贡献的个人授予杰出农民奖。今年，FAO将该奖项颁发给日本福岛市62岁的安斎靴子，这是日本人首次获得该奖项。颁奖典礼于17日在泰国首都曼谷召开。泰国公主诗琳通向安斎靴子颁发了奖状及奖牌。

安斎靴子与丈夫和长子一起经营果树园，栽培桃树和苹果树等。他们在栽培过程中尽量不使用化学肥料，而是采用堆肥来提高产量。同时，作为一名女性，她凭借一己之力创办了一家全国性的农业经营研究组织。这些都是她获得该奖项的原因。此外，FAO方面称，“选择安斎靴子的理由之一，是为了鼓舞东日本大地震受灾群众。”

颁奖仪式结束后，安斎靴子最会热泪地说：“领奖的瞬间，我脑海中浮现出故乡的灾民。在福岛县，有很多灾民是从事农业而不得。一瞬间，我好像听到了他们的心声。”（邢倩 编译）

来源：人民网-国际频道

Bangkok Post Opinion

15 October 2011

WORLD FOOD DAY

A major issue confronting today's world is the provision of enough food for nearly 7 billion people at present. More critical is the need to ensure that the 9 billion global population projected by 2050 will also have access to adequate food.

Rice feeds nearly half the world's population and 90% of its production takes place in Asia.

On the occasion of World Food Day tomorrow, we need to focus on whether it will be possible to provide enough food for the expected 9 billion people by 2050. It is possible, provided we look at the problem and its solutions with a new mindset and do some out-of-the-box thinking. Equally, it will require that the society and the governments take hard decisions.

Rapidly increasing demand in quantity and quality of food, utilisation of food grains for bio-fuels, rapid degeneration and shrinking of resources, and rapid urbanisation are threatening the well-being of citizens in Asia and beyond. The recent food crisis should trigger changes towards a more responsive policy environment in Asia, where majority of the farmers are resource poor.

Today, 85% of farmers are smallholders growing crops on less than two hectares of land. The World Bank has estimated that rise in food prices alone pushed 44 million extra people into hunger during the second half of 2010. If food prices escalate, there is no question world hunger will be exacerbated. If we consider increasing population trends, India will become the most populous country in the world by 2035.

Rise is critical for food security, and at present the average yield of paddy in the world is 4.2 tonnes per hectare. In China, the yield touches 6.5 tonnes, compared to India where it is 3.2 tonnes and 2.8 tonnes in Thailand. Iran, Indonesia and Burma all cross the 4-tonne mark. Even though China cultivates rice on 29.88 million hectares of land compared to India's 41.85 million hectares, its total production is significantly higher than that of India.

There are many reasons for this yield differential within Asian countries and apart from agro-climatic conditions, it includes production processes and management practices. Fertiliser is a key input and Chinese farmers use nearly double the quantity compared to their Indian counterparts. Water is another crucial input for the rice production, and irrigated rice is grown on only 45% of the total rice area sown. Increasingly significant is the shift in rainfall in-time and changing rainfall, coupled with climate change-mediated effects which can alter the time-tested rhythm with regard to rains and rice production in monsoonal Asia. This calls for more research, and sustained policy measures that strengthen the rain-fed, upland and other marginal rice production systems to support the food security goals.

Better water management has the potential to increase productivity. In India, the rice yield from irrigated paddies is nearly twice that of rain-fed lowland paddies and about four times that of rain-fed upland production.

Food security also requires a focus on innovation and sharing of experiences. Innovations are required to create location specific technologies which are in tune with principles of sustainable intensification. This needs sharing of knowledge, technology and management practices among the Asian countries so that low productivity areas can catapult into a higher productivity. This would embrace a large number of resource-poor farmers left behind by the Green Revolution. Institutions and organisations will have to play a critical role in this regard.

One example is a five-year project being run by the Asian Institute of Technology for development of adaptive measures to protect against climate change, and address the food security and livelihood issues of smallholding farmers in the Lower Mekong River Basin.

Another important issue is food delivery. How much of the food produced finally reaches the consumers is an issue that has been mostly neglected. In a country like India, more than half the fruits and vegetables fail to reach the consumers. Nearly 40% of the cereals produced are also not available for consumption. Increasing emphasis is required on reducing wastage, which necessitates significant improvements in supply chain management, development of proper infrastructure, and increased food processing. India processes only 3-4% of all fruits and vegetables produced, while significant progress has been made in developing countries like Brazil and Malaysia.

The third factor is the need for new varieties of improved crops through advances in plant breeding, apart from the dire need to create flood-resistant varieties of rice. Millions of tonnes of rice are lost each year in Asia due to floods. New varieties that would be flood tolerant are now under field trials, and they should be available within a decade. Similarly, much progress has been made in recent years to develop pest-resistant crops, drought-resistant crops, and crops that can grow in saline and poor quality water. All these breakthroughs will enhance food production.

