



International alliance against hunger



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2003 World Food Day
Bangkok, 16 October 2003

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FOR COPIES PLEASE WRITE TO:

Information Officer
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Maliwan mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
E-mail: FAO-RAP@fao.org

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2003 World Food Day/TeleFood theme

Each year on 16 October the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day in commemoration of its founding on that day in 1945. The World Food Day/TeleFood theme for this year, International Alliance Against Hunger, is a call to action—to encourage all those concerned about the problem of hunger to join forces in a common effort.

Over the years, millions of people have graduated from the ranks of the hungry. But 840 million remain crippled by the indignity of not having enough to eat. The goal of cutting by half the number of hungry people by 2015—a target adopted at the World Food Summit in 1996 and reflected in the Millennium Development Goals—still lies out of reach.

What is lacking is political will. Many nations have made verbal commitments to fight hunger, but few have done enough and on the scale required. Nations will need to work harder to create the policy environment, provide the funding and implement the programmes to allow people to overcome hunger and poverty. For this reason, the global community has resolved to work together within an International Alliance Against Hunger.

An alliance brings together the strengths of different groups to gain greater power to achieve a common goal. The formation of such an alliance envisions all partners working in concert, from food producers and consumers to international organizations from private firms, scientists and academics to individuals, religious groups and non-governmental organizations. It also includes donors and policymakers from both rich and poor countries.



As this Alliance takes shape, leaders in an increasing number of countries are boldly putting the fight against hunger at the forefront of national priorities, realizing that only when people are well-fed can they take part in their nation's economic and social advancement. FAO applauds their courage and urges others to join them.

The Alliance does not foresee the creation of new mechanisms to fight hunger. Major conferences have galvanized support among governments and international organizations and set clear goals for the road ahead. And a wide range of development partners is using time-tested techniques to boost nutrition and income. Instead, the Alliance will strengthen political commitment for existing initiatives. At the same time it will help partners to develop a common vision on measures to take and build cooperation among diverse groups.

It will provide a forum for advocacy, promote joint actions by its members and facilitate information exchange—through web sites, newsletters and progress reports. Partners of the Alliance can offer assistance in their spheres of competence, which may include advocacy, technical training, policy advice and monitoring the progress of hunger reduction strategies. Together, these activities will help to attract increased funding from finance institutions, the private sector and other donors.

While everyone has a role to play in the Alliance, the main responsibility for reaching goals lies with a nation and its people. Each country should set its own national targets through its legislative bodies and lay out the steps to move forward, including implementing programmes that target the hungry.

The creation of an international Alliance is a pledge by all to work together to eliminate hunger. World Food Day and TeleFood activities around the globe will help to deliver this message while promoting the overall objective of this annual event: to raise awareness about the problems of hunger and to work towards long-term solutions to guarantee food for all.

In this time of ample world food production, it is unacceptable that more than 840 million people remain hungry. This year's World Food Day theme, International Alliance Against Hunger, will serve as a call for further action. Together, we must take the concept of a global partnership and make it a reality, with a view to guaranteeing the world's citizens a basic human right—to be free from hunger.



Address by
HRH Princess
Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

It is a great pleasure for me to join all of you again on the World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

For nearly six decades, FAO has provided important technical support and policy advice to countries in the Asia and the Pacific region in the fields of agricultural growth, rural development and food security. Its contributions are well known and recognized.

In recent decades, countries in the region have made considerable socio-economic progress and significantly reduced the proportion of undernourished population. However, statistically, 60 percent of the 840 million hungry people in the world live in Asia-Pacific countries. The region has adequate supplies of food to feed everybody, yet FAO statistics shows that one person out of every six in the region is undernourished. In this setting, the World Food Day theme for the year 2003 World Food Day, *Building an international alliance against hunger*, is of special significance to our region.

The problem is particularly acute in the case of children under five years and women, especially pregnant and nursing mothers. Many of them suffer from obvious signs of protein-energy and micronutrient deficiencies with

long term adverse implications for their own lives as well as for the economic well-being of their countries. Undernourished women give birth to underweight babies who are likely to remain poorly nourished throughout childhood. They can be at risk of having reduced mental and physical abilities. Such children growing up with inadequate nutrition during adolescence and into adulthood are likely to have low productivity and contribute to perpetuation of the vicious cycle of malnutrition and poverty.

Thailand's experience in dealing with the issue of food and nutrition security has always been based on the agricultural development for food production. Our national policy and strategy has always been in accordance with FAO's view in emphasizing the community participation and holistic approaches.

In addition to the Thai government supported projects, Thai civil society has for all time played an important role in the campaign against hunger and malnutrition; for example, an individual such as a successful farmer, or a group such as a successful farmer cooperative, lends a hand to the ones who need assistance. We also have foundations and non-governmental organizations that help funding the fight against hunger. The private sector, Thai companies and their employees now take much responsibilities in this effort.

The world now enters the age of globalization. In this context, international alliance is the key to peace and prosperity. International communities, that is to say, governments, international organizations, international corporates and even individuals act as responsible members of the global society. They contribute technology, resources, innovative ideas and modalities of implementation to the common goal such as the fight against hunger. To foster this partnership, the host country or community must play a part of a good coordinator and should state the requirements in logical and understandable project proposals. After being provided with the financial and other provisions, progress reports are considered necessary. These documents are not only important for monitoring an assessment of the projects but they serve also as the sources of initiative for other communities which are in the same situation.

I would like to mention that in my work as an NGO, I have received assistance from FAO on many occasions since 1990 and I would like to thank the Organization for that.

The main responsibility for commitment of resources and mobilization of action lies with the national actors with the support of concerted international advocacy and action. This approach was duly recognized by more than 170 governments represented at the World Food Summit: *five years later* in 2002 through their declaration entitled International Alliance Against Hunger, which called for an urgent need to reinforce efforts of all concerned partners for the fulfillment of the 1996 Summit goals. We must pursue this Declaration bearing in mind that, in this battle against hunger, we can and must win.

Lastly, I join you all in congratulating FAO on this auspicious day for its achievements and offer Thailand's good wishes and full hearted support to the World Food Day theme. I am confident that FAO will continue to receive similar support from other Asia-Pacific countries in realizing the collective mission of ensuring food security for all.



Message of the FAO Director-General



International alliance against hunger

Today, as people gather around the world to celebrate World Food Day, I would like to remind everyone of the paramount significance of this celebration; to rid the world of hunger.

For still 840 million people, around 800 million of them in developing countries, suffer from chronic hunger. This leaves us much too far from the World Food Summit goal set in 1996 to cut by half the number of hungry people by 2015.

Never before in the history of the world has so much food been produced. And we have technologies that can substantially increase farm productivity and ensure better water management.

But what is needed is the political will to tackle the underlying causes of hunger in all its manifestations. Nations must turn verbal commitments to fight hunger into practical programmes. In most developing countries, the majority of people live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods from agriculture. It therefore makes sense to invest in agriculture.

The international community, at the World Food Summit: five years later in June 2002, resolved to create an "International Alliance against Hunger".

