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15.	FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION VIS-À-VIS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO DEFEAT HUNGER	Dr. Sourabh V. C. Ubale	88
16.	LAB GROWN BIOLOGICAL TEXTILES: FASHION TRENDS FOR FUTURE CLOTHING	Ambica Khurana	99
17.	INNOVATIVENESS STATUS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN HASSAN DISTRICT	Dr. Ramesha V	102
18.	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND JOB SATISFACTION: EVIDENCE FROM INDIAN BANKING SECTOR	Dr. Savitha	106
19.	“AN ASCENDANCY OF CULTURAL VARIANCES ON THE INTERPRETATION OF ENGLISH & AMERICAN LITERATURE”	SHRUTHI. T	111
20.	“A SCRUTINY ON GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE”	REKHA T.C	115
21.	A POSTULATION OF SECULARISM AND THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA	Dr. Bharati. A. Hosatti	119
22.	“EVALUATION OF BIOEFFICACY OF JUSTICIA ADHATODA L.” ON MYCELIAL GROWTH OF COLLETOTRICHUM CAPSICI.	Dhole A. C	123
23.	भूमंडलीकरण और हिन्दी साहित्य	Prof. Mahaboob Subani	125
24.	जयशंकर प्रसाद का स्त्री विमर्श	डॉ. पुष्पा गोविंद गायकवाड	128
25.	क्रांतिकारी संत महात्मा बसवेश्वर	डॉ. विठ्ठल केदारी	133
26.	ऐतिहासिक पर्यटनाच्या दृष्टीकोनातून अंबरनाथ शिवमंदिर	प्रा. डॉ. किशोर कोंडबाजी काजळे	136
27.	संपत्तीवर मालकी हक्क आणि महिला	रेणुका कड डॉ. अविनाश गोरे	142
28.	आद्यक्रांतीकारक उमाजी नाईक	प्रा. शिवचरण धांडे	145
29.	ब्रिटिश शासनकाळातील मुंबईमधील बाजाराचा विकास	रामप्रसाद मोहनराव व्हडगीर	148
30.	‘स्त्री भुणहत्या’ एक सामाजीक समस्या	डॉ. उल्हास रामजी राठोड	153
31.	वृद्धांचे कायदेशीर अधिकार आणि हक्क बाबत त्यांना असलेल्या जाणिवांचा अभ्यास :	डॉ. अविनाश गोरे नंदुराम अभानराव गायकवाड	158

# FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION VIS-À-VIS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO DEFEAT HUNGER

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## INTRODUCTION

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all. Its Latin motto, *fiat panis*, translates into English as "let there be bread". As of, FAO has 194 member states along with the European Union, Faroe Islands and Tokelau which are associate members. It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group.

## 2. FAO'S MANDATE, OBJECTIVES & FUNCTIONS

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts - to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information. We help developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. Since our founding in 1945, we have focused special attention on developing rural areas, home to 70 % of the world's poor and hungry people.

Its function are to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture; to promote international action with respect to research, the improvement of education and administration relating to nutrition, food and agriculture, the conservation of natural resources, improvements of agricultural production, marketing and distribution, the adoption of policies for credit and agricultural commodity agreements; to furnish technical assistance, to organise expert missions and generally to contribute to the raising of standards of nutrition and of living and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger

FAO's activities comprise four main areas. Putting information within reach, FAO serves as a knowledge network. We use the expertise of our staff - agronomists, foresters, fisheries and livestock specialists, nutritionists, social scientists, economists, statisticians and other professionals - to collect, analyse and disseminate data that aid development. A million times a month, someone visits the FAO Internet site to consult a technical document or read about our work with farmers. We also publish hundreds of newsletters, reports and books, distribute several magazines, create numerous CD-ROMS and host dozens of electronic fora. Sharing policy expertise: FAO lends its years of

experience to member countries in devising agricultural policy, supporting planning, drafting effective legislation and creating national strategies to achieve rural development and hunger alleviation goals. Providing a meeting place for nations on any given day, dozens of policy-makers and experts from around the globe convene at headquarters or in our field offices to forge agreements on major food and agriculture issues. As a neutral forum, FAO provides the setting where rich and poor nations can come together to build common understanding. Bringing knowledge to the field: Our breadth of knowledge is put to the test in thousands of field projects throughout the world. FAO mobilizes and manages millions of dollars provided by industrialized countries, development banks and other sources to make sure the projects achieve their goals. FAO provides the technical know-how and in a few cases is a limited source of funds. In crisis situations, we work side-by-side with the World Food Programme and other humanitarian agencies to protect rural livelihoods and help people rebuild their lives.

