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This year's World Food Day theme, *Fight hunger to reduce poverty*, highlights the fact that hunger is the most critical manifestation of poverty, so eliminating hunger is the first step towards reducing poverty and ensuring Food for All.

Around 800 million men, women and children are chronically hungry. Hunger causes illness and death, robs people of their potential to work and cripples children's learning capacity. It also undermines the peace and prosperity of nations and traps individuals in a vicious cycle of poor nutrition, ill health and diminished capacity for learning and work that is passed on from one generation to the next. Above all, it is a fundamental violation of the right to food.

Unfortunately, most poverty reduction strategies fail to specifically target hunger. Policy makers long assumed that if income levels rose and economies grew, the benefits would trickle down to the hungry. But this has not proved to be an effective strategy."

We cannot assume that hunger will disappear as a by-product of poverty elimination," says FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. "A sharper focus is needed on hunger and agricultural development within the broader objective of poverty reduction."

A hungry mother gives birth to an underweight baby, who then faces a future plagued by stunted growth and frequent illness. A physically and mentally weak generation is doomed to pass the cycle of deprivation on to the next.

Education is one of the surest ways out of poverty. But hungry children have a harder time concentrating and assimilating knowledge. Depriving them of the benefits of education, hunger
seals their poverty into adulthood.

The majority of the world's poor are women and girls. Research shows that increasing women's education and skills raises family incomes and nutritional levels and reduces infant death rates. Education also leads to smaller families. But throughout life women and girls have fewer opportunities for education and training than men. And in many cultures men eat first and most, despite the fact that women in the developing world frequently have heavier workloads.

Chronic hunger limits the body's ability to convert energy into work, weakening people physically and leaving them feeling hopeless and unmotivated. Not surprisingly, the undernourished have difficulty both finding work and being productive. Employers may see hungry people as slow or lazy, when in fact they suffer from lethargy, the body's physiological response to prolonged calorie and nutrient deprivation.

If hunger has such a devastating effect on society, why don't governments make fighting hunger a priority? One answer is that countries are so burdened by a host of overwhelming problems that they resort to putting out the biggest fires first: famines get their attention, while chronic, "invisible" hunger may not. Besides the world has become so good at producing food, some decision-makers have become complacent, assuming they need not take action. So instead of setting specific goals for food security, they follow the conventional wisdom and focus on economic growth, with the expectation that hunger will diminish as a result.

In order to make significant strides in reducing poverty, a nation's people must first have enough to eat. When people have access to the food they need to be strong and active participants in society, productivity increases, markets grow and poverty drops.

Improved nutrition influences economic growth directly through improved labour productivity and indirectly through longer life expectancy and better health. A recent study of the relationship between rising food intake in developing countries and gross domestic product (GDP) over a 30-year period found that if countries with high rates of undernourishment had increased food
intake to an adequate level, GDP in those nations would have risen by 45 percent.

To make progress in the fight against hunger, governments, the private sector and the international community will need to focus their efforts in rural areas, where 70 percent of the poor and hungry live. This must include directing more investments to those regions.

FAO advocates a twin-track approach to fighting hunger, encompassing both short-term and long-term measures. Hungry people cannot wait for the benefits of improved infrastructure, a more equitable distribution of resources, access to land and credit, and other elements of macroeconomic policy. They need urgent help in the form of safety nets, including school feeding programmes, supplemental food for pregnant and breastfeeding women, emergency food aid and programmes that help people to become self-sufficient, such as employment or credit schemes. When well designed and targeted, these programmes not only meet immediate food needs but also put in place essential elements for future development, such as irrigation schemes and tree plantations.

Raising people's awareness about the problems of hunger and food insecurity is also a vital step. World Food Day activities aim to heighten public understanding of hunger and strengthen solidarity in the struggle to make sure that everyone has enough to eat every day.

At the 1996 World Food Summit, world leaders committed themselves to cutting by half the number of hungry people by 2015. They will meet again next year to review the progress made and consider ways to accelerate efforts to reach this goal.
Address by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

It is with great pleasure that I join all of you again on World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

For more than half a century FAO has worked with much success to guide countries in the region along the road to food security. It is heartening that this year FAO has chosen World Food Day to convey a message, which has long been known in Thailand to be true. I congratulate the Director-General of FAO for reminding the world that eradication of hunger is an important condition for eradicating or at least reducing poverty.

