



FAO UGANDA Information Bulletin

July - September 2010

Volume 3 Issue 6



**WORLD
FOOD DAY**
16th October 2010

**UNITED AGAINST
HUNGER**

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Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this issue of the FAO Uganda Information Bulletin.

This issue comes at a time when we are preparing to celebrate World Food Day, which falls on October, 16 every year. This year's theme is United against Hunger; chosen to recognize efforts made by all actors in the fight against hunger. In this issue, you will read about the theme and why it is important for us to be united in the fight against hunger.

For the first time since 1969, the highest number of hungry people in the world was recorded in 2009. The FAO Director General, Dr. Jacques Diouf referred to it as a "tragic achievement in these modern days". As a result, he launched an on-line campaign; arguing people to sign a petition against hunger. In this issue, you will read about the petition and the progress that we have made in Uganda.

You will also read about several FAO funded projects in Uganda and news articles about events that have happened between June and October 2010.

Your comments and views are always welcome at:

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FAO Director General visits Uganda

Hon. Hope Mwesigye recognized with World Food Day Award



FAO/2010/R. NANDELENGA

FAO Director General Dr. Jacques Diouf who was in Uganda to attend the AU Summit in July presents a World Food Day medal to Hon. Hope Mwesigye, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in recognition of her efforts in the eradication of hunger in Uganda.

Other recipients of the World Food Day award in Uganda were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Sam Kutesa and the Minister for Water and Environment, Hon. Maria Mutagambwa.



FAO/2010/R. NANDELENGA

The Assistant FAO Director General - Ms. Semedo MariaHelena (centre in green and white) poses for a picture with some FAO staff members at the office.

Ugandans urged to petition against hunger



FAO/2010/R. NANDELENGA

The FAO Representative in Uganda - Percy Misika (Centre) joins Journalists to blow whistles during the launch of an accelerated two weeks campaign to petition against hunger in Uganda on 30th September 2010. During the briefing at Mosa Courts Apartments, Mr. Misika said 3,000 signatures had been collected from Uganda so far. "We need to collect 2,000 more signatures in order to beat our target of 5,000", he said. Mr. Misika called upon the media to be sign the petition and encourage their colleagues, friends and family to do the same.

FAO is calling upon people in Ugandan to sign the anti-hunger campaign at www.1billionhungry.org or at FAO offices countrywide.

The campaign is targeting at least one million signatures on a petition urging national and international leaders to move hunger to the top of the political agenda. The FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said it was everyone's "duty" to help eradicate hunger. "One child is dying every six seconds and 5 million children every year," he said. "I am appalled that human beings continue to suffer like this. I urge you to express this indignation. We must have the boldness to hope, and we have the duty to help."

In 2009, the critical threshold of one billion hungry people in the world was reached in part due to soaring food prices and the financial crisis, a "tragic achievement in these modern days". We are way off course to meet the goals set by the UN to cut the number of hungry to 420 million by 2015.

According to FAO statistics, 6.1 million Ugandans are malnourished and 40 percent of children deaths below the age of five are due to malnutrition.

The "1billionhungry project" reaches out to people through different media including face book and twitter to invite them to sign the anti-hunger petition.

It is being supported by FAO's goodwill ambassadors in-

cluding WFP, IFAD, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and a growing list of NGOs.

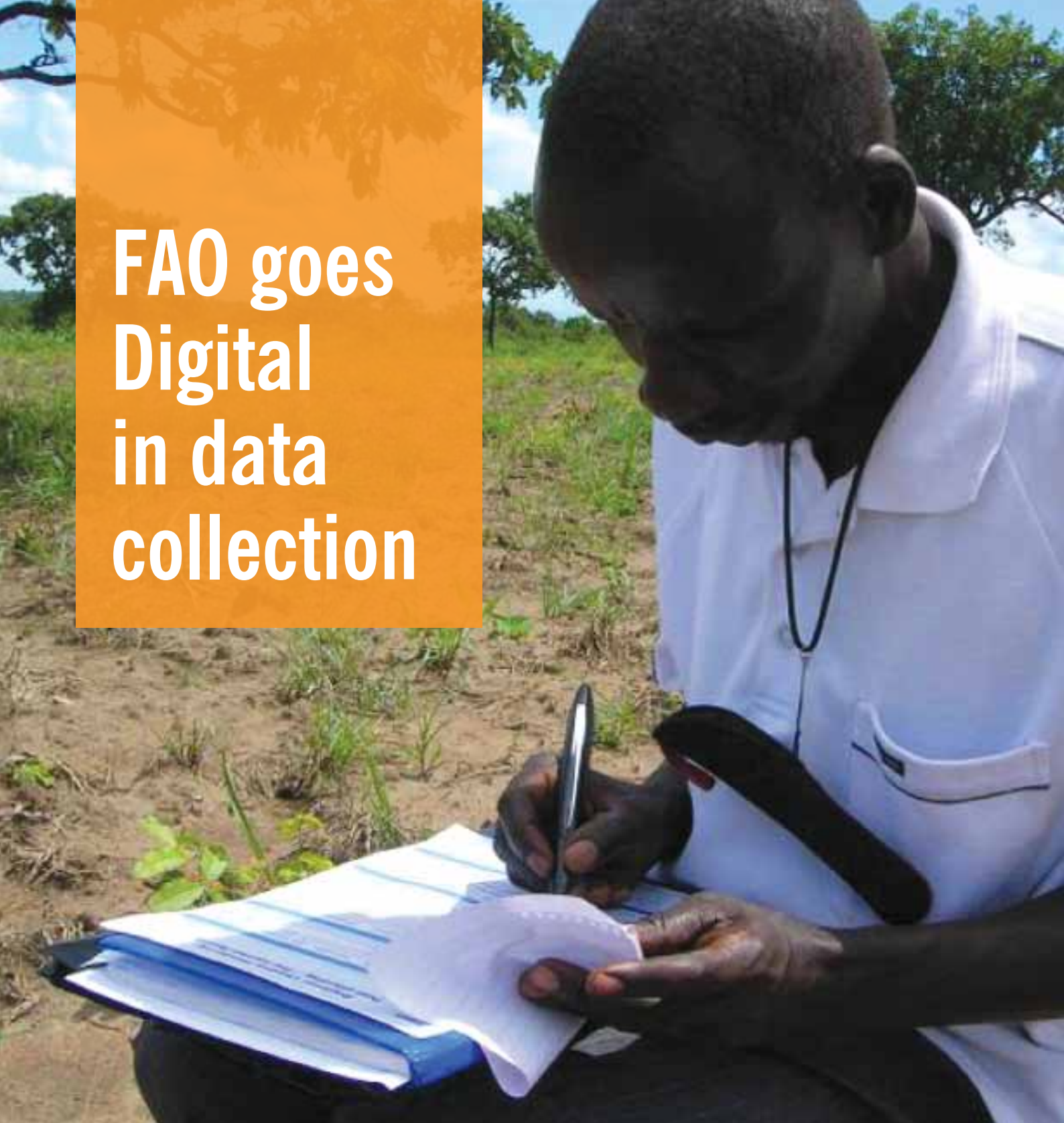
The project is aiming at one million signatures that will be presented to governments of both the developed and developing countries at a ceremony that will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York in autumn.