### 3. THE CONSTITUTION AND RIGHT TO FOOD GUIDELINES

Preamble<sup>1</sup> states that the Nations accepting this Constitution, being determined to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action on their part for the purpose of raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdictions; securing improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products; bettering the condition of rural populations; and thus contributing towards an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger; Hereby establish the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, hereinafter referred to as the "Organization", through which the Members will report to one another on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the field of action set forth above. Other provisions of this Constitution contains functions of conference, appointment of authorities, sanction of budget, other functions and duties of organisation and authorities.

Right to Food Guidelines: The Food and Agriculture Organization summarised the Right to Food guidelines in six phases or aspects to realizing the right to food:

Providing basic prerequisites, such as: good governance, democracy, non-discriminating markets, engaging in a multi-stakeholder approach including the private sector and civil society, and allocating sufficient national financial resources to anti-hunger and poverty.<sup>2</sup>

Provide an enabling environment by adopting relevant strategies and policies, such as: diverse and sustainable economic development in support of food security, adopting a legal "human-rights-based approach", developing the relevant institutions, making access to natural secure and non-discriminatory, setting indicators for monitoring and evaluation.<sup>3</sup>

Implementing a legal framework to enforce the right to food and the three state obligations of respecting, providing and fulfilling, such as: immediate and progressive implementation of policies, making states accountable, guaranteeing autonomous and independent human rights institutions, and educating in particular children and women.<sup>4</sup>

Guaranteeing on the market the availability of food which is adequate and healthy.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Basic Text for FOOA AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF UN", document of FAO available on [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) (Accessed on 17/01/2022)

<sup>2</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization 2012- "I Enabling Environment"

<sup>3</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization 2012- "II Policies and Strategies"

<sup>4</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization 2012- "III Legal Framework"

<sup>5</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization 2012- "IV Adequate Food"

Provide extra support for vulnerable populations, including providing food for those who do not have access to adequate food for reasons beyond their control. Measures include: implementing safety nets for the weakest.<sup>6</sup>

Prepare for emergencies, manmade or natural disasters, and obligations to provide international food aid.<sup>7</sup>

#### 4. PROGRAMMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

##### I. Food

###### a. Codex Alimentarius

FAO and the World Health Organization created the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1963 to develop food standards, guidelines and texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The main aims of the programme are protecting consumer health, ensuring fair trade and promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

###### b. World Food Summit

In 1996, FAO organised the World Food Summit, attended by 112 Heads or Deputy Heads of State and Government. The Summit concluded with the signing of the Rome Declaration, which established the goal of halving the number of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015.<sup>8</sup> At the same time, 1,200 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from 80 countries participated in an NGO forum. The forum was critical of the growing industrialisation of agriculture and called upon governments — and FAO — to do more to protect the 'Right to Food' of the poor.<sup>9</sup>

###### c. Tele-Food

Raising awareness about the problem of hunger mobilizes energy to find a solution. In 1997, FAO launched Tele-Food, a campaign of concerts, sporting events and other activities to harness the power of media, celebrities and concerned citizens to help fight hunger. Since its start, the campaign has generated close to US\$28 million, €15 million in donations. Money raised through Tele-Food pays for small, sustainable projects that help small-scale farmers produce more food for their families and communities.

The projects provide tangible resources, such as fishing equipment, seeds and agricultural implements. They vary enormously, from helping families raise pigs in Venezuela, through creating school gardens in Cape Verde and Mauritania or providing school lunches in Uganda and teaching children to grow food, to raising fish in a leper community in India.

