16 October

WORLD FOOD DAY
2015

Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty

www.fao.org/world-food-day/home/en/
World Food Day 2015 is an occasion to focus the world’s attention on the crucial role played by social protection in eradicating hunger and poverty.
World Food Day 2015

Decreasing malnutrition

150 million people overcame extreme poverty thanks to social protection programmes.

The share of undernourished people in developing regions has decreased from 23.3% to 12.9% since 1990.

Social protection is a range of solutions designed to support the vulnerable and help the poor - work opportunities, provision of food, money and services.

Less than 2% of global GDP would provide a basic set of social security benefits for all the world’s poor.
40% of the world’s degraded lands are in areas with high poverty rates, with the greatest threat being loss of soil quality, biodiversity and water resource.

About 73 percent of the world population has no access to social protection measures, most are in rural areas and dependent on agriculture to make a living.
World Food Day 2015

Social protection can contribute to
• improve agricultural productivity,
• promote social inclusion,
• stimulate local economic development
• and encourage sustainable natural resource uses.

Lack of water is a major cause of famine and undernourishment.
Increasing food production using less water is one of the great challenges for the coming decades.
If women farmers had access to the same resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million.

Women have less access to social protection than men because they generally work in the informal sector.

http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/what-is-wfd
500 million family farms manage the majority of the world’s agricultural land and produce more than 80% of the world’s food.

Family farms are needed to ensure global food security, to care for and protect the natural environment and to end poverty, undernourishment and malnutrition.

The sustainability and future food security of family farms may be threatened by intensive resource use. Public policies that recognize the diversity and complexity of the challenges faced by family farms are necessary for ensuring food security.
A fairer food system is supported by **sustainable diets; those with low environmental impact,** which contribute to food and nutrition security and to healthy life for present and future generations.

*Burlingame and Dernini, 2012, p. 294*
It is estimated that the number of people fed in a year per hectare ranges from 22 for potatoes and 19 for rice to 1 and 2, respectively, for beef and lamb. A lower animal protein diet will need less water to be sustained.

http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/3_foodconsumption/en/index4.html

World Water Day 2012: Water and Food Security
Reducing food wastage and a more sustainable diet would avoid pressure on scarce natural resources and decrease the need to raise food production by 60 percent in order to meet the 2050 population demand.

The world produces enough food to feed everyone, but

1/3 of all food produced is lost or wasted,

805 million people suffer from chronic hunger.

161 million children under the age of 5 are stunted.

The cost of malnutrition is about 3.5 trillion USD per year.
The Dietitian/Nutritionist workforce is a key agent in social protection programmes, empowering people in a more sustainable food pattern.