The petition says "we who support this petition find it unacceptable that close to one billion people are chronically hungry. Through the United Nations, we call upon governments to make the elimination of hunger their top priority until that goal is reached".

In the developed countries, we want to see governments spending on fighting hunger rise higher on the political agenda and for them to fully commit to the promise of \$20 billion for agriculture and food security made at the G8 meeting last year.

In the developing countries, we want investment in agriculture to be priority in national planning and spending. Because 75 percent of the poor in developing countries live in rural areas, strengthening the agricultural sector can not only improve access to nutritious food, it does more – at least twice as much – to reduce rural poverty than investment in any other sector. Both developed and developing countries have to invest more in agriculture in poor countries to produce food and create job opportunities.

FAO goes Digital in data collection



Data collection, timely submission and processing can be a nightmare especially when sites of collection and use are separate and far apart. The conventional data collection and management is manifested by late submission, high rate of data loss due to mishandling, high data storage problems, lack of supporting infrastructure in place for example power supply for data entry in the field, limited capacity of personnel in data entry and lack of integrity. To overcome some of these shortcomings FAO has em-

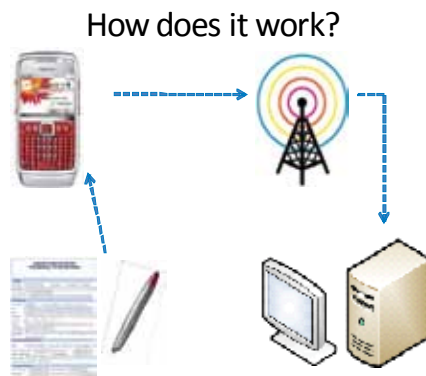
braced digital pen technology in its data collection. The technology is currently being used to collect data on post planting in the cassava multiplication project in northern Uganda in the districts of Kitgum, Pader, Lwamor and Agago.

Digital Pen and Paper is an easy to implement handheld technology which simplifies electronic data capture and automated processing. It therefore allows rapid collection, transmission and processing of data. It's convenient

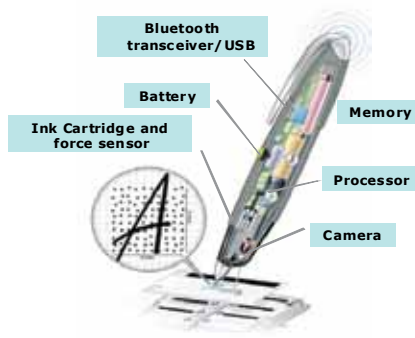


FAO/2010/B. PILOYA

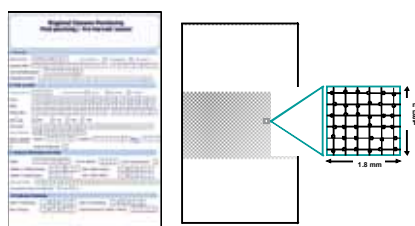
and ideal for use on site, where conditions are not always suitable for carrying bulky and fragile laptops. Data captured using the digital pen and paper is secure and fully traceable to that single page, making it ideal for sensitive data. Once a form has been completed you can also leave the hard copy with the client. Digital pens (sometimes known as



Digital Pen



Printed Form



electronic pens) look and work just like an ordinary pen but capture handwriting and drawings from paper forms.

Each digital pen contains an infrared camera, processor, memory, datalink, ink cartridge and battery. It works together with normal paper overprinted with a dot pattern.

The camera is started when a pen contacts paper and as the digital pen moves across the page it tracks and records the unique dot pattern, providing electronic data capture. At any given moment the pen knows precisely where it is on the page and what page it is on. They have a battery life like a mobile phone and are rechargeable.

The pen can provide handheld data capture for up to 1.3 mb or approx 40 A4 pages. The electronic data capture system provides the user with an exact image of the handwriting and data form. It can also translate the handwriting to text which can then be used in the back office.

Completed forms are uploaded by pairing the digital pen to a compatible mobile phone via Bluetooth using unique ID number. Captured form images are uploaded to a central server for processing via mobile phone when it comes in contact with network it's subscribed to. In Uganda FAO is using MTN.

Data in the cell phone can stay upto six days without loss in case of no network coverage.

Messages are sent to the user via their mobile to prompt the success or failure of form submission. The output from each completed form includes an image of the written form, a filled form, which includes any handwriting converted to text. Only cell phones with Operating System (Symbiant, Window Mobile, and Blackberry) are suitable for this technology. They are also fitted with GPS and Camera. Once data is in the server it can be viewed or edited by login to xcallibre site but with password and user name.

With today's increased use of computers and mobile phones, the digital pen technology is likely to rise nationally and globally. The technology doesn't present major challenges. The right quality of data sheets and a well charged system is all that is needed for efficient use.

World Food Day / Tele Food 2010

Information Note



FAO/2009/W. ASTRADA

On 16 October 2010, World Food Day enters its 30th year. This auspicious occasion also marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The theme of this year's observance is United against hunger, chosen to recognize the efforts made in the fight against world hunger at national, regional and international levels.

