



UNITED AGAINST  
HUNGER





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# United against HUNGER

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
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# United against HUNGER

## World Food Day 2010 theme

On 16 October 2010, World Food Day enters its 30<sup>th</sup> year. This auspicious occasion also marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The theme of this year's observance is United against hunger, chosen to recognize the efforts made in the fight against world hunger at national, regional and international levels.

Uniting against hunger becomes real when state and civil society organizations and the private sector work in partnership at all levels to defeat hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition. In this manner collaboration among international organizations particularly the Rome-based United Nations agencies [Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP)] plays a key strategic role in directing global efforts to reach Millennium Development Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger – which calls for halving the hungry people in the world by 2015.

The UN system and other players unite in FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The newly reformed Committee includes member countries but also UN agencies such as IFAD, WFP and the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, as well as other organizations working in the area of food security and nutrition. The Committee includes civil society, NGOs and representatives of all relevant people affected by food insecurity, as well as international agricultural research institutions, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks, the World Trade Organization and will be open to the private sector and philanthropic foundations. The Committee is now advised by a high-level panel of experts on food security and nutrition so it can make rapid and informed decisions. In some 30 countries, national alliances composed of civil society organizations (CSOs) and government agencies are actively collaborating together to promote advocacy and awareness-raising activities and their involvement was further strengthened following the recent international

consultation held at FAO headquarters in June 2010.

The World Summit on Food Security, or the "hunger summit", held in November 2009, adopted a declaration renewing the commitment made at the 1996 World Food Summit to eradicate hunger sustainably from the face of the earth. The Declaration also called for an increase in domestic and international funding for agriculture, new investments in the rural sector, improved governance of global food issues in partnership with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector, and more action to face the threat climate change poses to food security.

In 2009, the critical threshold of one billion hungry people in the world was reached in part due to soaring food prices and the financial crisis, a "tragic achievement in these modern days", according to FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. On the eve of the hunger summit, Dr Diouf launched an online petition to reflect the moral outrage of the situation. The "1 billion hungry project" reaches out to people through online social media to invite them to sign the anti-hunger petition at [www.1billionhungry.org](http://www.1billionhungry.org).

## An agricultural revolution to feed the future

Food production will have to increase by 70 percent to feed a population of nine billion people by 2050. With land scarcity, farmers will be obliged to get greater yields out of the land already under cultivation rather than expanding their farms. But intensified food production has traditionally meant increased dependence on pesticides and fertilizers and overuse of water, which can degrade soils and water resources.

Why do we combine the theme United against hunger, with the need to launch a new green revolution? Because we want to emphasize that the task of increasing food production by such a huge amount, and the related goal that everyone must have access to that food, is not a job for a single

actor. But through partnerships with governments, research institutes and universities, farmers' associations and pressure groups, the UN system, civil society, and the private sector working together it can be done.

When those millions of tonnes of additional food are eventually produced, will everyone get their share? Partnerships among actors in different sectors – civil society, schools, entertainment and sport, non-governmental organizations – can work together to amplify the message that society has to take special care that no one goes hungry. FAO for example has united with the popular world of professional sport. Together with the players and management of the European Professional Football Leagues and other football leagues, and their fans, the Organization is raising the profile of the hunger problem through events and sophisticated communication campaigns.

### Producing all that extra food

Who is going to produce all that extra food? Smallholder farmers and their families represent some 2.5 billion people, more than one-third of the global population, and it is their contribution to increased food production that we want to highlight in this paper. We can boost their future contribution to food production and by so doing also help them work their way out of poverty and malnutrition. It can be done without destroying the environment on which farming depends. Crop production can be increased in a sustainable way through making use of the right kind of policies and the right kind of technologies and approaches that complement what nature does. Put another way, sustainably increasing crop production is about the judicious use of relatively safer external inputs at the right time in the growing cycle and in the right amount. Practices based on such principles can be described as an "ecosystem approach", which builds on various "ecosystem services" that are available in nature. Currently, agricultural inputs are in most instances not utilized at their maximum efficiency; optimizing the utilization of these inputs will in turn allow for the full potential of other inputs as mentioned below to be expressed.

The quantities of food needed to feed nine billion people will not be grown without mineral fertilizers. But we should use them wisely in order to reduce production costs and environmental problems. Integrated pest management or IPM combines pest resistant varieties, biological pest control, cultural practices and judicious use of pesticides to increase

production, lower costs and reduce water and soil contamination. Optimizing the use of pesticides is obviously good for the environment and human health but it also saves the farmer money – money that can be reinvested in the farm or spent on nutritious food for the family. Conservation agriculture is another example of an ecosystem approach that builds on a range of ecosystem services. Increased organic matter in the soil improves soil's capacity to retain water, thus reducing or eliminating the need for irrigation.

Food production has to expand on a sufficient scale to meet future demand. Nation states through governments enable laws, rules, regulations, and programmes. At various levels, the state has the authority to encourage environmentally responsible farming. It can pass laws that, for example, stabilize land tenure, so that farmers feel secure on their land and adopt farming methods to produce the needed food with a long term perspective, including the protection of natural resources. It can also check the quality of products used, and ensure they are correctly labelled, marketed and applied to minimize risks. Governments must promote the ecosystem approach through public policy and legislation.

States must also act in concert to support sustainable food production and food security. For example, in 2009 in L'Aquila, Italy, the G8 countries together with other countries and organizations adopted fundamental principles to enhance food security: use a comprehensive approach; invest in country-led plans; strengthen strategic coordination; leverage benefits of multilateral institutions; and deliver on sustained and accountable commitments.

In the G8 meeting of 2010, held in Muskoka, Canada, countries noted the relationship between cross-border investment and development and the fact that official development assistance alone is not sufficient to achieve global food security. They stressed the importance of enhancing international investment in developing countries in a responsible and sustainable way.

On this World Food Day 2010, when there have never been so many hungry people in the world, let us reflect on the future. With willpower, courage and persistence – and many players working together and helping each other – more food can be produced, more sustainably, and get into the mouths of those who need it most.

*For further information,  
[www.fao.org/getinvolved/wfd](http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/wfd)*

# Address

## By HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

I am pleased to address this 2010 Asia-Pacific World Food Day celebration. It is a special day, marking the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Asia and the Pacific region has achieved high economic growth over the past four decades and has made major progress in poverty and hunger reduction. Indeed, food prices have come down from their peak in 2008 and we have witnessed good harvests over the last couple of years. In addition, the region seems most successful in climbing out of the world economic recession.

Yet, at the same time, there is an estimated 578 million hungry people in the Asia and the Pacific region; the region of the world with the highest number of undernourished persons. Estimates show that one person in six has inadequate nutrition and access to food, and one child in three is underweight. Drastic measures are needed to alleviate their food security.

While hunger in the region has decreased between 2009 and 2010 by around 12 percent, the persistence of high levels of undernourishment suggests that there are structural problems that need to be addressed.

The challenge is to continue the fight against hunger and food security. We have to work towards a world where people can grow the food themselves, or earn money and buy their food. In rural areas where agriculture is the main economic activity, we have to generate incomes and jobs for the rural poor. But there is more to the story. Even in countries with booming farm sectors, there is rural hunger: the landless, labourers, orphans, widows and the elderly often don't get enough to eat. Even in those rural families with regular incomes, ignorance about good nutrition may result in malnourished children.

