PULSES CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY

UNDERSTANDING FOOD SECURITY

Food security is defined as: “a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”.

THERE ARE MANY THREATS TO FOOD SECURITY

Population growth

The world’s population is growing rapidly and agricultural production must adapt accordingly, but in a sustainable way.

Widespread malnutrition

There are many countries where malnutrition is a particularly important issue and large regions of these countries could be used to produce pulses.

Food loss and waste

In developing countries, most losses occur during production or transportation. In developed countries, a large proportion of food is wasted at the consumption stage.

HOW PULSES CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY

Suitable for marginal environments

Drought-resistant and deep rooting species of pulses can supply groundwater to companion crops when planted in intercropping systems.

Affordable source of protein and minerals

Smallholder farmers can cultivate pulses as: cash crops, meaning they are sold in markets; food for the smallholder farming community as an important source of accessible protein.

Low food wastage footprint

Pulses can be stored for long periods without losing their nutritional value and minimising loss.

The proportion of food waste from pulses due to spoilage is very low.