Uniting against hunger becomes real when state and civil society organizations and the private sector work in partnership at all levels to defeat hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition. In this manner collaboration among international organizations particularly the Rome-based United Nations agencies [Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP)] plays a key strategic role in directing global efforts to reach Millennium Development Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger – which calls for halving the hungry people in the world by 2015.

The UN system and other players unite in FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The newly reformed Committee includes member countries but also UN agencies such as IFAD, WFP and the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, as well as other organizations working in the area of food security and nutrition. The Committee includes civil society, NGOs and representatives of all relevant people affected by food insecurity, as well as international agricultural research institutions, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks, the World Trade Organization and will be open to the private sector and philanthropic foundations.



FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA

The Committee is now advised by a high-level panel of experts on food security and nutrition so it can make rapid and informed decisions. In some 30 countries, national alliances composed of civil society organizations (CSOs) and government agencies are actively collaborating together to promote advocacy and awareness-raising activities and their involvement was further strengthened following the recent international consultation held at FAO headquarters in June 2010.

The World Summit on Food Security, or the “hunger summit”, held in November 2009, adopted a declaration renewing the commitment made at the 1996 World Food Summit to eradicate hunger sustainably from the face of the earth. The Declaration also called for an increase in domestic and international funding for agriculture, new investments in the rural sector, improved governance of global food issues in partnership with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector, and more action to face the threat climate change poses to food security.

In 2009, the critical threshold of one billion hungry people in the world was reached in part due to soaring food prices and the financial crisis, a “tragic achievement in these modern days”, according to FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. On the eve of the hunger summit, Dr Diouf launched an online petition to reflect the moral outrage of the situation. The “1 billion hungry project” reaches out to people through online social media to invite them to sign the anti-hunger petition at www.1billionhungry.org.

UNITED AGAINST HUNGER



An agricultural revolution to feed the future

Food production will have to increase by 70 percent to feed a population of nine billion people by 2050. With land scarcity, farmers will be obliged to get greater yields out of the land already under cultivation rather than expanding their farms. But intensified food production has traditionally meant increased dependence on pesticides and fertilizers and overuse of water, which can degrade soils and water resources. Why do we combine the theme United against hunger with the need to launch a new green revolution? Because we want to emphasize that the task of increasing food production by such a huge amount, and the related goal that everyone must have access to that food, is not a job for a single actor. But through partnerships with governments, research institutes and universities, farmers' associations and pressure groups, the UN system, civil society, and the private sector working together it can be done. When those millions of tonnes of additional food are eventually produced, will everyone get their share?

Partnerships among actors in different sectors – civil society, schools, entertainment and sport, non-governmental organizations – can work together to amplify the message that society has to take special care that no one goes hungry. FAO for example has united with the popular world of professional sport. Together with the players and management of the European Professional Football Leagues and other football leagues, and their fans, the Organization is raising the profile of the hunger problem through events and sophisticated communication campaigns

Producing all that extra food

Who is going to produce all that extra food? Smallholder farmers and their families represent some 2.5 billion people, more than one-third of the global population, and it is their contribution to increased food

production that we want to highlight in this paper. We can boost their future contribution to food production and by so doing also help them work their way out of poverty and malnutrition. It can be done without destroying the environment on which farming depends. Crop production can be increased in a sustainable way through making use of the right kind of policies and the right kind of technologies and approaches that complement what nature does. Put another way, sustainably increasing crop production is about the judicious use of relatively safer external inputs at the right time in the growing cycle and in the right amount. Practices based on such principles can be described as an “ecosystem approach”, which builds on various “ecosystem services” that are available in nature. Currently, agricultural inputs are in most instances not utilized at their maximum efficiency; optimizing the utilization of these inputs will in turn allow for the full potential of other inputs as mentioned below to be expressed.

The quantities of food needed to feed nine billion people will not be grown without mineral fertilizers. But we should use them wisely in order to reduce production costs and environmental problems. Integrated pest management or IPM combines pest resistant varieties, biological pest control, cultural practices and judicious use of pesticides to increase production, lower costs and reduce water and soil contamination. Optimizing the use of pesticides is obviously good for the environment and human health but it also saves the farmer money - money that can be reinvested in the farm or spent on nutritious food for the family. Conservation agriculture is another example of an ecosystem approach that builds on a range of ecosystem services. Increased organic matter in the soil improves soil's capacity to retain water, thus reducing or eliminating the need for irrigation.

Food production has to expand on

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On this World Food Day 2010, when there have never been so many hungry people in the world, let us reflect on the future

a sufficient scale to meet future demand. Nation states through governments enable laws, rules, regulations, and programmes. At various levels, the state has the authority to encourage environmentally responsible farming. It can pass laws that, for example, stabilize land tenure, so that farmers feel secure on their land and adopt farming methods to produce the needed food with a long term perspective, including the protection of natural resources. It can also check the quality of products used, and ensure they are correctly labelled, marketed and applied to minimize risks. Governments must promote the ecosystem approach through public policy and legislation.

States must also act in concert to support sustainable food production and food security. For example, in 2009 in L'Aquila, Italy, the G8 countries together with other countries and organizations adopted fundamental principles to enhance food security: use a comprehensive approach; invest in country-led plans; strengthen strategic coordination; leverage benefits of multilateral institutions; and deliver on sustained

and accountable commitments.

In the G8 meeting of 2010, held in Muskoka, Canada, countries noted the relationship between cross-border investment and development and the fact that official development assistance alone is not sufficient to achieve global food security. They stressed the importance of enhancing international investment in developing countries in a responsible and sustainable way.

On this World Food Day 2010, when there have never been so many hungry people in the world, let us reflect on the future. With willpower, courage and persistence - and many players working together and helping each other - more food can be produced, more sustainably, and get into the mouths of those who need it most.



FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA

About World Food Day

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945.