There is ample evidence that rapid progress to reduce hunger can be made by applying strategies that address both the causes and the consequences of extreme poverty and hunger. Interventions are needed to improve food availability and income of the rural. Targeted programmes are also needed that give the most vulnerable families direct and immediate access to food.

Globally and within our region, we know what to do. FAO also has considerable experience in leading this effort. We are aware that food security calls for a concerted strategy that includes agricultural research and development, prevention of post harvest losses, harmonisation of food security and bio-energy production and mitigating climate change. Practical actions are also needed in disaster management, small farmer empowerment and the provision of social safety nets for the most vulnerable rural households.

This will require massive investments in agriculture and in particular to feed the increasing populations in the future. Food production needs to double to ensure that enough food is available for all in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Kingdom of Thailand is behind FAO in this effort. The country is committed to serve as kitchen of the world, and is there to provide support to programmes and actions that address this huge challenge.

I recognize that over the last six and a half decades, FAO has been at the vanguard of this battle. It has worked together with its member states and increasingly broadened its strategic partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

The 2010 World Food Day theme *United against hunger* could not have been more appropriate. While the world is admiring the success of many economies in the dynamic Asia and Pacific region, we cannot move forward in isolation, as the problems we face are global and there is still much to be done in our region.

To meet the food needs of people everywhere we must include in the partnership not only those who spend their lives as civil servants, academia, civil society or private businessmen but also those whose hands are battered by hard work and whose faces are weathered by a life in the outdoors, producing food for their families, and for the rest of the world too. Defeating hunger is more than just a question of producing more food. It also means uniting to push for social justice for the poor and ensure the right to food for everyone, a fundamental human right. We indeed need to harness the support of all parts of society and ensure that action is taken.



In today's world where no single nation can hide and prosper alone, we must work together. Responding to global issues require cooperative and coordinated approaches, which is exactly what the world must do if we are to put substance around the call of 'food for all':

On this World Food Day 2010, let us reflect on our actions, now and in the future. With will power, courage and persistence – and with the many key

players working together – more food can be produced, more sustainably, and reach the mouths of those who need it most.

I join you all in conveying the solidarity and support of the Thai people to FAO in its effort towards addressing the challenges of ensuring food security for all.

*Thank you.*



# United against HUNGER

**By Jacques Diouf**  
FAO Director-General

On 16 October 2010, World Food Day enters its 30<sup>th</sup> year. The theme of this year's observance, "United against hunger", seeks to recognize the efforts made in the fight against world hunger by all actors, at all levels; and urges us to be even more united to do more.

In 2009, the critical threshold of one billion hungry people in the world was reached in large part due to soaring food prices and the global economic crisis. The gravity of the silent hunger crisis is the result of decades of neglect of agriculture and under-investment in the sector. That is why on the eve of the "Hunger Summit" of heads of state and government held in Rome, in November 2009, FAO launched a petition to reflect the moral outrage of the situation.

This "1 billion hungry project" reaches out to persons to sign the anti-hunger petition and to work together to amplify the message that society has to take special care that no one goes hungry today. Over 1 million people have signed and the project is continuing.

FAO has united with the popular world of professional sport. Together with the European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL) and other regional football leagues, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Match Day against Hunger will be organized in Europe from 22 to 24 October 2010 as part of the Professional Football against Hunger Solidarity campaign.

The theme "United against hunger" highlights the need to launch a new green revolution, while emphasizing that the task of increasing food production is a job for everyone as is the goal of ensuring access to food. Partnerships with governments, research institutes and universities, financial institutions and regional development banks, farmers' organizations, pressure groups, the UN system, civil society and the private sector are

needed to work together to achieve food security for all.

World food production will need to increase by 70 percent to feed a population of over nine billion people in 2050. With limited land, farmers will have to get greater yields out of the land already under cultivation.

Smallholder farmers and their families represent some 2.5 billion people, more than one-third of the global population, and it is their crucial contribution to increased food production that we want to highlight.

Collaboration among international organizations plays a key strategic role in directing global efforts to reach the international hunger reduction goals. It is only by working together that we can realize our common objective.

In the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the UN system, member nations, representatives of civil society, farmers' organizations, the private sector, as well as international agricultural research institutions and international and regional financial institutions offer an inclusive international platform for policy convergence and the coordination of action and expertise in the fight against hunger in the world.

On this World Food Day 2010, when there are an estimated 925 million hungry people in the world, let us reflect on the future. Agriculture and food security are finally back to the international agenda. And, with political will, determination and persistence, more food can be sustainably produced and adequately distributed.

United we can defeat hunger.

*Thank you.*



# Statement

**By Hiroyuki Konuma**

Assistant Director-General and  
FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

On behalf of the FAO Director-General, Jacques Diouf, my colleagues and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for this year's World Food Day Observance.

We are honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. We are grateful to you, Your Royal Highness, for your gracious acceptance of our invitation to preside over the World Food Day Observance for Asia and the Pacific region. We are also very fortunate to have the Secretary General Dr Surin Pitsuwan with us today as our keynote speaker, who is well known as a dynamic leader of ASEAN.

This year's World Food Day is organized at a very special time when volatile food prices and market uncertainties are once again of concern, due to the severe drought in Russia and surrounding countries in July of this year. The current international price of wheat is 55 percent higher than it was before the drought. The high prices resulted in social unrest in Mozambique due to the sudden increase of the price of bread which caused hundreds of injuries and even deaths. This happened at a time when there was no global food shortage and when the world is on track to achieve the third highest world cereal production record in history. Indeed, at present we produce enough food to meet the demand of everyone in the world. Yet, international food markets remain very sensitive.

Imagine household incomes remaining unchanged while food prices double. These same families can purchase only half the amount of food they used to eat, or they need to spend extra money from savings or borrow money to pay for the doubling of the family food bills. However, the poor – whose food expenditures, in many cases, represent over 50 to 60 percent of their total incomes and having very limited savings if any at all – have no other choice but to cope with the situation and most probably go to bed hungry.

As a result of such a scenario, the number of malnourished people in the world jumped to over one billion in 2009, with two-thirds of them

(or 62 percent) living in this region. Globally, one child dies every 6 seconds. 14 000 children die every day and 5 million children die every year due to direct or indirect causes of chronic hunger.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This scenario above is actually happening. It is not just a bad dream. Mozambique's case is an example which can happen in other places too. The same unrest happened in Somalia in 2008.

In this twenty-first century, where we enjoy advanced technologies and life styles, such scenarios are happening. On the same planet! I felt like sharing my thoughts with you today at this World Food Day celebration when we have an opportunity to think about food and food security.

Having said so, the world food security situation has improved in general over the past one year reflecting lower food prices and good economic recovery. The number of chronic hungry people in the world declined to 925 million, or 16 percent of the total population, as at September 2010. This figure is still far from the MDG target of 10 percent to be achieved by the year 2015. The real challenge for food security thus lies on medium and long-term perspectives.

