



Dear Partners

The second quarter of the year was a prolific period for FAO SFE, where we produced and disseminated valuable knowledge products and

provided substantial technical supports to our member states. Quite significant progresses have been made in propelling the subregional initiatives, which we have launched together with IGAD and EAC. We also had a fruitful engagement with AUC and UNECA to spearhead high-level forums on sustainable development goals (SDGs), agricultural mechanization, nutrition and livestock development, where we demonstrated our commitment to achieve our mission of "Zero Hunger in Eastern Africa."

One of the key messages that came out from all these functions was that, the interplay between low productivity and stagnant agricultural production systems in Africa and in our subregion has resulted in rooted hunger and malnutrition - an almost intractable problem that weighs massively on Africa's development progress.

All these challenges call for the expansion of domestic investment and reducing the dependence on donors' funding for the development of agriculture, in order to realize an Africa free from hunger and malnutrition by 2025.

In this edition, we focused on nutrition and related topics, to draw the attention of our partners to the issues of malnutrition. I wish you a pleasant reading.

**Patrick Kormawa, PhD.**  
FAO Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to the AU and UNECA



## FAO - JICA DEEPENING PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE ACTIONS AGAINST MALNUTRITION IN AFRICA

FAO pledged to support the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), spearheaded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

During the first IFNA Partners Meeting, held from 18-19 May, 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the high-level delegation of FAO, led by Anna Lartey, Director of Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN), reiterated that FAO, with its marked technical expertise, instruments and mechanisms, will collaborate with IFNA to achieve the common aspirations of the two organizations to see a prosperous Africa free from hunger and malnutrition.

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FAO joined hands with UNECA, the AUC and other UN agencies, to convene the third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) in Addis Ababa.

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FAO-AUC pioneering a framework to support the development of a sustainable agricultural mechanization strategy in Africa. The framework was validated by participants from AU member states.

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Speaking on the topic of “Genuinely synergistic impacts of the multi-sector approach”, Lartey stressed that the FAO-IFNA partnership is instrumental to reduce all forms of malnutrition and stunting in Africa, as part of operationalizing the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action.

Recalling the long-term partnership FAO has established with the Japanese Government, JICA, African nations and AUC/NEPAD, Lartey further noted that FAO would continue to advance this collaboration to a higher level under the umbrella of IFNA to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and the Malabo Commitments on Nutrition.

Highlighting the alignment of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) with that of IFNA and the Malabo Declaration, Lartey called on institutions to take off their institutional hats and join forces to translate shared commitments into actions on the ground. She stressed the need for “collective and coordinated efforts in various interventions, supported by scientific



evidence, to enhance the impact and sustainability of improving nutrition in Africa” through nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems. Finally, Ms. Lartey expressed FAO’s keen interest to support the Government of Japan in the upcoming Nutrition for Growth Summit during the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

During the meeting, a number of dignitaries from government ministries, the AUC, the Centre for Sustainable Development for Africa, JICA and the Embassy of Japan to Ethiopia, the Foundation of Princess of Africa, as well as representatives from academia delivered keynote addresses. They called for urgent interventions by all stakeholders to ensure Africa’s future, echoing the SDG’s ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030, as well as the Malabo Declaration of the Africa Union on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods by 2025.

IFNA’s First Partners Meeting convened over 160 high-level delegates from African governments and various institutions, including the AfDB, AUC and Regional Economic Communities; and created a forum for a shared understanding on the

significance of nutrition for Africa’s growth and the mission of IFNA and JICA in nutrition security. IFNA was launched by the Government of Japan in August 2016 during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in order to assist African governments accelerate the implementation of their nutrition policies.

The first batch of ten target countries was identified: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.

FAO is partnering with JICA and other partners to support IFNA to advance the issues of nutrition in Africa. FAO’s Nutrition Strategy seeks to improve diets and raise levels of nutrition through a people-centred approach, which is consistent to IFNA’s purpose of accelerating the implementation of food security and nutrition policies, and the scaling up of related programmes. FAO is advancing food security and nutrition information systems, designing and implementing nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture policies and investments, strengthening governance and coordination for food security and nutrition, and promoting the education on nutrition.

**“AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS  
SHOULD BREAK NEW  
GROUNDS TO SEE A VIBRANT  
GENERATION  
FREE FROM MALNUTRITION  
AND HUNGER.”**

*Anna Lartey*



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In sub-Saharan Africa, 38 percent of children under five years of age are stunted (affected by chronic malnutrition). An African Union study titled, “The Cost of Hunger” indicates that 17 countries on the continent have stunting rates above 40 percent, and 36 countries have rates above 30 percent; and as a result, they endure the most severe consequences of child malnutrition. With this in perspective, FAO SFE Communication Team briefly discussed with Anna Lartey, Director of FAO’s Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN), on issues of malnutrition in Africa. Lartey recently led the FAO delegation to the First Partners Meeting of the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), held from 18th to 19th May 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Excerpts:

**What baffles you when you think of malnutrition and hunger in Africa?**

Africa is endowed with huge resources incomparable to any other region. Africa has vast arable land and all-year flowing rivers. Many countries in Africa enjoy regular rainfall with a very conducive climate throughout the year. The youth population is thirsty for profitable jobs. With all these resources at hand, it is puzzling to see Africa is struggling to provide

its people with adequate food and nutrition. It is important to put the resources where the problems are. Failure to do so has resulted in the loss of the most important resources of all, that is, the human resource, due to the high prevalence of chronic malnutrition. Children are not growing and developing to their highest potential.

This is quite worrisome, considering that these children are going to be the future leaders of Africa.

**As FAO, what can we do to assist African nations in their effort to address the challenge?**

At FAO, the transformation process has already started. Our current Director General, José Graziano da Silva, has put nutrition high on FAO’s agenda. Nutrition is an integral part of all our strategic programs. This is a return to FAO’s core mandate of raising the levels of nutrition. It is now our responsibility to keep nutrition on the global, regional and national agendas and to address the challenges of malnutrition. To this effect, FAO devised a strategy which looks at nutrition within the broader perspective of food systems. When we talk about food systems for better nutrition, we mean that improving nutrition must begin with food and agriculture.

The traditional role of agriculture in producing food and generating income is fundamental, but agriculture and the entire food system - from inputs and production, through processing, storage, transport and retailing, to consumption - can contribute much more to fight malnutrition.

We are looking at food systems as a means to address malnutrition in a holistic and sustainable manner. FAO has always advocated for reformed food systems to achieve better nutrition. This message came out clearly at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Nutrition jointly held by FAO and WHO in November 2014 and echoed throughout the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in April 2016, jointly convened by FAO and WHO.

I think this approach is now well recognized and is spreading beyond FAO. Governments and organizations have now realized that the issue of nutrition can be addressed sustainably through food systems. FAO is supporting several African countries to incorporate nutrition objectives in their agricultural policies and programs.

**What is your image of Africa when the battle against malnutrition is won?**

Can you imagine a well-nourished Africa, where every child is nurtured to her/his full potential - be it physical, mental, emotional and intellectual? Can you imagine the youth and women in Africa, the biggest proportion of the population, achieving their educational, economic and political aspirations? The continent will be positively transformed. Innovation and technology will be the core elements driving Africa’s economy. This must be the dream of every African leader, to see a new generation that can fully contribute to the development of the continent.

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## FAO PROMOTES AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AFRICA

In preparation for the New York High Level Political Forum (HLPF), FAO joined hands with UNECA, the AUC, the AfDB, and other UN agencies, to convene the third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) in Addis-Ababa, held from 17-19 May 2017. The Forum is meant to provide a platform, every year, for pertinent stakeholders to follow-up and review the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063.

As part of ARFSD forum, the Zimbabwean Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Hon. Nyasha E. Chikwinya, and Abebe Haile-Gabriel, FAO Regional Programme Leader for Africa, co-chaired a panel discussion with the theme: "Ending hunger and achieving food security in Africa".

The session was part of the six different sub-themes, which examined the required enablers and means of implementation for the SDGs. It reviewed key successes and challenges faced by African governments in their effort to fight hunger and malnutrition, the key indicators of both SDG 2 and Africa's Agenda 2063. The session was attended by representatives from government ministries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), civil society organizations (CSOs),

the private sector and other development partners.

In her address to the meeting, Hon. Chikwinya pointed out that, "While a number of African countries are making encouraging progress, hunger and malnutrition have continued to pose a huge barrier to the development for the continent and hence African countries should stand together to vigorously fight these predicaments".

On his part, Abebe Haile-Gabriel highlighted the reality that globally, Africa continues to be the manifestation of hunger and malnutrition despite the fact that the means to address this challenge are mostly to be found in Africa itself. He indicated, "there cannot be a concern that is more important than ending hunger and malnutrition in Africa. Any approach short of being inclusive, integrated, multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary and innovative will not guarantee success. Real commitments should demonstrate concrete results on the ground, and effective leadership is key". FAO and UNECA presented a background document on current progress and challenges faced by the countries to meet the targets of SDG 2, including key policy recommendations.

## FAO SFE TO FIND A PATH TO EMPOWER COUNTRIES TO FIGHT HUNGER

With the objective of coming up with effective strategies to reduce hunger in Eastern Africa, FAO has presented a draft background paper: "Ending hunger in the Horn of Africa: Moving from Rhetoric to Action in Addis Ababa Ethiopia."

The paper was presented in a series of workshops held in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and South Sudan. All workshops were organized by SFE under the joint FAO-AUC Technical Cooperation Programme, aiming at providing forums for individuals and stakeholders from relevant sectorial organizations sectors to review current policies and programs for ending hunger in the subregion.

The workshops enabled relevant feedback on existing policies and programs addressing ending hunger; identified effective case studies that have addressed hunger in the countries; and facilitated discussions that led to identifying priority areas for ending hunger.

In his key note address during the opening of the workshop in Ethiopia, Patrick Kormawa, SRC, noted that food availability and security situation in the Horn of Africa remains a critical issue, where up to 23 million people have been affected by recurrent drought and floods, severely endangering their very survival."

Kormawa called for open minds in exchange of ideas to allow better positioning of country programs and to take the lessons back to the ministry offices. He then urged participants to share innovative ideas to enrich the background paper which would serve as a key document to support governments to meet the Zero Hunger targets.

## FAO ACCENTUATES IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

A high-level delegation of FAO took part in the 7<sup>th</sup> Multi-stakeholder Partnership Meeting of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) to promote the potential contribution of livestock to livelihoods and long-term food security, while responding to climate change. The delegation, led by Ren Wang, Assistant Director General for Agriculture and Consumer Protection at FAO, expressed FAO's commitment to strengthen the livestock sector to address food insecurity and malnutrition, thereby ending hunger in Africa, while reducing the sector's environmental footprint and resource use.

In his keynote address at the meeting, which took place from 8 to 12 May 2017, in Addis Ababa, Wang said that FAO, along with GASL, strives to ensure the long-term benefits of the sector to the millions of smallholders whose very survival is highly dependent on livestock. By addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, the livestock sector, he said, will significantly contribute to the achievement of FAO's vision of "a world without hunger". To this effect, he noted, FAO promotes sustainable development of the livestock sector to improve food and nutrition security in Africa; thereby fosters peace and gender equity, and contributes to the fight against land degradation and loss of biodiversity.