The objectives of World Food Day are to:

- Encourage attention to agricultural food production and to stimulate national, bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental efforts to this end;
- Encourage economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;
- Encourage the participation of rural people, particularly women and the least privileged categories, in decisions and activities influencing their living conditions;
- Heighten public awareness of the problem of hunger in the world;
- Promote the transfer of technologies to the developing world; and
- Strengthen international and national solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty and draw attention to achievements in food and agricultural development.

World Food Day 2010 national celebrations in Uganda

Hosted by the Zonal Agricultural Research Institute (ZARDI) in Mukono district.

925 million in CHRONIC HUNGER worldwide

Key findings

- Two thirds of the world's undernourished live in just seven countries - Bangladesh, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia and Pakistan.
- The region with the most undernourished people continues to be Asia and the Pacific with 578 million.
- The proportion of undernourished people remains highest in sub-Saharan Africa at 30 percent in 2010, or 239 million.
- Progress varies widely at country level. As of 2005-2007 (the most recent period for which complete data was available), the Congo, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria had already achieved MDG 1 in sub-Saharan Africa, and Ethiopia and others are close to achieving it. However, the proportion of undernourished rose to 69 percent in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- In Asia, Armenia, Myanmar and Viet Nam had already achieved MDG 1 and China is close to doing so.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, Guyana, Jamaica and Nicaragua had already achieved MDG1 while Brazil is coming close.

According to FAO and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the number of hungry people in the world remains unacceptably high despite expected recent gains that have pushed the figure below 1 billion.

The new estimate of the number of people who will suffer chronic hunger this year is 925 million - 98 million down from 1.023 billion in 2009. "But with a child dying every six seconds because of undernourishment related problems, hunger remains the world's largest tragedy and scandal," said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. "This is absolutely unacceptable."

The continuing high global hunger level "makes it extremely difficult to achieve not only the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) but also the rest of the MDGs," Diouf warned.

"The achievement of the international hunger reduction target is at serious risk," he added, further noting that recent increases in food prices, if they persist, could hamper efforts to further reduce the numbers of the world's hungry.

"Vigorous and urgent action by nations and the world has been effective in helping to halt galloping hunger numbers," said WFP Executive Director, Josette Sheeran. "But this is no time to relax. We must keep hunger on the run to ensure stability and to protect lives and dignity."

The new hunger figure is contained in the annual flagship report, "The State of Food Insecurity in the World" (SOFI) to be jointly published by FAO and WFP in October. The figure was released in advance of the September 20-22 Summit meeting in New York called to speed progress towards achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals

The 2010 lower global hunger number resulted largely from renewed economic growth expected this year - particularly in developing countries - and the drop in food prices since mid-2008. The recent increase in food prices, if it continues, will create obstacles in the further reduction of hunger.

(MDGs), the first of which is to end poverty and hunger.

Yukiko Omura, Vice President of IFAD, said, "the world's hungry are not just numbers. They are people - poor women and men struggling to bring up their children and give them a better life; and they are youth trying to build a future for themselves. It is ironic that the majority of them actually live in rural areas of developing countries. Indeed, over 70 percent of the world's extremely poor - those people who live on less than US\$ one a day - live in rural areas. That's a billion people, and four out of five of them are farmers to some extent or the other."

The 2010 lower global hunger number resulted largely from renewed economic growth expected this year - particularly in developing countries - and the drop in food prices since mid-2008. The recent increase in food prices, if it continues, will create obstacles in the further reduction of hunger.

Of the eight Millennium Development Goals solemnly agreed by the UN in 2000, MDG 1 pledged to halve the proportion of hungry people from 20 to 10 percent by 2015. With five years to go, that proportion currently stands at 16 percent, however.

Previously, in 1996, a World Food Summit had for the first time set a quantitative target of halving the number of hungry people from roughly 800 million in 1990-92 to about 400 million by 2015. Achieving that goal would mean cutting the number of hungry by over 500 million in the next five years.

Globally, the 2010 hunger figure marked a decline of 9.6 percent from the 2009 level. This reduction was mostly concentrated in Asia, where 80 million fewer people were estimated to be going hungry this year. In sub-Saharan Africa the drop was much smaller - about 12 million - and one out of three people there would continue to be undernourished.

2010 Progress on Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG1) – Hunger Target

* Target 2 of the first Millennium Development Goal seeks to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. The calculation of progress compares the latest available country-level information on the prevalence of undernourishment (2005-07) with the rates that existed in 1990-92 (the base year for the hunger target). The projection for 2015 assumes that the trends between both periods continue in the future. Source: FAOSTAT (www.fao.org/hunger)

Already met MDG1

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Chile
Congo, Rep
Cuba
Gabon
Georgia
Ghana
Guyana
Jamaica
Kuwait
Mali
Morocco
Myanmar
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Uruguay
Viet Nam

On track toward achieving MDG1*

Angola
Benin
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Chad
China
Colombia
Ecuador
Ethiopia
Honduras
Kyrgyzstan
Malawi
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique

Namibia
Niger
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Togo

Insufficient progress*

Bangladesh
Bolivia
Central African Republic
Côte d'Ivoire
Dominican Rep
El Salvador
Eritrea
Guinea

Haiti
Indonesia
Kenya
Laos
Lesotho
Maldives
Mongolia
Nepal
Panama
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Suriname
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

No progress or deterioration

Botswana

Burundi
Congo, Dem. Rep
Gambia
Guatemala
India
Korea, DPR
Liberia
Madagascar
Pakistan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Trinidad & Tobago
Uganda
Uzbekistan
Yemen
Zambia

Not relevant

[hunger below

5% in 1990]
Algeria
Argentina
Costa Rica
Egypt
Iran
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Korea, Rep
Lebanon
Libya
Malaysia
Mexico
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
Syria
Tunisia
Turkey
United Arab Emirates



WFP and FAO in partnership to increase access to markets for smallholder farmers N. Uganda

FAO and the WFP have signed a 15-month partnership agreement to support smallholders from Northern Uganda in their access to markets. WFP is currently rolling out a new intervention called Purchase for Progress (P4P) throughout Uganda, but with a bigger focus on Northern Uganda and Karamoja.

In this initiative, WFP aims at sourcing a significant part of the principal food crops including maize and beans from smallholder farmers. This initiative exists in several countries worldwide, including DR Congo, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Within the next four years, WFP anticipates to support 48,000 Ugandan smallholders and small-scale traders to increase their income and strengthen their capacity in engage in commercial agriculture.

The natural synergy between this new programme and the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) implemented by FAO in northern Uganda since the end of insurgency has fostered cooperation between the two sisters-organizations to provide a range of services to lift farmers out of poverty.

The new project builds upon the existing Farmer FFS groups which are being implemented by FAO Uganda though over 30 non-governmental organizations in northern Uganda. The P4P will be implemented in the Acholi and Lango sub-regions, where more than 1000 FFS have been established benefiting 32,000 households.

The FFS is a group of about 30 farmers who attend a season-long participatory training based on the concept of experiential learning under the guidance of a facilitator. During FFS training, farmers practice basic agronomy practices and enhance their capacity to make logical decision and take action to solve problems in their field. Part of the training also aims to raise farmers' awareness on the commercial approach of farming called "Farming as a business". At the end of the season-long training, FFS groups are encouraged to join FFS networks at the sub-county level. Networks are an informal federation of a number of FFS with a common interest. They operate like business units to help farmers in Post-Harvest Handling (PHH) and marketing to link up to markets and to share information such as market prices. By their size, networks gain bargaining power and can help FFS

groups make economies of scale in bulk purchase of farm inputs and marketing of agricultural produce.

To tailor the intervention to the specific needs of households who have recently resettled after 10 to 15 years of displacement, FAO supports the FFS with productive assets like oxen and ox-ploughs and with entrepreneurial grants providing an access to finance to kick-start agricultural production and agro-processing equipment like grinding mills. This intervention has significantly contributed to boosting production and enhancing self-reliance.

However, in spite of their willingness to develop commercial activities, FFS groups and FFS networks still find it difficult to access markets. Low quality of farm output, loss during post-harvest management as well as lack of information on the demand side and market price are the main challenges constraining farmers' access to market at a fair price.

In collaboration with WFP within the framework of the P4P, FAO will therefore continue to build the capacities of 30 FFS networks in Lango and Acholi to address produce quality, storage and market information challenges in order to bridge the gap between the farmers and the traders.

In this respect, project activities will include a wide range of training in basic organizational skills (like leadership, record keeping, roles and responsibilities), but also pos-harvest handling and entrepreneurship and marketing. The project also aims to enhance the storage capacity in the targeted locations. Last but not least FFS networks will also be exposed to market intelligence and market information services, including through SMS-based information services. FAO will look at the post-harvest management and marketing through the value-chain approach and work with partners to address the bottlenecks in the system.

As a result, smallholder farmers will be better equipped and informed to take advantage of market opportunities provided by private traders and WFP. Indeed, WFP intends to procure thousands of metric tons of white maize and beans from smallholders and middle-scale traders in the next four years. This represents a tremendous opportunity for farmers to increase volumes and quality of their produce and sustainably increase their income.

...WFP intends to procure thousands of metric tons of white maize and beans from smallholders and middle-scale traders in the next four years.

Government of Uganda and FAO sign USD 97,100,000 joint framework

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and FAO have signed a joint framework worth USD 97,100,000 for strategic cooperation from 2010 to 2014.

The Country Support Strategic Framework (CSSF) sets forth priority areas and activities for FAO's assistance in support of the attainment of the Government of Uganda's national development policy objectives in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, natural resources and rural development related objectives including food and nutrition security, gender and HIV/ AIDS. It is framed within the national medium-term development priorities articulated in the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Agriculture sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP).

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Entebbe, the FAO Representative in Uganda, Mr. Percy Misika said the

CSSF defines in a measurable way, including financial requirements, the kind of assistance the government, civil society and general public in Uganda can expect from FAO during the plan period; thereby enhancing predictability and transparency of FAO's interventions in the country.

"The objective of taking this approach is to improve the coherence and effectiveness of FAO interventions under the umbrella of the United Nations System and to position FAO as a strategic partner for national agricultural and rural development", he said.

The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon. Hope R. Mwesigye thanked FAO for all its development support and pledged to support the implementation of projects that will be identified under the CSSF. "We have goodwill from our development partners including FAO. We are going to use this opportunity to move the agricultural sector forward, she said.

FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



Project to improve food and agriculture statistics launched



FAO/2010/R. NANDELENGA

On June 16, 2010, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) launched the CountrySTAT, a web-based information system that delivers improved access to better quality statistics on food and agriculture at national and sub-national levels.

CountrySTAT Uganda is part of FAO's initiative supported by \$5.6m grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to improve the quality, accessibility, relevance and reliability of food and agriculture statistics in 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The project was developed by the FAO and is being implemented by UBOS and the MAAIF together with key stakeholder institutions such as Uganda Coffee Development Authority, National Forestry Authority, Cotton Development Organization, Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics of Makerere University.

CountrySTAT Uganda is a new and valuable tool in the hands of policy-makers and analysts to combat hunger and poverty across the country whose key statistical areas of focus are production, consumption, prices and trade.

Speaking at the launch, the UBOS executive director, Male Mukasa, was optimistic that the availability and easy access to reliable agricultural data would serve as an important planning tool for it is an engine for Uganda's economy.

"This will serve as a tool as we seek to improve the coun-

try nutritional value as well as up-scaling the financial benefits from agriculture," he said.

Mr. Percy Misika, the FAO Representative in Uganda said the FAO statistics division continues to make considerable efforts in providing technical support to countries on statistical development methodologies, concepts, definitions and classifications used by its member states to ensure comparability and exchange between countries and between FAO and countries. "Joining this important CountrySTAT network will enable Uganda to make better use of existing data through increased use by analysts, policy-makers and other users", he said.

CountrySTAT will harmonize and integrate national and sub-national data and metadata on food and agriculture in the country and with other countries through a centralized and standardized database framework, data exchange platform, and set of analysis tools.

In so doing, it will facilitate planning and decision-making by policy-makers and analysts, particularly in the fight against hunger and poverty.