This Alliance provides a forum for advocacy. It is also meant to promote joint actions by its members. And it encourages partners to offer assistance, whether training, policy advice, or help in developing hunger reduction strategies.

But we must never forget that the prime responsibility for reaching our goals lies with each government and its people: who must set their own national targets. I applaud the foresight of nations where leaders have made fighting hunger their top priority.

A group of NGOs has formed a coalition to campaign against hunger. Other alliances the world over are encouraging signs of the kind of energy and determination needed to eradicate hunger once and for all. In a growing number of countries, all sectors of society including food producers and consumers, international organizations, scientists, academics, religious groups, NGOs, donors, policymakers and individuals concerned about the problem of hunger, are joining together to fight against food insecurity.

So, on this World Food Day, I appeal to one and all to join the fight against hunger. The *International alliance against hunger* gives us a way to move forward together, to reduce poverty and to guarantee the most basic of human rights - to be free from hunger.



Statement by He Changchui,
Assistant Director-General
and Regional Representative
for Asia and the Pacific



On behalf of the Director-General of FAO Jacques Diouf, and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for the commemoration of World Food Day 2003 which marks the 58th birthday of FAO.

This year's World Food Day theme, *International alliance against hunger*, is the call by heads of state and government from more than 170 countries assembled in Rome in June 2002 at the World Food Summit: *five years later*. On that occasion, they recalled the commitment to achieving food security for all and the immediate goal of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015 at the World Food Summit held in 1996. Moreover, alarmed by the painfully slow progress towards meeting the goal they themselves set, the leaders recognized the urgent need to reinforce the efforts of all concerned partners as an international alliance against hunger.

Perhaps I need not repeat the well accepted fact that the right to food is the most basic of human rights. By any reckoning, food appears very high in the hierarchy of human needs for survival and development. This message was loudly and clearly conveyed by world leaders in adopting the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as the first and foremost Millennium Development Goal. This goal significantly groups together poverty and hunger for the simple reason that they are inseparably related and must be addressed together.

While the ugly face of urban poverty is seen in mega cities as well as in small towns of the Asia-Pacific region, poverty is mostly concentrated among agricultural households in rural areas. Urban poverty is to a large extent a byproduct of rural poverty. Marginal and small farmers and landless labourers unable to meet a minimum standard of living are forced to migrate to cities in the hope of finding jobs. Even youth from relatively well-off families with some education leave rural areas to seek greater opportunities and a better quality of life in the cities. While out-migration from the agricultural sector and rural areas is accepted by many as an expected result of economic growth, one needs

to be careful in drawing easy conclusions. One needs to look deeper at policy issues to see if inequities in the terms of trade, underinvestment in the agriculture and rural sector, and other policy biases are forcing the rural poor to the cities. Furthermore, we should contemplate whether it is despair that drives these people to leave the only place they have ever known.

In this context, World Food Day is an occasion to remember that in the Asia-Pacific countries, agriculture and rural development has been the foundation for non-agricultural growth. The great cities of Asia were founded and can be sustained only by strong rural economies. Thus this is an occasion to be conscious of the realities of rural life and the hard struggle for livelihood that many rural people are condemned to.

The idea of the *International alliance against hunger* is firmly based on the great potential of the multitude of stakeholders in working together to wipe out the scourge of hunger from our midst. Mobilization of such an alliance is possible because it is in everybody's interest. What it calls for is the recognition of the problem by the stakeholders and the awareness amongst them that their collective and individual actions can be directed at eradicating hunger without sacrificing their own objectives.

Working for an international alliance against hunger requires governments to mobilize political will and work harder to create the policy environment, provide the funding, and implement the programmes to allow people to overcome hunger and poverty. They must place the millennium development goal for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger at the center of their development strategy and take a leading role in forging an alliance of different groups, including food producers and consumers, international organizations, governments, agribusinesses, scientists, academics, private individuals, policy makers, religious groups and non-governmental organizations.

This alliance should evolve into viable partnerships between the government, private sector, NGOs, civil society, academic institutions and the country's development partners towards concrete actions. Among the development partners, the developed countries must fulfill their commitments to provide greater market access to agricultural products from developing countries as agreed in Doha and ensure a greater flow of resources, as assured in Monterrey. Let us hope that the failure in Cancun to reach a consensus among nations was only a temporary setback and the hopes for free and fair trade are not lost for ever. This is the hope we must embrace as this great country, which hosts the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, is hosting the summit of world leaders under the APEC forum.

On this solemn occasion, we are confident that the APEC leaders are fully conscious of their responsibilities towards the plight of the poor and the hungry and will take decisions that will contribute to the alleviation of their suffering.

From our side, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is initiating activities to promote a regional alliance against hunger. Tomorrow, a high-level roundtable meeting of stakeholders from the region will be held at the FAO office in Bangkok. Nine eminent personalities from Asia and the Pacific will provide intellectual inputs and policy perspectives on the regional alliance, and deliberate on effective means of cooperation and follow-up activities. The roundtable participants serve as the regional nucleus to develop a strong multi-stakeholder partnership network across countries rallying around

the common cause of the eradication of hunger.

We are honoured today by the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. We extend our profound gratitude to Your Royal Highness, our Guest of Honour, for providing inspiration in her commitment to and leadership in fighting hunger and undernutrition, particularly among women and children. In this connection, FAO is privileged to cooperate in the *Agriculture for school lunch programme* - an initiative of Her Royal Highness - aimed at providing schoolchildren with knowledge about agriculture and at the same time producing food for school meals to help reduce malnutrition in remote areas in Thailand.

Hunger and malnutrition inhibit children's growth and reduce their capacity to learn. As a result, too many children die before adulthood or become adults without the capacity to reach their full potential. Too many nations are stalled on the road to development. In this time of ample food production it is unacceptable that more than 500 million people remain hungry in Asia and the Pacific. FAO is calling for action - encouraging all those concerned to join forces by working for an international alliance against hunger.



Statement by Kim Hak-Su,
UN Under Secretary-General
and Executive Secretary of
ESCAP



It is indeed an honour for me to address this World Food Day Celebration. At the World Food Summit in 1996 and at the Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders made a commitment to halve the number of people living in absolute poverty and hunger by 2015. In Asia and Pacific today, over five-hundred-million people are undernourished and are unable to live healthy and active lives. Reducing hunger will also significantly contribute to addressing other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, reducing the risk of infectious diseases and extending the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Countries of Asia and the Pacific have made faster progress than other parts of the developing world in reducing poverty and hunger. The most spectacular successes come from South East Asia and East Asia. China, for example, almost halved the number of people living with hunger in the decade of the 1990s.

However, as a region, Asia-Pacific's success still falls far short of the rate needed to achieve the target by 2015. This is particularly true for South Asia, where countries like India and Nepal have seen a net increase of people living with hunger in terms of absolute numbers.

While fighting hunger we must also take into account that some current strategies for improving agricultural productivity endanger sustainable growth. Our policy interventions must seek to protect the environment while increasing agricultural productivity.