Many people ask why the theme is Fight hunger to reduce poverty and not the other way round. In my opinion, both themes are relevant. FAO's direct responsibilities are food and agriculture, so "hunger" is perhaps the main target to hit in order to cut this vicious circle of hunger and poverty. When we are hungry or malnourished,
we are not able to work to generate income so we are poor.

In 1996, leaders of the world met in Rome at the World Food Summit and pledged to abate the extent of world hunger by half by the year 2015. This year in November they will meet again to review progress towards that goal. I was briefed during my short visit to FAO Headquarters in Rome in April this year that the progress had been too slow so far. Therefore we need a concerted effort with a holistic approach to fight hunger.

To be able to fight hunger, food production and distribution should be well considered. The production of food in large amount, or in other words, mass production, should be our objective, but at the same time we should also encourage local production of food-stuff. Food is basically an agricultural product. Therefore we should develop efficiency in agricultural production.

The world population increases but the resources remain scarce. Technologies are crucial for appropriate planning to increase food production. We should be interested in seed production, water management, soil improvement, post-harvest technologies, techniques in animal husbandry, GIS and computer technology, etc. After fishponds are dug, fish are released in those ponds and fish feed is provided by the authority we still cannot be assured that our hungry people will have a decent meal of fish. We should continue to ask whether they know how to catch fish, whether they have the equipment such as a net for catching fish, whether they know how to use the pond in a sustainable way and whether they know how to cook. Are there enough cooking utensils? It is really a complicated matter.

To combat hunger, it is not enough to provide good quantity of food; good quality, nutritionally balanced food is needed. Good nutritious food intake is the key to primary health care, which should be much less costly than the conventional therapeutic approach.

In this whole process, education plays an important role. Apart from the basic education that everyone should have, dissemination of integrated basic health and nutrition information both in the school and outside the school has to be encouraged. The aim is to link theory with practice. It is necessary to educate our society that we
must join hands to reduce hunger.

Knowledge is also a part of the income generating process which is important in providing the means to purchase healthy food for the household.

So far I have been talking only about fighting hunger in general. Another sort of hunger that occurs sporadically during natural or man-made calamities should be handled with special techniques.

If we have some success in fighting hunger, our population will be healthy both physically and mentally. These people will be able to help themselves, their family members and the less fortunate ones in our society. The work should be done globally, regardless of race, social status, political and religious adherence.

While we contrive for success in fighting hunger and reducing poverty we should at the same time instill into people the spirit of reasonable contentment. If we incessantly increase our demands, there will be no end to them. It will not be possible to satisfy all our wants and we will always feel poor.

At this juncture, I would like to offer my good wishes to FAO and whole-hearted support to the World Food Day message. Like FAO I would like to urge Asia-Pacific countries to launch a unified campaign against hunger, which will pay off in improved economic well-being for their people.

Thank you
As people gather around the world to celebrate World Food Day, marking the 56th anniversary of the founding of FAO, I am disappointed that it is not a day of celebration for everyone. Almost 800 million people in the developing world remain locked in a desperate cycle of hunger and poverty. To reduce those numbers I believe we must acknowledge the intricate connection between the two problems. While hunger is a consequence of poverty, the opposite is also true: hunger causes poverty.
That is the reason why the theme *Fight hunger to reduce poverty* has been chosen for this year’s World Food Day observances. I firmly believe that fighting hunger is our moral obligation. But I also contend that unless we ensure this most basic human right, there can be no real and lasting progress in the struggle against poverty.

Unfortunately, while the global community has made a serious undertaking to focus on the world's poor, it has so far failed to attach sufficient importance to fighting against hunger. That must change. Undernourishment not only debilitates people, it weakens nations. Mothers who do not have enough to eat give birth to underweight babies, whose health and growth may be compromised for the rest of their lives. Children who go to bed hungry cannot fight off disease or infection, nor can they concentrate properly at school, losing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to escape the hunger-poverty trap. Undernourished adults are slower and less productive at work as their bodies conserve what little strength they have. A nation of hungry individuals cannot grow and prosper.

One recent study found that if developing countries with a high rate of undernourishment had increased food intake to an adequate level, their gross domestic product over the past 30 years would have risen by as much as 45 percent.

I am not suggesting that we should fight hunger simply because it makes economic sense. That would ignore the fact that all people
have a fundamental human right to be free from hunger. But I believe it is important to recognize that hunger deserves at least the same attention as poverty when we look at global development priorities. And sadly, at the dawn of the third millennium, we are still far from ensuring that all people on the planet have enough to eat, when and where they need it.