To feed growing populations – expected to reach 9.1 billion in 2050 – the world has to increase food production by 70 percent. And in the developing countries as a group, food production has to increase by 100 percent, representing a tremendous challenge: doubling food production under existing constraints such as the frequent occurrences of natural disasters, the negative impact of climate change, degradation of lands, scarcity of natural resources, especially land and water in this region, and their competition with bio-energy crops.

Stagnation of crop production and productivity growth is another concern. The fact is that average annual production growth of cereals in the past ten years from 1997 to 2007 in Asia was only 0.2 percent for wheat (0.5 percent yield growth) and 0.8 percent for rice (0.8 percent yield growth). Maize was the only exception, reflecting the wide availability of

hybrid maize and the growth of urban and semi-urban poultry production for which maize is a major part of feed formulations.

In the medium-term (2000-2030), FAO projects that cereal production needs to increase by about 43 percent by the year 2030, which requires about a 1.2 percent average annual growth in cereals during the period. Otherwise, production may not meet food demands, and might result in social conflict, especially in developing countries where the vast majority of population growth will occur.

The green revolution tripled (300 percent increase) cereal production in 40 years between 1961 and 2000 in Asia as a result of the introduction and/or adoption of modern varieties of cereals, especially wheat and rice, expansion of irrigated areas, rapid increase of chemical fertilizer use and farm mechanization. This massive increase in food production resulted in declines of world market prices for cereals in real terms by 40 percent and benefitted consumers, especially the poor. As a consequence, the proportion of hungry people in the world fell from 35 percent in 1970 to 17 percent in 2000.

At the same time, however, cheap food meant less profits for producers, and a resulting lack of incentives for further agricultural growth and less public and private interest in the agriculture sector.

The last three decades thus saw sharply declining investment levels in agriculture. Current annual investments in agricultural research and development declined by half since 1976, and the share of agriculture in the total ODA declined from 19 percent in 1980 to 3.5 percent in 2005 and to 5 percent in 2007. The share of national revenue budgets for the agriculture sector in many developing countries declined sharply too.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Food is no longer a commodity that is easily available everywhere to everyone as it has been so far. Instead, it might become a source of conflict which influences social and political stability, and the human security of the world, if we fail to attain needed production growth.

We need to increase investment in agriculture. We need investment in agricultural research and extension, inputs supply, infrastructure, value chain

development, capacity building as well as other support services and safety nets. FAO expects that 80 percent of growth in crop production in developing countries would come from crop intensification, in particular higher yields and increase in cropping intensity. Only 20 percent of the needed additional food production will come from the expansion of arable lands.

FAO estimates that the region would require agricultural investment (both public and private sector) of US\$ 120 billion annually towards the year 2050. This represents a 50 percent increase in agricultural investment compared to the present level of US\$ 80 billion.

We are very pleased that the L'Aquila G8 Summit last year brought "agriculture" and "food security" back to the top of the international agenda of world community and resulted in pledges of over 20 billion US dollars to support sustainable food production in developing countries. This momentum should be maintained and further promoted even if food prices come down temporarily while the financial crisis eases. Indeed, the real food security problem lies in the future and on our future generations.

Your Royal Highness,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have a huge task ahead of us. We need to accomplish this task. I fully believe that we can attain the goal if we are united, and work together in partnership. Young and old, rich and poor, bringing together all concerned in society and promoting a stronger sense of solidarity as we are all dependent on each other on our planet.

The Green Revolution allowed cereal production to increase by 300 percent and halved the proportion of hungry in 40 years time. In comparison, the present 70 percent food increase target in front of us needs to be realized within a similar time frame of 40 years towards 2050. This target is attainable if we fully utilize the wisdom gained from past experiences and unite ourselves in concerted efforts. It is our duty to produce more food at an affordable price to meet the nutrient requirement of all citizens on the planet, in particular for disadvantaged sections of our societies, and for our children and future generations.

*Thank you for your attention.*

# United against HUNGER

## Keynote Address

By Dr Surin Pitsuwan

Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Please allow me to declare that it is a great honour for me to be able to stand up here today, being a citizen among 590 million people of a region called Southeast Asia; a region that is strong, continuously growing and holds strong significance in political, economic and social aspects particularly since the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1967. With its wide geographical span of 4.46 million km<sup>2</sup> and fertile soils across the region accompanied by supportive climate, Member Countries of ASEAN have had a long historical position as the major rice producers and some of the largest rice exporters. Such position has placed ASEAN Member Countries as important players in food security.

Despite its strong position in rice production and export, the threats of undernourishment continuously faced by developing countries also challenge our region. The economic crises that hit the world in 2007-2008 have significantly imposed impacts to the people of developing countries. The poor suffer even more from food scarcity. Agricultural products are also challenged as the flow of investment is falling. While climate change continues to develop and posing impacts to the environment and human, the trend of utilizing food for energy use has also elevated, trans-boundary animal and plant diseases also impose threats to food production, and agricultural commodity prices fluctuate. We are, indeed, facing significant threats on food security.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has long been a leader in the history of combating hunger around the world. Many developing countries have enjoyed FAO's various, throughout and intensive assistance in improving agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, while ensuring good nutrition for all. The World Food Day of this year aims to enhance public awareness on the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. *United against hunger* has been chosen as this year's celebration theme. FAO recognized that extensive efforts have been made to fight against world hunger at national, regional and international level by individuals and organizations around the world.

Sharing the same spirit with FAO and being very much aware and concerned of food security, ASEAN as a solid regional organization has pursued initiatives to address the issues. Last year during the ASEAN Summit in Thailand, we embraced food security as a matter of permanent and high priority policy. We have developed and adopted the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and the Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region (SPA-FS). Since





then, we have moved forward in full speed to enhance our efforts in combating the issues.

We do believe this fight is not a fight we can fight alone and done on individual and random basis. This is a fight that calls for involvement of all organizations; state government, civil society and private sector to work in partnership at all levels to defeat hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition. ASEAN has been working with its Dialogue Partners and the UN for cooperation on agriculture and food, particularly on agricultural research and development on infrastructure, development of food security early warning systems and other measures outlined in the AIFS and SPA-FS.

Seven years ago, in 2003, ASEAN announced its intention to create an ASEAN Community, which was based upon three pillars; ASEAN Political Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. Many programmes and initiatives in various areas have been undertaken since then in order to realize ASEAN Community Building. I am pleased to inform you that food security is one of them. In ASEAN, we view food security as more than an issue of providing food. Food security issues span from availability of food to the quality of food provided. It also touches on issues of agriculture such as availability of land to grow agricultural products, flow of investment to generate agricultural production and human resources to expedite the production.

We view that food security is part of the challenge to achieve sustainable development. This is when ASEAN Community Building comes to play its role; to provide a platform for sustainable development, creating a place for the people of the region that is integrated.

Along this line, I wish to assure you that food security is properly addressed in the ASEAN region. We are currently in the process of establishing a permanent mechanism for an initiative called ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) and we are moving in the right direction in developing cooperation and collaboration with many countries as well as regional and international organizations as our dialogue partners.

Food security imposes complex challenges, which require integrated and intensive efforts to tackle the challenges. The attempts span from ensuring farmers' livelihood to establishing cooperation in research and policy advocacy. ASEAN pursues these numerous efforts, not only to address the issue for our region but for the world. We completely understand how we are, as citizens of the world, interlinked. The combat requires patience and willingness to contribute and work together. However, we do believe that it is not an impossible issue to be addressed.