The 7<sup>th</sup> GASL brought together livestock specialists from over 50 countries and demonstrated the positive contribution of livestock to the lives and wellbeing of hundreds of millions of people on the planet, and foster the sustainable development of this rapidly-growing sector.

Explaining the importance of livestock to livelihoods and national economies, Fekadu Beyene, Minister



of Livestock and Fisheries of Ethiopia, Fritz Schneider, Chair of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, and Jimmy Smith, Director General of ILRI, in their keynote addresses, reiterated that the livestock sector holds huge potential to impact positively the rural and urban populations of Africa. The livestock sector, they said, increases the supply of food by reducing food prices as well as enhances the availability of employment opportunities.

The initiatives taken by GASL are instrumental to ensure the livestock sector is performing well to the achievement of food and nutrition security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability at all levels.

In briefing the press, Berhe G. Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division at FAO, underlined the fact that FAO, through GASL, is supporting Africa's Sustainable Livestock Strategy 2050 and other tools, models and guidelines, such as the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP) and the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM), to nurture and monitor the development of the sector.

Berhe further stressed on FAO's commitment to enhance the contribution of livestock to livelihoods, while ensuring the sector's balanced integration with the environment through GASL's Action Networks.

### "AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BREAK..."

#### Your call for Africa...

It is possible to alter the face of malnutrition in Africa. The story of Japan teaches us concrete lessons. Once a hunger-stricken country, thanks to its leadership, Japan has turned into a prosperous nation which helps millions across the globe. Japan introduced the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Development in Africa (IFNA) to support Africa in meeting the Malabo Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals, under the umbrella of the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

I call on all African leaders to have a similar determination, and forge a common vision of moving the continent forward in our lifetime. With two thirds of Africans dependent on farming for their livelihoods, boosting Africa's agriculture can create economic opportunities, reduce malnutrition and poverty, and generate faster, fairer growth. The dream of an Africa free from malnutrition can be realized with a clear vision of what needs to be done, determination and political commitment at the highest level of leadership.



## FAO AND AUC TEAM UP TO RESPOND TO FALL ARMYWORM

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Union Commission (AUC) have agreed to collaborate on an immediate as well as mid-term strategic response to manage and control the fast-spreading Fall Armyworm (FAW) outbreak in Africa.

Concretely, the two organizations have identified priority areas for joint actions on FAW, among others, sensitization and awareness-raising, securing buy-in from policymakers and mobilization of partnerships and resources in support of effective response.

This key partnership to address the FAW pest outbreak was forged at a meeting held at the African Union Commission's Headquarters on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between the FAO delegation from its Regional Office for Africa, led by the Regional Programme Leader for Africa, Abebe Haile-Gabriel, and the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), headed by Commissioner Hon. Sacko Josefa Leonel Correia.

"The spread of the pest in Africa is reaching an alarming proportion as it has already invaded millions of hectares of maize crop in several countries, causing significant crop

damages the consequences of which may potentially put the livelihoods of millions of smallholders in jeopardy, if effective and coordinated response is not to be mounted", explained Abebe Haile-Gabriel.

"FAO has developed a programme framework document to launch a coordinated response to FAW, based on an action plan agreed upon at a multi-stakeholder meeting held in April 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya", he added.

The FAO delegation invited the AUC leadership to join hands with the Organization in promoting an urgent and coordinated intervention in response to the FAW outbreak in Africa.

Commissioner Sacko urged that "in view of the peculiar characteristics of the Fall Armyworm, FAO and AUC need to develop and launch effective, affordable and sustainable response mechanisms based on the programme framework document that FAO has helped to formulate." Commissioner Sacko further underscored the African Union Commission's readiness to collaborate with FAO on the FAW response, including in raising the significance and magnitude of the FAW challenge among the policy makers in Africa.

## OUTLOOK

### DROUGHT AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN EASTERN AFRICA

The East African region continues to face serious food insecurity challenges. Since May 2017, approximately 27.1 million people are under crisis (IPC 3), emergency (IPC 4) or famine (IPC 5) situations, an increase of 3 million (from 23.1 million) since February. A significant proportion of the East African population is therefore in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

This is mainly caused by the recent droughts in Somalia, Kenya, and pastoral areas of Ethiopia, as well as due to insecurity in South Sudan and Burundi. Continued insecurity has led to unprecedented displacement levels, and the region now hosts over 4.4 million refugees, of which 1.7 million are from South Sudan. There is a continuing influx of refugees from South Sudan to Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya. In Somalia, the rate of internal displacement is reportedly high, with over 600,000 displaced since November 2016.

The situation is expected to deteriorate further, due to the below average March-May rains particularly in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia; and the impacts of continued insecurity in South Sudan. The March-May season was characterized by a late onset of the rains followed by a dry spell, and generally slightly depressed rainfall in most parts of the region.

The climate outlook for June-September 2017 released by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi presents better prospects for Northern and Central parts of the equatorial sector, with near-average to above-average rains forecasted. This includes northern Uganda, western South Sudan, western and coastal Kenya, and western and north-western Ethiopia where over 450mm of rainfall has

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## FAO AND UNECA DRAW A ROADMAP TO TRANSFORM A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT INTO ACTION

A high-level planning meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was held on May 10, 2017 at the Headquarters of UNECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting agreed on the key programme areas to materialize the partnership agreement the two sisterly organizations have entered.

The meeting followed the partnership agreement, which was signed by Abdalla Hamdok, UNECA Executive Secretary and Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General/Coordinator for Natural Resources (DDN) in January 2017. The agreement provided the two parties with a framework for collaboration on priority areas and achieve synergy in line of the priorities of the African Union.

