Ensuring food security and good nutrition for all in a sustainable manner is one of the main challenges of our time and at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Globally, 795 million people are undernourished, more than two billion people are affected by micronutrient deficiencies and about one in four children under the age of five is stunted. At the same time 1.9 billion people are overweight of whom 600 million are obese.

Climate change affects nutritional status and dietary choices through impacts on food production, food access, water safety, sanitation, livelihoods and caregiving. If current trends continue, it is estimated that an additional 1-3 billion people will be affected by water scarcity and 200-600 million will suffer from hunger by 2080, particularly in sub-Saharan African countries, and millions of people will be affected by the multiple burdens of malnutrition.

Food systems and dietary choices are themselves major contributors to climate change. Food systems are estimated to produce around a quarter of total global greenhouse gas emissions, including food production, post-harvest processes, as well as from food loss and waste. Dietary patterns also strongly influence some of the factors that drive climate change.

Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, as well as taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts are directly addressed in several global commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2015 Paris Agreement, the Framework for Action adopted by the 2014 Second International Conference on Nutrition, and the UN General Assembly declaration of the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025.

Transforming food systems to become more nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart calls for multiple interventions and requires collective actions. Strengthening policy frameworks and institutional arrangements while ensuring coherence at a cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial/inter-institutional level will be critical to leveraging both public and private sector investments to enable a transformational change in food systems. Increasing financial investments will be critical for enabling synergies between nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture and food systems.

The objective of this side event is to bring attention to the convergence between actions to address climate change and malnutrition, and present options for response through a food systems approach illustrated by country examples.

Provisional Agenda

Guest speaker: H.R.H. Princess Viktoria De Bourbon De Parme, Patron of Save the Children the Netherlands

Moderator: H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome

Welcome remarks by Kostas Stamoulis and René Castro, Assistants Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department and of the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, FAO

Panel
- Nutrition challenges in Mozambique: H.R.H. Princess Viktoria De Bourbon De Parme, Patron of Save the Children the Netherlands
- Peru: Experiences in food security within the context of climate change - H.E. José Manuel Hernández Calderón, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Peru
- Nutrition and climate change at the global level - Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary, African Leaders Malaria Alliance
- Fiji: Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) facing the dual challenge of climate change and unhealthy diets – what can be done? - Hon. Viam Pillay, Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fiji
- Morocco: Mainstreaming nutrition and climate change in sustainable food and agriculture - Lahcen Kenny, Professor, Agronomy and Veterinary Institute Hassan II, ‘Complexe Horticole d’Agadir’ (CHA)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF): Financing opportunities for nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart food systems - Jeffrey Griffin, Senior Coordinator, GEF Unit, FAO
- EAT Foundation: Healthy diets within planetary boundaries - Gunhild Stordalen, Founder and President, EAT Foundation

Q&A session

Closing remarks - H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome