



NOW from NORTH AMERICA

16 October 2018
World Food Day

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“Today, it is fundamental to produce food in a way that preserves the environment and biodiversity. Business as usual is no longer an option.

We have to implement sustainable practices that provide healthy and nutritious food, ecosystem services and climate-change resilience.”

**José Graziano da Silva,
Director-General of FAO**

FAO's Committee on
Agriculture – 26th Session,
1 October 2018

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Reader,

As the golden, orange and yellow leaves glimmer in the setting autumn sun, we are back with our next edition after a two month summertime hiatus.

This fall “Our Actions, Our Future” heralds the World Food Day calling upon us to redouble our efforts to end hunger by 2030. “Together, we can feed the World” - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue in his message on the occasion of the World Food Day reiterates and underlines the shared vision and partnership between USDA and FAO to strengthen global food security and combat poverty.

Unfortunately, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2018) did not bring much cheer, with the hunger figures increasing for the third year in a row reaching 821 million, reversing the progress made to levels not seen in more than a decade. Achieving Zero Hunger will entail joining forces across nations, sectors and professions to act on evidence and adopt more sustainable lifestyles. Towards this end, this September we partnered with the Alliance to End Hunger to explore how to leverage private sector investment in agricultural value chains to benefit smallholder farmers. We also hosted a briefing on the Capitol Hill on international perspectives on Food Loss & Waste in conjunction with the House Food Waste Caucus.

In October, we are hosting multiple events to mark World Food Day. Look out for our technical discussion on SOFI in partnership with IFPRI. In mid-October, we will be at the World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa discussing how we can ensure global food and nutrition security amidst climate variability and conflict with the 2018 laureates. In end October, we travel to Ottawa to cohost with IDRC a discussion on the key findings of SOFI 2018 and with CARE Canada the key findings of the 2018 State of Food and Agriculture report.

We hope you enjoy this edition and write back to us with your ideas and comments.

Vimlendra Sharan

Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America

“TOGETHER, WE CAN FEED THE WORLD”

World Food Day 2018 Message by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue



On October 16, the global community will celebrate World Food Day to commemorate the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). For more than 70 years, FAO has played a critical role in combatting global hunger as a preeminent knowledge organization, technical assistance provider, and global facilitator. On World Food Day, countries across the globe, including the United States, will host events and activities to raise awareness of those suffering from hunger and malnutrition and highlight ways to address these acute challenges.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proud to support FAO’s work in strengthening global food security in several ways, including our strong representation through Tommie Williams, Minister-Counselor for Agriculture, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome. We cooperate on research, as well as on programs focused on global crop forecasting, food safety, disaster assistance, economic sustainability of agriculture and building resilient communities. We share common goals to reduce hunger by decreasing food waste and increasing production efficiency to help feed a growing global population.

We also share policy expertise. USDA houses the U.S. Codex Office, which coordinates U.S. participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the UN body that sets international food standards aimed at protecting consumer health and ensuring fair trade practices. The science-based guidelines and standards set by Codex, if taken seriously, should enhance the quality and safety of our food systems and facilitate international trade, which boosts global food security by strengthening livelihoods and connecting consumers to safe food.

As we look to our future, we must also reflect back on our past, like the work of the great Dr. Norman Borlaug, credited with saving over one billion lives through genetic and technological research that increased our food supply. If Borlaug was that successful in the 1950’s, imagine what should be accomplished by working together today. The U.S. and our allies are leading the way in investment in biotechnology and precision agriculture to grow our food supply in a way that would make Dr. Borlaug proud.

Increased global food security is a mutual interest. USDA continues to partner with FAO to help meet the needs of the global population today, the 2030 population, and beyond. However, we will not be able to accomplish the lofty goal of feeding a swelling global population without increased global acceptance of the safe, science-based, proven technologies the U.S. and others have worked hard to develop to solve this age-old problem. I congratulate FAO on its anniversary and its work to strengthen global food security and combat poverty. Together, we can feed the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonny Perdue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sonny Perdue, 31st United States Secretary of Agriculture

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

International Perspectives on Food Waste



From Left to right: Vimlendra Sharan (FAO), Dr. Lorenzo Terzi (EU), Giuliana Torta (EU) and Kai Robertson (WRI).

