



NOW from NORTH AMERICA



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20 May is World Bee Day. More than 75% of the world's food crops depend on pollination.

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“There will be no sustainable peace if people continue to be left behind. 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. We have to address the root causes of peace and instability. Hunger and food insecurity are among these.”

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

UN General Assembly Side Event
25 September, 2018, New York

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors—we borrow it from our children.” The wisdom and sagacity of this native American proverb reminds us to recommit ourselves to a sustainable future for planet Earth. To mark our commitment, we invited our partners to join us on Earth Day for a featured talk by Denis Hayes, coordinator of the first Earth Day and founder of the Earth Day Network, and Kaitlin Yarnall, Senior Vice President for Storytelling at National Geographic.

The Food Security Information Network (FSIN) launched the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises this April. The report underlines the need for a more resilient and cohesive approach to address acute hunger. To help understand the implications for over 100 million people experiencing acute levels of food insecurity, we convened a series of discussions including a briefing for Congress staffers at the Capitol, a technical briefing at IFPRI, and a roundtable discussion with senior U.S. government officials and other stakeholders at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Later this month, we will discuss Canadian perspectives on the need for further strengthening the humanitarian – development nexus, at an FAO North America—CARE Canada cohosted event in Ottawa.

An important cog in the wheel towards tackling hunger, especially in an urban context, is to make food systems planning integral to any urban planning initiative. As part of our partnership with University of Buffalo, we organized a roundtable to discuss the need for proactive action by local governments to build resilient and sustainable community food systems.

Involving youth will always remain a strong pillar in any endeavor to achieve sustainable production and consumption patterns. To engage the youth, we have, in partnership with George Washington University's Planet Forward initiative, announced a storytelling contest on healthy and sustainable diets, with an opportunity for the three best storytellers to join FAO in Rome for Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

It has been a busy April for us, and we have a lot more in store for May.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

Global Report on Food Crises 2019: Conflict, climate, and economic shocks keep acute hunger levels above 100 million



25-26 April 2019, Washington, DC – With only a slight fall in the number of people facing acute levels of hunger - from 124 million in 2017 to 113 million in 2018 - it is still of grave concern to the global community that the number technically in *Crisis* has surpassed 100 million for the past three years. Conflict, climate and natural disasters, as well as economic shocks continue to put too many lives and livelihoods at risk of hunger, according to the latest *Global Report on Food Crises*.

Relief funding during food *crises* is not helping as much as it once did, as the quantity and intensity of food *crises* increase. This was made clear to more than 50 staff members of U.S. Senate and House offices on Capitol Hill at a Congressional Briefing on the report in the Senate. Speakers included Matthew Nims, Deputy Director for the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Dominique Burgeon,

Director of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader for Resilience at FAO; Anne-Claire Mouilliez, Senior Programme and Policy Officer at United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Global Coordinator of the Food Security Information Network (FSIN); and Luca Russo, Senior Food Crises Analyst and Strategic Adviser for FAO. Speakers emphasized that the U.S. and its partners should not only continue their robust leadership in food aid and relief funding, but increase investments in preventative development and resilience building to stop the 143 million people facing food-stress, even with food aid (IPC/CH Phase 2), from slipping into IPC/CH *Crises* Phase 3. The congressional briefing was hosted by FAO and WFP in conjunction with the Senate and House Hunger Caucuses.

At an [IFPRI Policy Seminar](#), the FAO and WFP speakers were joined by World Food Programme Chief Economist Arif Hussain and World Bank Practice Manager, Dina Umali-Deininger, along with IFPRI researchers who provided country experiences. Sikandra Kurdi, Associate Research Fellow at IFPRI, shared comments on the food crises in Yemen, which has resulted from the disastrous civil conflict that has been on-going for four years. Eugenio Diaz-Bonilla, Head of IFPRI's Latin American and Caribbean Program, highlighted data showing the severe deterioration in health and nutrition conditions in Venezuela. Paul Dorosh, Director of Development Strategy and Governance Division at IFPRI, shared consequence of the Rohingya refugee crisis in the host country of Bangladesh.

