



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Chairman,**  
**Mr. Director General,**  
**Honourable Ministers,**  
**Your Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour for me to participate and speak to the second International Conference on Nutrition of the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The importance of a good nutrition is not new at all. In 400 B.C., Hippocrates said “Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food”.

The agriculture and food security are facing serious challenges all over the world.

The international situation of food demand, availability and sustainable development of the agricultural sector is often debated in different forums and the need to be better prepared and to ensure food security should be addressed by the decision makers in designing future policies.

Agriculture, due to its specific nature, is one of the sectors most affected by climate changes and as a consequence the food security is also affected.

That is why I consider agricultural policy as a key mechanism in addressing food security, poverty, eradicates malnutrition, climate changes and sustainable development of rural areas.

Food and a fair nutrition should be a reality, not only some simple words.

To fulfil this aim, we have to intervene at different levels, from the production to the commercialization.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Inadequate nutrition and malnutrition have become a global problem in recent decades, affecting especially the population of underdeveloped countries, but not only.

The worldwide success of nutrition in recent years has held international attention in terms of food security, namely, access of all persons to "nutritious food, for a healthy and active life"

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Malnutrition was triggered by disturbing trends of agricultural production and by the current international trade policies, that raise questions about the possibility of improving the speed of production and distribution of food, in order to be put on the same level with population growth, and to achieve the purpose..... nutrition security.

There are two sides in fight against malnutrition:

- 1) Sustaining the quality and quantity of food that a person eats; and
- 2) Ensuring adequate health care and a healthy environment.

To combat malnutrition, would be needed:

- An eating greener more nutritious and healthy,
- Educating the population: we need to know the global health problems and possible solutions; we must try to promote a sustainable agricultural development, healthy for all the people
- We have to encourage less polluting and less abusive practices in agriculture, towards peoples and nature.
- We have to fight for healthier and more affordable food.
- Encouraging and supporting small farmers, especially in developing countries.

It is well known that small family farms are the key to reducing poverty and improving global food security. Today, we are witnessing a paradox situation in which someone's development may generate someone else's poverty. It is clear that we have a common responsibility in finding a solution to this problem.

An essential part can and must to be played by small scale agriculture, a resource that is not used enough and which can be a significant food supplier on the market.

This type of agriculture can better meet local market demands and traditions. Unfortunately, this opportunity has not been properly addressed in rural development programs.

It is true that modern technologies will allow us to increase agricultural production in developed countries, but it is equally important to manage our resources prudently and in a balanced way.

Another component on malnutrition issue is Food Waste

- we all understand the biggest challenge of the 21st Century, providing enough and safe food to a continuously growing population. At this time, we are not able to meet this challenge. In the meanwhile, we waste 1,3 billion tons of food.
- there is still a lot of work to be done for the human kind to fully understand the meaning of global food scarcity.
- in a more and more global world, any imbalance in one area leads to imbalances in many other places. The commerce is global, the food products are moving rapidly from one corner of the world to another. This was meant to generate prosperity, in exchange it is shown that, as it is designed now, produces great loss and only deepens the scarcity of our resources.
- We need to focus on finding sustainable solutions to provide food for our people and for the future generations.

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- The traditional management of resources proved itself unfit for the new millennium. We have not done enough to better organize our food chains in order to avoid waste and loss.
- In Romania, we are just now drawing a strategy to avoid food loss and to better manage the food waste. We learned in our experience how important is to find the proper stakeholders, how difficult is to put together different interests for a common goal and find a developing direction that serves the greater good of the whole society.
- The scarce availability of data is a problem and we are working on gathering objective information and independent data, eliminating the risk of basing a strategy on incomplete analysis of the current situation.

I think that if we want to solve the problem we have to put at work, together the authorities, the private sector, the producers, retailers and transporters. This will give us a transversal, integrated assessment of the problem.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you for your attention.**