Because of these and other factors and developments, one can be cautiously optimistic about the world's food future, provided all countries formulate and implement far sighted policies. Herein lies a major dilemma for the world. Would the countries be able to formulate good policies so that the 9 billion people have access to adequate and nutritious food by 2050?

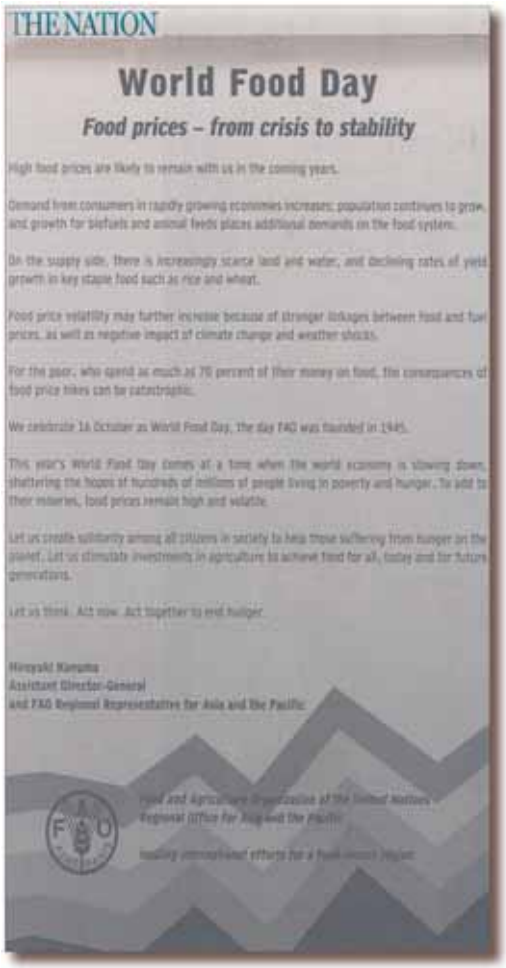
On this issue, the global record has not been good. Let us consider only one issue, namely that of biofuels. In recent years there has been a strong push to find new forms of clean energy so as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also to contribute to energy security. At first glance, biofuels appear to tick all the right boxes.

Thus, many countries are providing heavy subsidies for biofuel production, without seriously assessing both its beneficial and negative impact. For example, by 2020, Brazil, the EU, Japan and Indonesia hope to raise biofuel production by 10%. China hopes to increase it by 5%, while the United States has a target of 30% by 2030. Since energy prices are significantly higher than food prices, heavy subsidies for biofuel have led to many unwarranted results. Accordingly, in the US, ethanol accounted for only 8% of transport fuel, but consumed nearly 40% of its maize crop. A recent report by 10 international institutions, including the World Bank, FAO and OECD estimated that between 2000 and 2009, global ethanol production increased four-fold and biodiesel 10-fold. Biofuels now account for 20% of the global sugarcane production, 9% of oilseeds and coarse grains and 4% of sugar beet. If current trends continue, the annual price of coarse grains could increase by 13%, oilseeds by 7% and vegetable oils by 35%, between 2013 and 2017.

If the current national biofuel targets are to be met, nearly 10% of the global cereal production would be consumed. Alternately, if food crop availability is to be maintained, huge amounts of extra land would have to be cultivated with a concomitant increase in water requirements. Since our earth does not have this type of spare land and water, the appropriateness of biofuel policies needs to be revisited.

The world can provide for adequate food for 9 billion of people by 2050, but it will not be an easy task on account of vested interests, focus on short-term gains, and implementation of inappropriate policies. The policy congruence between food, energy, land use, water and environment is missing in all countries. Yet, each one of them affects the others and is, in turn, affected by the others. Unless governments can coordinate policies between the various sectors, it would be a very difficult task to ensure food sufficiency for all by the year 2050.

We are likely to have the necessary solutions and knowledge, but whether we can implement them in time so that world hunger can be eliminated is another issue. To quote William Shakespeare, "The fault, dear Brutus, lies not in our stars, but in ourselves..."



THE NATION

World Food Day

Food prices – from crisis to stability

High food prices are likely to remain with us in the coming years.

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Food price volatility may further increase because of stronger linkages between food and fuel prices, as well as negative impact of climate change and weather shocks.

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This year's World Food Day comes at a time when the world economy is slowing down, shattering the hopes of hundreds of millions of people living in poverty and hunger. To add to their miseries, food prices remain high and volatile.

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Let us think. Act now. Act together to end hunger.

Hiroyuki Konuma
Assistant Director-General
and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Leading international efforts for a hunger-free future

List of guests

Annex 2

The following is a list of selected guests who attended the regional observance of the 31st World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 17 October 2011.