Five years ago world leaders met in Rome at the World Food Summit to pledge a solemn commitment to halve the number of hungry people from 800 million to 400 million by the year 2015. Although there are some countries that have made enormous strides in reducing hunger and poverty, the target set five years ago remains far away. The answer does not simply lie in boosting agricultural production. Ironically, the world now has enough food to feed every man, woman and child on the globe. If all the food produced in the world were to be shared equally among its inhabitants, every living person would have a daily intake of 2,760 calories, more than enough to lead a healthy and productive life.

We all know that the reality is very different, and that for reasons of production, access and distribution, there are vast and unacceptable divides between those who have access to resources and those who do not. But those imbalances can be addressed. It will mean putting more focus, efforts and resources into rural areas, where 70 percent of the world’s poor and hungry people live. To improve access to food and income, rural areas need investments in health care, education, communications and infrastructure. That will require financing institutions, donors and national governments to channel more investment to agriculture. Instead, official development assistance to agriculture continues to drop. However, I am happy to note that as a result of the last G-8 Summit in Genoa, Italy last July, support to agriculture as a key element of Official Development Assistance as well as food security and rural development will be given emphasis at the core of poverty eradication strategies.

I strongly believe that the notion of food for all is not an impossible dream, and that the target set in 1996 can still be met. When governments come to Italy in November for the World Food Summit: five years later, they will be asked to ensure that the promises they made were not empty ones. They will also be reminded that to make a world free from hunger a reality, they will need to commit the
necessary resources and political will.

On this World Food Day, I ask everyone - world leaders, civil society organizations, development partners, private corporations, donors and the entire global community - to remember that wherever there are people who are chronically undernourished, there can be no hope for a world without poverty. We must tackle both problems, and the time to fight hunger and reduce poverty is now.

16 October 2001
On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for the commemoration of World Food Day, to spread this year's message and mobilize the resolve to *Fight hunger to reduce poverty*.

As we move into the third millennium, the basic truth in this message is more and more evident in the Asia-Pacific region, home to two-thirds of the world's hungry and poor people.
In the last three decades of the 20th century, Asia-Pacific saw an unprecedented agricultural and economic transformation. Between 1969 and 1999, cereal production more than doubled to nearly one billion tonnes. Though the regional population grew by 1.3 billion, food supply increased from an average of about 2,000 kcal/person/day in 1965/66 to over 2,600 kcal/person/day in 1999/2000.

Agricultural growth underpinned the rapid industrial growth and expansion of the non-formal rural economy in many countries. The regional per capita GDP almost tripled during this period and the incidence of poverty declined from about 60 to less than 30 percent.

Yet, FAO's *2001 Food insecurity report* clearly shows that during the 1990s there has been a slowdown in the reduction of undernourishment in the world. Asia-Pacific still has nearly 500 million - to be precise 497 million - of the 777 million hungry people in the developing world, who face a daily basic dietary energy deficit ranging from 100 to 400 kilocalories. One person, child, woman or man who goes to bed hungry is just one too many!

Undernourishment not only debilitates people, it weakens nations. Mothers who do not have enough to eat give birth to underweight babies, whose health and growth may be compromised for the rest of their lives. Children who go to bed hungry cannot fight off disease or infection, nor can they concentrate properly at school, losing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to escape the hunger-poverty trap. Undernourished adults are slower and less productive at work as their bodies conserve what little strength they have. A nation of hungry individuals cannot grow and prosper.

One recent study found that if developing countries with a high rate of undernourishment had increased food intake to an adequate level, their gross domestic product over the past 30 years would have risen by as much as 45 percent.

Improved nutrition leads to increased human capital and labour productivity by improving health and education levels, which in turn results in higher incomes for households and nations. Big payoffs come from improving the health of women, which benefits families and communities today and the health and productivity of the next
Above all, let us not forget that access to sufficient and nutritionally adequate and safe food for all people at all times, is internationally recognized as a basic human right. Unfortunately, while the global community has made a serious undertaking to focus on the world's poor, it has so far failed to attach sufficient importance to fighting against hunger. That must change.

Five years ago, more than 180 nations meeting at the World Food Summit at FAO headquarters in Rome, pledged to halve the number of hungry people in the world by the year 2015, as an intermediate target toward the goal of a hunger-free world. In November this year, world leaders will gather again at the World Food Summit: five years later, which was called by FAO member nations when it became clear that the original Summit goal would not be met without additional effort.