###### d. FAO Goodwill Ambassadors

The FAO Goodwill Ambassadors Programme was initiated in 1999. The main purpose of the programme is to attract public and media attention to the unacceptable situation that some 1 billion people continue to suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition in a time of unprecedented plenty. These people lead a life of misery and are denied the most basic of human rights: the right to food. Governments alone cannot end hunger and undernourishment. Mobilization of the public and private sectors, the involvement of civil society and the pooling of collective and individual resources are all needed if people are to break out of the vicious circle of chronic hunger and undernourishment.

<sup>6</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization 2012- "V Vulnerable Populations"

<sup>7</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization 2012- "VI Emergencies"

<sup>8</sup> "World Food Summit Archive, FAO", [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org), accessed on 15/3/2022

<sup>9</sup> *Profit for few or food for all*, Final Statement of the NGO Forum, 1996

Each of FAO's Goodwill Ambassadors – celebrities from the arts, entertainment, sport and academia such as Nobel Prize winner Rita Levi Montalcini, actress Gong Li, the late singer Miriam Makeba, and soccer players Roberto Baggio and Raúl, to name a few – has made a personal and professional commitment to FAO's vision: a food-secure world for present and future generations. Using their talents and influence, the Goodwill Ambassadors draw the old and the young, the rich and the poor into the campaign against world hunger. They aim to make Food for All a reality in the 21st century and beyond.

e. Right to Food Guidelines

In 2004 the Right to Food Guidelines were adopted, offering guidance to states on how to implement their obligations on the right to food.<sup>10</sup>

f. Response to food crisis

In December 2007, FAO launched its Initiative on Soaring Food Prices to help small producers raise their output and earn more. Under the initiative, FAO contributed to the work of the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, which produced the Comprehensive Framework for Action. FAO has carried out projects in over 25 countries and inter-agency missions in nearly 60, scaled up its monitoring through the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, provided policy advice to governments while supporting their efforts to increase food production, and advocated for more investment in agriculture. It has also worked hand-in-hand with the European Union. One example of its work is a US\$10.2 million, €7.5 billion scheme to distribute and multiply quality seeds in Haiti, which has significantly increased food production, thereby providing cheaper food and boosting farmers' incomes.

g. FAO-EU partnership

In May 2009, FAO and the European Union signed an initial aid package worth €125 million to support small farmers in countries hit hard by rising food prices. The aid package falls under the EU's €1 billion Food Facility, set up with the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis and FAO to focus on programmes that will have a quick but lasting impact on food security.<sup>11</sup> FAO is receiving a total of around €200 million for work in 25 countries, of which €15.4 million goes to Zimbabwe.<sup>12</sup>

h. Food security programmes

The Special Programme for Food Security is FAO's flagship initiative for reaching the goal of halving the number of hungry in the world by 2015 (currently estimated at close to 1 billion people), as part of its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Through projects in over 100 countries worldwide, the programme promotes effective, tangible solutions to the elimination of hunger, undernourishment and poverty. Currently 102 countries are engaged in the programme and of these approximately 30 have begun shifting from pilot to national programmes. To maximize the impact of its work, FAO strongly promotes national ownership and local empowerment in the countries in which it operates.

i. Online campaign against hunger

<sup>10</sup> Olivier de Schutter (2010) "Countries tackling hunger with a right to food approach. Significant progress in implementing the right to food at national scale in Africa, Latin America and South Asia" United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

<sup>11</sup> "FAO and EU Food Facility", [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) (Accessed on 17/01/2022)

<sup>12</sup> "UN food agency assists farmers in Zimbabwe", Xinhua (Accessed on 15/3/2022)

The 1billionhungry project became the Ending-Hunger campaign in April 2011. Spearheaded by FAO in partnership with other UN agencies and private non profit groups, the Ending-Hunger movement pushes the boundaries of conventional public advocacy. It builds on the success in 2010 of the 1billionhungry project and the subsequent chain of public events that led to the collection of over three million signatures on a global petition to end hunger. The petition was originally presented to representatives of world governments at a ceremony in Rome on 30 November 2010.<sup>13</sup>

The web and partnerships are two pivotal and dynamic aspects of Ending-Hunger. The campaign relies on the assistance of organizations and institutions that can facilitate the project's diffusion, by placing banners on their own websites or organizing events aimed to raise awareness of the project. In its 2011 season, the campaign expanded its multimedia content, pursued mutual visibility arrangements with partner organizations, and sharpened its focus on 14-25 year olds, who were encouraged to understand their potential as a social movement to push for the end of hunger.