The last stop in DC was a private roundtable luncheon featuring FAO's Dominique Burgeon and WFP's Arif Hussain in a discussion with senior officials from leading U.S. Government Bureaus and humanitarian organizations, moderated by Kimberly Flowers, Director of Humanitarian Agenda and Global Food Security Project at CSIS.

The series highlighted the importance of investing in conflict resolution and peace, while also elevating early warning systems and preventative measures. As stated by Dominique Burgeon "We need to promote greater coherence and better effectiveness of collective efforts across the humanitarian development-peace nexus."

Leveraging local government action for sustainable and inclusive urban food systems

25 April 2019, Washington, DC - Today over half of the world population lives in urban areas. By 2050, this number will increase to a staggering 70%. FAO North America and the University of Buffalo hosted a [roundtable discussion](#) examining how local governments, especially in low and middle-income countries, are already taking steps to effectively strengthen sustainable food systems. The roundtable was moderated by James Tefft, FAO Senior Economist and Liaison Officer seconded to the World Bank's Agriculture Global Practice.

Jorge Fonseca, adviser for FAO's Food System Management team, underscored that [FAO's Framework for the Urban Food Agenda](#) focuses on leveraging sub-national and local government action to ensure sustainable food systems and improved nutrition.

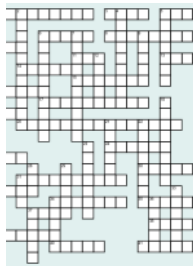
Samina Raja, Professor at the [Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab](#), University of Buffalo, presented the findings of the study on community food systems planning which explores community food systems in Ghana, Jamaica, and India. The guide, supported by FAO, aims to help local governments plan and strengthen sustainable food systems in an inclusive way.

Amani Ishemo, Associate Professor for Rural Development at the University of Technology in Jamaica, showcased the community food system in Clarendon Parish, Jamaica. He emphasized key opportunities for action towards sustainable food include: increased government capacity, viable farmer cooperatives, diversification of income sources, public private partnerships, infrastructure investments, youth empowerment, and better agricultural research and development.

Kazuki Kitaoka, Head of Marketing, Outreach, and Reporting at FAO, underscored that major investments into urban food systems will be essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and food security for all. FAO seeks creative alliances and partnerships for implementing the urban food agenda to turn policy into action.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA



Test Your Knowledge: Zero Hunger Crossword

Check out [FAO's Urban Food Agenda](#) and the [Global Report on Food Crises](#) and get started on the [May Zero Hunger crossword](#)!

[Here are the answers](#) for the April edition of the crossword.

Planet Forward calls on students to join FAO and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome for a storytelling expedition



4–5 April 2019, Washington, DC - At the 2019 Planet Forward Summit, students from across the United States gathered to learn how to be storytellers of impact for the planet. The two-day summit covered topics ranging from ocean plastics to conservation, environmental policy to plant based diets, and brought speakers from Now This, Terra Cycle, Mars Inc., and National Geographic, among others renowned communicators.

During the conference Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, announced an opportunity for three students to attend the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that will take place in Rome from 14-18 October. [Applications are open until May 31.](#)

Last year, four students from universities across the United States had the opportunity to attend CFS and the official World Food Day proceeding at FAO Headquarters. Read their insights in the [A Zero Hunger Future](#) series.

Harnessing the power of storytelling for Earth Day



22 April 2019, Washington, DC - To mark Earth Day and the importance of committing ourselves to protect our planet, as did 20 million Americans who marched for the deteriorating environment in 1970, FAO North America convened a zero waste reception. The event featured remarks by Denis

Hayes, organizer of the first Earth Day, and Kaitlin Yarnall, Senior Vice President of Storytelling at National Geographic.

“The environmental movement can use storytelling to put a human face to all the statistics”, Hayes said. “In the 70s, it was about creating the EPA [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency], the clean water act, and the Endangered Species act. Today, we need urgent leadership and international collaboration to address the climate crisis.”

Yarnall complemented his remarks by sharing that a scientific report alone will not lead to action or policy change, “After [Into the Okavango](#) premiered and some meetings, the Angolan government committed to protecting the Okavango Delta headwaters.”

Partner Corner:

Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD)

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.