In the light of recent global events and their likely negative economic impact, FAO believes the plight of the hungry may grow worse. A major commitment from heads of state and government is required to press forward with renewed efforts to reduce the violence of hunger. Hunger too is a mass killer. Albeit a silent and slow one, but widespread and today it engulfs 815 million people in the world.

We must raise the question once again on this day as to what can be done to reduce hunger?

Three-fourths of the hungry and poor live in rural areas, with most of them depending on agriculture and related industries for a
livelihood. It is these people who migrate to the big cities in search of income and form the bulk of the underfed people in the urban areas. Three-fourths of the world's farming households live in Asia-Pacific countries and most of them are small and marginal farmers, and the majority of them are malnourished.

Agricultural and rural development is crucial for alleviating hunger and poverty. This requires increases in agricultural productivity of the small and marginal farmers and ensuring that landless labourers have access to productive resources. It means putting more focus, efforts and resources into agriculture and rural areas. His Majesty the King's *Self-sufficiency economy* approach and the Thai government's *One tambon, one product* scheme can serve as light posts to other countries.

Agricultural growth alone will not eradicate hunger and poverty. Although rapid agricultural growth facilitates industrialization and economic development, more equitable access to food is needed. Unfortunately, the experience of the past thirty years shows no significant decline in inequity of access among households in most countries.

Let us therefore summon the political will, commitment and resources to take on this most basic challenge before humankind: *food for all*. There is no single formula to follow to reduce hunger. What each country actually needs to do will depend on specific national circumstances. However, I appeal to all countries in the region to straight away set their own national targets for halving undernourishment by 2015.

Human resource development is a core investment for equipping rural people to handle increasingly modern knowledge-based agriculture and take advantage of off-farm and non-farm employment opportunities. The vast potential of biotechnology, information and communication technology and other cutting edge technologies must be harnessed judiciously in our fight against hunger and poverty.

The battle against hunger has to begin in the mind and FAO is part of a unique global education initiative involving UNESCO, World Bank, and thousands of non-governmental organizations and
teachers across the world. The *Feeding minds, fighting hunger* project reaches out to students at primary, intermediate and secondary levels, telling them about the what, why and how of global hunger and eliminating it. In this spirit, on His Majesty's suggestion, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific has worked with the Wang Klaikangwon school in Hua Hin to sensitise young minds to the needs of rural livelihood.

On this solemn occasion, let us resolve to break the unholy alliance between hunger and poverty. While hunger is the consequence of poverty, the opposite is also true: hunger causes poverty.

We are honoured today by the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. We extend our profound gratitude to Your Royal Highness, our Guest of Honour, for providing inspiration in your commitment to, and leadership in, taking actions to fight hunger and malnutrition particularly among women and children.

Thank you
Fighting hunger and poverty* - Keynote speech by William D Dar, Director General, ICRISAT

* The manuscript has been reproduced as submitted by the author.
I am deeply honored to have been asked to speak to you this morning. Thailand is a country close to my heart where I have always felt welcome - earlier as a representative of the Government of the Philippines, and more recently as Director General of ICRISAT. ICRISAT, as you know, has a global mandate for research on groundnut, a crop of increasing importance in this country. Our scientists are working in close collaboration with Thai scientists to provide advanced lines suited to the conditions of Thailand. Another facet of agricultural development identified for collaboration between us is watershed management.

Allow me, Your Highness, to congratulate the efforts of the Royal Family in its support of the Ministry of Agriculture to provide the hard-working farmers of this country with products and technologies tailored to their needs.

I am also very proud that my long-time friend and colleague Dr RB Singh has been designated Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of the FAO. Dr Singh and I go way back to the early days of APAARI, and I wholeheartedly congratulate you, old friend, on your well-deserved appointment.

The topic of my address this morning concerns the worst scourge of the new century: hunger. Hunger is unacceptable. It must cease. Man has climbed the highest peaks. He has explored the deepest depths. He has walked on the moon. The human genome has been mapped. Atoms have been split. Technology is becoming ever more sophisticated. Scientific advances abound. But still we are faced with hunger throughout the world. Why is this? What can we do to stop it, once and for all?
It's not that progress in agricultural science has not kept pace with other scientific endeavors. Indeed, some of the most spectacular advances in human history have been accomplished in the field of agriculture.