5 September 2018, Washington, DC - FAO North America, in conjunction with the House Food Waste Caucus, organized a Congressional Briefing about food waste reduction efforts around the world to highlight success stories of the growing global movement to address this important issue. The event was moderated by Kai Robertson, Lead Adviser on the Food Loss and Waste Protocol, World Resources Institute (WRI). She emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals, especially 12.3 on responsible production and consumption, set a target to cut food waste by half by 2030, which motivates countries to take action.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, underlined that there is no one size fits all solution to food loss and waste reduction. Developing countries mainly face challenges in food loss during post harvest stages, while developed nations face the challenge of food waste at retail and consumer levels.

Giuliana Torta, Counsellor for Environment, Climate Action and Maritime Affairs at the EU Delegation to the U.S., emphasized that the prevention of food waste is a primary action area for the European Union. The European Commission plans to implement legally binding targets for food loss and waste reduction by 2023 for its member states.

Lorenzo Terzi, Minister Counsellor for Health & Food Safety at the EU Delegation to the U.S., underlined that FAO and UN Environment are key agencies supporting intergovernmental work to reduce food loss and food waste.

Andrew Kessler, Senior Commercial Advisor within the Danish Trade Council's Energy & Environment Team, explained that by making it expensive to do the wrong thing and inexpensive to do the right thing, while working with farmers to promote change, Denmark managed to increase biogas production to divert wasted food from landfills.

Jon Shaw, Director for Sustainability and Communications at Carrier Transicold and Refrigerated Systems discussed Carrier's refrigeration options along the whole supply chain to protect and preserve food. With urbanization growing, there has never been more interest in cold chains.

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree thanked the panelists and underscored that the US can learn from efforts around the globe to reduce food waste.

[Read more about FAOs work on Food Loss and Waste](#)

Leveraging Private Sector Investments for #ZeroHunger



From Left to right: Margaret Zeigler (GHI), Jennifer Billings (DowDuPont), Geoff Andersen (John Deere) and John O'Connor (Land O'Lakes).

13 September 2018, Washington, DC - Representatives from major U.S. corporations joined FAO North America and the Alliance to End Hunger for a roundtable discussion on how to leverage private sector investment in agricultural value chains to benefit smallholders and contribute to zero hunger. Margaret Zeigler, Executive Director of the Global Harvest Initiative, moderated the discussion.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, opened the session by highlighting the continuing increase in global hunger levels and the importance of smallholder farmers, which produce 70-80 percent of the food in Asia and Africa. He noted that private sector investments can increase the competitiveness of smallholder farmers.

Jennifer Billings, Agriculture Development Leader at Corteva Agriscience, the agricultural division of the newly formed DowDuPont, accentuated the need for public and private partnerships to achieve food security. She highlighted Corteva's partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, USAID and ACDI/VOCA (2013-18), which increased the productivity of 250,000 smallholder farmers by 300 per cent and increased annual incomes by USD\$1,500.

Geoff Andersen, Director of Regional Agricultural Strategic Planning for John Deere, underscored the strong potential for making farming sustainable and profitable. He emphasized the importance of creating the right system to bring agricultural mechanization, such as policy incentives and infrastructure. One such example of public-private partnership includes John Deere's corporation with the Nigerian Ministry of Food and Agriculture to procure 10,000 tractors and assemble a local facility.

John O'Connor, Senior Manager of Project Design & Implementation at Land O'Lakes, Inc. highlighted their increasing work in building smallholder farmers resilience to shocks. This includes training programs in partnership with USAID to help smallholder farmers identify Fall Armyworm.

The speakers stressed the high return of investment from agriculture, but noted the need for collective investments in training, infrastructure, finance, and technology across the complete agricultural value chain.