ASEAN shall continue to put food security as a forefront agenda. I will ensure that colleagues will continue working on initiatives in this area. Standing up in this very good opportunity, please allow me to call upon global attention and corporation to ensure that efforts we all execute around the world, are harmonized, leading toward the right direction. ASEAN is ready to be the frontline advocate. We open our doors for citizens of the world to cooperate, collaborate in the joint efforts to face this challenge.

*Thank you.*

# Model farmers

## Awards for outstanding achievements

**Four model farmers – from Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Timor-Leste – were honoured by FAO's regional office for Asia and the Pacific for outstanding achievements**

### Laxmi Tamang

A female model farmer from the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Laxmi Tamang is a vivacious fighter who instinctively keeps her eyes on the prize. Born into a landless family from the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal in 1977, she was sent to work at the age of seven in a handloom carpet factory with her half-sister. For nine years she wove carpets with no opportunity for schooling.

When Laxmi returned home at 16, her father asked her to get married. He was suffering from cancer and wanted to assure his daughter's future. But, Laxmi had other ideas.

She learned to sew and soon opened a small tailoring shop in Charikot bazaar, not far from home. Soon she realized few women could afford her tailored clothes and life remained a struggle. Her father passed away when she was 21 and soon after, the thatched roof of the house she shared with her mother and six brothers and sisters caught fire and was seriously damaged.

Laxmi calls these hard times "my troubles" and remembers it was during these dark days that government extension workers came to the village to explain a new programme.

Previous forestry policies had left the landless villagers with no rights to local forest areas, which were claimed by another caste. This policy had resulted in deforestation, barren land and

widespread poverty. Now, the extension workers explained the government was going to change the policy with help from FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The government would lease deforested land to the villagers so they could grow grass, orchards and trees. The community came together and formed a group to manage the forest. They elected a Chairperson and Laxmi as their General-Secretary.

The group now harvests grasses from the forests. They make brooms and wicker baskets to sell, but mostly the grasses provide fodder to feed goats and other livestock.

"I see the forest becoming greener and the community is prospering and growing cash crops like ginger, cardamom and turmeric," Laxmi says.

"Some people are growing fruit trees and selling fodder and seeds."

Laxmi has been able to replace her burnt thatch roof with a metal one. She has 100 chickens and earns 10 000 to 20 000 Rupees from selling chicks. She has also become a prosperous goat farmer and owns two buffalo.

The community group pooled their savings into a microcredit account that provides incentivized loans. A family borrowing to invest in farming activities, or to send their children to school can borrow more money at a lower interest rate than someone buying a television.

"My only regret is that I could not be educated at a young age," says Laxmi. While she is now attending adult education classes, it is her dream to send younger brothers and sisters to schools too.







## Hyunchan Lee

### A model agribusiness farmer from the Republic of Korea

Born in the Republic of Korea in 1975, just as the East Asian nation began its flight to economic prosperity, Hyunchan Lee eagerly embraced cutting edge farm technology, all the while striving to master and preserve the best of Korea's agriculture-based traditions.

Hyunchan was raised in rural Daegamyeon in Seongju County, a region well known for its production of Chamoe, or Korean Melon. Hyunchan's love for farming developed early, as did his interest in learning and education. He attended Korea's National College of Agriculture and Fisheries (KNCAF), established by the government in 1977 to educate students who wanted to become innovative food producers. Hyunchan spent a year in the horticulture industry in California, where he also studied English.

Today he is President of the alumni association of his former Alma Mater, KNCAF. He is a successful farmer, growing apples from Italy and yellow soybeans from which Korea's famous *Dwenjang* bean sauce is made. Still valuing education as much as ever, he shares his passion about advanced farming techniques with others, working to improve farm incomes and the quality of food and life in rural Korea.

"After graduating, I set up a crop developing club in 2008 to help boost the quality of farm produce by sharing technology information," says Hyunchan.

"Also, we organize group purchases for farm equipment to reduce our operating costs."

In the next few years, his Crop Development Club, as part of the Country Purification Movement, began cleaning up the environment. "We collected garbage from around town, on farmland and in nearby streams," explains Hyunchan. "In 20 field campaigns we collected 12 000 used bottles of pesticides and 3.4 metric tonnes of used plastic bags."

Hyunchan is optimistic about the future of Korean agriculture. He says, "The success of Korean agriculture comes from the hard work and diligence of Korean farmers and their willingness and ability to adopt new high tech methods of farming. It is equally because the Korean government has invested heavily in rural infrastructure and knowledge development in rural areas." According to Hyunchan, most cities in Korea have a public sector agricultural training centre to transfer new technology and learning to local farmers.

"I'm generally positive about the future," says Hyunchan. "Though Korean agriculture cannot compete directly with many other developed countries in this area, we can do really well in niche areas with top quality products and environmentally friendly foods. There's also the need to invest responsibly in food production in places like Africa. We can help others improve their agriculture and grow more food to promote sustainable food security. In such an exchange, both sides must win."

Hyunchan and his wife have a daughter and a son with another child on the way. Asked if he'd like his children to farm, he was quick to reply with a broad smile: "I'd be very happy if my children decided to become farmers."

## Somkhuan Siriphakdee

### A female model food crop farmer from the Kingdom of Thailand

Located on the Gulf of Thailand, the province of Rayong is famous for its delicious fruits, powerful fish sauce, a famous poet and the island of Ko Samet. Each year in May, the *Rayong Fruit Festival* celebrates the peak season of tropical delicacies like durian, rambutan, longkong and mangosteen.

It is in Rayong where Somkhuan Siriphakdee was born in 1948. One of five children, she inherited a small rubber plantation from her parents. After marriage, she continued farming rubber latex while attending agricultural training courses to learn about compost fertilizer, bio-liquid compost and



ways to produce and use extracted medicinal plants to control plant pests.

"During my training courses, I became convinced that organic farming was the path to good quality, safe and healthy food," said Somkhuan. "It is also safer for the farmer and better for the environment."

Armed with this new conviction and a storehouse of knowledge about organic farming techniques, Somkhuan began transforming part of her rubber plantation into an agro-tourism destination where visitors learn about organic fruit farming and even harvest their own fresh fruit at the end of their stay. Between 1 000 and 2 000 people visit the farm every month, often in large groups. She has more than 300 fruit trees, or around 50 trees for each of six different kinds of fruit.

"I had to take a low interest loan to expand the farm. It put me in debt for almost 30 years, but now I'll soon be debt free," she said.

There's much more to Somkhuan's success than the farm. A natural born leader, in 1984 she set up the Ban Laeng Pattana Farm Women's Group with 15 other women farmers. From the bounty of their farms, they began making and packaging durian chips, rice crisps with Thai herbs, mangosteen soap and even shrimp paste under their own "Waathung" brand.

Their operations have now become something of a Mecca for farmers and others interested in organic farming. "Our activities have brought increased recognition and income to the whole community."

The Department of Agricultural Extension was key to making this happen.

Motivated by the family, her children have obtained higher education but still help out on the family farm during free days. Says Somkhuan, "I'm happy

they've found other careers, because farming is such hard and uncertain work."

