

FAO's contribution to the Nutrition Decade

FAO views the Nutrition Decade as a unique opportunity to catalyse and forge alignment with Member States and all relevant actors to translate the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and Agenda 2030 commitments into national and regional programmes, policies, partnerships and investments to end malnutrition in all its forms. FAO's constitution, in its opening paragraph, mandates the Organization to "raising levels of nutrition", and the Nutrition Decade presents an opportunity to reinvigorate this fundamental vocation.

FAO has identified nutrition in all its five strategic objectives, and has developed an integrated, cross-cutting corporate strategy that links capacities across the Organization to the achievement of these objectives. "Food systems," embracing the full food production, distribution, consumption and waste continuum, provide the central organizing concept for this strategy. Building on its 2013 State of Food and Agriculture publication on *Food Systems for Better Nutrition* and the ICN2 outcomes, FAO will continue to spearhead efforts to promote nutrition-driven food systems as the most cost-effective and sustainable way to address malnutrition in all its forms.

Priority areas for FAO contributions to the Nutrition Decade:

i. Strengthening national information systems for informed policy-making

→ *Linked to Action Area 1 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Assisting in filling data gaps for nutrition-oriented food system planning and monitoring, including building capacity to collect and use:
 - Dietary data disaggregated by gender and sex of individual food consumption and diet quality indicators.
 - FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) to enable effective and timely policy decision-making.
 - Food production data (crops, livestock, fisheries).
 - A global indicator for monitoring SDG target 12.3 on food loss and waste reduction.

ii. Supporting countries with policy and technical assistance to strengthen the focus on nutrition in their agricultural policies and investments

→ *Linked to Action Areas 1 and 3 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Specifying, improving and measuring the nutrition outcomes of agricultural policies, programmes and investments, including practices for crop production, forestry, fisheries, and livestock – using the value chain approach.
- b. Assessing and raising the nutrition-enhancing potential of social protection.
- c. Improving resilience programmes and emergency responses.
- d. Identifying potential impacts of climate change, and implementing measures, including through more sustainable and resilient natural resource management, to mitigate and adapt to those impacts.
- e. Identifying opportunities to stimulate demand for local, family farmer production of diverse and nutritious foods through institutional buying programs such as "Home Grown School Feeding," which increases local procurement of foods to ensure demand for local production and consumption and improves nutrition outcomes.

iii. Supporting and building capacity of countries to promote Healthy Diets

→ *Linked to Action Areas 1, 3 and 4 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Supporting country initiatives to develop and implement food-based dietary guidelines (FBDG) to guide national food production and improve nutrition awareness among consumers, aiming to double by 2025 the number of countries in Africa and Asia effectively implementing FBDG and to improve outcomes through shared evidence and mutual learning.
- b. Promoting nutrition education in the curricula for schools, training institutes of extension workers, and through partnership with local training institutions.

iv. Supporting countries to incorporate a food systems approach as a sustainable way of addressing malnutrition in all its forms

→ *Linked to Action Areas 1, 4 and 5 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Linking nutrition to policy processes relevant to food systems initiatives (e.g. programmes to reduce food loss and waste, improve urban and urban-rural food systems, and to combat the impacts of climate change and address gender inequities related to the production, distribution, preparation and consumption of food).
- b. Training on nutrition-sensitive approaches applied to food systems and agriculture to be incorporated in the curriculum of universities and relevant training institutions.
- c. Through regional symposia in all regions, fostering a food systems approach to promoting healthy diets and sustainably address malnutrition in all its forms.

v. Strengthening and promoting nutrition governance, accountability and communication

→ *Linked to Action Area 6 of the Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade*

- a. Further developing and supporting the Nutrition Decade work programme and its implementation, led by Member States.
- b. In collaboration with UNSCN, coordinating and consolidating with other UN agencies the biennial nutrition-related reporting to the UN General Assembly.
- c. Supporting country-level nutrition governance and multi-sectoral coordination for nutrition, including through the UN Network for SUN.
- d. Participating and contributing to nutrition dialogues at high-level governance processes (e.g. G7, G20, N4G, SUN-GG, CFS).
- e. Using FAO flagship publications, such as SOFI and SOFA and their Regional counterpart reports, to draw attention to certain areas of work of the Nutrition Decade and relay critical food and nutrition issues.
- f. Supporting and monitoring ICN2 progress through, inter alia, the creation of a FAO-WHO repository for monitoring and reporting on countries' SMART commitments and the FAO Baseline Corporate Survey.
- g. Establishing and sustaining compelling advocacy and communication around the Nutrition Decade, based on effective use of social media and human-centered narratives.