



HARVESTPLUS COMMITS TO THE NUTRITION DECADE

HarvestPlus is a global non-profit organization whose mission is to improve nutrition, health and livelihoods by developing nutrient-rich staple foods. Two billion people globally suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. This “hidden hunger” leads to disease, disability and even death for millions of vulnerable people each year. HarvestPlus’ founder, Dr. Howarth Bouis, one of the 2016 World Food Prize Laureates, teamed up with agronomists, nutritionists and economists 25 years ago to pioneer a way of using conventional crop breeding techniques to mine the world’s seed banks and develop high-yielding, nutritious crops that are rich in Vitamin A, iron and zinc. By the end of 2017, more than 185 varieties of 11 staple food crops have been released for planting in about 30 countries and hundreds are being tested in these and in 30 more countries. HarvestPlus and its more than 400 partners collaborate to deliver these seeds to smallholder farmers who are most at risk, reaching more than 30 million people by the end of 2017. Our shared goal is to reach 100 million people by 2020 and to have 1 billion people benefiting from biofortification by 2030.

Enriching staple crops with one of the three micronutrients crucial to human health will not solve hidden hunger -- HarvestPlus cannot solve hidden hunger alone. HarvestPlus is deeply committed under the Nutrition Decade to working with partners to meet the bigger goal of diversifying diets. For HarvestPlus, this commitment means leveraging this decade to provide increased and inclusive access to biofortified seeds and foods for all to benefit. HarvestPlus will continue to convene and work closely with all stakeholders along the seed and food supply chain to make this happen. HarvestPlus will continue to empower women and youth along the supply chain and hold itself to account to work collaboratively. HarvestPlus will also frame the next global conference on biofortification in the context of the Nutrition Decade.

HarvestPlus is committed to support governments and their partners to choose the most appropriate local interventions based on what is working, what is cost-effective and scalable and what is needed in the local communities. Plans should focus and allow for evidence-based prioritization of the recommended actions that may look different in different countries. These national priorities should allow the showing of clear linkages to the other national challenges that the governments are facing, such as poverty reduction, youth employment and the empowerment of women in rural communities, connecting to the bigger challenges that are relevant to our world. The plans should also be supported by clear local indicators for all stakeholders to track local progress using metrics that already exist, such as the Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index, to highlight national successes and ensure accountability.

HarvestPlus pledges to fully support the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.