The grant to FAO for its CountrySTAT initiative is part of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's agricultural development initiative to provide small farmers in the developing world with tools and opportunities to boost their yields, increase their incomes for better livelihoods. The foundation is working to strengthen the entire agricultural value chain, from seeds and soil to farm management and market access.

FAO joins partners to mark June Dairy Month



Poultry Manuals Launched



FAO/2010/R. NANDELENGA

The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon. Hope R. Mwesigye has launched a set of poultry training manuals developed by FAO - Uganda

The manuals entitled: “Improved free range poultry production in Uganda, A trainers Manual” and “How to breed and grow healthy chicken; a guide for farmers” were developed in response to the Ministry’s request for FAO’s support in the development of training materials that could help improve the sector particularly; the free-range poultry sector.

Uganda currently has an estimated poultry population of about 37.4 million of which 80% are believed to be free-range poultry. Poultry keeping is an important source of

livelihood for most of the household. Its benefits cut across the various economic, social, religious, nutritional and environmental aspects.

Approximately 80% of the rural households rear local chicken. The Ministry has prioritized poultry as one of its strategic commodities to be promoted for poverty alleviation in the next five years under the just concluded Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP), 2010/11-2014/15.

The Minister, after receiving 16,000 copies of these manuals with others translated into Ateso, Luo, and Rukiga, thanked FAO for the continuous support to the sector and gave assurance to the FAO Representative in Uganda, Mr. Percy Misika that

the Manuals would be distributed widely to benefit the farming community.

Mr. Percy Misika also informed the minister that FAO has been running a programme that aims at ensuring Uganda’s preparedness for the eventuality of an Avian Influenza outbreak. He pointed out that, this is one of the strategies being pursued

by FAO to support the training of farmers, school children and extension staff in better poultry management practices as a means to control poultry diseases including Avian Influenza.

He also indicated that, FAO has supported the development of, and implementation of the Integrated National Action Plan (INAP) for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and the production of bio-security guidelines that will further help improve disease control in the sector.

FAO promised continuous support for the sector as the implementation of the DSIP starts in the next Financial Year

A joint UN programme for climate change launched

The UN is going to support the government of Uganda's climate change efforts through a joint program

This Joint Programme brings together a range of UN agencies offering a wide range of expertise to support the Government of Uganda's climate change priorities. These include FAO, OCHA, WFP, UNEP, UN Habitat and UNFPA.

The activities under the programme are organised through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the country and seek to build Ugandan capacity for sustainable solutions, consistent with the new National Development Plan

(NDP).

This Joint Programme will build capacity at the national, district and community levels for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The interventions will focus on policy and planning, finance, research, advocacy, community-based adaptation measures and lessons learned.

The geographic focus at the district and community levels has been determined by an ecosystems based approach to vulnerability alongside consideration of UN comparative advantage in these areas.

District and community interventions will be carried out in two phases: the first phase in dryland Karamoja and the Moroto River Basin (covering parts of Acholi, Lango and Teso), and in the second phase expanding to the mountain ranges of Rwenzoris and Mount Elgon, and Kampala.

A key feature of adaptation interventions will build on ongoing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) work. Where climate change challenges cross borders into neighbouring countries, appropriate strategies will be chosen to ensure that issues and impacts are addressed in a holistic manner.

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FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA



“...This Joint Programme will build capacity at the national, district and community levels for climate change adaptation and mitigation.”

Improving sustainable use of the Kagera basin

FAO launches \$32 million five year project

FAO has launched a project that will support the adoption of an integrated ecosystems approach for the management of land resources in the Kagera Basin.

The project is expected to generate local, national and global benefits including: restoration of degraded lands, carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, agro-biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and improved agricultural production, and thereby food security and rural livelihoods.

The Kagera River Basin is shared by Burundi, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. Maintenance of the Kagera flow regime is vital for maintaining water levels of Lake Victoria and outflow to the Nile, while the riverine wetland areas are vital for deposition of eroded sediments and nutrients and hence maintaining water and pasture quality and associated livelihoods.

The natural resources of the Kagera river basin support the livelihoods of some 16.5 million people, the majority rural and depending directly on farming, herding and fishing activities. However, the resource base and the ecosystems are facing increasing pressures as a result of rapid population growth, agricultural and livestock intensification characterized by progressive reduction in farm sizes and unsustainable land use and management practices.

The basin's land and freshwater resource base, associated biodiversity and populations whose livelihoods and

food security depend on those resources, are threatened by land degradation, declining productive capacity of croplands and rangelands, deforestation and encroachment of agriculture into wetlands.

The project has four components: (1) enhanced regional collaboration, information sharing and monitoring; (2) enabling policy, planning and legislative conditions; (3) increased stakeholder capacity and knowledge at all levels for promoting integrated agro-ecosystems management; and (4) adoption of improved land use systems and management practices generating improved livelihoods and environmental services.

Regional cooperation will provide an enabling environment across the transboundary river basin for building local capacities and knowledge and mobilizing stakeholders to bring about a transformation towards more productive and sustainable agricultural ecosystems (range, agro-pastoral and cropping).

Sustainable management of shared resources of the Kagera Basin and revitalized farm-livelihood systems will generate significant environmental benefits through restoration of well functioning ecosystems and their environmental services, such as water regulation, nutrient cycling, carbon storage and provision of habitats for biodiversity.

The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.



FAO/2009/W. ASTRADA

Small-scale dairy production: a way out of poverty

New study assesses global perspectives for smallholder milk production

29 September 2010, Rome - Making smallholder dairy production more competitive could be a powerful tool for reducing poverty, raising nutrition levels and improving the livelihoods of rural people in many developing countries, FAO said in a new report on smallholder milk production published today.

"Global milk demand is growing by 15 million tons per year, mostly in developing countries. Production of this increased volume of milk by small-scale dairy farmers would create approximately three million jobs per year in primary production alone," said Samuel Jutzi, Director of FAO's Animal Production and Health Division.

"This presents a unique opportunity for establishing sustainable dairy chains that can meet the demands of local consumers and the world market. Judicious development of the dairy sector could thus make a substantial contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger and poverty," Jutzi said.