Moreover, market penetration and introduction of new technologies in communities that predominantly rely on subsistence agriculture, may lead to restructuring and consolidation of agricultural production and may make many farmers redundant. Alternative strategies for rural development need to be studied and introduced, including off-farm employment, development of rural centres and linking rural areas to small towns and medium sized cities.

We must empower the poor by strengthening food security and increasing physical, economic, social and political access to markets, services and forums of decision-making. We must also recognize that in many countries women are particularly vulnerable to hunger and poverty and work towards reducing these disparities. In other words we must design and implement pro-poor and gender-aware development policies.

On the occasion of the Twenty-third World Food Day Celebration, I urge you to reaffirm your political commitment to work even harder to create the policy environment, provide the funding and implement the programmes to empower the poor to overcome hunger and poverty. UNESCAP remains committed to foster regional cooperation and assisting its members in building their capacities to achieve the MDGs, particularly those related to reducing hunger and poverty. As some of you are aware UNESCAP underwent a process of reform that seeks to make its assistance more targeted. Under the overarching goal of assisting countries in achieving the MDGs, UNESCAP's work now focuses around three themes: reducing poverty, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues.

Together with the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCAP is involved in monitoring the progress in achieving the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific. The initiative also focuses on analyzing successful policies used by member countries in achieving the MDGs and transferring these lessons to other countries. We have also initiated flagship technical cooperation projects that seek to collect and transfer best practices in rural development, promoting more productive rural-urban linkages and in providing access to markets and economic and social services to the poor. We will continue to work with countries of the region, in close cooperation with FAO and other agencies within and outside the United Nations family to assist you in enabling the poor to overcome hunger and poverty.



The challenging task of
reducing hunger



Keynote speech by Sartaj Aziz

Former agriculture, finance and foreign affairs
minister of Pakistan

The importance of the World Food Day, observed every year, has increased after the 1996 World Food Summit as it provides a valuable opportunity at the global, regional and national level to review the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the summit and its specific targets. This year, the occasion is of particular significance as it will focus on the formulation of specific modalities to build an *International alliance against hunger* as called for by the 2002 World Food Summit, five years later.

Let me begin by recalling the key commitments undertaken by the international community and the progress made so far in implementing them.

The target

The 1996 World Food Summit established the target of reducing the number of undernourished people by half, within a 20 year period, i.e. by 2015. The Millennium Summit held in September 2000, adopted a similar target of halving by 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water.

In my view, the WFS target, endorsed again by the *WFS: fyl*, is more appropriate, as under the Millennium target even if achieved, the absolute number of malnourished people will decline only marginally (from 800 million to 700 million) even though the proportion of undernourished people will decline from 18 to 9 percent. Under the WFS target, on the other hand, the absolute number will decline from 800 million to 400 million and the proportion will go down from 18 to 6 percent. The international community should therefore adopt the WFS goal, as meeting this goal would automatically meet the Millennium Development Goal.

Progress

According to FAO's latest assessment, the progress towards the WFS goal of halving the number of undernourished people is very slow as can be seen from the following numbers:

(a) There has been only a marginal decrease of 20 million or 2.5 million per annum, in the number of malnourished persons in the developing world from 820 to 800 million between 1990-92 and 2000. This is far below the reduction of 22 million required under the WFS goal of halving the number of hungry people by 2015.

(b) Even this limited "progress" is primarily due to the sharp reduction of 80 million in the number of undernourished persons in China. If that figure is excluded, there has been an actual increase of 60 million undernourished people, in the rest of the developing world. In fact, out of a total of 96 developing countries, only 24 countries are on track in achieving the WFS targets, 28 are slipping back and 44 are totally off track.

(c) Sub-Sahara Africa continues to have the highest incidence of undernourished since one-third of its population, i.e. 200 million persons are chronically undernourished. In South Asia, the comparable percentage is 20 percent, although in absolute terms, it has 320 million or 40 percent of all the undernourished persons in the developing world as a whole.

Ironically, the reduction in the number of undernourished people in the developing world in 1980s was much faster than that in the 1990s, despite such high level commitments at Copenhagen, Rome and New York in the latter period. Hence the need to identify the causes why the world is moving towards more, rather than less hunger and then to identify policies and actions that must be taken at the national and international level to reverse this trend and move towards the WFS target at the required pace.

Causes and solutions of chronic hunger

The causes of chronic hunger are well known and well documented, as are the solutions. These can be summarized as follows:

❖ The basic cause of hunger is poverty. That is why increased production and availability of food is necessary but not a sufficient condition for achieving food security. The poor must have adequate access to food i.e. the ability to produce or buy the food they need for their families.

❖ Access to adequate food depends on the pattern of landholding, income distribution, employment opportunities and food prices. Lack of formal legal rights to land is a major factor that hinders poor people's access to credit, which can help to improve their income and livelihood.

❖ The rural poor are poor because their initial access to assets or skills is inadequate in relation to their basic needs. But this poor endowment then also compels these households to transact unfavourably in product, labour and credit markets and getting locked into deeper poverty.

- ❖ Sustained economic growth stimulated by rapid expansion in domestic and international trade is necessary for expanding incomes and employment opportunities for the poor but is not sufficient. The essence of any strategy to reduce poverty must focus on improving the human resource endowment of the poor households and on organizing them to gain a more favourable position in the labour and product markets.
- ❖ Poverty is mostly a rural phenomenon. The goals of reducing poverty and hunger will therefore require larger investments in rural infrastructure to improve irrigation, rural roads and electricity and in agricultural research and extension. Simultaneously, non-farm rural economy has to be developed by promoting small and medium scale industries in rural areas.
- ❖ The impact of these investments on poverty and hunger can be maximized if there are focussed on poor areas and poor people, supplemented by micro-credit programmes and accompanied by suitable macro-economic policies that will improve the terms of trade for the agriculture sector and bring about significant improvement in health and education services, particularly for women. Illiteracy and illness are two of the most important causes of poverty.
- ❖ Efficient distribution of food is as important as its production, particularly for delivering food items to the poor and to far-flung areas at reasonable and stable prices.
- ❖ The impact of poverty is particularly harsh for children. At present, about one-third of all pre-school children are malnourished in developing countries, causing irreparable damage to their growth and mental capacity. Special priority is therefore needed to address the problems of nutrition for children.
- ❖ Natural calamities like droughts and floods and other external shocks like civil wars have a disproportionately high impact on the poor people and their nutrition. Every country needs a comprehensive strategy to deal with the food emergencies arising from these natural and man made calamities.

While developing countries have been trying to deal with these causes of hunger and poverty with varying degrees of success, there are certain new and overriding international factors that have further aggravated food security prospects for the poor:

❖ Policies of economic liberalization that have been adopted by a growing number of developing countries, under adjustment programmes of the World Bank and IMF over the past decade have had a highly negative impact on the poor. Even in countries in which these policies have helped to improve investment and growth, they have not been very successful in reducing poverty, partly because the poor are at the lowest rung of the competitive ladder and partly because the adjustment process by reducing public investment to cut down budget deficit and subsidies, have also increased inequality and unemployment.