Still, she says she's positive about the future. "I'm sure the future is bright if we continue as a group to make a better living by helping each other. With many farmers getting older now, we could use more public investment in rural communities if we want our young people to be farmers."

Somkhuan reflects on her life, saying, "I'm lucky, I have a good husband. He doesn't smoke or drink and he helps me with the farm and all my community work. We do everything together."

No doubt, her husband, children and the Rayong community are lucky to have Somkhuan and her dream for the future: "I dream of a peaceful Thai society with people who will all be better off in the future."

## Domingos Pires A model fisher from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Nine year's ago fisherman Domingos Pires, found himself with growing business opportunities when, after more than 450 years of foreign occupation, Timor-Leste became an independent country. Domingos, the son of a fisherman, has been fishing since he was nine years old.

Domingos wanted to complete his schooling, but when his father died, leaving behind eight children, finishing school was no longer an option. He managed to complete primary school using some of the money he earned from fishing, saving any extra in the bank.

Sizing up the fishing business, between 1980 and 1985 Domingos began organizing some of



the fishermen into a group of about 10. He began with five fishermen going out to sea to fish and five remaining behind to clean and divide the catch. At the time, because of power outages and a lack of ice, there was no way to keep the fish cold for very long, so Domingos needed to find ready customers for the daily catch. Once the catch was landed and divided, group members would set off by bicycle, or on foot, to sell as many as they could.

"It wasn't long before we had many regular customers including a number of very good restaurants and even a fish market," says Domingos.

He continued to expand the business in 1990, buying a motorbike to deliver fresh fish into the upland areas of the country. Soon Domingos bought an ice truck and freezer to make ice and to freeze some of his more high-value catch.

After the Timorese voted for independence in a referendum, Domingos reorganized the fishing group and opened a group micro-credit bank account.

His business model: He shares all profits above US\$ 100 among the group members.

His success was widely recognized in society, and other fishing groups have been formed modelled on his own. Says Domingo, "We all work together for the

good of the community, sometimes we buy fish from the other groups and sometimes they buy from us when they are short."

"I'm happy to see how the whole community is benefiting from the availability of fresh fish," says Domingos. "It has also generated good incomes for us in the group. Now we can send all our children to school."

Domingos has eight children. One is studying at a university in Indonesia. Two others are in high school, one in junior high school and three in elementary school.

Domingos says, "I hope we will be successful enough to afford putting all our children through university. That is my hope for future."

Domingos not only counts some of Dili's top restaurants among his regular customers, but also delivers daily fresh fish to Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, who hosts Domingos and his group for Christmas and New Year's dinners every year since 2007.

"I told the Prime Minister that I'll be in Bangkok for the World Food Day celebration as a model fisherman, and won't be able to deliver fish to his residence from 17 to 20 October," explains Domingos with a shy but accomplished smile.



*HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and four model farmers from the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Nepal and Timor-Leste*



# Annexes

# Media coverage

## World Food Day highlights need for investment in food security

AFN

15 October 2010

The United Nations World Food Day will be recognized globally this Saturday 16 October and is an important day to remind world leaders that heavy investment in the planet's food security is urgently needed, World Vision Australia said today. "One billion people suffer from hunger today and there are now danger signs that food prices are starting to rise again, threatening to push millions more people to the brink of starvation," World Vision's head of advocacy Martin Thomas said.

"Despite the well-known impacts and consequences of the 2008 world food crisis, there is still a chronic lack of worldwide funding set aside to ensure the world has a sustainable food supply."

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations says the fact that nearly a billion people remain hungry, even after the recent food and financial crises have largely passed, indicates a deeper structural problem.

"World Vision is calling on the Australian Government to use the G20 meeting in November where development assistance will be discussed, to address the structural causes of food insecurity, including restrictions on food trade and inadequate levels of public investment in agricultural research and development," Mr Thomas said.

"We also urge the government to increase the amount of money allocated in the aid budget for agriculture and rural development to 12-14 percent of the total budget, and to prioritise its food security assistance to the needs of the most vulnerable, in particular children under two, pregnant/lactating women and the extremely poor."

In mid-2008 the world food supply came under pressures from a variety of sources, including poor harvests in the United States and Europe and prolonged drought in Australia, high oil prices, increasing demand for food and subsidised ethanol programmes.

The World Bank estimates that the 2008 food crisis pushed 100 million people worldwide below the poverty line.

"While the FAO does not expect a repeat of the 2008 food crisis this year, the factors that caused this crisis are still in play and in recent months we have seen an increase in extreme climate related weather events that have impacted on food supplies. The price of staple foods in many developing countries is also still very high," Mr Thomas said.

"In the World Bank's May 2010 Food Price Watch, it noted that civil and military conflicts, poor rainfall and earthquakes have impacted on food prices and availability.

"Thousands of acres of crops were also destroyed in the forest fires in Russia and the floods in Pakistan. These countries now have less to export and the shortage means prices have risen sharply.

"Between August and July this year wheat prices rose between 25 and 50 percent, highlighting how quickly the security of the world's food supply can be changed."

## UN says global farm methods 'recipe for disaster'

Bangkok Post – online news

16 October 2010

The United Nations top official on the right to food has called for wholesale changes in farming methods to safeguard the environment and ensure everyone has enough to eat.

Rachel Njeri plants potatoes last week in a small plot assigned to her in Ngendo in the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. The United Nations top official on the right to food has called for wholesale changes in farming methods to safeguard the environment and ensure everyone has enough to eat.

Olivier De Schutter, the UN special rapporteur on the right to food, said in a statement to mark World Food Day that there is currently "little to rejoice about," and "worse may still be ahead."

"As a result of climate change, the yields in certain regions of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to fall by 50 percent by 2020 in comparison to 2000 levels. And growing frequency and intensity of floods and droughts contribute to volatility in agricultural markets."

"Current agricultural developments are ... threatening the ability for our children's children to feed themselves," he said. "A fundamental shift is urgently required if we want to celebrate World Food Day next year," he added.

De Schutter said the emphasis on chemical fertilizers and a greater mechanisation of production was "far distant from the professed commitment to fight climate change and to support small-scale, family agriculture."

In addition, "giving priority to approaches that increase reliance on fossil fuels is agriculture committing suicide," he said.

"Agriculture is already directly responsible for 14 percent of man-made greenhouse gas emissions — and up to one third if we include the carbon dioxide produced by deforestation for the expansion of cultivation or pastures.

De Schutter said that pursuing the current approach would be "a recipe for disaster."

Instead there should be a global promotion of low-carbon farming, he said, adding that "agriculture must become central to mitigating the effects of climate change rather than a large part of the problem."

"Low-technology, sustainable techniques may be better suited to the needs of the cash-strapped farmers working in the most difficult environments," De Schutter said.

"They represent a huge, still largely untapped potential to meet the needs and to increase the incomes of the poorest farmers."

Climate change and agricultural development must be thought of together, instead of being dealt with in isolation from one another, De Schutter urged.

"To do so, we need to resist the short-termism of markets and elections. Development of longer-term strategies through inclusive and participatory processes could and should clearly identify measures needed, a clear time line, and allocation of responsibilities for action."