In his opening remarks, Collen V. Kelapile, Chief of Staff, UNECA, noted that the planning meeting was a timely endeavor to lay a strong foundation towards realizing the partnership agreement, which seeks to achieve the shared vision of a hunger free and prosperous Africa. The partnership, he added, would contribute to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific focus on, SDG 1, SDG 2 and

SDG 11, which aim to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture; as well as improve resilience, food systems and sustainable urbanization.

Patrick Kormawa, FAO SRC, remarked that it is high time for the two institutions to move away from a piecemeal activity-oriented approach to a holistic and programmatic way of addressing the multifaceted challenges the continent faces in the food and agriculture sector. Kormawa stressed that the two organizations, as centres of excellence, need to portray the big picture and take pragmatic actions towards realizing the Aspirations of the African Union as stipulated in Agenda 2063, and its accompanied instrument, the Malabo Declaration.

Adama Ekberg Coulibaly, Chief of Section in Charge of Food Security, Agriculture, Land and Water at the Regional Integration and Trade Division (RITD), UNECA, on his part, indicated that Africa must be cognizant of the demographic transformation it has experienced now and into the future, and be prepared to respond to the food and nutrition demands of its people and beyond. Recalling the broad framework the partnership agreement provided, Coulibaly

said that the two organizations must work together to respond to Africa's challenge of feeding a growing population in the midst of climate change and increasing global uncertainty.

The planning meeting was instrumental in identifying four continental-wide programme areas in the context of continued and active joint UN system support to the African Union. These are enhancing rural entrepreneurship and employment for youth and women; addressing natural resource degradation and scarcity, conflicts and migration; ending hunger, nutrition and poverty in Africa, and effective response to climate change.

### DROUGHT AND FOOD SECURITY SITUATION ...

been forecasted.

For these areas, rainfall may be adequate to support the majority of newly planted crops, and for bringing the already growing crops planted during the March-May season to full maturation.

Despite a slightly positive climate outlook for some areas in the region in the coming months, considerable assistance is still needed from the national and international community to support those suffering from severe food insecurity, also in view of the FAW threat. The detection of Fall Armyworm (FAW) earlier this year has presented a great challenge for farmers and food security in the region, affecting crop growth and yields. Affected countries in the sub-region have started interventions by implementing their national action plans facilitated by FAO. Integrated pest management will be key to avoid crop damage later in the season, and most countries have started to control FAW through regular monitoring, pesticide application, and hand picking of FAW larvae.

*This article has used information from the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) May update 2017.*



## FAO - AUC DRIVE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION FORWARD

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have urged AU Member States and relevant stakeholders to speed up the adoption of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa, which was jointly developed by the two institutions. The framework was developed to enhance sustainable agricultural mechanization on the continent to fulfil Africa's Aspiration to end hunger on the continent by 2025.

Participants from AU Member States, the private sector, farmers' associations, civil society organizations, research institutions and academia convened from 11 to 12 May 2017 at the AUC, to validate the draft Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (SAMA).

Opening the validation workshop, Hon. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC, noted that despite Africa's marked improvement in the agriculture sector in the past few decades, more remains to be done to pull millions of Africans out of the devastating effects of food insecurity and malnutrition and to achieve one of

the key Commitments of the 2014 Malabo Declaration - "Ending Hunger by 2025."

She added, "With a private sector driven approach, mechanization in Africa must take the capacities of small-scale farmers - who constitute the bulk of African farmers - into consideration and should empower women who suffer the most from strenuous work in agriculture."

Patrick Kormawa, FAO SRC, stated that even though countries south of the Sahara are endowed with huge land reserves suitable for agriculture, productivity remains the lowest in the world, with an estimated yield gap of up to 80 percent.

The underlying reason for this significant gap, he noted, is that 80% of all farms are managed by traditional smallholder farmers whose farming methods are characterized by mostly small to medium-scale family-led farms that rely almost entirely on manual labour.

He further noted that agricultural transformation can only be achieved through an appropriate mechanization strategy, which fosters production and productivity levels by filling the power gap and reducing post-harvest losses.

## FAO SFE DEVELOPS CAPACITIES ON AGRIBUSINESS

FAO SFE organized a training workshop on Agribusiness Entrepreneurship, held on 27 June, 2017, in Addis Ababa, to provide a guide to small scale "agripreneurs" in starting up and running their business proficiently.

The workshop drew participants from the Ministries of Agriculture, leaders of cooperatives, and entrepreneurs from East African countries, and discussed on the challenges faced by women and youth in fully participating in the agribusiness economy and the way forward. Participants would cascade the knowledge to government extension and agribusiness officers at the local levels and to interested agri-business entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop, Patrick Kormawa, SRC, said, "Entrepreneurs are key drivers in agribusiness. They are owners of small and medium enterprises that contribute to value addition to agricultural produce, create employment opportunities in communities in which they work and ultimately contribute to rural and agricultural transformation."

The training was provided by trainers from Fair & Sustainable Advisory Services and BoP Innovation Center, and funded through a project supported by the Italian Development Cooperation, aimed at strengthening knowledge on inclusive business and value addition in value chains in Eastern Africa.



## FAO AND PARTNERS SUPPORTING PRODUCTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN EASTERN AFRICA

With the aim of developing a common strategy for the development of Blue Growth Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors in Eastern Africa, FAO SFE has tabled a draft strategy document for review.

Country representatives from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda as well as regional organizations: NEPAD and IGAD convened in May 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to share experiences and provide valuable inputs for the draft strategy. The strategy reinforces FAO's Blue Growth Initiative, which aims at supporting more productive, responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture by improving the governance and management of aquatic ecosystems, and empowering communities.



The workshop addressed issues such as fisheries management, harvesting losses, value addition and commercial aquaculture.

In his opening remarks, FAO Representative to Ethiopia, Allahoury Amadou Diallo commended the efforts in developing the strategy: "We are working towards the development of more sustainable, productive and appropriate fisheries and aquaculture sector in support

of food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, and healthy aquatic ecosystems in Eastern African countries and the wider region."