❖ Attempts are being made since 1999, to reduce the negative impact of economic and trade liberalization on the poor, by repackaging the structural adjustment programmes into poverty reduction strategies. IMF has also renamed its Extended Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) as Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF). This approach represents some improvement since it forces countries to go deeper into causes of poverty. But the net impact of PRSP in reducing poverty has so far been limited. This is primarily because the basic policy framework of PRSP is still wedded to the traditional IMF agenda for macro-economic stabilization under which macro-economic targets and conditionalities are worked out in great details. But targets and policies needed to promote investment, growth and employment, which are even more critical for poverty reduction, are spelled out in general terms and can at best be called "pious hopes". There are also limited prospects for increasing the overall flow of external resources for poverty reduction, despite the commitments made at Monterrey.

❖ Another and even more serious obstacle in achieving the WFS goal of halving hunger, is the continuing policy of OECD countries to provide agricultural subsidies of over \$350 billion each year. These subsidies have led to surplus production of many commodities like cereals, sugar, cotton, edible oils and dairy products, which are exported or dumped in developing countries at low prices. These low agricultural prices (which in real terms are the lowest ever in the past three decades) have:

- destroyed the livelihood of millions of poor farmers in developing countries;
- weakened the incentive system for increasing domestic production, through the adoption of improved technologies;
- diverted investment resources away from the agriculture sector in many countries because agriculture is no longer a profitable sector to justify investment in research, extension, agro processing and marketing infrastructure; and
- reduced the share of most developing countries in international agriculture trade.

Despite the paramount importance of removing this major obstacle, the failure of the WTO Ministerial Meeting held at Cancun in September 2003 to resolve the issue of agricultural subsidies is a major setback to the WFS and MDG objectives of reducing hunger and poverty.

International alliance against hunger

In the face of these formidable obstacles, both at the national and international levels, it should not be difficult to recognize the enormity of the tasks that lie ahead. In this context, the decision of the World Food Summit, held in June 2002, to build an *International alliance against hunger*, is both timely and important. The next step is to make this alliance effective and spell out in concrete terms, the policies and the actions that must be taken at the national and international levels, to move towards the WFS goal at the required pace.

Guidelines for national action

Brazil and Sierra Leone have recently made hunger eradication their highest priority. Brazil's zero hunger programme, announced by President Lula Da'Silva, contains a comprehensive policy package covering land redistribution, investment programmes for different regions with a concentration of hungry people, integrated nutrition programmes for children and social safety nets. Similarly, the President of Sierra Leone has announced a programme to end hunger within five years.

One of main priorities of the *International alliance against hunger* should be to urge as many developing countries as possible to announce, at the highest political level, their commitment to end hunger in their countries within a period of 10 years and for this purpose to launch a concrete programme of action with a high level body to monitor implementation on a regular basis.

The declarations of the World Food Summits held in 1996 and 2002, already provide the broad elements of the action programmes that are required to end hunger. These can be prioritized or modified according to the ground situation in each country with concrete targets and monitoring arrangements at the highest level. FAO should be ready to assist countries in giving final shape to their hunger eradication programmes.

Countries that have formulated a poverty reduction strategy or an interim strategy can and should devise a separate sub-strategy for eradicating hunger, according to the following guidelines:

❖ While poverty is the root cause of hunger, the factors which lead to chronic poverty are more complex and deep seated than those leading to undernourishment. In other words, it should be possible, through appropriate policies and programmes, to reduce hunger at a faster pace than chronic poverty.

❖ The strategy for reducing hunger must focus on the following important policies and programmes:

- (a) strengthening incentives for the production of food crops primarily for domestic consumption;
- (b) evolving a more efficient system of food storage and marketing, including a price support system for staple crops like wheat, rice and maize;
- (c) an efficient food distribution system to ensure the availability of food in all parts of the country throughout the year at reasonable and stable prices;
- (d) evolving a food price policy under which the farmers receive a remunerative price for their output but the consumers, including very low income consumers, have access to food at reasonable prices;
- (e) an appropriate system of social safety nets, under which very poor people who are outside the mainstream of economic activities like widows, orphans, handicapped persons or very old people, can receive food at subsidized prices.

The national strategy for eradicating hunger must also ensure that these objectives are fully protected from the adverse impact of inevitable fluctuations in the international agricultural markets, and of the structural adjustment policies involving reductions in subsidies and budgetary expenditures. This is why there is a need for a political commitment at the highest level to reconcile these conflicting objectives in favour of the hunger objective.

The content and direction of each national programme to eradicate hunger will have to be reviewed and periodically modified in the light of actual experience. It would also be necessary to define the role of all stakeholders and groups, including the civil society, the scientists and the private sector, in the pursuit of this common goal. Each country would also need suitable institutional mechanisms to coordinate these activities in the course of implementation and regular monitoring.

International support

The international community has accepted, for the first time, the specific goal of halving poverty and hunger by 2015, at the 1996 World Summit and the Millennium Summit held in September 2000. These commitments were further reinforced at Monterrey, Doha and Johannesburg in 2001 and 2002. It is therefore truly ironic that despite such a historic global compact, international action in support of this goal is seriously lagging behind the initiatives and actions being taken by a large majority of developing countries to tackle the problem of hunger and poverty. Unless and until there is stronger international support, the national efforts to achieve the WFS and MDG goals would not yield the desired results.

More specific priorities for global action under the International alliance against hunger would include the following:

- a) An agreed time frame for reducing agricultural subsidies in OECD countries as already agreed in Doha.

- b) Speedy implementation of the commitment made at Monterrey to increase official development assistance on soft terms, for agriculture and rural development projects and programmes.
- c) Providing debt relief under the HIPC initiative without conditionalities and expanding the debt relief initiative to other low income developing countries.
- d) A policy decision by the World Bank and regional development banks to finance national agricultural research programmes on a grant basis, as is being done for international research under the CGIAR system. Without much larger allocations for agricultural research on a grant basis, the current technological divide between the North and the South will be impossible to bridge.
- e) There is also need for greater fiscal flexibility in financing public sector development programmes in developing countries. For example, external resources provided as grants or on very soft terms for reducing poverty and hunger should not be counted towards the fiscal deficit targets.

To sum up, at least one fourth of the developing countries have successfully adopted policies to reduce hunger and poverty. The most outstanding example of this success comes from China. If the *International alliance against hunger* can get into motion a process under which the objective of eliminating - or at least reducing - hunger is accorded top priority at the highest political level and a separate national strategy is formulated for this purpose by each country with the cooperation of all stake holders, there is no reason, why the WFS target of halving the number of undernourished persons by 2015, would not only be achieved but exceeded.

Awards for
outstanding achievements



Muhammad Nawaz Dhillon - outstanding achievement in the special programme for food security

A progressive small farmer, Muhammad Nawaz Dhillon's involvement in diverse social and agricultural activities has earned him a unique position in his Pakistan farming community. Now in his early 50s, Mr Nawaz - who is married and has three children - has 30 years of farming experience in growing wheat, sugarcane, maize and cotton on his four hectare-farm. His reputation as a progressive farmer dates back to 1970 when he discovered that specially prepared wheat seed sown in saline soil caused yields to jump impressively. The method was widely adopted and was the first of several ways Mr Dhillon has impacted agriculture in many surrounding villages in the province of Punjab.