Moreover, the Ending-Hunger project is a vital communication campaign, renewing and expanding its efforts to build the movement through Facebook, Twitter and other social networks. Those who sign the petition can spread the link of the Ending-Hunger website to their friends, via social media or mail, in order to gain awareness and signatures for the petition. The next interim objective is to grow the Ending-Hunger movement's Facebook community to 1 million members. As with the petition, the more people who get involved, the more powerful message to governments: "We are no longer willing to accept the fact that hundreds of millions live in chronic hunger." Groups and individuals can also decide on their own to organize an event about the project, simply by gathering friends, whistles, t-shirts and banners and thereby alert people about chronic hunger by using the yellow whistle.

The original 1billionhungry campaign borrowed as its slogan the line "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" used by Peter Finch in the 1976 film, Network. Meanwhile, the yellow whistle has been the campaign symbol from the start, from 1billionhungry to Ending Hunger. (The creative concept was provided by the McCann Erickson Italy Communication Agency.) It symbolizes the fact that we are "blowing the whistle" on the silent disaster of hunger. It is both a symbol and – at many live events taking place around the world – a physical means of expressing frustration and making some noise about the hunger situation.<sup>14</sup>

Both The 1billionhungry and the Ending-Hunger campaigns have continued to attract UN Goodwill Ambassadors from the worlds of music and cinema, literature, sport, activism and government. Some of the well-known individuals who have become involved include former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, former presidents of Chile Ricardo Lagos and Michelle Bachelet, actress Susan Sarandon, actors Jeremy Irons and Raul Bova, singers Céline Dion and Anggun, authors Isabelle Allende and Andrea Camilleri, musician Chucho Valdés and Olympic track-and-field legend Carl Lewis.<sup>15</sup>

## II. Agriculture

### a. International Plant Protection Convention

FAO created the International Plant Protection Convention or IPPC in 1952. This international treaty organization works to prevent the international spread of pests and plant diseases. Its functions

<sup>13</sup> "'1billionhungry project' petition presented to world leaders", [www.Westerfarmpress.com](http://www.Westerfarmpress.com)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> "FAO launches anti-hunger petition, 11 May 2010", [www.Fao.org](http://www.Fao.org)

are the maintenance of lists of plant pests, tracking of pest outbreaks, and coordination of technical assistance between member nations. As of May 2012, 177 governments had adopted the treaty.

b. Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition

The Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM)<sup>16</sup> aims to address how countries and organizations can be more effective in advocating and carrying out actions to address hunger and malnutrition. As a global partnership, AAHM creates global connections between local, regional, national and international institutions that share the goals of fighting hunger and malnutrition. The organization works to address food security by enhancing resources and knowledge sharing and strengthening hunger activities within countries and across state lines at the regional and international levels.

Following the World Food Summit, the Alliance was initially created in 2002 as the 'International Alliance against Hunger (IAAH)' to strengthen and coordinate national efforts in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. The mission of the Alliance originates from the first and eight UN Millennium Development Goals; reducing the number of people that suffer from hunger in half by 2015 (preceded by the "Rome Declaration" in 1996) and developing a global partnership for development. The Alliance was founded by the Rome based food agencies - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agriculture Fund for Development (IFAD), and Bio-versity International.

AAHM connects top-down and bottom-up anti-hunger development initiatives, linking governments, UN organizations, and NGOs together in order to increase effectiveness through unity.

c. Integrated pest management

During the 1990s, FAO took a leading role in the promotion of integrated pest management for rice production in Asia. Hundreds of thousands of farmers were trained using an approach known as the Farmer Field School (FFS). Like many of the programmes managed by FAO, the funds for Farmer Field Schools came from bilateral Trust Funds, with Australia, Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland acting as the leading donors. FAO's efforts in this area have drawn praise from NGOs that have otherwise criticized much of the work of the organization.

d. Trans-boundary pests and diseases

FAO established an Emergency Prevention System for Trans-boundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases in 1994, focusing on the control of diseases like rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease and avian flu by helping governments coordinate their responses. One key element is the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme, which has advanced to a stage where large tracts of Asia and Africa have now been free of the cattle disease rinderpest for an extended period of time. Meanwhile Locust Watch monitors the worldwide locust situation and keeps affected countries and donors informed of expected developments.

e. Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building

The Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB) is a global partnership dedicated to increasing plant breeding capacity building. The mission of GIPB is to enhance the capacity of developing countries to improve crops for food security and sustainable development through better plant breeding and delivery systems. The ultimate goal is to ensure that a critical mass of plant breeders, leaders, managers and technicians, donors and partners are linked together through an effective global network. Increasing capacity building for plant breeding in

<sup>16</sup> Available at [www.theaahm.org](http://www.theaahm.org) accessed on 15/3/2022

developing countries is critical for the achievement of meaningful results in poverty and hunger reduction and to reverse the current worrisome trends. Plant breeding is a well recognized science capable of widening the genetic and adaptability base of cropping systems, by combining conventional selection techniques and modern technologies. It is essential to face and prevent the recurrence of crises such as that of the soaring food prices and to respond to the increasing demands for crop based sources of energy.

#### f. Investment in agriculture

FAO's technical cooperation department hosts an Investment Centre that promotes greater investment in agriculture and rural development by helping developing countries identify and formulate sustainable agricultural policies, programmes and projects. It mobilizes funding from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, regional development banks and international funds as well as FAO resources.

### 5. AT PRESENT

#### A. Call for more responsible investments in agriculture to eradicate hunger and poverty

i) German Agriculture Minister Aigner and FAO head Graziano da Silva urge international community to develop principles for responsible investments<sup>17</sup>

The German Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Ilse Aigner, and the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General José Graziano da Silva have called for a significant increase in responsible investments in agriculture to eradicate hunger and feed a growing world population. Investments in agriculture are still too low in those regions where rural poverty and hunger are most severe, Aigner and Graziano da Silva stressed this after meeting of the Agriculture Ministers' Berlin Summit in 2013.

"We need to concentrate our efforts on the farmers. Farmers are the key players in the rural environment and here lies the greatest potential for generating added value – both in terms of economic development and in guaranteeing food security in these countries," said Aigner. "The German government spends over 700 million euros each year on food security and rural development in developing countries. One of the goals here is to achieve sustainable yield increases. This is done by promoting locally based training and education, for example, and we have initiated a number of important agricultural training schemes."

"Agricultural investment has long shown itself to be one of the most effective and sustainable means for reducing hunger and poverty. We need to invest more. And, equally as important, we need to invest better," said Graziano da Silva. "It is up to national governments, assisted by the international community, to create conditions where farmers can invest more and to increase their own investments in ways that generate economic and social benefits, as well as environmentally sustainable results." At present, around 870 million of the world's poorest people, or one in eight, are suffering from hunger and have inadequate access to food. Most of them live in rural areas in developing countries.

ii) Responsible agricultural investments<sup>18</sup>

Aigner and Graziano da Silva called upon governments to contribute to the development of guidance for responsible agricultural investments, an issue that will be discussed by governments, civil society and private sector representatives at the Committee on World Food Security. Investments in agriculture should target the poor in the rural areas of those countries, the minister

<sup>17</sup> Available at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) accessed on 15/3/2022

<sup>18</sup> Available at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) accessed on 15/3/2022

and the FAO head said. Investments should also help to make the agricultural and food systems less vulnerable, more equitable, less wasteful and more environmentally friendly. The world's more than one billion farmers should be at the centre of new investment strategies, because they are, by far, the largest investors in agriculture, after public and foreign private investors. Farmers in 76 low- and middle-income countries invest almost 170 billion dollars a year in their farms – about \$150 per farmer, according to FAO estimates. That represents three times as much as all other sources of investment combined – including public investment, foreign private sector investment and official development assistance. Special attention should be paid to smallholder farmers, who need support to overcome barriers that prevent them from producing more food, saving and investing, and coping with new challenges and risks related to climate change.

Aigner and Graziano da Silva underlined that farmers need a supportive environment that makes agriculture attractive for investments. They need good governance, clear and fair incentives, and access to good infrastructure, public services and information in rural areas. National governments should ensure that these conditions are in place. Good governance of large-scale investments, often by international investors, is necessary to ensure that the rights and livelihoods of local communities are protected and the degradation of natural resources is avoided.