During the late 60s and 70s, for example, the Green Revolution drew the entire world's attention to the power of new technologies to accelerate agricultural development. Massive famines, considered inevitable by some, were narrowly avoided through the hard work and dedication of international and national researchers working closely with government officials.

This success story remains one of the shining achievements of our time. But the very architects of that revolution cautioned the world not to rest on their laurels. They warned that it would be difficult if not impossible to repeat. While the Green Revolution had bought time, they said, it could not indefinitely postpone the collision course between population growth and food production.

After the initial leap triggered by the Green Revolution, the 70s and 80s witnessed a period of steady but less dramatic progress, as researchers consolidated the gains of the high-yielding varieties by improving resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses, eating quality, and agronomic traits. At the same time, national programs were assisted in improving their extension services to farmers.
With the food problem seemingly under control, the world's attention shifted to other issues such as environmental degradation and social equity. Some people even became suspicious of the Green Revolution, noting that while wealthier farmers with larger, high-quality land holdings and access to inputs were capable of capitalizing on the new technologies, the rural poor were left further behind than ever.

In response, researchers were asked to find ways of using technology to improve equity, decrease gender gaps, and bias benefits toward the poorest of the poor. In many ways these issues were more difficult than the original Green Revolution technologies, and the gains much less dramatic and slower in coming. Despite these initial doubts, however, impacts in these areas are now emerging as substantial and well targeted towards poverty reduction.

At present, many concerned organizations are pinning their hopes on biotechnology and information technology to provide another major jump in production - a jump that might be comparable to the Green Revolution itself. At the same time, there is an increasing realization that with the globalization of agriculture, commodity prices are likely to decline and efficient production will be the key to survival in agriculture, as in other industries. Inefficient producers and production systems will fall by the wayside. The future may well lie in adapting the cropping system to environmental diversity, making the most of the different natural resource endowments of different agro-ecological zones - rather than using costly inputs to change the environment.
It is difficult to overstate the significance of the Green Revolution. If it had not occurred, an extra billion people would be hungry today. It enabled productivity enhancements that doubled global production of wheat and rice, causing prices for these staples to decline by more than 70% in real terms since the 1970s. This global benefit was of special value to the poor, who spend a higher proportion of their incomes on food than do the wealthy.

Even the developed countries benefited handsomely as they adopted and adapted these new plant types to their own temperate-zone environments. The added value of production to the United States, for example was estimated to exceed $3.4 billion from 1970 to 1993.

The astounding impact of the Green Revolution prompted many economists to examine its causes and lessons in detail. A recent study by the Asian Development Bank found that its research-for-development investments have consistently yielded a greater return than direct subsidies to agriculture. Rates of return ranged from 20 to 60% - far more than returns for non-research investments. The ADB also found that by including a research component in their agricultural development projects, their chances of success were significantly enhanced.

Economic studies found that the Green Revolution's benefits extended beyond the lofty objective of feeding the teeming masses of poor. They demonstrated that agricultural development was an engine of economic growth that broadly reduced poverty. Much of the economic surplus generated by increased productivity was being spent on other goods and services - helping developing countries diversify their economies beyond agriculture, and providing spin-offs such as greater accessibility of goods and services like education and health care.
Expressed at the human level, many people who grew up in poor rural households - and here I can speak from the heart because that's where I come from - know that farm families have long viewed increases in farm income as a way to help our children get a better education and a good job in the city, escaping the cycle of rural poverty.

From this mass of evidence, it is clear that investment in agricultural research during the Green Revolution era yielded, and continues to yield, very attractive returns to development investors.

But there is an ironic turn to this story of success. Although the Green Revolution saved the planet from the horrible consequences of mass starvation, its stunning achievements were never fully appreciated by the world community. Unfortunately, without a clear sign of calamity - without corpses - little attention is aroused. The rewards that come to those who prevent tragedy are rarely commensurate with the rewards reaped by those who react to it. The sad events that occurred in New York and Washington last month are proof positive of this understandable but unfortunate side of human nature.

The irony goes even further, because the enhanced productivity
combined with protective policies and subsidies contributed to a food glut in the developed countries that caused many living in those fortunate circumstances to think that the world food problem had become one of excess, not shortage.

But this was clearly an illusion. Despite the increasing availability of food, 13% of the global population, about 840 million people, are food insecure. Predictably, this food insecurity is concentrated in developing countries, with a regional breakdown led by Asia in both numbers and proportions (48% food insecure), followed by Africa (35%) and Latin America (17%).