Over the last two decades, he has devoted himself to helping people in his community. Because of his passionate concern for alleviating rural poverty, Mr Nawaz's help was sought for the promotion of the Special Programme for Food Security in the district. Through dialogue and good example, Mr Nawaz overcame initial resistance from 130 farmers, and convinced the farming community to adopt new technologies for crop and water management, which made the project a success. Crop yields increased from 2.6 tonnes to 5 tonnes per hectare, and additional demands from farmers for learning other technologies have outpaced the extension department's ability to keep up.

Elected by the farmers as president of the Village Organization, which he had introduced to mobilize support for the project, Mr Nawaz used the victory of the innovative food security ideas to mobilize funds from landowners and other agencies to advance a broadened development for and by rural families. As a member of various grassroot and religious committees, Mr Nawaz over the years has attracted support and funding for medical services, free eye camps, educational scholarships and funeral expenses for needy people in his community as part of his vision "to create an ideal village."

Virginia Muniño - outstanding achievement in integrated farming

A successful female farmer-entrepreneur, Virginia Muniño from the Philippines is the fourth of 12 children in a farming family. She embarked on a professional life, obtaining a university degree in medical technology and working in a hospital and research laboratory. At age 28, affected by the human rights situation in her native province of Cotabato, and pulled by a life-long dream of being a nun, Ms Muniño joined a socially active convent. Aspiring to help disadvantaged people, she turned to what she saw as her best skill - farming. She introduced organic methods to the convent's farm, worked as a teacher and mentor, and at the same time furthered studies at the Southeast Asian Rural Social Leadership Institute.

Inced by the need to care for her ailing parents, she left the convent and returned to the family farm. She integrated a variety of fruit trees, a fish pond and a piggery, all tended by organic methods, on her 2 ha share of the land. As well, she took in four children to raise, and started working with impoverished villagers who benefited from the distribution of land under an



agrarian reform programme. Within one decade, Ms Muniño, has seen her earnings increase by 40 percent, despite the challenge of an upland area affected by erosion and irrigation difficulties. But the most surprising impact has been her outreach to single-crop farmers - from around the province and outside the region - streaming in to see her 'model' farm, eager to learn from her knowledge. Her example as an innovative and successful farmer has encouraged poor villagers to seek industrious activities that benefit their families.

Now in her 50s and single, she is a leader in the Rural Improvement Club, the Women's Association and a government agrarian reform project. She supports comprehensive community programmes, skills training in farming, income-generating cooperative projects, as well as non-formal education and the promotion of traditional Filipino values.

Rosukon Poompanvong - outstanding achievement in organic farming

A pioneering farmer in Thailand's organic movement, Rosukon Poompanvong - now in her late 40s - is a woman with an uncommon spirit of generosity. Working with farmers throughout Thailand and in Europe, she has succeeded in growing and marketing top-quality agricultural produce without using artificial fertilizers. The results of her work over the past quarter century have proven to be financially profitable and, even more important, at no expense to the environment.

As a university student of agriculture in the late 1970s, working with chemically treated crops was unbecoming to Dr Rosukon because of a blood disease she has lived with since birth. To avoid the headaches, she searched for an alternative. She developed a technology to tap the full potential of soil organisms by using fermented organic waste for crop fertilization and pest protection, also effective as a feed supplement for pigs and chickens. In 1997 she set up a Health Farm in Rayong province as a centre for training in organic farming methods that also receives people seeking natural treatment against illnesses such as cancer, diabetes and blindness.

Dr Rosukon, who has a Ph.D. in alternative medicine, helped create in 1984 the Organic Agriculture Association of Thailand and seven years later, on her own with donations she had saved from practising acupuncture, she started a mobile training service to teach farmers around the country how to produce healthy foods with her enzyme method. Her mission is to help people heal themselves. Villagers from near and far come to the Health Farm to study her methods of planting, treating crops and recycling all organic waste. She also continues her mobile training, visiting three villages a week. If Thailand intends to become the kitchen of the world, Dr Rosukon is determined to make it "a good kitchen, not a toxic kitchen."



The regional alliance against hunger in Asia and the Pacific

On 17 October 2003 - one day after the observance of World Food Day 2003 - the FAO regional office in Bangkok organized a half-day roundtable meeting of stakeholders to initiate a regional alliance against hunger (RAAH) in support of and to facilitate local and national initiatives by which the poor and hungry are enabled to achieve food security on a sustainable basis. The roundtable participants (see annex 2) will serve as the nucleus to develop a strong multi-stakeholder partnership rallying around the common cause of eradication of hunger and full-fledged institutional mechanisms to achieve it.

The objectives of the roundtable meeting were to discuss the rationale and mission of the regional alliance against hunger as a framework for support and advocacy for action by governments, donor and UN agencies, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector for enhanced food security in the region; and to exchange views and perspectives on possible modalities of cooperation amongst stakeholders and follow-up activities that can be undertaken.

Diverse institutions and individuals, who recognize the feasibility and urgency of making progress towards the reduction of hunger, and who are committed to encouraging their peers and an array of national institutions to do more towards reducing hunger are identified as the stakeholders for the RAAH. Thus the forum to promote the regional alliance might include representatives of government ministries or departments concerned with agriculture and food security issues, civic leaders, and representatives of parliamentary committees on agriculture, farmers' organizations, chambers of commerce, business associations, private companies, political associations, religious groups, relevant academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the FAO National Committee, and private individuals, among others.

The outcome of the meeting is reflected in the summary by the

Summary by the chairperson

On the occasion of World Food Day 2003, a group of concerned stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region was invited by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to a round table discussion on a regional alliance against hunger (RAAH). The participants comprised policy makers, representatives of civil society, academic institutions and the private sector. The round table was chaired by Sartaj Aziz.

The participants noted with concern that despite efforts to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty only limited progress has been achieved in moving towards the World Food Summit (WFS) target of halving the number of undernourished population by 2015. Currently, more than 60 percent of the world's undernourished population lives in Asia and the Pacific. There are wide differences among the sub-regions in their success in reducing poverty and hunger closely associated with their economic performance and investment in social capital. Poverty and hunger is particularly serious in South Asia and in small islands in the Pacific.

In this context the round table felt the decision of the World Food Summit: five years later (WFS: fyl), held in June 2002, to build an *International alliance against hunger* was both timely and important. The next step is to make this alliance effective and identify the priorities, policies and actions that must be taken at the national, regional and international level to move towards the WFS goal at the required pace.

The round table emphasized that hunger eradication requires strong and sustained political will, backed up with broad stakeholder alliance at national regional and local levels favoring policy reforms that empower the poor and ensure commitment of resources for agriculture and rural development.

The round table recommended that each developing member country should formulate, as a part of its commitments to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and WFS Declaration, a national strategy to reduce hunger, either as a separate strategy or as a sub-strategy of its national poverty reduction strategy where some initiatives have already been launched. This can be reinforced by further reform and actions to speed up their implementation at the national and local levels.