B. FAO and International Finance Corporation join forces

i) Accord aims to promote responsible private sector investment in agriculture<sup>19</sup>

The Executive Vice President and CEO of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the FAO Director-General today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly promote responsible private agribusiness investment and create economic opportunities for rural communities. The two institutions will work together to develop responsible agribusiness practices, increase the use by IFC of FAO's technical expertise and knowledge networks, and support agribusiness investment in low-income countries eligible for Global Agriculture and Food Security Program funding. "The private sector, from smallholders to large agribusiness companies, is one of the main driving forces behind increased agricultural production and economic growth worldwide," said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva. "This agreement with IFC, which has an impressive track record of successful support to private agribusiness, will strengthen our efforts in this area." "IFC is rapidly increasing investments across the agribusiness supply chain to promote food security and rural incomes," said IFC Executive Vice President and CEO Jin Yong Cai. "We know we can have even greater development impact by working more closely with partners like FAO."

ii) FAO takes on new partners<sup>20</sup>

Graziano da Silva said that FAO was now concentrating its work on the core strategic objectives of creating the conditions for the eradication of hunger, increasing sustainable production, reducing rural poverty, enabling more inclusive and efficient agriculture food systems and building resilience. "In order to work towards those objectives, FAO is keen to strengthen its cooperation with multilateral development banks that support responsible private sector investment in efficient and inclusive food chains. The IFC is one of the few development banks with such a focus," he said.

Since Graziano da Silva became FAO Director-General in January 2012, the Organization has expanded considerably its work with partners including non-governmental and farmers' organizations, cooperatives, academic institutions, multilateral organizations and the private sector.

<sup>19</sup> Available at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) accessed on 15/3/2022

<sup>20</sup> Available at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) accessed on 15/3/2022

### C. Sowing the seeds of food security in South Sudan

#### i) FAO and France join efforts to improve farmers' livelihoods<sup>21</sup>

A new programme in the Republic of South Sudan is helping vulnerable farmers to improve their livelihoods by boosting the quality of the seeds used to produce key crops. With the support of the Government of France, FAO is joining efforts with the South Sudanese Ministry of Agriculture to implement the year-long programme in several states. The project, valued at more than \$612 000 (EUR 500 000), will help to train farmers in the production, storage and marketing of quality seeds and cuttings for staple crops like sorghum, maize, cassava and cowpeas. It will also increase the availability of seeds to South Sudan's most vulnerable farmers. Decades of conflict and displacement have taken their toll on farmers' access to quality seeds and other planting materials, and eroded their knowledge of seed production techniques. Together, these factors have severely undermined crop productivity and farmers' livelihoods. "The importance of seeds to the food security and livelihoods of South Sudan's farmers and rural communities is very high" said Sue Lautze, the head of FAO's office in Juba. "Despite widespread food insecurity, the country is committed to ensuring food security for all, as soon as possible. Seeds are a critical component to realizing this important ambition."

The programme aims to help an estimated 30 000 people from more than 5 000 vulnerable farming households, in addition to 400 seed producers. The beneficiaries, half of whom are women, live in the states of Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Lakes, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

#### ii) Building self-reliance<sup>22</sup>

"We know that the formal seed sector in South Sudan is underdeveloped and in desperate need of rehabilitation" said Michael Legge, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry for Central Equatoria State. "South Sudan relies heavily on neighbouring countries for certified seed, which is costly, and farmers rely on the informal seed sector." More than 90 percent of South Sudanese farmers still depend on the informal seed system, which is based primarily on saved seeds (42 percent), social networks (26 percent), and local markets (22 percent). Typically, farmers repeatedly use saved seeds from one season to the next, which tends to lessen the genetic purity of the seed.

Farming families are 'seed secure' only when they have access to adequate quantities of seed, of acceptable quality, and in time for planting. These three key elements of seed security (availability, access and quality) are of concern in South Sudan. Improving the country's ability to produce quality seed would help to inject money into the local economy and provide training that would benefit farmers for years to come.