Dairy matters

It is estimated that around 150 million small-scale dairy farming households, around 750 million people, are engaged in milk production, the majority of them in developing countries, according to the study *The Status and Prospects for Smallholder Milk Production - A global Perspective*, jointly published with the International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN). Globally, the mean dairy herd size is around two cows

providing an average milk yield of 11 litres per farm per day.

Throughout the world, there are around six billion consumers of milk and milk products, the majority of them in developing countries.

Competitive and resilient

Across the countries analyzed in the FAO/IFCN study, small-scale milk producers have very competitive production costs and thus, if organized, have the potential to compete with large-scale, capital-intensive, 'high-tech' dairy farming systems in developed and developing countries. With very few exceptions, smallholders achieve relatively high incomes per litre of milk. They are also comparatively resilient to rising feed prices as they usually only use small amounts of purchased feed.

Growing consumer demand for dairy products in developing countries, driven by population growth and rising incomes, offers important market opportunities for smallholders, the FAO/IFCN report said. The latter could also benefit from expected higher world market prices for dairy products.

Better farm management practices, expanding dairy herd sizes and increasing milk yields could easily improve smallholder labour productivity, which currently is rather low. "Dairy sector development can therefore be a potent tool for poverty reduction," the report said.

Exposed and penalized

But smallholder dairy production will

only be able to reach its full potential if some of the threats and challenges the sector is currently facing are addressed. In many developing countries, smallholders lack the skills to manage their farms as 'enterprises'; have poor access to support services like production and marketing advice; have little or no capital to reinvest with limited access to credit; and are handicapped by small herd sizes, low milk yields and poor milk quality.

Massive policy interventions (price support, milk quotas, direct payments, investment support programmes, export subsidies) in developed countries create a competitive advantage for the OECD dairy sector and penalize dairy farmers in developing countries, the report noted.

Smallholders are also affected by trade liberalization which increasingly exposes them to competition from large-scale corporate dairy enterprises that are able to respond more rapidly to changes in the market environment.

Environmental concerns are another threat to smallholder production. Low-yield dairy systems in Africa and South Asia are estimated to have higher carbon footprints per 100 kilogram of milk produced than high-yield systems in the United States and Western Europe. This carbon footprint could be significantly reduced through improved animal feeding.

Creating value

Any dairy development strategy,

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the FAO/IFCN study recommends, must not exclusively focus on dairy producers but improve competitiveness throughout the entire dairy production chain, targeting farmers, input suppliers, milk traders, processors, retailers and others.

Creating value in every part of the chain ultimately also benefits consumers who are then able to obtain more dairy products for the same amount of money or need to spend less for the dairy products they consume.

"Smallholders are generally very resource-efficient," said Joachim Otte, one of the co-editors of the report. "Access to credit, improved animal genetic resources and animal health services, together with supportive political measures enabling them to participate in changing markets, are crucial."

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..."Access to credit, improved animal genetic resources and animal health services, together with supportive political measures enabling them to participate in changing markets, are crucial."



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Activities in the field



Jinja agricultural show



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Passing out FSS Master Trainers



Food price volatility a major threat to food security

But no indication of a global food crisis

Food price volatility a major threat to food security

Rome – Experts from more than 75 FAO Member States agreed on 24th September 2010 that while there were no grounds for complacency, there was no indication of an impending world food crisis. They proposed exploring new measures to check food price volatility and manage associated risks.

Concluding a day-long special meeting in Rome the experts recognized that unexpected price hikes “are a major threat to food security” and recommended further work to address their root causes.

The recommendations, put forward by the Inter-Governmental Groups (IGGs) on Grains and on Rice, came as FAO issued a report showing that international wheat prices have soared 60-80 percent since July while maize spiked about 40 percent.

Global supply and demand in balance

The meeting said that “Global cereal supply and demand still appears sufficiently in balance”, adding, “unexpected crop failure in some major exporting countries followed by national policy responses and speculative behavior rather than global market fundamentals have been the main factors behind the recent escalation of world prices and the prevailing high price volatility.”

Among the root causes of volatility, the meeting identified “Growing linkage with outside markets, in particular the impact of ‘financialization’ on futures markets”. Other causes were listed as insufficient information

on crop supply and demand, poor market transparency, unexpected changes triggered by national food security situations, panic buying and hoarding.

Alternative approaches

The Groups therefore recommended exploring “alternative approaches to mitigating food price volatility” and “new mechanisms to enhance transparency and manage the risks associated with new sources of market volatility”.

Some of these issues will be considered at an upcoming meeting of the FAO-based Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Other IGG proposals included intensifying FAO’s information-gathering and dissemination at all levels. The meeting urged capacity building in areas such as the monitoring of planting intentions, crop development, domestic market information and the different dimensions of futures markets behavior, including the involvement of non commercial traders.

In conclusion, the meeting recalled that at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security hosted by FAO Member Countries had agreed “to refrain from taking measures that are inconsistent with the WTO rules, with adverse impacts on global, regional and national food security”. It expressed sympathy for countries recently struck by natural disasters.

Crop Prospects

Data on the most recent grains price increases was contained in FAO’s

quarterly report on the cereals supply and demand outlook, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, published today.

It forecast 2010 global cereal production at 2 239 million tonnes, only one percent lower than last year and the third largest crop on record. Reduced output of grains in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries accounted for most of the decline.

In contrast with the steep increases in wheat (by 60-80 percent) and maize (by 40 percent) prices, the report said rice prices rose by only seven percent from July to September. But even at these higher levels cereal prices were still one third below their peaks in 2008, FAO noted.

Higher cost of cereal imports

The report noted that the cereal import bill for the world’s 77 poorest countries, the Low Income Food Deficit (LIFDC) group, was forecast to increase by 8 percent from 2009-10 to \$27.8 billion as a result of higher international prices.

Hardest hit by higher international wheat prices will be importing countries where wheat is a main staple, the report said. These include countries in the Near East and North Africa – particularly Egypt the world’s biggest importer - CIS Asia and South America. The impact of higher international wheat prices on consumers will depend on policies in place in individual countries, the report said

Not all countries hit by wheat price

hikes

Crop Prospects and Food Situation said that price hikes in the last two months have not been across the board, with prices climbing sharply in some countries but dropping in others, depending on local conditions.