The meeting allowed a comprehensive review of status and trends of the sector including the Blue Growth Initiative, identification of priority areas for intervention with specific actions, and key partners to involve in the implementation of the strategy within the subregion.

## COUNTRIES TO ADAPT FAO'S GLOBAL NUTRITION STRATEGY TO THE SUBREGION

In order to advance sustainable nutrition programmes in the Member States of the subregion, FAO SFE organized a two-day workshop from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to cascade and adapt FAO's global strategy on nutrition into the needs of the subregion.

Opening the workshop, Patrick Kormawa, SRC, noted: "Over 56% of Africa's malnourished people are living in the subregion; hence FAO's Global Nutrition Strategy needs to be thoroughly discussed, contextualized to the conditions of the Eastern Africa region so as to spearhead its implementation." He added that improving human nutrition is fundamental to FAO's work in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and FAO's vision of an Africa without hunger by 2030.

The workshop, titled: "Consultative



Workshop on the Formulation of FAO's Nutrition Support Strategy for Eastern Africa", was attended by representatives of eight countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda, as well as nutrition officers, experts and focal persons from AUC,

IGAD and EAC. Participants reviewed the food and nutrition situation in Eastern Africa. They also looked into FAO's global vision for nutrition, as well as the priority programme areas of countries in light of FAO's technical support in nutrition.

## FAO'S STUDY PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE WATER AND FODDER AVAILABILITY ALONG THE LIVESTOCK TRADE ROUTES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

FAO SFE undertook a regional study to identify the location and direction of the main livestock trade routes, appropriate sites for rehabilitation and/or development of strategic livestock water sources in production areas and along the livestock export trade routes. The study also looked into the adaptation of good practices on fodder production and commercialization, and rehabilitation of natural rangelands.

The report covers Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan - the major countries in the subregion that export (or in the case of Djibouti, act as a transit point for) livestock to the Middle East and Gulf Countries.



"This report provides all stakeholders with a clear overview of the state of water and fodder availability along the livestock export routes to the Middle East, and identifies concrete opportunities for interventions," remarked Paolo Lucci Chiarissi, FAO Project Coordinator.

In his official statement, Patrick Kormawa, SRC, noted: "Enhancing

the productivity and health of degraded rangelands to improve availability of animal feeds and water sources along the livestock routes is essential for improving resilience of millions of poor pastoralists in the Horn of Africa; and, thus this report has an immense value to ensure these services." The report can be accessed at: <http://www.fao.org>

## FAO REACHES OUT TO FARMERS TO LOOK INTO THE IMPACT OF FALL ARMYWORM

In an effort to support countries to effectively respond to the threat of Fall Armyworm (FAW) in Africa, FAO is responding by establishing a regional programme for FAW control. One of the pillars of this programme is a FAW monitoring and early warning system (FAMEWS) that will form the basis for a rapid and coordinated response to this potentially devastating pest.

FAO's Senior Locust Forecasting Officer, Keith Cressman, recently travelled to Ghana, Benin and Ethiopia in order to visit farmers and other stakeholders affected by FAW. He obtained their opinions, suggestions and requirements on the basic data required for monitoring the pest. He also conducted the need assessment to put a coping strategy in place.

Following his trip to the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region in Ethiopia, he shared his

views with FAO SFE on the issue of FAW. Cressman stated that his mission was mainly targeting farmers to get their feedback on the situation of FAW, what mechanisms they are currently using to manage FAW, and what support they need to withstand the pest's negative impact.

Sharing his experience with farmers, he noted that farmers need to be supported with early warning systems, which should inform them the timing and likely occurrence of FAW infestation. This will allow them take timely and necessary actions to protect their produce. Cressman indicated that in order to minimize the impact of FAW on their crop, farmers have to act early. "In the cases that we have seen, farmers discover too late that FAW is on their crops. By the time the worms are visible, they have already been there at least two weeks and are moving to deep inside the plant where it is difficult to control and stop the damage".

The results of his visit will feed into

the new continent-wide strategy to manage the spread and damage of FAW. The regional program is expected to bring about a sustainable integrated pest management solution to reduce the use of pesticides and protect the environment. It will look at the use of natural biopesticides, and including some successes from the use of Neem and Papaya extracts to fight FAW.

In Ethiopia, it is hoped that the 8028 Hotline system - where data is collected by more than 2 million farmers on wheat rust as part of a SMS-based centralized reporting and information system - can be adapted to be used for FAW prevention and control. As many farmers already have a mobile phone, this can be used to report FAW and they can receive useful information and advice in return. "The future is not gloomy, I think the countries will be able to manage the FAW pest if all stakeholders coordinate and work together effectively" says Mr. Cressman.

## FAO TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE LIVESTOCK KEEPERS IN TSETSE-INFESTED AREAS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

To address the challenges posed by African Animal Trypanosomosis (AAT), FAO led the development of a Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) for AAT to support vulnerable and resource-poor livestock keepers in tsetse-infested areas in sub-Saharan Africa.