Guest of Honour

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Guest speaker

Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Model farmers

Satoko Anzai, model horticulturist, Japan
Souksakhone Somphone, model aquaculture farmer, Lao PDR
Gameera Adam, model small island farmer, Maldives
Tafi Keus, model forester, Papua New Guinea
Papaise Mankatekit, model rice farmer, Thailand

Office of the Privy Councillors

H.E. Ampol Senanarong, Privy Councillor (for Royal Agricultural Project)

Embassies

Bangladesh	H.E. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Brazil	Eduardo Cançado Oliveira, Counsellor
Finland	Helena Ahola, Counsellor and Head of Development Cooperation
India	Prashant Agrawal, Counsellor (Political)
Iran	Mahammad Ali Zarie Zare, Counsellor (First)
Japan	Masatoshi Sato, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP
	Tetsuya Murakami, First Secretary
Korea, DPR	Kim Chol Su, Counsellor and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
Mongolia	H.E. Luvsandoo Dashpurev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Pakistan	H.E. Sohail Mahmood, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Royal Thai Government

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
H.E. Theera Wongsamut, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives
Supatra Thanaseniwat, Permanent Secretary
Niwat Sutemechaikul, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Secretary-General, National FAO Committee
Charnwut Jaitham, Office of the Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives
Jirawan Yamprayoon, Inspector-General
Wanwipa Suwannarak, Senior Food Technologist, Office of the Permanent Secretary
Sirilak Suwanrangsi, Director, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs and Assistant Secretary-General, National FAO Committee
Yupadee Hemarat, Chief, Protocol Sub-Division, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Kasem Prasutsaengchan, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Siriporn Thanarachataphum, Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Sugritta Pongsaparn, Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Teeraporn Wongchokprasit, Policy and Plan Analyst, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs
Nitchanan Apiwattanikul, Land Reform Technical Officer, Agricultural Land Reform Office
Surutwadee Pak-Uthai, Land Reform Technical Officer, Agricultural Land Reform Office

Jirakorn Kosaisewee, Director-General, Department of Agriculture
Magaret C. Yoovatna, Policy and Plan Analyst, Department of Agriculture
Chawee Lomlek, Policy and Plan Analyst, Department of Agriculture
Lawan Jeerapong, Director, Pest Management Control Division, Department of Agricultural Extension
Orasa Dissataporn, Expert, Vegetable Flower and Herbal Crop Promotion and Management, Department of Agricultural Extension
Sunisa Boonyapatipak, Foreign Relations Sub-Division, Planning Division, Department of Agricultural Extension
Somchai Charnnarongkul, Director-General, Department of Cooperatives Promotion
Preecha Wongsangulgeard, Chief of Foreign Relations Section, Department of Cooperatives Promotion
Wimol Jantrarotai, Director-General, Department of Fisheries
Jeera Sornnuwat, Senior Expert in Livestock Product Standards, Department of Livestock Development
Thanee Pak-Uthai, Senior Economist, Bureau of Livestock Development and Technology Transfer, Department of Livestock Development
Chairit Damrongkiat, Deputy Director-General, Department of Rice
Laddawan Kunnoot, Director, Bureau of Rice Product Development, Department of Rice
Amara Wiengweera, Senior Agriculture Scientist, Bureau of Rice Product Development, Department of Rice
Thavatchai Samrongwatana, Director-General, Land Development Department
Vinaroj Supsongsuk, Deputy Secretary General, National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Thawatchai Seelsaen, Assistant to Deputy Secretary General, National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Tatsanee Muangkaew, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, Office of Agricultural Economics
Korntip Seneewong Na Ayudhaya, Adviser, Office of Agricultural Economics
Naruemon Sa-Nguanwong, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Wisuth Wisuthikul, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Universities and research institutions

Kraisid Tontisirin, Senior Adviser, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University
Sakarindr Bhumiratana, President, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
Vasina Chandrasiri, Dean, School of Human Ecology, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
Rosarin Smitabhindu, The Royal Chitralada Projects
Somsakdi Tabtimthong, Director, International Affairs Division, Kasetsart University
Araya Bijaphala, International Affairs Officer, Kasetsart University
Rujira Pongjetsupan, International Affairs Officer, Kasetsart University
Visith Chavasit, Director, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University
Suparp Artjariyasripong, Deputy Governor, Research and Development for Bio-Industries Group, Thailand Institute of Scientific & Technological Research

Other ministries, organizations, non-governmental organizations and associations

Ambhorn Meesook, President, Foundation for Life-long Education
Tint Lwin Thaung, Executive Director, RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Malee Suwana-adth, Secretary-General, SVITA Foundation
Dhana Yantrakovit, Secretary, Department of Local Administration, Ministry of Interior
Sumet Sirilak, Director of Foreign Forestry Division, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Dhana Yingcharoen, Director of Planning Division, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Jongkolnee Vithayarungruangsri, Director, Food Safety Operation Center, Ministry of Public Health
Punpong Lekhakula, Food Technologist, Food Safety Operation Center, Ministry of Public Health
Nonthinee Petpaisit, Head of Inspectors General, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
Akapong Srisubat, Chief, Foreign Affairs Coordination Group, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