"What today seems revolutionary will be achievable if it is part of a long-term, democratically developed plan, one that will allow us to develop carbon-neutral agriculture and to pursue everyone's enjoyment of the right to food through sustainable food production systems."

The 30<sup>th</sup> celebration of World Food Day on Saturday has the slogan: "United against hunger."

The main issues in focus are rapidly increasing demand for food commodities and changing climates that affect abilities to produce food.

## National News Bureau of Thailand (NNT) – Public Relations Department

ข่าวภาค 07.00 น. วันเสาร์ที่ 16 ตุลาคม 2553

รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงเกษตรและสหกรณ์เชิญชวนคนไทยร่วมมือกันแก้ไขปัญหาต่างๆ เพื่อให้ความยากจนหมดไปจากประเทศ และร่วมกันสร้างความมั่นคงด้านอาหารสำหรับประชาชนชาวไทยและชาวโลกได้บริโภค อย่างเพียงพอตลอดไป

นายธีระ วงศ์สมุทร รัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงเกษตรและสหกรณ์ กล่าวว่ วันที่ 16 ตุลาคม ของทุกปี องค์การอาหารและเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ หรือเอฟเอโอ กำหนดให้เป็น วันอาหารโลก และรณรงค์ให้ประชาคมโลกได้ตระหนักถึงความสำคัญของการสร้างความมั่นคงด้านอาหาร การแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจน และการจัดความอดอยากทั่วโลก ให้หมดไป แม้ว่าในปี 2553 จำนวนผู้อดอยากทั่วโลกจะลดลง แต่ยังคงสูงกว่าช่วงก่อนเกิดวิกฤตทางการเงินและวิกฤตราคากาหารรวมทั้งโลกต้องเผชิญกับภัยพิบัติรุนแรงหลายครั้ง ในปีนี้เอฟเอโอจึงได้กำหนดหัวข้อสำหรับการรณรงค์วันอาหารโลกว่า ร่มพลังหยุดยั้ง ความหิวโหย เพื่อให้ประชาคมโลกได้ตระหนักถึงการได้รับอาหารที่มีคุณภาพและเพียงพอต่อการดำรงชีวิต นอกจากนี้ เอฟเอโอได้เชิญชวนให้ร่วมลงชื่อต่อต้านความหิวโหย ให้ได้อย่างน้อย 1 ล้านชื่อ เพื่อผลักดันให้ประเทศต่างๆ ร่วมมือกันหาแนวทางพลิกฟื้นสถานการณ์เลวร้ายเหล่านี้ให้ดีขึ้น

## UN calls for United action against hunger on World Food Day

Global Times

15 October 2010

With a series of activities themed "United Against Hunger" to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Food Day set on October 16, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is calling on society as a whole to work together to ensure food access by tackling serious food-related challenges.

The soaring food prices and global economic crisis pushed the number of hungry people in the world to 1 billion in 2009. Although the figure has dropped to 925 million this year, the level still poses a great challenge to hunger relief.

"We are continually reminded that the world's food systems are not working in ways that ensure food security for the most vulnerable members of our societies," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Saturday.

"Climate change, ecological damage, and a decrease in biological variety all complicate the hunger-relief course," Zhang Zhongjun, the FAO assistant representative in China, told the Global Times.

Moreover, the controversial development of genetically modified (GM) foods also brings fresh challenges for organizations and governments involved in hunger relief.

In South Africa, several countries have repeatedly expressed concerns about the use of GM crops as food aid, given the lack of clarity about their potential impacts, and those nations still refuse such food aid the US offers, claiming it as harmful and unsafe.

However, "The final say is up to consumers. They must be informed of whether the food is GM or not. It's consumers' right," Zhang said.

Combating hunger concerns all of society. "The Government, media, people who are suffering and everyone who eats and buys food need to unite," Victoria Sekitoleko, the FAO representative in China, told the Global Times.

The UN food agency launched its 1billionhungry.org campaign this year, in which Jacques Diouf, director-general of the FAO, urges people "to sign the anti-hunger petition and to work together to amplify the message that society has to take special care that no one goes hungry."

The realization of self-sufficient food supplies has contributed a lot to the world's food security, but China should "meditate" and "adapt" with limited natural resources, extreme weather conditions and its growing population as early as possible, Zhang said.

In China, 300 volunteers in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, lit a thousand candles around the Ningbo International Exhibition Center Square on Saturday to raise awareness of severe hunger throughout the world.

## Fight against hunger far from over

The Daily Star (Bangladesh)

18 October 2010

An elderly woman was standing on the footpath, holding a plastic tiffin box. Within the box was a Tk 10 note and some Tk 1 and Tk 2 coins.

Her ill health and shabby clothes were signs of destitution. The woman was begging down the road near the Police Box at Farmgate on a Saturday afternoon, making silent gestures to passers-by.

Right behind her, two posters, hung side by side on a government office boundary wall, read out a message — United Against Hunger — the theme for World Food Day.

She gathered less than Tk 20 until then, enough to buy 300 grams of rice and an egg. It was also the day that Bangladesh and other countries in the world call World Food Day.

The woman, who cannot speak audibly, is among nearly 100 crore people in the world, who go to sleep hungry. Bangladesh, a country with much progress in reducing poverty in the past 20 years, accounts for 6 crore people, a number that remained nearly constant for a decade.

The country has recorded economic growth at 5 percent a year, but steady population growth has pared down the gains.

"The problem has not gone away. Poverty has come down, but still a lot of people remain hungry," said M Asaduzzaman, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presenting a keynote paper at a seminar on October 16, marking the World Food Day that calls for united efforts to fight hunger and malnutrition around the globe.

Asaduzzaman said such a theme has been observed for quite some time now and the UN bodies and other global influential groups have hosted several food summits to reduce hunger. But the problem remains at large as more people, in absolute numbers, remain malnourished.

"This is frustrating given that humanity, as a whole, now has the technological and organizational capacity to create a hunger-free world," said Asaduzzaman. "The reason may be that there is no unity of purpose in freeing the world from this scourge."

In the latest Global Hunger Index for 2010, Bangladesh, which holds nearly 1 000 persons per square kilometre, has attained slight progress but it still remains at the alarming level in terms of the hunger situation.

According to the report, Bangladesh has now one of the highest number of hungry or malnourished people, although food production is close to self-sufficiency.

Asaduzzaman said food security is linked with access to it. It is related to the cost of food and income or purchasing power of people, as well as public food distribution system. And the cost of food, influenced by production costs, supply, profit for growers and traders, and the government's input subsidy and pricing policies, has an impact on purchasing power. The higher the cost of food, the lower the purchasing capacity.

In the past two years, following the 2007-2008 price hike, growers produced an adequate amount of rice — more than 3 crore tonnes — to feed the nation. But the cost of the staple is on the rise, influenced by speculations of production shortfall, government procurement price and international market.

Along with rice, the prices of other essentials such as coarse flour, edible oil also increased in the last one year and thus eroded the purchasing capacity of fixed, low-income and poor people. It shows many people have to sacrifice their desires to have adequate nutritious diet.

"We aspire to eat fish and meat. But we cannot have those regularly for lack of income. We've fish once or twice a week. But meat may be on a fortnightly basis," said Muhammad Jahangir, a 35-year-old rickshaw puller, who has to run a family of seven, including his parents and four sisters. He said the members of his family have to depend more on vegetables in their meals.

