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## Press Release

### Call for better food systems to fight hunger and malnutrition World Food Day observed in Jigjiga, Ethiopia

**18 October 2013, Jigjiga, Ethiopia** - Better food systems are required in order to defeat hunger and malnutrition around the globe was the key message coming from the observance of World Food Day in Jigjiga, Somali National Regional State, Ethiopia.

World Food Day, commemorated in 150 countries, is also the anniversary of FAO's founding in 1945.

This year's observance takes place under the shadow of new hunger figures that show a total of 842 million people are chronically undernourished.

Dr. Modibo Traore, who spoke on behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia at the ceremony said that Food systems are vital to ensure food and nutrition security. Hence, all stakeholders need to work hand in hand and in partnership to end hunger and malnutrition from Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular.

He said that although food systems produce enough food for everyone, over half of the world's population is affected by either over- or under-consumption.

Dr. Traore pointed out 62 out of 128 countries that have achieved the hunger targets show us that it is possible to win the war against hunger.

He urged people to take on a new and broader understanding of the hunger problem.

According to United Nations, it is possible to increase food production and feed everyone without harming the environment, and to do so in a way which gives poor farmers a fair return for their efforts.

"We cannot improve nutrition without food security and we cannot achieve food security if we don't have the right food systems," Traore told the ceremony, attended by Federal and regional government ministers, diplomats, heads of UN agencies and other dignitaries.

He called for the elimination of loss and waste of food products, which he said affects one third of global food production.



**Dr. Modibo Traore, FAO sub regional coordinator for Eastern Africa and Representative to Ethiopia, AU and ECA addressing World Food Day celebrations representing One UN in Ethiopia.**

“But to generate these multiple wins, we cannot continue with business as usual. We need to adopt and apply new technologies and introduce efficiencies across all aspects of our food system” he added.

State Minister of Agriculture of the FDRE H.E. Dr. G/igzabher G/Yohannes for his part said that food and nutrition security remains a key challenge. Hence for Ethiopia, boosting agricultural production and productivity is not an issue of preference; rather it is the nation’s literal strategy to ensure food security.

“The country and its development partners are relentlessly working to address these and related challenges through different interventions,” he said.

Deputy President of Ethiopia-Somali National Regional State H.E Ato Abdifetah Mohammed Hassen also reiterated the need for partnership and collaboration to address the challenges of ensuring sustainable food systems and nutrition.

“The joint Developing Regional State (DRS) Programme, which involved FAO, UNCDF, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and WHO has benefited the region and the region would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation for the support and it is our hope that similar support will continue in the future,” he noted.

World Food Day 2013 Guest of honor, the first lady H.E. W/ro Roman Tesfaye stressed on the need to include children, women and other gender issues in dealing with food systems and nutrition. Hence, according to the first lady, the government of the FDRE has done a lot and is expected to do more to address these issues.



First Lady Mrs. Roman Tesfaye addressing World Food Day Celebrations in Jigjiga, Ethiopia

“I am personally committed to work on issues related to food and nutrition security and to ensure that we have a suststable food systems that are able to ensure food and nutrition security,” she added.

World Food Day 2013 was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of the FDRE with huge contributions and support from Somali national regional state, FAO, WFP, WHO, IOM, UNHCR, UNOPS, UNDP, and UNICEF.

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