The round table recognized that while governments have a major responsibility to improve the policy framework for agricultural and rural development, and make the required investments in rural infrastructure and agricultural research, other stakeholder must actively participate to achieve the objective of reducing poverty and hungry. National level alliances against hunger should be supplemented by local level alliances that can identify the hungry, organize the poor to access the projects and services that are available and identify factors that affect the nutrition situation and livelihood of poor households. These local alliances should network with other local alliances to ensure that government policies and investment priorities favour the poor.

The round table also emphasized the importance of the private sector in disseminating improved technology and ensuring remunerative prices to farmers for their produce. Agribusiness enterprises should therefore be involved in the national and local alliances against hunger.

The round table recommended that the FAO regional office in Bangkok should formulate suitable guidelines that can assist national government and civil society organization to formulate or strengthen their national or local strategies and set up national alliances to combat hunger and poverty by 2015. The guidelines should take into account several initiatives that have been successfully implemented by many countries in the region and provide a dynamic and mutually reinforcing framework of policies, and actions.

The round table identified several key factors that should be kept in view by the stakeholders in evolving their respective strategies to reduce hunger:

- ◆ Rapid and broadly based growth in agricultural and rural development as fundamental elements of the strategy to eradicate hunger.
- ◆ Policy and institutional environment must empower the rural poor who are largely dependent on the agriculture sector for employment and livelihood.
- ◆ Macroeconomic framework, public expenditure and investment policies should favour the poor in development and promote their specific endowments and assets, including land, water, credit and technology.
- ◆ An efficient system of food distribution that will provide food at reasonable prices throughout the year throughout the country.
- ◆ Safety nets are needed for those who are disadvantaged and would not be able to participate in the mainstream of development on their own.
- ◆ Expansion of non-farm employment is critical for reducing poverty and hunger in rural and urban areas.
- ◆ Sustainable development requires conservation and development of resources that poor depend on, namely land, water and forests.
- ◆ Steps should be taken to ensure that budgetary support to social sectors (e.g. education and health services) is continually expanded and these services reach the poor on a priority basis.
- ◆ Sustained agricultural growth will require strong government support for agricultural research to generate improved agricultural technologies and provision of required inputs.

The round table emphasized that these national strategies to reduce hunger will not be able to achieve the MDG or WFS target within the required timeframe unless these are fully supported by the international community through larger allocations of official development assistance for agricultural and rural development, and by reducing agricultural subsidies in the OECD countries. In this context, FAO member countries should also explore further possibilities for greater south-south cooperation and provide adequate resources to support suitable initiatives.

Meanwhile, the round table recommended that regional networks of different stakeholders and various alliances at different levels, horizontally and vertically, should be organized to discuss country experiences with different strategies and results, draw appropriate lessons, promote successful approaches for adaptation elsewhere and provide policy inputs to government. These arrangements can be reviewed periodically.

The round table suggested that the composition of the round table be expanded to constitute a nucleus of a regional alliance against hunger in the Asia-Pacific region.

Annexes

Media coverage

- 15 October - Address by the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperative on the occasion of WFD with TeleFood spots, iTV, 17:55 hrs.
- 16 October - Announcement on Radio Thailand world service and an interview with He Changchui, ADG/RR (07:09 hrs.)
- Advertisement in the Bangkok Post
 - Advertisement in the Nation
 - An interview with Dr. Birasak Varasundharosodth, Governor, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR) on nutrition and food production in connection with WFD celebration, radio 102.5 mhz., 19:05 hrs.
 - 20:00 hrs. news report on WFD celebration at FAO Regional Office on all TV Channels, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and iTV
- 21 October - Thai Rath newspaper
- 25 October - TeleFood video at national WFD celebration, DG message
- Live broadcast of national WFD celebration at Phitsanulok on local radio station, with an interview of Mr He

Building an alliance against hunger

Too many children die before adulthood
Too many adults never reach their full potential
Too many nations are stalled on the road to development

In this time of ample food production it is unacceptable that more than 500 million people remain hungry in Asia and the Pacific.

FAO is calling for action - encouraging all those concerned about the problem of hunger to join forces: from food producers and consumers to international organizations; from private firms, scientists and academics to individuals, religious groups and non-governmental organizations.

World Food Day marks the anniversary of the founding of FAO on 16 October 1945. It is celebrated today in Bangkok under the theme: Building an international alliance against hunger. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has graciously consented to preside over the ceremony at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

FAO is working to better the lot of small (and medium) farmers in the region, who form the bulk of the Asia-Pacific agricultural population and are also the poorest and hungriest. FAO is concerned about sharply declining national and international support to agriculture, the asymmetries in the current global trade system, and the widening gap between rich and poor.


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Live broadcasting on Radio Thailand, Phitsanulok province



FAO booth at Thai national WFD celebration



Myanmar Prime Minister and party view the Telefood project booth, among others, displayed at the World Food Day Ceremony

(World Food Day being observed today)

15 October 2003

Pakistan Press International Information Services

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Islamabad Oct. 15 (PPI) The **World Food Day** is being celebrated through out the world including Pakistan today (Thursday). The Day is being observed in pursuance of the resolution adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1070. The Theme for the world food day 2003 is "International Alliance Against Hunger". This event is celebrated as means of increasing public awareness of food security issues and mobilizing all sectors of civil Agriculture and Livestock in coordination with food and agriculture organization will arrange a seminar/function and exhibition at National Agriculture Research Center. Diplomats, heads of UN agencies and high-ranking officers of Government of Pakistan will attend this function. Minister of State for food, Agriculture and Livestock will be chief guest in the function. Special supplements in the newspapers will be published to highlight the importance of the Day.

FAO came into being on October 16, 1945, It gives practical help to developing countries through a wide range of technical assistance projects. Its collects, analyses, interprets and disseminates information relating to nutrition, food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. FAO also provides independent advice on agriculture policy and planning, and the administrative and legal structures needed for development. Besides this, Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme are assisting many food deficit countries and the countries, which suffer natural and man made disasters and agriculture related set back. Over 800 million people suffer malnutrition and hunger, this include 17 million children. In Pakistan about 30 suffers poverty although in term average nutritional value Pakistan meets the international standard.

GUIYANG, Oct. 16 (**Xinhuanet**) -- About 120 million Chinese people suffer from malnutrition and the country's poverty problems are still pressing, said Vice-Agriculture Minister Zhang Baowen at a conference to mark the 23rd **World Food Day** on Thursday.

As the world most populous nation, China had taken a series of measures to feed its people well. In 1996, China's food production exceeded 500 million tons for the first time. Output of major agricultural products met demand and even provided a surplus in bumper harvests.

Statistics show the country's poor population had decreased from 250 million in 1978 to 28.2 million in 2002.

However, China's anti-poverty and anti-hunger programs were still seriously challenged by population growth, lack of land and water resources, and erosion and desertification, said Zhang at the conference in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province.