The BIDS researcher said there is a relationship between hunger and economic growth. The higher the per capita income, the lower the hunger index on an average, he said. In the past one decade to 2010, per capita income became almost double to \$750 from \$381 in 2000, when 48.9 percent of people lived below the poverty line. "If you want to conquer hunger, you have to develop the economy," he said, with an emphasis on agricultural development.

"Investments for fostering agricultural and rural development and thereby ensuring food security from the side of availability, thus also ensures access to food through employment and income generation," Asaduzzaman said in his paper on Unity Against Hunger and Food Security. One of the main constraints to boost agricultural growth and crop production is the gradual reduction of arable land as new settlements take place amid population growth.

While the green revolution, which has so far helped farmers bag good crops, may not be enough to ensure food available for all unless new seed technologies that are capable of resisting varied impact of climate change is adopted.

For this, investment in research and development of new technologies requires. In recent years, economists suggested increased investment for research and technology generation and extension. But budgetary allocations still remain low for the purpose.

In addition, to ensure food, especially for those living in grouping of extreme poor about 20 percent of the total 15 crore population — safety net measures need to be taken in a more focused manner so that the state spending reaches the target group.

"We have already different types of safety net schemes. Instead of going for further widening, it should be more focused, sharper to ensure that people in distress get the benefit," said KAS Murshid, research director of BIDS.

But most safety net programmes are in operation in the rural areas, followed by suburban and city corporations outside Dhaka. Only open market sales of staple food are active in the capital, an abode of many floating and destitute people. Perhaps, it is bad news for the street beggar, as she will have to depend on winning sympathy of pedestrians until she, along with many others like her, comes under the lens of policymakers.

Murshid said the problem of taking safety net schemes in Dhaka is that poor and homeless people are floating. "That's why, it's difficult to take any development programme targeting these groups," he said: "A focused programme is needed to ensure that poor people in urban areas get access to basic services such as shelter and sanitation."

## Some 31 Million People In Indonesia Are Still Poor And Hungry – Minister

BERNAMA

LOMBOK TENGAH, Oct 21 (Bernama) — Some 31 million people in Indonesia are still poor and hungry, and living below the poverty line, Chief Minister Agung Laksono quoted by Antara news agency as saying.

"Addressing poverty and hunger is a complex, and often political, challenge. No single approach will provide the solution to this challenge, but several areas in which effective action can be taken can be identified," he said when officiating the World Food Day commemoration in Lombok Tengah, West Nusa Tenggara province on Wednesday.

The event marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Food Day.

He added that no Indonesian wants to be hungry, and therefore 236 million citizen must unite to help the government fight hunger," he said. Urging more proactive roles, he urged provincial and district governments to play an important role in encouraging local communities to develop agriculture and maintain the food potentials including forest preservation.

"Food self-sufficiency is more important than food resilience. So, the government had to optimize the domestic food sector as well as local resources.

"When we neglect our local food, we are actually reducing our national food supply," he explained.

He said the government is currently taking efforts by introducing self-reliance programme, which could be maintained through increasing production and productivity of farmers and fishermen.

"The government will continue to play an active role in helping maintain food resilience in developing countries such as Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Madagascar and several other European countries," he added.

While, West Nusa Tenggara governor Zainul Majdi said that rice consumption among people in Indonesia is very high, thus reducing other local food consumption rate.

"It will be our common concern to make people less dependant on rice," he said, citing that West Nusa Tenggara province is the second after Bali that is still very dependant on rice.

There are more than 1.02 hungry people in the world, says Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



DAILY NEWS

Tuesday, 19 October 2010

THE NATIONS

Tuesday, 19 October 2010

## GREATER COOPERATION AMONG ASIA-PACIFIC STATES URGED FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

PETCHANET PRATRUANGKRAI  
THE NATION

As the centre of the world's food supply, countries in the Asia-Pacific region have been urged to strengthen cooperation to increase output, improve technology and support research and development with a view to ensuring global food security.

At an event yesterday celebrating the 30th anniversary of World Food Day, and presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, keynote speakers shared the view that greater investment in agriculture, food production and food management is of crucial importance.

Climate change, soaring food prices, the diversion of farm crops for fuel production and the rising world population are all major issues causing great concern over food security.

Her Royal Highness said the undernourished and the starving were a global problem. While the world is admiring the success of many economies in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region, nations cannot move forward in isolation.

"To meet the food needs of people everywhere, we must include in the partnership not only those who spend their lives as civil servants, in academia, in civil society or as private businessmen, but also those whose hands are battered by hard work and whose faces are weathered by a life outdoors, producing food for their families – and for the rest of the world too," she said.

The theme of this year's World Food Day 2010, which also marked the 65th anniversary of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO), was "United against Hunger".

The Princess said in her address that food security called for a concerted strategy comprising agricultural R&D, prevention of post-harvest losses, harmonisation of food security and bio-energy production, and the mitigation of climate change.

These all require massive investments, she said, particularly given that an increasing global population will require the doubling of production to ensure adequate food is available for all.

According to the FAO, the critical threshold of 1 billion hungry people in the world was reached in large part because of soaring prices and the global economic crisis last year.

The hunger crisis is the result of the neglect of agriculture and under-investment in the sector, the agency said, adding that a new green revolution and increasing food production were a job for everyone to ensure adequate access to food.

Hiroyuki Konuma, assistant director-general of the FAO and regional representative for Asia and the Pacific, said that to attain production growth, every country must improve not only supply, but also its agricultural infrastructure and innovation.

World food production will need to increase by 70 per cent to feed a population over 9 billion in 2050, from the current 6 billion. With limited land, farmers will have to obtain greater yields from fields already under cultivation, he said.

Asean secretary-general Surin Pitsuwan said the global challenge was not only to produce enough food for today, but also coping with the increasing world population and the number of elderly people, the rise in urbanisation and the shift of people from farming to the industrial sector.



# List of guests

The following is a list of selected guests who attended the regional observance of the 30<sup>th</sup> World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 18 October 2010.

## Guest of Honour

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

## Guest speaker

Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

## Model Farmers

Laxmi Tamang, model forester, Nepal

Hyunchan Lee, model agribusiness farmer, Republic of Korea

Somkhuan Siriphakdee, model food crop production farmer, Thailand

Domingos Pires, model fisher, Timor-Leste

## Office of the Privy Councillors

H.E. General Pichit Kullavanijaya, Privy Councillor

## Embassies

AUSTRALIA	Dominic Pyne, Australia Counsellor
BANGLADESH	H.E. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
BHUTAN	Tshering Lhadn, First Secretary
CANADA	Cynthia Brassard-Boudreau, Intern
INDONESIA	Dozi Adeson, Third Secretary
JAPAN	Masahide Hirokawa, First Secretary
KOREA, DPR	H.E. An Song Nam, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
MONGOLIA	H.E. Luvsandoo Dashpurev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
PAKISTAN	H.E. Sohail Mahmood, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
PHILIPPINES	Maria Terasa Tagnian, Deputy Chief of Nation
KOREA, Rep of	Park Won Sup, Minister
RUSSIA	Nikolay Pomoshnikov, Minister Counsellor
SRI LANKA	H.E. Jayaratna Banda Disanayaka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
TIMOR-LESTE	H.E. Joao Freitas Ve Camara, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
USA	John Wade, Agricultural Counsellor
VIET NAM	Pham Hung Tam, Chargé d'Affaires