[Read more on how FAO partners with the private sector](#)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA



Mark your Calendars for World Food Day - 16 October

Each year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) celebrates World Food Day on 16 October to promote global awareness and action for those who suffer from chronic hunger and for the need to ensure food security and good nutrition for all. It also commemorates the founding of FAO in 1945. The theme this year is “Our Actions, Our Future: A #ZeroHunger world is possible by 2030.”

How to Participate in #WFD2018 From governments, the private sector, and farmers to youth - there is a role for everyone in this year’s action oriented #WFD2018 campaign.

- **Organize an event** in your community by coordinating an activity such as a fair, cooking class, movie screening, or a volunteer event with a local food bank, and let us know about it by registering it on the [World Food Day website](#).
- **Join our #WFDChat** on Monday, 15 October from 10 - 11AM (EDT) on the theme “Rising Hunger, Rising Obesity: How can we transform our food systems for #ZeroHunger?”
- **Poster Contest** - We are inviting youth between the ages of 5 and 19 to share their vision for a world free on hunger by [submitting their artwork](#) by 9 November 2018.
- **Spread the word** - Share how you are taking action – no matter how big or small – to achieve #ZeroHunger on #WFD2018. Inform, educate and engage audiences with real facts. Join the #WFD2018 campaign by sharing our free material on digital channels.

For more resources and updates, visit: www.fao.org/world-food-day

Food Loss and Waste Expert Meeting

14-16 August 2018, Ottawa ON - The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) organized the *Second Food Loss and Waste Measurement Expert Group Meeting* in order to discuss progress on the study “Methodologies and Guidance to Reduce Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in North America”, which aims to assist the environmental ministries of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico and other stakeholders to measure and reduce food loss and waste. Florian Doerr, Associate Professional Officer at FAO North America delivered a presentation on the Socio-Economic Impacts of Food Loss and Waste, together with Alicia English, who presented FAO’s work on the [Food Loss Index \(12.3.1\)](#).

Sustainable Agriculture Index

21-23 August 2018, Annapolis, MD - The Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), University of Maryland hosted a meeting to understand the dynamic environmental and socioeconomic interactions in food systems to support decision-making towards sustainable and resilient agriculture. Florian Doerr presented FAO’s work on [sustainable agriculture](#) and [SDG Indicator 2.4.1.](#), which is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and the first step towards Zero Hunger.

Partner Corner: Global Harvest Initiative (GHI)

In this section, FAO’s Liaison Office for North America invites a different partner organization each month to comment on how the partnership has benefitted both organizations.



Global Harvest Initiative (GHI) was formed in 2009 as a private-sector policy voice to improve the productivity and sustainability of the food and agriculture system. Each year, it produces the Global Agricultural Productivity Report (GAP Report), a collaborative research publication that highlights current trends transforming the food system and lays out a vision for a world where people thrive and the planet’s resources are protected for generations to come. GHI discusses innovation, investments, policies and partnerships that are essential to achieve this vision of a hunger-free, healthy and sustainable world.

GHI’s member companies are Bayer, Corteva Agriscience, John Deere, The Mosaic Company and Smithfield Foods. GHI is joined by consultative partner organizations from civil society who share their knowledge and experience in agriculture, conservation, nutrition and the needs of small-scale farmers.

“GHI has enjoyed partnering with FAO. We have established a good foundation for knowledge exchange between the private-sector members of GHI and FAO. We appreciate the considerable technical and policy resources that FAO brings to our common endeavor of advancing a healthier, more sustainable world” - Dr. Margaret Zeigler, Executive Director of the Global Harvest Initiative.

www.globalharvestinitiative.org

FAO NORTH AMERICA EVENTS & TAX CORNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