Established in 1964, AIARD is a professional association of individuals and organizations representing the public and private sectors, universities, NGOs, corporations, cooperatives, students, and others from around the world who are engaged in global agricultural development and hunger alleviation.

AIARD has long enjoyed a highly collaborative and constructive relationship with FAO's Liaison Office for North America in Washington, DC, including with senior FAO staff members serving on the Association's Executive Board.

Each year, AIARD hosts its Annual Conference in Washington, DC aimed at promoting increased awareness of and support for international agriculture and rural development. The theme of this year's event, which will represent AIARD's 55th Annual Conference is “Resilience in global food systems: what does this look like and what will it take?” It will be held from June 2-4, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Capitol Hill. To view the conference program or to register, please visit: www.aiard.org/2019-annual-meeting.html

Linked to its Annual Conference, AIARD also hosts its Future Leader's Forum (FLF) in Washington, DC during the same week in June. The FLF brings 12 outstanding competitively selected U.S. university students to join the Association for its Conference and a tour of prospective employers in global food security.

Website: www.aiard.org
Twitter: [@AIARDorg](https://twitter.com/AIARDorg)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NORTH AMERICA

EVENTS THIS MONTH

| What | When | Where | Event link |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Missing Middle: How Small and Medium Enterprises in the Food System Address Malnutrition in Low & Middle Income Countries | Tuesday, 7 May 2019 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT | FAO Liaison Office for North America, 2121 K St. NW, Suite 800-B, Washington, DC | Register |
| New ways of working: Linking practice and policy | Monday, 13 May 2019 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM EDT | CARE Canada 9 Gurdwara Road, Ottawa, ON K2E 7X6 | Register |
| Climate Action Is On! The subnational action driving drawdown at the landscape level | Thursday, 16 May 2019 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM EDT | Birdsall House 2055 L St. NW, Washington, DC | Register |
| World Bee Day Twitter Chat | Monday, 20 May 2019 | Twitter: @FAONorthAmerica | |
| World Food Law Symposium - Geographical Indications and Gastro-Tourism | Tuesday, 21 May 2019 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM | Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC | Register |

TAX CORNER

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

U.S. citizens and resident aliens who live and work outside the U.S. and Puerto Rico have until 17 June 2019 to file their 2018 tax returns and pay any taxes due. They actually have two extra days because the normal 15 June extended deadline falls on Saturday this year. Affected taxpayers should attach a statement to the tax return explaining which of these situations apply.

Though taxpayers abroad get more time to pay, interest -- currently at the rate of six percent per year, compounded daily -- applies to any payment received after the 15 April deadline.

Taxpayers who do not qualify for this special situation can still get more time to file by submitting a request for an automatic extension of time to file. This will extend their deadline to file until 15 October 2019. However, their tax payments are still due by the 15 April due date; and of course, the interest will continue to accrue on tax liability that is due.

An easy way to get the extra time is through Free File on www.irs.gov. In a matter of minutes, anyone, regardless of income, can use this free service to electronically request an extension on Form 4868. To get the extension, taxpayers must estimate their tax liability on this form.

Another option is to pay electronically and get a tax-filing extension. The IRS will automatically process an extension when a taxpayer selects Form 4868 and makes a full or partial federal tax payment using Direct Pay, the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) or a debit or credit card. Under this option, there is no need to file a separate Form 4868. Electronic payment options are available at www.irs.gov/payments.

For more details, please email low-ustax-settlement@fao.org.

FAO GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Weather patterns in the Central American Dry Corridor leave 1.4 million people in need of food assistance



25 April 2019, Panama City – FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned that prolonged droughts and heavy rain have destroyed more than half of the maize and bean crops of the subsistence farmers along the Central

American Dry Corridor, leaving them without food reserves and affecting their food security.

Central American governments estimated that 2.2 million people have suffered crop losses, mainly due to drought. Emergency food security assessments carried out in the Dry Corridor by FAO, WFP, and the governments during the last quarter of 2018 validated these findings and confirmed that 1.4 million people out of the 2.2 million urgently need food assistance. For 2019, FAO and WFP are requesting US\$72 million from the international community to provide food assistance to over 700,000 people in the Dry Corridor.