## Royal Thai Government

### Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

H.E. Theera Wongsamut, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives

Chaloemporn Piroonsarn, Permanent Secretary

Poonlarp Uraingam, Bureau of Secretary to the Minister

Sarunyoo Poonlarp, Bureau of Secretary to the Minister

Tiwakorn Pisarnsalidkam, Bureau of Secretary to the Minister

Niwat Suteemeechaisakul, Deputy Permanent Secretary

Lerdwiroj Kowattana, Permanent Secretary, Agriculture Land Reform Office

Apichart Jongsakul, Permanent Secretary, Office of Agricultural Economics

Prasert Kosulwit, Director-General, Rice Department

Pramote Chayawat, Rice Department

Duanghathai Danwiwat, Director, Office of Foreign Agriculture

Siriporn Tanachaiyapoom, Policy and Plan analyst, Office of Foreign Agriculture

Teeraporn Wongchoteprasit, Policy and Plan analyst, Office of Foreign Agriculture  
Ath Intalak, Director-General, Department of Agriculture  
Magaret C. Yoovatna, Policy and Plan analyst, Department of Agriculture  
Chawee Lompech, Policy and Plan analyst, Department of Agriculture  
Lawan Jeerapong, Director, Pest Management Control Division, Department of Agriculture Extension  
Orasa Dissataporn, Director of Vegetable, Flower and Herb Promotion  
Wanree Khonkhayan, Department of Agriculture Extension  
Sunisa Boonyapatipark, TCP Coordinator, Foreign Relations Sub-division  
Kornthip Seneewong na Ayudhaya, Director, Bureau of International Agricultural Economics  
Preecha Somboonprasert, Director-General, Department of Livestock Development  
Prasit Chaitaweewsup, Department of Livestock Development

### **Universities and Research Institutions**

Siri Chaiseree, Dean, Faculty of Agro-Industry, Kasetsart University  
Patcharee Tungtrakul, Director, Institute of Food Research and Product Development, Kasetsart University  
Rosarin Smitabhindu, The Royal Chitralada Projects  
Arvorn Opatpatanakij, Assistant of the President, Chiang Mai University  
Weerakorn Ongsakul, Dean of Environment Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology  
Anadi Nitithamyong, Deputy Director, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University  
Vasina Chandrasiri, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

### **Other Ministries, Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Associations**

Renngsak Mahavinichaimontri, Governor of Nakhon Phanom Province, Nakhon Phanom Provincial Hall  
Vallop Suwandee, Chairman of Advisors to Governor of Bangkok, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration  
Rarinthip Sirorat, Inspector General, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security  
Akapong Srisubat, Chief, Foreign Affairs Coordination Group, Department of Social Development and Welfare  
Sucharat, Department of Social Development and Welfare  
Renoo Suwanarat, Chief of Private Reforestation Sub-division, Reforestation Office, Royal Forest Department  
Komon Pragtong, Lead National Consultant, Royal Forest Department  
Wilailak Padungkittimal, Foreign Relation Officer, Ministry of Education  
Chumnarn Pongsri, Secretary-General, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center  
Chaloemkwan Liamprachanarakorn, National Statistic Office

### **United Nations**

IOM/RO Andrew R. Bruce, Regional Representative for Southeast Asia  
UNDP UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative  
UNEP Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative  
UNESCO Etienne Clement, Deputy Director  
WHO Maureen Birmingham, Representative  
World Bank Jeeva Perumalpillai-Essex, Sector Leader

### **Officers accompanying the model farmers**

Mandip Rai, Nepal  
Pedro Rodrigues, Timor-Leste

### **Former FAO Staff**

P.A. Hicks  
Praphas Weerapat

# Organizing secretariat

## Steering committee

Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative (Chairperson)  
 Man Ho So, Deputy Regional Representative  
 Adnan Quereshi, Senior Administrative Officer  
 David Kahan, Senior Agro-Industry and Post Harvest Officer  
 Tarina Ayazi, Meetings and Publications Officer  
 Diderik de Vleeschauwer, Information Officer (Secretary)

## Organizing committees

### Invitations, reception and protocol

Man Ho So (Chairperson)  
 Diderik de Vleeschauwer  
 Kanokporn Chansomritkul  
 Siriporn Charoenkijgasat (Master of Ceremony)  
 Tarina Ayazi (Citations of model farmers)  
 Kanjerat Boonyamanop  
 Monpilai Youyen  
 Panida Jongkol  
 Umpaiwan Pipatanavilai  
 Ornusa Petchkul  
 Supajit Tienpati  
 Thapanee Tayanuwattana  
 Suvinita Malakul Na Ayudhaya  
 Atchareeya Pongput  
 Chananut Auisui  
 Sawadipat Na Pattalung  
 Bongkoch Prasannakarn  
 Alisa Wacharasetkul  
 Cheeranat Pongpanarat  
 Apirada Sirigaya  
 Sansiri Visarutwongse  
 Aruneeprapa Peansanong  
 Jintana Anunacha  
 Duangporn Sritulanondh  
 Sunee Hormjunya  
 Navaporn Liangchevasuntorn  
 Chaturat Damrongrisakul  
 Jaruan Singhaphanthu

### Liaison with model farmers

Diderik de Vleeschauwer (Chairperson)  
 Uwe Voortman – Nepal  
 Jangyong Cho – Republic of Korea  
 Natcha Thearapati – Thailand  
 Gerard Sylvester – Timor-Leste

### Liaison with Thai government

Man Ho So (Chairperson)  
 Tarina Ayazi  
 Panida Jongkol  
 Somchai Udomsriprunguang  
 Surawishaya Paralokanon

### Logistics and catering

Adnan Quereshi (Chairperson)  
 Sri Limpichati, consultant  
 Tetsuji Nakata  
 Wichai Nomkhumtode  
 Cristina Sriratana  
 Chainarong Palaprasert  
 Suthep Charoenbutr  
 Pensri Yujang  
 Prasert Huatsawat

### Media, publications and photographs

Diderik de Vleeschauwer (Chairperson)  
 Kanokporn Chansomritkul  
 Parijat Chuntaketta  
 Sansiri Visarutwongse  
 Pornsiri Kosiri-aksorn (consultant)  
 Sasikant Sathiensotorn (consultant)  
 John Riddle (journalist consultant)  
 Supot Wongthipprasert (photographer)  
 Olan Phongpaothai (photographer)

# Publications distributed

- ▶ 2010 WFD information note
- ▶ 2010 WFD issues paper
- ▶ 2010 WFD poster
- ▶ Address by the guest of honour
- ▶ Message of the FAO Director-General
- ▶ Keynote speech on *United against hunger*, by Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- ▶ Citation of outstanding farmers
- ▶ RAP publication *Selected indicators of food and agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific region, 1999-2009*
- ▶ *RAP publication catalogue 2008-2009* (with CD-Rom 1990-2009 inside)





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