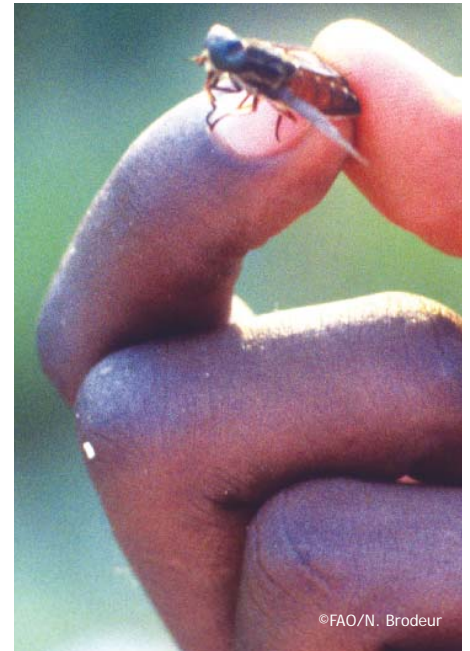
Tsetse-transmitted trypanosomosis is a lethal parasitic disease of humans and livestock. The disease severely limits mixed livestock-crop agriculture in over 10 million km<sup>2</sup> of highly productive land in sub-Saharan Africa. Direct and indirect losses due to trypanosomosis are estimated in billions of dollars every year. The disease is often neglected by both endemic countries and donors as it mostly affects poor and vulnerable small-holders in rural areas.

PCPs are staged approaches

increasingly used for the reduction, elimination and eradication of a range of human and animal diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, brucellosis and rabies. In the case of tsetse-transmitted AAT, reducing the disease burden increases resilience among affected rural communities by enhancing livestock production and productivity (e.g. meat and milk production). Also, healthier animals provide increased draught power to till the land, thus enabling more cost-effective crop-livestock production systems.

Five components cut across all stages of the PCP for AAT, namely (1) coordination and stakeholder involvement, (2) capacity development, (3) data management and analysis for an evidence-based decision making, (4) creation of an enabling environment, and (5) AAT control in the field.

FAO, in collaboration with the Italian Development Cooperation, implements the project: "Improving food security



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in sub-Saharan Africa by supporting the progressive reduction of tsetse-transmitted trypanosomosis in the framework of the NEPAD", to provide assistance to AAT-endemic countries in a number of these technical areas, including training and piloting of innovative technologies to control AAT.

## NEW REGIONAL NETWORK CALLS FOR A FAIR DEAL FOR PASTORALISTS

In the wake of the impacts of the drought in East Africa, pastoralists call for refraining from attaching the negative narratives of calamity and despair to pastoralism. They urge to associate pastoralism with a vibrant and viable way of living. This is in recognition of the immense contribution that pastoralism provides to Africa's national and regional economies and development.

The Eastern and Southern Africa Pastoralist Network (ESAPN) recognizes the potential of pastoralism as a key pillar for the realization of the continent's sustainable development goals.

Sadia Muse Ahmed, country representative of PENHA Somaliland/Somalia notes that "there is an urgent need for governments and development actors to put pastoralists at the centre of planning and implementation to ensure sustainable

and people-centred development at the national and continental levels."

The persistent negative narrative within on pastoralism and pastoralists in the policy and media arenas ignores the fact that research and reality portray a totally different situation. This sector has for centuries provided critical services in ecological health and conservation of biodiversity through sound rangeland management. The key role played by pastoralism is acknowledged by AUC, EU, IGAD and EAC - who have consistently recognized the contribution of pastoralism to agriculture and food security, resilience, preservation of traditional knowledge and technologies that form a strategic development pillar for eastern and southern African countries.

"The value chain of livestock and other peripheral and complementary services provides a broad spectrum of options for investment such as wildlife based tourism. Hence the need to

support pastoralism by providing an opportunity for pastoralists to participate along the value chains", observes Abdi Abdillahi Hussein, chair of the Pastoralist Forum, Ethiopia. ESAPN advocates for recognition of pastoralists as the first African groups to propagate Pan-Africanism through their "pastoralism without borders mobility", which provides a model/tool for regional integration.

ESAPN engages in policy making processes to ensure large scale land based development and resource extraction activities do not threaten Pastoralist systems and their ability to contribute to food security and economic development. The network, with the support of the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub and the sub-regional office for Eastern Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) works to empower pastoralists to vent their voices out and sustainably improve their productivity and livelihoods.



## AFRICAN UNION PLEDGES TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH FAO TO INTENSIFY AGRICULTURE

Patrick Kormawa, FAO SRC, conferred with the newly elected Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Hon. Moussa Faki Mahamat, on FAO's response to recurrent drought and food insecurity. This was part of FAO's urgent effort to draw the attention of the Chairperson to the wider challenge Africa is facing in food security, malnutrition and environmental degradation.

Welcoming the SRC and the rest of the FAO team to his Office, Hon. Mahamat expressed his keen interest to work with FAO towards transforming Africa's agriculture. The Chairperson noted that conflicts and instabilities are still keeping Africa in the trap of hunger and poverty. He called for pragmatic action to ensure long-term peace and stability in the continent to allow African farmers and the youth to work in the agriculture sector, instead of migrating to other parts of the world or getting involved in conflicts. In this respect, Hon. Mahamat remarked, the AUC is keen to promote agribusiness and agri-infrastructure to empower women and youth to ultimately reduce conflict and migration in Africa.

Conveying the gratification and good wish of FAO Director General, José Graziano da Silva, to the Chairperson's appointment, Kormawa highlighted FAO's keen interest to strengthen partnership with the AUC to foster agriculture

through sustainable mechanization and modern technologies. He said, "While FAO and AUC have embarked on a number projects together, a lot remains to be done to expedite the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) through agribusiness, sustainable agricultural mechanization, school feeding and restorations of degraded lands". During this meeting, Kormawa particularly highlighted the relevance of the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF), the main goal of which is to strengthen food security across the continent by assisting countries to eradicate hunger.

In addition to the AUC Chairperson, Kormawa also met with the newly elected AUC Deputy Commissioner Hon. Quartey Thomas Kwesi, where he provided an overview of the FAO subregional Office for Eastern Africa's intervention towards meeting the 2025 Zero-Hunger goals and ensuring food and nutrition security in the subregion. Kormawa and Hon. Kwesi made extensive discussions on the drought situation in the Eastern African subregion, and its adverse effects on the livelihoods of communities. During the meeting, SRC underlined the adverse impact of stunting in children on the socio-economic development of countries.