After worst harvest in ten years, 10 million people in North Korea face imminent food shortages



3 May 2019, Pyongyang/Rome - A United Nations food security assessment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (also known as North Korea) has found that following the worst harvest in 10 years, due to dry spells, heatwaves, and flooding, about 10.1 million people suffer from severe food shortages, meaning they do not have enough food until the next harvest.

The aggregate 2018/19 food crop production is estimated at 4.9 million metric tons, which is the lowest since the 2008/09 season. In addition to unfavourable climatic conditions, limited supplies of agricultural inputs, such as fuel, fertilizer, and spare parts have had significant adverse impact.

Boosting pastoralists' resilience, key to peace in the Sahel

25 April 2019, Dakar - The Sahel remains affected by conflict, food insecurity, malnutrition, population displacement, natural disasters, and epidemics and unless we address these crises from their roots, millions of people will continue requiring urgent assistance each year, said FAO Director-General José Graziano Da Silva during a visit to Senegal.



“Major investments in rural development and agriculture must be integral to peacebuilding efforts.” he added.

In the framework of the Global Network Against Food Crises Partnership Programme, FAO and the EU are implementing a 9 million Euro project designed to benefit 140 000 people - many of whom are vulnerable pastoralists - in the Sahel desert area. The project aims to contribute to a broader regional approach to strengthen the resilience of transboundary agropastoral communities to food crises in the Sahel in a long-term perspective.

Urgent action needed to avert antimicrobial resistance crisis and 10 million deaths by 2050



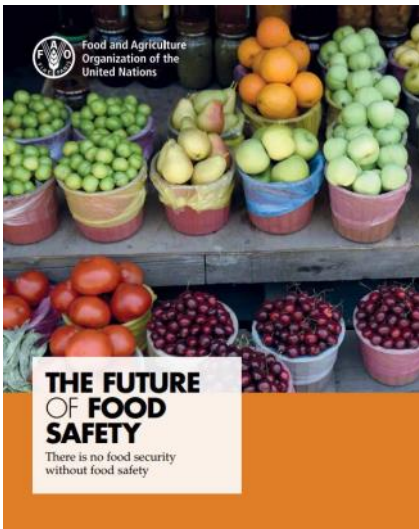
29 April 2019, New York - A new study called for immediate, coordinated, and ambitious action to avert a potentially disastrous drug-resistance crisis. If no action is taken - warns the UN Ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance who released the report - drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

NO TIME TO WAIT: SECURING THE FUTURE FROM DRUG-RESISTANT INFECTIONS

A report by the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance calls for countries to scale up financing and capacity-building efforts; put in place stronger regulatory systems for responsible use of antimicrobials; invest in research; and phase out use of important antimicrobials as growth promoters in agriculture.

[Press release](#)

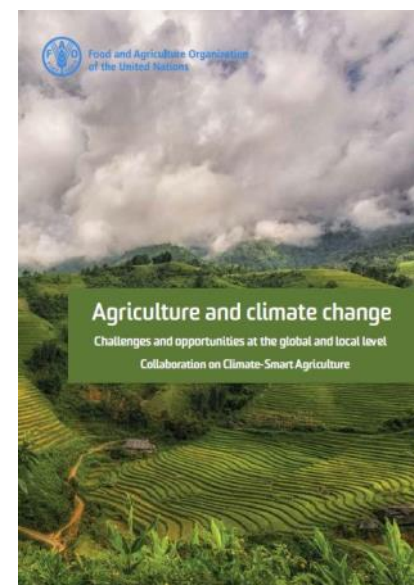


THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY: THERE IS NO FOOD SECURITY WITHOUT FOOD SAFETY

This updated brochure presents FAO's work on food safety, highlighting its critical role across the four dimensions of food security – availability, access, utilization, and stability.

AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AT THE GLOBAL AND LOCAL LEVEL – COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

This publication presents the achievements of the International Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture project, which include capacity development, training, information-sharing and several country studies.



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 conceptualized in the United States during a meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia 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 raise awareness and support 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.

Read more about FAO and [Canada](#) and the [United States](#).

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