The root of this paradox is poverty. The poor simply cannot afford to buy the food they need. Even subsistence farmers must purchase significant portions of their annual food supply. Although the Green Revolution dramatically reduced food prices, huge numbers of poor still live on the edge of despair.

Studies have disagreed on the equity consequences of the Green Revolution. Some argue that it caused the rich to get richer, and the
poor. Cases have been reported where modern varieties led to mechanization that displaced labor, and forced smallholders to sell out to larger landowners. But other studies, particularly of rice farmers in the Philippines and wheat farmers in India's Punjab, found the opposite - that employment was stimulated, that economic gains occurred across income levels, that landholdings remained as before, and that add-on economic benefits to rural villages further benefited farm families.

So where are we now? Many subsistence farmers on rainfed lands have yet to benefit from improved varieties. The Green Revolution varieties, bred to respond to good soil fertility, water supply and pest control, were not advantageous under more stressful conditions. A quarter of the world's people and agricultural lands missed the Green Revolution party. In India, for example, a country long associated with the Green Revolution, well over 100 million rural poor still struggle to scratch out a living, almost all of whom live in unfavorable, rainfed areas.

These marginal areas and neglected peoples are the source of rapid population growth and environmental degradation. But these farmers cannot afford to adopt the high-input packages of the Green Revolution, nor would it be environmentally wise for them to adopt these packages even if they could afford them. Much can be learned by striving to understand traditional practices that are by definition based on ecologically friendly principles such as shifting cultivation, intercropping, and tailoring crops and crop management systems to local conditions, instead of trying to suit the environment to the crop.

The wisdom of relative investments in favorable versus marginal environments has been a controversial issue since the mid 80s. The Green Revolution experience taught that more favorable areas generated larger responses to inputs at lower costs per unit output. But partly as a result of the longstanding priority accorded to those favorable areas, many of the readily obtainable gains have already been achieved in these areas. Returns to research in favorable areas are beginning to level off or even decline, as sustainability issues confront some key areas such as the high-yielding rice-wheat systems of the Indo-Gangetic Plain of South Asia.

It should come as no surprise that progress in marginal areas has
taken decades to bear fruit. It is often forgotten that the impact of the Green Revolution took 20 years to make itself felt after the initial Ford and Rockefeller investments in short-duration wheat in Mexico. In only a slightly greater time frame, the investments of the CGIAR and its partners in marginal lands have begun to pay off handsomely, despite the greater complexity of the challenges and variability of the environments.

Recent evidence, such as the econometric analysis of district level data in India reported by Fan and Hazell in their seminal 1999 paper, is revealing that carefully targeted investments in marginal areas are delivering comparable or even greater returns than in favored areas. A recent study by the ADB concluded that, and I quote:

*Investments in infrastructure, agricultural technology and human capital are now at least as productive in many rainfed areas as in irrigated areas and have a much greater impact on poverty alleviation.*

End quote.

Not only cereals, but improved food legume varieties are being enthusiastically adopted in dry marginal areas. Shortening the crop growth cycle by a third or more for pigeonpea and chickpea have enabled farmers to plant these protein-rich pulse crops before or after cereals in South Asia, substantially raising farmers' incomes while diversifying their operations and improving their diets.

The achievements of the Green Revolution also fostered hopes that agricultural development could be more specifically targeted towards the more disadvantaged people within society, particularly women and children. According to a World Health Organization report, women constitute only one-third of the world's work force, yet they work two-thirds of the total hours, for which they receive only 10% of the total income, and own less than 1% of the total property.

Similarly, the adoption of improved groundnut production technology packages significantly increased the use of female hired labor, and helped to provide new income channels through task specialization. For example, the introduction of chickpea in the Barind zone of
northwestern Bangladesh provided a new income stream for women who harvest the top twigs for consumption as a fresh vegetable.

It is hardly surprising that women also highly value reductions in drudgery and occupational hazards, in addition to enhanced income. Asked what she would do with the extra income chickpea cultivation had brought to her family, one Bangadeshi woman replied that she would now be able to send her daughter to school. Previously only her sons were allowed to go. This illustrates the need to take a broader view of poverty than the simplistic view of economic advancement.

The broadening of the international agricultural research centers' agenda during the late 80s and 90s put major strains on its capacity to deliver. Funding had not increased in proportion to expectations, and many thought that the System's reach now exceeded its grasp.

The same pressures befell national research programs. As it became clear that no single organization could fully address the complexity of the new agenda, these international and national organizations realized that they would have to greatly expand their partnerships.