FAO SFE SRC discussed with Her Excellency Amira Gornass, Ambassador to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on the current drought and food security issues, during her courtesy visit to FAO SFE, while she was in Addis Ababa, to take part in the 2017 ARFSD meeting.

FAO SFE Hosted the 63<sup>rd</sup> consultative Meeting of the United Nations Liaison Team (UNLT) at the FAO SFE compound on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017. SRC participated in the regular UNLT meeting and highlighted the activities of FAO in the subregion to the participants.



## THE NEWLY-ELECTED COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE FRESH IMPETUS TO AUC- FAO PARTNERSHIP

As part of his efforts in forging robust partnerships with key stakeholders, the SRC has paid a series of courtesy visits to the newly elected commissioners of the AUC.

His visit to the office of H.E. Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa, the new commissioner of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) had been one the forums where he reassured FAO's commitment to the Aspirations of the Malabo Declaration to end hunger and malnutrition in Africa. During this encounter, Kormawa discussed with H.E. Correa on program areas of youth employment, agricultural mechanization, agribusiness and school feeding, and set schedules for technical departments to take the issues on another level where the two organizations can collaborate on actual projects.

On a similar development, the SRC has also met AUC Commissioner of the Department of Infrastructure and Energy (DIE), H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid at her office at the AUC Headquarters. During this meeting, Kormawa underscored the fact that

Africa would not achieve its zero-hunger goal by 2025 without ensuring adequate infrastructure and energy sources to the rural communities, for which DIE plays an important role through the provision of irrigation, electrification and rural roads to advance agricultural productivity and market access.

The Commissioner, in her briefing, indicated that it is a disgraceful experience for her and all Africans to see Africa, particularly the Eastern Africa Region, hit by recurrent drought and famine. African governments and AUC, she said, must refuse to be indifferent or silent in the face of famine and drought, and the suffering caused by food insecurity and malnutrition. She remarked that her Department, along with FAO, must act decisively against this situation, through applying technologies in the agricultural sector to leverage resources to ensure human wellbeing. To this end, digitalization of agriculture, which has proved to be transformational in some parts of West Africa, and climate-resilient infrastructure, would be possible areas of collaboration with FAO.

## FAO SFE AND MOROCCAN EMBASSY AGREE TO JOINTLY SUPPORT AUC/DREA

Patrick Kormawa conferred with H.E. Nezha Alaoui M'hammdi, Ambassador of the kingdom of Morocco to Ethiopia and Djibouti and representative to the African Union, seeking a stronger collaboration and partnership between FAO and the Government of Morocco. At the event, the SRC updated the Ambassador on FAO's engagement in the Eastern Africa

subregion and its commitment in ending hunger, advancing sustainable agriculture and value chains, and building resilience.

On her part, the Ambassador stated that the kingdom of Morocco is committed to the development of agriculture in the continent and is engaged in supporting a number of African countries in the areas of irrigation, watershed management and fertilizer production, through knowledge sharing.

In addition, the SRC conferred with the AU commissioner for the Human Resources Science and Technology commission, Prof. Martial De-Paul Ikounga. The two heads discussed issues of food security, the need for investment in youth in agriculture and the role of science and information to bring about change in agricultural development. The need for school food nutrition programs to support young students to be able to effectively take lessons in school was also raised. In addition, they highlighted the need for investment to modernize the agricultural sector using ICT and introducing labour saving technologies in order to make agriculture attractive to the youth.

The commissioner stated that TVETs are key institutions where AU and partners such as FAO should focus on to enable young people to acquire relevant and up-to-date skills that can help them become successful and employable in the agriculture sector.



At the end, SRC and the Ambassador agreed to explore collaboration areas of drought, climate change and agricultural mechanization in support of the African Union Commission/DREA.



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## TURNING MISFORTUNES INTO FORTUNES

### A STORY FROM UGANDA

Following the violence that broke out in Kenya after the 2007 general elections, Mr. Peter Karanja with his wife and their second born eight month old baby, crossed the border to Uganda through the town of Busia. Upon arrival, Peter and his family were taken to Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement together with other Kenyan citizens who were seeking refuge in Uganda. Peter had UGX 70,000 (about USD 20) which he says was exhausted before he could even settle.

A few months in the camp, he, like other new entrants, was given a small piece of land and two kilograms of maize seed. He proceeded to plant all his maize seeds unlike his neighbours who did not want to plant thinking their refuge status was temporary. "With all my money exhausted, I knew I needed to do more than just wait for food aid. I had a wife and a child to take care of. I sought to do casual work within the camp," he said.

My first harvest yielded about 12 bags of maize and I was excited. I requested for more land and I got an acre which I put to use immediately," says Peter. He used proceeds from the sale of the maize to buy 5 goats which have since multiplied to 30 in

five years. "I started with local goats but I sold them when they multiplied and bought Boer goats," he says. Today, his farm has expanded to ten acres of maize and he rears 22 Boer goats as well as Kuroiler chicken, and ducks.

Through the ECHO funded project for refugees, FAO, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), has been supporting refugees with agricultural inputs aimed at boosting their production of food to reduce reliance on food aid and to increase availability of nutritional foods to supplement their diets.

Peter is among the 4000 refugees that have received FAO inputs including maize and vegetables seeds, Kuroiler chicks, chicken feed, and technical support through this project. He said "I was trained by facilitators from FAO and DRC on managing poultry. After the training I got interested in keeping chicken and have learnt a lot about poultry management. FAO gave me 10 chicks and chicken feed to start with". He adds that he has now ordered for 300 more chicks in hopes of expanding his poultry farm which currently consists of birds given to him by FAO.