#### iii) Seed smart<sup>23</sup>

"Through the project, FAO aims to not only reduce the number of households affected by food insecurity through improving the availability and access of locally produced quality seed on the market, but also aims to improve the incomes and capacity of seed producers," said Joseph Okidi, Project Officer with FAO South Sudan. Technical capacity in quality seed production, especially among youth, and even within the government services, is very limited. The project will include seed fairs, capacity development for seed enterprises, input distribution and Farmer Field Schools. It will also increase the amount of land dedicated to quality-seed multiplication.

<sup>21</sup> *ibid*

<sup>22</sup> Available at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) accessed on 15/3/2022

<sup>23</sup> *ibid*

## iv) Proven success

FAO has been supporting the seed sector in South Sudan for several years. In 2011 nearly 5 000 vulnerable households, 513 seed producers and 23 government extension workers benefitted from a similar project funded by the Government of France. This is one of several important seed projects FAO is implementing throughout South Sudan. "After FAO supported us with the project, our farmers' group was able to come together and save enough money to buy four bulls. We used the two pairs to plough our fields," said Lou Marial, a farmer from Adwel, Rumbek East County in Lakes State, who benefitted from the previous project. "We have managed to expand our production area and are expecting a significantly bigger harvest this year," Marial added. "It's a real pleasure to see how our support has been transformed into such a significant seed production," said Laetitia Tremel, Programme Officer at the French Embassy in Juba. The 2011 project intervention led to the production of more than 350 tonnes of quality seeds and planting materials, and injected some USD 300 000 into the local economy. Although South Sudan has enormous agricultural potential, it faces multiple challenges to realizing national and household food security. The seed sector is a primary tool for ending hunger and FAO and the Government of France joined efforts to develop this sector in a sustainable manner.

D. Investing in agriculture for a better future<sup>24</sup>

Investing in agriculture is essential for reducing hunger and promoting sustainable agricultural production. Those parts of the world where agricultural capital per worker and public investments in agriculture have stagnated are the epicentres of poverty and hunger today. Demand growth over the coming decades will place increasing pressure on the natural resource base. Eradicating hunger sustainably will require a significant increase in agricultural investments, but also an improvement in their effectiveness. Farmers are the largest investors in developing country agriculture and must be central to any strategy for increasing investment in the sector, but if they are to invest more in agriculture they need a favourable climate for agricultural investment based on economic incentives and an enabling environment. Governments also have a special responsibility to help smallholders overcome the constraints they face in expanding their productive assets and to ensure that large-scale investments in agriculture are socially beneficial and environmentally sustainable. Government investment in agriculture is a crucial component of providing an enabling environment for private investments in the sector. Governments need to channel scarce public funds towards the provision of essential public goods with high economic and social returns.

E. Mountains and Climate Change: A Global Concern<sup>25</sup>

In a changing climate, mountain regions are among the most vulnerable. They provide the world with resources such as water, timber, biodiversity and hydraulic energy and they are at risk.

F. Hunger, food and nutrition security: towards a post-2015 development agenda<sup>26</sup>

As the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, a number of processes have been put in place to seek inputs from country, regional and global levels, into the "Post-2015 Development Agenda and Framework".

This is your opportunity to help identify the actions, goals, targets and indicators needed to achieve food and nutrition security, and the eradication of hunger, in a post-2015 world. Many food security and nutrition policies, strategies and action plans have been written over the past number

<sup>24</sup> Available at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org) accessed on 17/06/2022

<sup>25</sup> ibid

<sup>26</sup> id

of years. Challenges and opportunities towards achieving food and nutrition security in a sustainable way have been identified, and many countries are making good progress. Nevertheless, close to 870 million people around the world remain undernourished and do not have access to a healthy diet. It is time for everyone to take urgent action – in a concerted manner – and to elaborate a new development agenda around lasting concerns of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The outcome of this e-consultation, together with the proposed CFS consultation, will feed into the high level consultation to be hosted by the Government of Spain in March 2013.

#### CONCLUSION

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "Food and nutritional security are the foundations of a decent life". The global food crisis is a wake-up call for the international community. It will help us to understand what the real problem is it by going to the root of it. Also it will help us why the steps are failing, which measures have to be taken, as a human being everyone has to discharge a duty towards the welfare of Society. Let us aim at Fiat panis (let there be bread).