Sudarat On-la-iad, Foreign Affairs Coordination Group, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
Pote Chumsri, Secretary General, Farmers' Federation Association for Development Thailand
Monthip Sriratana, Vice President, The National Council of Women of Thailand
Ladawan Kumpa, Deputy Secretary-General, National Economic and Social Development Board
Chalermkwun Chiemprachanarakorn, Director, Human Resource Development Group, National Statistical Office
W.I. Khan, Programme Adviser, NEDAC
Busba Vrakornvorawut, Committee on Human Rights, Rights and Liberties and Consumer Protection, The Senate of Thailand

UN and affiliated agencies

ADB	Sanath Ranawana, Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist
ILO/SRO	Jiyuan Wang, Director, Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR
IUCN	Raquibul Amin, South Asia Programme Coordinator
UNAIDS/RST	Steven J. Kraus, Regional Director
UNFPA	Nobuko Horibe, Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific
UNIDO	Chin-Pen Chua, Representative and Director of Regional Office in Thailand
UNOHCHR	Heike Alefsen, Human Rights Officer
UNV	Maria Adelaida Alberto, Programme Officer
WFP	Kenro Oshidari, Regional Director

Officers accompanying the model farmers

Sumet Klaysuban
Reiko Kiyofuji, Japan
Thipphasone Somphone, Lao PDR
Aishath Lahath, Maldives
Pedro Rodrigues, Papua New Guinea
Nuanprang Pongsarikan, Thailand
Nutchanat Chompukat, Thailand

Former FAO staff

Narong Chomchalow
P.A. Hicks
Apinya Petcharat
Truchai Sodsoon
Don Triumphavong
Praphas Weerapat

Organizing secretariat

Annex 3

Steering committee

Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative (Chairperson)
Man Ho So, Deputy Regional Representative
Adnan Quereshi, Senior Administrative Officer
Sumiter Broca, Policy Officer
Tarina Ayazi, Meetings and Publications Officer
Diderik de Vleeschauwer, Information Officer (Secretary)

Organizing committees

Invitations, reception and protocol

Man Ho So (Chairperson)
Diderik de Vleeschauwer
Supajit Tienpati
Alisa Watcharasetkul (Master of Ceremony)
Malcolm Hazelman (Citations of model farmers)

Kanjerat Boonyamanop
Monpilai Youyen
Panida Jongkol
Kallaya Meechantra
Ornusa Petchkul
Yupaporn Simuang-ngam
Thapanee Tayanuwattana
Suvinita Malakul Na Ayudhaya
Atchareeya Pongput
Chananut Auisui
Sawadipat Na Pattalung

Bongkoch Prasannakarn
Ratchadaporn Sommaneewan
Cheeranat Pongpanarat
Apirada Sirigaya
Sansiri Visarutwongse
Aruneeprapa Peansanong

Jintana Anunacha
Duangporn Sritulanondh
Sunee Hormjunya
Navaporn Liangchevasuntorn
Chuturat Damrongsrisakul
Jaruwan Singhaphanthu

Liaison with model farmers

Diderik de Vleeschauwer (Chairperson)
Yoshimi Onishi – Japan
Narawat Chalermpao – Lao PDR
Nomindelger Bayasgalanbat – Maldives
Beau Damen – Papua New Guinea
Niran Nirawoot – Thailand

Liaison with Thai government

Man Ho So (Chairperson)
Tarina Ayazi
Panida Jongkol
Somchai Udomsrirungruang
Surawishaya Paralokanon

Logistics and catering

Adnan Quereshi (Chairperson)
Kevin McKeen
Cristina Sriratana
Chainarong Palaprasert
Suthep Charoenbutr
Pensri Yujang
Prasert Huatsawat
Sri Limpichati, consultant

Media, publications and photographs

Diderik de Vleeschauwer (Chairperson)
Kanokporn Chansomritkul
Pornsiri Kosiri-aksorn (consultant)
Robert Horn (journalist consultant)
Archawat Petcharat (photographer)
Titipong Paewattanalert (photographer)

Publications distributed

Annex 4

- 2011 WFD information note
- 2011 WFD issues paper
- 2011 WFD poster
- Address by the guest of honour
- Message of the FAO Director-General
- Assistant Director-General's statement
- RAP publication *Selected indicators of food and agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific region, 2009-2010*
- RAP publication catalogue 2008-2009 (with CD-ROM 1990-2010 inside)

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