What	When	Where	Register
Discussion on Key Findings of FAO's 2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report	Wednesday, 10 October 2018 from 12:15 PM to 1:45 PM EDT	IFPRI 1201 Eye St. NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC	Register
Our Actions Are Our Future: Celebrate World Food Day	Wednesday, 10 October 2018 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM EDT	Longworth House Office Building, Room 1300, 15 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC	Register
World Food Day Reception	Monday, 15 October 2018 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM EDT	FAO North America, 2121 K Street, Suite 800B, Washington, DC	By invitation only
World Food Prize—Climate Variability and Conflict: Actions Need to Ensure Food Security	Wednesday, 17 October 2018 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM CDT	Des Moines Marriott Downtown, 700 Grand Avenue, Davenport and Dubuque Rooms, Des Moines, IA	Register
Rise Against Hunger - Nat Cap's Meal Packaging Event	Tuesday, 16 October 2018 from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM EDT	Capital Area Food Bank, 4900 Puerto Rico Ave. NE, Washington, DC	Register
Geographical Indications and Sustainability: New Methodologies and Tools for Measuring It	Monday, 22 October 2018 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM EDT	Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest	Register
Canadian Perspectives on the State of Food Security and Nutrition 2018	Monday, 29 October, Time TBC	IDRC, 150 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1P 0B2	Check our website for updates
Agriculture, Climate Change & Migration Challenges and Opportunities for Women and Youth	Tuesday, 30 October, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM (EDT)	Delegation of Ismaili Imam, 199 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1N 1K6	Check our website for updates

TAX CORNER

This section provides important updates from the tax unit located at the FAO Liaison Office for North America, which processes tax reimbursement requests by FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) staff members.

Tax Payers Who Filed For An Extension - Don't forget the 15 October Deadline

The IRS reminds taxpayers who filed a 6-month extension:

“Taxpayers should remember the 15 October Deadline. Taxpayers who are not ready to file yet should remember to file by 15 October to avoid a failure-to-file penalty. Taxpayers who owe and can not pay their balance in full should pay as much as they can to reduce interest and penalties for late payment. They can use the [Online Payment Agreement](#) tool to apply for more time to pay or set up an installment agreement. In most cases, the failure-to-file penalty is 10 times more than the failure-to-pay penalty.”

The FAO Tax Unit reminds staffers that this 6 month extension ONLY applies to filing, not payments. If you owe the IRS income tax, then you will most likely receive an IRS Notification regarding the income tax and late payment penalties.

In addition, the IRS website has provided clarifications regarding the “**Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA)**” one for each type of taxpayer: [Individuals](#); [Businesses](#); and [Tax Exempt Entities](#).

The **Individuals** page shares information about: **Withholding** - How the IRS Withholding Calculator can help taxpayers perform a “[Paycheck Checkup](#).” **Credits** – Changes to the child tax credit, additional child tax credit, and information about the new credit for other dependents. **Deductions** - The law changed standard and itemized deductions.

U.S. Armed Forces members – Tax reform updates about combat zone benefits and moving expenses.”

FAO GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Breaking the cycle between conflict and hunger



25 September, 2018, New York - Boosting the resilience of the most vulnerable people, activating early responses to early warnings and coordinating interventions are the three pillars of an integrated approach to peace and food security, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva said at a side event during the 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York.

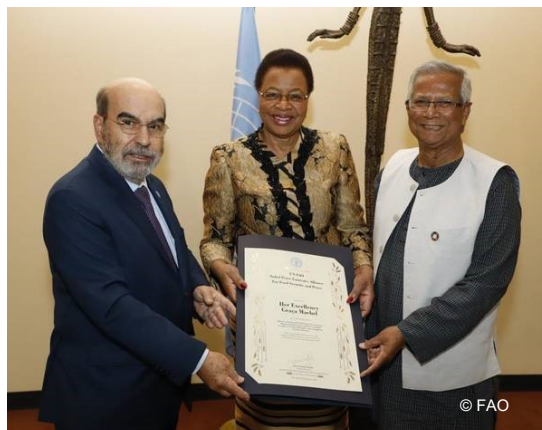
"There will be no sustainable peace if people continue to be left behind," he said at a panel discussion on ways to break the cycle between conflict and hunger. "If we do not create conditions for vulnerable people and communities to thrive and live with dignity, this will trigger conflict, instability and forced migration."