As a result, partnerships among all sorts of organizations - international and national, public and private, governmental and non-governmental - grew rapidly in number, diversity, and scope. Steadily, the array of institutions engaged in agricultural research and development interlinked themselves in an ever-tighter fabric of partnerships.

The closest partners of the CGIAR Centers have always been the government research and development agencies responsible for agriculture. Increasingly, however, collaborative arrangements with NGOs and the private sector are emerging. Such collaborative activities frequently have comparative advantages for strategic or applied research. Being closely focused on near-term impact, these new partners are helping us and our national colleagues translate our findings quickly into impact on the ground. It's a symbiotic relationship - they depend on research organizations as a source of new technologies, and we depend on them to tailor these to local needs. Significantly, NGOs and private companies are well
positioned to provide us with farmer feedback.

An excellent example of the dynamism of such partnerships is the success of recent collaboration between ICRISAT and Indian hybrid seed companies. Several companies are now contributing funds to ICRISAT’s applied plant breeding work, without any intellectual property or germplasm restrictions and without constraining the research priority set. They have come to realize that 'a rising tide lifts all boats' - that they, as well as others, stand to gain from advances in public-sector knowledge and genetic materials. Our sister Centers CIAT and CIMMYT have garnered similar support from the private sector in Latin America.

The amounts of these contributions are modest, and do not come close to replacing public sector investments. But that’s not the point. We view these tangible signs as an important vote of confidence in these partnerships, and such confidence bodes well for the future of agricultural research.

But let’s not get overly optimistic. Between 1980 and 1990, according to IFPRI, the International Food Policy Research Institute, agricultural development investment as a percentage of total world development assistance fell from 20% to 14%, and has continued to decline since then. Ordinary people in developed countries, once alarmed by the specter of global famine and the haunting, skeletal faces of starving babies on their TV screens, have now become inured to these images.

This is understandable, but the policymakers of developed countries need to realize that the spillover benefits to their own agricultural prosperity derived from research conducted in the developing world have far exceeded their investments. The givers have got their own back many times over. And far from posing a competitive threat, by helping the poor escape poverty they have created vast new markets for their own exports.

Developing countries are equally guilty. During the period 1981-85, the Australian social observer Derek Tribe estimated that developing countries invested only about 0.41% of the value of their agricultural gross domestic product in research, less than a fourth of the average 2% investment made by developed countries.
To rekindle the fire of the Green Revolution, we need to articulate in modern, compelling terms the best-kept secret of the enormous benefit the world has enjoyed from its investments in agricultural research. The message we must convey is that because we all live in an interconnected world, investments in development protect us all from the suffering, strife, terrorism and pollution that command the public's attention today.

The Green Revolution raised expectations for a continued flow of scientific miracles. This legacy frames the challenge for today's generation of dedicated research and development professionals. What are our chances?

The promise of biotechnology to increase crop and animal productivity while reducing losses caused by pests and diseases is enormous. Massive problems such as drought, voracious insects, physiological inefficiencies, and disease resistance breakdowns no longer seem as intractable as they once were.

The potential impacts of biotechnology are huge. But the challenges are not only biological - they are also institutional, financial, and even legal. But there is little doubt that the proper use of biotechnological tools can add further productivity gains while protecting the environment, as long as it is directed toward the public good.

Many patents are now being issued restricting public-sector access to such fundamental research knowledge as genes and laboratory methodologies for gene manipulation. These patents are equally restrictive toward the orphan crops of the poor. These technologies need to be made available so that public-sector organizations can use them to deliver their promise to the poor.

A key role for international centers is to serve as facilitators - brokers if you like - who can negotiate appropriate arrangements between the public and private sectors as we navigate the road ahead. The international agricultural centers, independent as they are of political or profit motives, have proven their effectiveness as catalysts in such partnerships.
The global revolution in information and communication technology holds equally dazzling potential. The complex, system-oriented solutions required of today's agricultural research are more knowledge-intensive than the simpler seed-centered technologies that drove the Green Revolution.

In the Green Revolution model, it was necessary to provide large amounts of costly inputs to homogenize the agro-environment so as to remove all constraints to yield potential. In the new era, global competitiveness and production efficiency will become paramount. Information will become a key strategic resource, enabling farmers to better tailor their crops and management to their particular locales and conditions, extracting the most efficient use of the endowment they have at hand.