Peter is currently targeting the high demand for eggs within and around the refugee settlement camp which he says remains unmet by suppliers of the neighbourhood. "In the next one year, I want to be the leading supplier

of eggs in and outside the camp," he says.

Peter, though a refugee, has built a semi-permanent house indicating his transformation over time since he had arrived. Initially, he had also built a grass thatched hut using the proceeds from his second maize harvest. According to Peter, in a bad season, he makes profits between UGX 700 000 to 1 million (close to USD 200-300), while in a good season he is able to make about UGX 2 million (USD 600) in profit.

While the majority of the 2007/8 refugees from Kenya have returned following the end of the clashes, he and his wife Julie Wambui are not ready to return because of certain difficult circumstances that they had faced.

According to Mr. Atem Ding, a facilitator with Danish Refugee Council, Peter Karanja is one of the few enterprising refugees in the Kiryandongo Settlement Cluster C who have chosen to work and improve their livelihoods - an initiative that has not been embraced by many. "When we identify people who are interested in agriculture, we support them by training them as well as giving them the necessary inputs required to kick start their ventures," he says, adding that Peter Karanja's small farm has become a learning centre for other refugees.



FAO Assistant Director-General (ADG), Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (AG), Mr. Ren Wang came to Addis Ababa Ethiopia to attend the 7th Multi-stakeholder Partnership Meeting of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) held from 8th to 12th May, 2017. During this time, the ADG also paid a visit to FAO SFE and planted a tree in his name in the office compound.



FAO Director Anna Lartey, Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN), visited the FAO Office in Addis Ababa, during her trip to Addis Ababa to attend the Partners Meeting of the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) meeting in May 2017. Shown here, planting a tree with FAO Representative in Ethiopia, Mr. Amadou Allahoury Diallo during her visit to the Office.



FAO Director Eduardo Mansur, Land and Water Division (CBL), planted a tree in his name at FAO SFE during his visit to Addis Ababa in this quarter. Mr. Mansur came to Addis Ababa to attend the East African forum on Water Integrity organised by the Ethiopian Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity (MOWIE) and the Water Integrity Network (WIN), held from May 9th to 11th 2017 in Addis Ababa.



FAO Assistant Director-General (ADG), Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (AG), Mr. Ren Wang with FAO HQ, FAO SFE and FAO Ethiopia leadership.



The Subregional Office for Eastern Africa Communications Experts, and SFE country communication personnel took part in a communication workshop held in Dakar, June 2017.

The workshop was led by Liliame Kambirigi, Regional Communication Officer for Africa, and Yasmina Bouziane OCC Deputy Director, Rome. The event was opened by the Representative of FAO Senegal, MR Reda Lebtahi.



FAO Ombudsman/Ethics Officer Ndashimye, Bernardin BASED in HQ provided Ethics training to Subregional Office for Eastern Africa staff and to the FAO Ethiopia Country office staff, April 19 & 20 2017.

Staff of FAO SFE and FAO Ethiopia bade farewell in April 2017 to Mr. Sebastian Grey, FAO SFE, Natural Resources Officer - Climate Change, Agriculture and Land Use during the monthly coffee morning in the Office premises.



## PUBLICATIONS

### A seminar paper on sleeping sickness

Human African trypanosomiasis (also known as sleeping sickness) is a fatal parasitic infection that is targeted for elimination by the World Health Organization (WHO). FAO, in collaboration with WHO, contributed to a new review paper in the authoritative medical journal, "The Lancet", which reviews the clinical and epidemiological features of the disease, and discusses its prospects for elimination.

URL: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)31510-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)31510-6)

### Sleeping sickness: monitoring the elimination

WHO and FAO published a comprehensive report on the progress made in sleeping sickness elimination from the year 2000. Fewer than 4,000 cases were reported in 2014, and the elimination process appears to be on track. The paper also presents updates on the populations at risk and the distribution and coverage of health facilities having capacities for diagnosis and treatment of sleeping sickness.

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0005585>

### Integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into the watershed management approach in Eastern Africa

Climate change is predicted to affect the agricultural sector in East Africa - reducing agricultural yields and hampering efforts to achieve Zero Hunger. However, good watershed management can support effective actions on climate change adaptation and mitigation. In collaboration with governments from the subregion, FAO SFE developed a discussion paper and good practice booklet on the topic of integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into the watershed management approach in Eastern Africa.

URL: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7489e.pdf>



### FAO AND THE 2030 AGENDA OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda offers a vision for food and agriculture as key to sustainable development. FAO possesses experience and expertise in supporting policymaking, partnership-building, and projects and programmes built on 3-dimensional sustainability. Both the SDGs and FAO's strategic framework are geared towards tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind.

#### FAO IS READY TO SUPPORT

Food and agriculture are key to achieving the entire set of SDGs - A focus on rural development and investment in agriculture - crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. They are powerful tools to end poverty and hunger, and bring about sustainable development. Agriculture has a major role to play in combating climate change. FAO's wide-ranging capacities, long experience working with development actors and unique expertise in the three dimensions of sustainable development can assist countries implement the 2030 Agenda. FAO's strategic framework is broadly aligned with the SDGs.

A very good initiative! A way should be found to highlight and or give coverage of all the other key meetings/initiatives that were covered by your Heads of Departments/offices - it values the team approach..."

*Dr. Margret Agama Anyetei, Head of the African Union's Division for Health, Nutrition and Population.*

Congratulation on a job well done. Your inaugural newsletter sets the bar high and I sincerely wish that it can be maintained. It is rich in content and style. I really love the idea of "country focus". Looking forward to the next issue.

*Ernest Chi Cho, Communications Officer, UNECA*

Thank you for the bulletin. Very interesting article on the meeting with IGAD Executive Secretary.

*Mohamed Ahmed Abduillahi, Communication and PR Officer, IGAD*

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