In May 2018, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2417, which explicitly recognized the link between conflict and hunger. Improving pasture and water management, adopting climate-smart agriculture practices, distribution of fertilizers and seeds, control of livestock and plant diseases as well as humanitarian relief are key interventions for creating peace and stability and achieving food security. [Full story](#)

FAO and U.S. delegation emphasize food security and resilience as top priorities

24-27 September, 2018, New York - During the 73rd UN General Assembly, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva participated in and interacted with several senior U.S. delegates. In his bilateral meetings with USAID Administrator Ambassador Mark Green and Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations Kevin Moley, the Director-General shared the findings from the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition Report and expressed FAO's strong interest in further strengthening its long-standing partnership with the United States to successfully deliver upon the Sustainable Development Goals. Recounting FAO's robust effort to effect significant efficiency savings and cut costs, the Director-General called for secure and predictable funding of the Organization to ensure positive results. With Representative Ted Yoho, Congressman from the 3rd District of Florida, the Director-General underlined the need for increased action to reverse the recent trend of increasing hunger and welcomed continued political leadership from the U.S. and its actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030. The Director-General also met the Executive Director of the Alliance to End Hunger, Rebecca Middleton who briefed him on the domestic and international efforts initiated by her organization to combat hunger and the ever strengthening partnership between the two organizations.

FAO at the UNGA Mandela Peace Summit



24 September 2018, New York - Without peace there will be no food security, and without food security there will be no peace - that was the message of the FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, during the [Nelson Mandela Peace Summit](#) at the UN General Assembly.

"Freeing the world from hunger and want is a fundamental contribution to lasting peace. Nelson Mandela's centenary once again obliges us to recognize that promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as the right to food and to economic and social development, are key for achieving inclusive and peaceful societies as set out by the 2030 Agenda," Graziano da Silva said in his statement. [Full Story](#)

FAO FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS



The latest in The State of the World collection

[The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018](#), one of the five flagship reports that constitute FAO's [The State of the World](#), was published on 11 September, signaling a rise in world hunger and pointing out the role of climate extremes as one of the key drivers behind the increase.

Also published in September, the biennial report on [The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets](#) focuses on the complex and underexplored intersections between agricultural trade, climate change and food security.

This summer saw the publication of the 2018 editions of [The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) and [The State of the World's Forests](#), both of which are published every two years. The reports focused on each sector's respective roles in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[The State of Food and Agriculture](#) – to be released in conjunction with the [45th Committee on World Food Security](#) (15–19 October 2018, Rome) – will examine the linkages between migration, agriculture and rural development.

FAO AND THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has deep roots in North America. The Organization was conceived of during a meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia, United States in 1943 and its first headquarters was located in Washington, DC. In 1945, FAO was formally established as a specialized agency by the newly created United Nations during its very first session, which was held in Quebec City, Canada. FAO’s headquarters was permanently moved to Rome, Italy in 1951. The FAO Liaison Office for North America, based in Washington, DC, continues to strengthen the Organization’s partnership with Canada and the United States.

FAO shares with Canada and the United States a vision of how to achieve a world without hunger and poverty. Both member states have been working closely with FAO since its inception more than 70 years ago. Canada and the United States both play critically important leadership roles within FAO and they are also among the Organization’s largest financial supporters.

FAO’s Liaison Office for North America works to support and implement FAO policies and programs through strategic partnerships with governments and other key stakeholders based in Canada and the United States, including civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, research centers and think tanks, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and the media.

CONTACT US

FAO Liaison Office for North America

2121 K Street, NW.
Suite 800B.
Washington, D.C.
20037 USA

+1 (202) 653-2400
Faolow@fao.org

[www.fao.org/
north-america](http://www.fao.org/north-america)



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