Gamal M. Ahmed, representative of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in China, Mongolia and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), said all countries should take concrete measures to eliminate poverty and hunger, and to safeguard the basic human right to nutrition.

Statistics show 840 million people around the world suffer from poverty and malnutrition, with 799 million in developing nations.

In 1979, FAO decided to start an annual World Food Day, which has fallen on Oct. 16 since 1981. The 2003 World Food Day theme is "International Alliance Against Hunger".

16 October 2003

Vietnam News Agency Bulletin

A ceremony to mark the **World Food Day** was held in Hai Duong province on Thursday by the Vietnamese Ministry of Fisheries (MOF) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The ceremony was attended by MOF Deputy Minister Nguyen Viet Thang, FAO resident representative John Colwell and local officials, specialists and farmers. In response to FAO's call for "World efforts against poverty" in 2003, MOF has adopted a poverty reduction programme through aquaculture dubbed SAPA (Sustainable aquaculture of Poverty Alleviation) across the country. The programme has become one of the key factors boosting economic development in many coastal cities and provinces while helping protect natural aquatic resources. In recent years, aquaculture has proven an efficient agent in poverty reduction. A case in point is Hoang Thi Mai, a Mong woman in northern Lai Chau province, who received a special UN award in 1997 for her contributions to poverty reduction through aquacultural development.

India asks foreign aid agencies to amend norms.

17 October 2003

Business Standard

Our Agriculture Editor New Delhi

India has asked global agencies to amend their aid disbursement guidelines for facilitating greater flow of food aid and other developmental assistance from India to needy countries.

Agriculture Secretary RCA Jain today said emerging donor countries like India could not afford to follow the protocol laid down by many multilateral agencies.

Speaking at a function to mark **World Food Day**, Jain said India could foresee an increasing role for itself in providing food aid to the poor.

India has agreements with several African countries for co-operation in agriculture, envisaging technical and material assistance for farm development. Such interventions in countries like Senegal and Somalia have significantly boosted agricultural production there.

India is also involved in the programme sponsored by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for South-South Cooperation for food security. Under this, India's missions are active in countries like Eritrea and Mozambique to promote the development of local farm practices.

The function was organized by the agriculture ministry, FAO and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. The theme of this year's World Food Day was 'International Alliance Against Hunger'.

According to FAO estimates, out of over 800 million undernourished people in the world, 294 million are in South Asia. More than 51 per cent of the undernourished population, in the below 5 year age group, belong to this region.

India, too, has about 208 million undernourished. Women and children are the worst affected.

About 50 per cent of children are undernourished and stunted. Some 33 per cent have low birth weight.

FAO sources pointed out that the World Food Programme (WFP) aimed at feeding about 110 million people across the world was facing a financial crunch. Against this year's requirement of \$4.3 billion, the actual contributions fell short by \$600 million, almost 15 per cent.

Rustaq school celebrates World Food Day

Times of Oman

20 October 2003

MUSCAT - The Indian School Rustaq has celebrated **World Food Day**. Some of the school management committee members and a number of parents had turned up for the programme.

Principal Beena K. Thambi, in her introductory speech, said eradication of poverty and fighting hunger are the messages of World Food Day.

The UN, through its extended hand FAO, brings awareness among the developed nations, the need for helping developing and underdeveloped nations, she said.

"Food complements any celebration or function and while everyone enjoys good food one should remember that we eat to live and not live to eat," she added.

Dr Soman Sanku, the chief guest, in his speech, advised the children to eat the food prepared at home, to give importance to traditional food and avoid fast foods, carbonated drinks and sweets which are more fashionable and the favourite of children all over the world.

But they are not good for health. He also requested the children not to waste food and to remember those children who cannot afford even one square meal a day. He summed up saying, too little or too much food is bad for health and so one should eat a balanced diet.

Jayachandran, the president of the SMC, advised the parents to send their children to school with the food of latter's choice so that there will not be any wastage.

The students of various classes in their skits highlighted the importance of balanced diet. Mehak Fathima, a student, adorned herself with fruits and vegetables, conveying the message that those were important in a person's diet. Later, a salad of vegetables and fruits was made out of this attire.

Hindi teacher Sayed impressed the gathering by reciting one of his poems, titled Khana Khazana, with a message for children that "food is given to us by God, with the hard work of the farmers and we are accountable to Him if we waste food".

Children and teachers brought different food items with which food stalls were set up. There were the traditional foods of different countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Oman and the different states of India. The programme concluded with everyone feasting on the food of their choice.

List of guests

Guest of Honour

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Guest speaker

Sartaj Aziz, Former Agriculture, Finance and Foreign Affairs Minister of Pakistan

Outstanding farmers

Muhammad Nawaz Dhillon, special programme for food security, Pakistan
Virginia D. Muninō (Mrs), integrated farming, Philippines
Rosukon Poompanvong (Mrs), organic farming, Thailand

Office of the Privy Councillors

HE General Pichit Kullavanijaya, Privy Councillor
HE Ampol Senanarong, Privy Councillor for Royal Agricultural Project

Office of the Royal Development Projects Board

Panthep Klanarongran, Secretary-General
Somsong Rungroengsilpa (Mrs), Director of Computer Center
Suthat Pleumpanya, Director, Highland Agricultural Development Division

Royal Thai Government

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

HE Sora-at Klinpratoom, Minister
Thammarong Prakobboon, Deputy Permanent Secretary
Khunying Prapaisri Pitakpraiwan, Inspector-General
Anchalee Ouraikul (Mrs), Inspector-General
Ard Somrang, Director-General, Land Development Department
Surapong Pransilpa, Deputy Director-General, Department of Agricultural Extension
Pinit Korsieporn, Director, Foreign Agricultural Relations Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary
Kasem Prasutsaengchan, Foreign Agricultural Relations Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary
Bencharat Phraelai (Ms), Foreign Agricultural Relations Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary
Prajub Lewchalermvongs (Ms), Chief, International Organization Sub-division
Yupadee Hemarat (Mrs), Chief, Protocol Sub-division
Sunisa Boonyapatipark (Ms), Chief, Foreign Relations Branch, Planning Division, Department of Agricultural Extension
Supralee Impithuksa, Director, Post-Harvest and Products Processing Research and Development Office
Sombhong Suwannatoh, Senior Biologist, Department of Fisheries
Methanee Sukhontharaksa (Ms), National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standard
Jinda Puriwarakul, Office of the Rubber Replanting Aid Fund

Asset Capitalization Bureau

Petipong Pungbun Na Ayudhya, Director-General

National Research Council, universities and academic institutions

Viroch Impithaksa, President, Kasetsart University
Sornprach Thanisawanyangkura, Vice President, Kasetsart University
Em-orn Wasantwisut, Director, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University
Warunee Varayanond, Director, Institute of Food Research and Product Development
Warunee Polboon, Assistant Vice Rector for General Administration, Thammasat University
Rosarin Smitabhindu (Ms), Assistant Director, Royal Chitralada Projects
Sirikarn Panjasaab (Ms), Head, Rural Development Department 3, Population and Community Development Association (PDA)
Yam Malla, Director, Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC)