Prices of wheat and wheat flour have already increased markedly in July and August in some LIFDCs, including Afghanistan (24 percent on average), Mongolia (23 percent), Tajikistan (22 percent), Bangladesh (21 percent), Kyrgyzstan (19 percent), and Pakistan (8 percent on average in the first week of September).


In Latin America, prices of wheat flour remained generally stable for the time being. In Mozambique, the increase of 30 percent in the regulated price of bread in early September was revoked by the Government following serious civil disturbances.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Overall, a less immediate impact of the high wheat export prices was foreseen in sub-Saharan Africa, where maize and other coarse grains are the main staples. In Eastern and Southern Africa, prices of cereals decreased reflecting 2010 good harvests and were at below pre-food price crisis level. The main exception was Sudan, where despite recent declines prices of sorghum, the main staple, remained at high levels.

In Western Africa prices also declined in early September but remained high particularly in Niger and parts of Chad. In Asia, price trends for rice, the main food in the region, were mixed. In Bangladesh and Vietnam rice prices increased in August and early September but declined in the Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka. In Central America, prices of the main staple, maize, slightly increased in July but were lower than two years ago.

FAO/2009/W. ASTRADA



...“new mechanisms to enhance transparency and manage the risks associated with new sources of market volatility”.

AU passes resolution to commemorate Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day on October 30

Africa Commits to ending hunger



FAO/2009/M. MUGISHA

The resolution to commemorate October 30 as the Africa food and nutrition day has been approved by the African Union (AU).

“The Assembly decided that Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFND) will be commemorated on 30 October every year [and] requests the [African Union] Commission to coordinate efforts of Member States to commemorate the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security,” reads the document.

This resolution reflects the previous resolutions for African states to place agriculture at the heart of economic development and poverty reduction efforts on the continent.

The decision, one of the 46 items discussed at the summit held in July, was also anchored in Africa’s potential to become food secure and was intended to capitalize on the global momentum to support Africa’s cause.

At the summit, African Union (AU) chairperson President Bingu wa Mutharika also proposed the concept of The African Food Basket. African Food Basket is a new focused approach that highlights agriculture and food security as the springboard for growth supported by strategic transport infrastructures, energy development, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and climate change mitigation.

The proposal calls for Africa and all cooperating partners to focus on improving agriculture and food security in the next five years through innovative interventions that comprise subsidies, increased budgetary allocations, private sector investment and affordable information and communications technology. This document could also form the basis for Africa to unlock resources from the \$22 billion that the G8 made available in the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative.

The Uganda summit endorsed the concept and appointed a group of 17 countries to spearhead and track records of achievement in promoting agriculture and food security. Members to the group would be countries with track records of achievement in promoting agriculture and food security. Initially these are: Senegal, South Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Cameroon, Mozambique and Mali.

In 2003, AU launched the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) based on the realization that agriculture would remain the key factor in Africa’s growth and development. Uganda signed the CAADP compact on 31st March 2010. Countries that sign the CAADP commit to allocating at least ten percent of their national budgets to agriculture and achieving six percent growth in the sector.

Addressing underlying causes of hunger in Karamoja

Belgium funds Euro 700,000 project

FAO has received Euro 700,000 from the Government of Belgium to implement a project - *Karamoja Livelihood Agro Pastoralist Opportunities* – KALAPASO in the Karamoja region.

The project will address the main root causes of food insecurity in Karamoja that are related to environmental and weather conditions, poor or almost nonexistent technical knowledge outreach and lack of exposure to experience and opportunities, which are exacerbated by insecurity and low level of general education.

It resulted from a FAO and the European Commission (EC) study mission that was conducted to refine the Karamoja Livelihoods Programme (KALIP) to be funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). The main findings and recommendations proposed addressing the key productive factors of the Karimojong livelihoods, to integrate but adjusting according to climatic zones, agriculture, livestock, water management and financial management through the Field School approach.

The KALAPASO, whose implementation will be in line with the KALIP, aims at supporting 5,000 households of Moroto and Kotido districts to revitalize and strengthen their general livelihoods as well as food and income security situation. It will address in an integrated manner the two main pillars of the Karimojong livelihoods: Livestock and Agriculture with a special emphasis on water harvesting and conservation management using the Farmer Field

Schools approach, which has been well adapted to the specific context of Karamoja.

The core principal of the APFS approach (learning by doing) will be the heart of the programme, but applied on a holistic way including the following components: Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), agriculture production, productive rural infrastructure (i.e. water harvest management), and Village Savings & Loans Associations (VSLA).

Based on best practices and experience already developed with different partners in the field, the aim of combining the above-mentioned components is to improve knowledge on animal health, increase food and agriculture production, enhance technical knowledge and decision making capacity, promote saving and investment culture and improve and increase access to water for production.

Adapting the VSLA to a self selected group such as the Agro Pastoral Field Schools (APFS) participating in Cash For Work (CFW) or Food For Work (FFW) activities for the productive rural infrastructure will offer concrete opportunities of introducing a culture of savings and enhance the communities' copying mechanisms.

In line with the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Plan (KIDDP), Karamoja Action Plan for Food Security (KAPFS) and the National Development Plan (NDP), the project will look for success-



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ful partnership with National and District Local Government initiatives, while promoting collaboration with non-governmental organizations at implementation and experience sharing levels.

With this design, the project will ensure a critical intervention balancing between emergency and development needs by promoting medium comprehensive development strategies needed to address the complex problems of Karamoja as opposed to short-term recurrent humanitarian responses.

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We acknowledge the generous contribution of the following current donors to FAO's programmes in Uganda:

European Union (EU), Belgian Survival Fund (BSF), UNICEF, USAID-OFDA, UN-CERF, the Rockefeller Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Governments of Sweden, Belgium, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Spain, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy and the United Kingdom.

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Cover Photos:

NERICA Project in Northern Uganda /
FAO/2009/WALTER ASTRADA



A publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representation in Uganda

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