Non-governmental organizations and associations

Khunying Ambhorn Meesook, President, Foundation for Life-long Education
Sumet Tantivejakul, Secretary-General, Chaipattana Foundation
Kuerkul Tonkul (Mrs), Vice President, The National Council of Women of Thailand
Patcharin Tanjapatanakul, The National Council of Women of Thailand

Embassies

Bhutan	Pema Wangchuk, Counsellor
Cambodia	HE Ung Sean, Ambassador
France	Claude Cuenot, Attaché for Scientific and Technical Cooperation
India	HE L.K. Ponappa (Mrs), Ambassador
Iran	Mohammad Ali Sadeghi Niaraki, Second Secretary
Japan	Toshihisa Takata, Minister and Chief of Mission
Kazakhstan	Saken Seidualiyev, Chargé d'Affairs
Nepal	Yadav Khanal, First Secretary
Pakistan	HE Mir Hussein Bakhsh Bangulzai, Ambassador
Philippines	Ivan F. Olea, Third Secretary
Sri Lanka	S.H.G. Ratnayake, Second Secretary
US	Russell Nicely, Agricultural Attaché
Viet Nam	Truong Tri Dac (Mrs), First Secretary
CEC	Robert J. Baldwin, Counsellor

United Nations

ESCAP	Kim Hak-Su, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary Choi Daewon, Special Assistant to Executive Secretary
ICAO	Lalit B. Shah, Regional Director
UNEP	Choei Konda, Deputy Regional Director
UNESCO	Kiichi Oyasu, Programme Specialist in Literacy
UNHCR	Bhairaja Panday, Acting Regional Representative
UNICEF	Donna Keher (Ms), Senior Regional Officer, Regional Support Centre Scott Bamber, Project Officer, UNICEF Office for Thailand
UNIDO	Jean-Marc Deroy, Representative and Regional Director
WFP	Kenro Oshidari, Deputy Regional Director

Other invited guests

Bai Dido Samama (Ms), Regional and Provincial Rural Improvement Clubs,
Regional Office, Department of Agriculture, Philippines

Chanuan Rattanawaraha, President, Organic Agriculture Association of Thailand
Naruemon Phasawadi (Mrs), Cooperative Officer 7, Rayong Provincial
Cooperative Office

Nipat Dithipen, Committee of Organic Agriculture Association of Thailand
Orapin Jampanate, Economic and Social Advisory Councillor, National
Economic and Social Advisor

Poemsak Amphan, General Manager, Farm Chokchai Group of Companies
Roj Burusratanabhand, President, River Kwai International Food Industry
Co.,Ltd and Committee of Organic Agriculture Association of Thailand
Supote Chaivimol, Director, Organic Agriculture Development and Promotion
Group, Department of Agricultural Extension

Tanachai Mitudom, Member, Organic Agriculture Association of Thailand
Thanapol Polpanich, Secretary, Committee of Kaokor Organic School

Participants to regional alliance against hunger Roundtable Meeting

Wang Lian-zheng, Former President of Chinese Academy of Agricultural
Sciences and Former Vice Minister of Agriculture, China

R. Rukmani (Ms), Principal Scientist, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation,
India

Syarifuddin Karama, Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia

Arzu Deuba (Ms), Chairperson and Executive Director, Samanata Institute for
Social and Gender Issues, Nepal

Sartaj Aziz, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Food and
Agriculture, Pakistan

Theresa Cruz-Capellan (Ms), Under Secretary, National Council on Food
Security and Job Creation, Philippines

Choak Bulakul, President, Farm Chokchai Group of Companies, Thailand

Baron Vaea, Former Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries, Tonga

Nathaniel Don E. Marquez, Executive Director, Asia NGO Coalition (for
Agrarian Reform and Rural Development) - ANGOC

Organizing secretariat

Steering committee

He Changchui, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative
(Chairperson)

Hiroyuki Konuma, Deputy Regional Representative

Nay-Myo Hla, Chief, Management Support Unit

Purushottam K. Mudbhary, Policy Officer

Tarina Ayazi, Meetings and Publications Officer

Diderik de Vleeschauwer, Information Officer (Secretary)

Organizing committees

Invitations, reception and protocol

Hiroyuki Konuma, Chairperson

Diderik de Vleeschauwer

Kanokporn Chansomritkul (Ms)

Vishnu Songkitti (Master of ceremony)

Kanjerat Boonyamanop (Ms)

Monpilai Youyen (Ms)

Praphas Weerapat

Chotika Na Chiangmai (Ms)

Navaporn Liangchevasunthorn (Ms)

Nawarat Chalermphao (Ms)

Rangrong Sodamak (Ms)

Kallaya Meechantra (Ms)

Umpaiwan Pipatanawilai (Ms)

Chanrit Uawongkun

Mongkhhol Fongprasertkul

Bongkoch Prasanakarn (Ms)

Kanyarat Singhaphun (Ms)

Jaruwan Thananimit (Ms)

Phavinee Tithipan (Ms)

Aruneeprapa Peansanong (Ms)

Pawadee Chokoonkit (Ms)

Parichat Chuntaketta (Ms)

Jintana Anunacha (Ms)

Duangporn Sritulanondh (Ms)

Panee Sophannakorn (Ms)

Sunee Hormjunya (Ms)

Thamrongsak Techatadakul

Suthep Rakpanyakaew

Officers for the outstanding farmers

Jacob Sterringa - (Pakistan)

Caroline C. Benigno (Ms) - (Philippines)

Veena Tohsanguanpun (Ms) - (Thailand)

Liaison with Thai government

Hiroyuki Konuma, Chairperson

Diderik de Vleeschauwer

Sri Limpichati (Mrs), Consultant

Praphas Weerapat

Logistics and catering

Nay-Myo Hla, Chairperson

Sri Limpichati (Mrs), consultant

Pravet Awachanakarn

Wichai Nomkhumtode

Cristina Sriratana (Mrs)

Nongnuch Tuntawiroon (Ms)

Suthep Charoenbutra

Chainarong Palaprasert

Pensri Yujang (Ms)

Prasert Huatsawat

Media, publications and photographs

Diderik de Vleeschauwer, Chairperson

Tarina Ayazi (Ms)

Apinya Petcharat (Ms)

Kanokporn Chansomritkul (Ms)

Prayoon Amaree, photographer

Weerasak Sittiskonkul, photographer

Karen Emmons, consultant

Pornsiri Kosiri-aksorn, consultant

Publications distributed

2003 WFD information note
2003 WFD issues paper
2003 WFD poster
19 FAO in action fact sheets
FAO at work brochure
RAP publication *Selected indicators of food and agriculture development in the Asia-Pacific region, 1992-2002*
Address by the guest of honour
Message by the FAO Director-General
Welcome and introductory remarks by ADG/RR
Statement by Kim Hak-Su, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
Keynote speech by Sartaj Aziz, former agriculture, finance and foreign affairs minister of Pakistan
Citations of outstanding farmers
RAP publications CD

FAO on the web: <http://www.fao.org>
FAO in Asia-Pacific: <http://www.fao.or.th>

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