Extension or farmer organizations, even in remote villages, are now able to dial up the Internet over the telephone to obtain information on input and crop commodity prices, seed availability, weather, management recommendations, pest and disease epidemic forecasts, and other valuable insights.

The same channels can be used by farmers to feed back their own observations and knowledge so that researchers, policy makers and
the press will have a better understanding of realities on the ground. It will no longer be possible for governments to ignore the rural poor simply because of their geographic isolation.

Better communications will lead to stronger partnerships among research and development organizations. Virtual teams will be quickly formed through searches over the Internet, finding just the right expertise for important problems. They will meet by videoconference to share experiences, consult additional specialists, and view field situations. Just as quickly as they were formed, these teams will disband once the problem is solved, free to move on to other challenges and teams, amplifying the social benefits derived from their skills.

It is not surprising that an achievement as marvelous as the Green Revolution resulted in such diverse and far-reaching outcomes as those I have described. But its ramifications continue to affect the lives of people all over the globe to this day. Surpassing the expectations of most, while falling short of the broad social goals of some, it remains a phenomenon held in both awe and controversy. Nevertheless, all will agree that it serves as a potent example of science in service of development - which we at ICRISAT call Science with a Human Face.

The Green Revolution bought precious time for our global village - an opportunity to bring population and environmental deterioration under control before they outrace our capacity to increase food supplies. This precious interval has enabled scientists to develop even more powerful tools that many believe will unleash a second Green Revolution - a revolution that employs all the tools at our disposal, including biotechnology and information/communication technologies - a revolution that turns grey to green, the Grey-to-Green Revolution for the dry tropics of the world.

If we do our job well, the result will be a more just, prosperous and equitable world - a world with the wisdom and resources to tame the monsters of overpopulation and environmental degradation. If we are successful in our endeavor, the fruits of the Green Revolution will comprise a harvest richer than we had ever dreamed.

Thank you.
combatir el hambre para reducir la pobreza
Hafez Sheikh Mezbahuddin

An outstanding fish farmer from Bangladesh, Hafez Sheikh Mezbahuddin is 42 years old, married and has 4 children. A resident of Chanchra village in Jessore district, he has 20 years of experience in breeding carp and catfish. He manages 18 000 kg of brood fishes on a water area of nearly 10 ha, producing 2 500 kg of carp hatchings per year. His yearly income averages 3.5 million Taka (about US$61 000) from an expenditure of 2.48 million Taka.

Trained in nursery, hatchery and culture techniques for fresh water prawn, marine shrimp and catfish at Bangkok’s Kasetsart University and the National Inland Fisheries Institute of Thailand, Mr Mezbahuddin has motivated and trained 50 entrepreneurs and many rural youth to start carp nursery and culture in Bangladesh. An untiring extension worker and instructor, he has worked with government agencies and non-governmental organizations, volunteering his time and expertise to train unemployed villagers in his country. Students from leading national fisheries institutes regularly visit him to study his success.

His efforts to popularize carp culture in Bangladesh have been honoured with the national reward in Carp Hatchlings Production in 1996 and the National Gold Medal in Carp Hatchling production in 2001.
Iyam Maryamah

A dynamic farm leader from the village of Desa Sukatani in Subang district in West Java, Indonesia, Ms Iyam Maryamah is 47, married and has two daughters and grandchildren. Her 3 ha of irrigated farm yields an average of 7 tonnes of rice per hectare, twice a year, against the national average of about 5 tonnes. It took her more than a decade to raise the production from 4 tonnes per hectare using efficient practices such as improved tillage, good seeds, balanced use of fertilisers and integrated pest management. Few women rice farmers in Indonesia have achieved such high yields. She also rears goats and breeds native chicken and ducks.

For over a decade, Ms Maryamah has also led her 78-member farmer group, which includes her husband, and together cultivates 114 hectares of rice fields. She has built a rice storage to enable the farmers to take advantage of better market prices in future. Her leadership is also manifested in the public health activities of the group, which won her presidential awards for family planning in 1991 and 1992.

Ms Maryamah's work has been driven by a strong urge to help poor farmers by her example and leadership, and she feels proud about her success in doing this.

China Kumari Khatri Chetri

An outstanding highland farmer from Nepal, China Kumari Khatri Chetri is 42 years old, married and with seven children. A resident of Dolpa, 150 km north-west from the capital Kathmandu, she has overcome social, economic and geographical odds to become a successful farmer in one of the world's most difficult agro-ecological conditions.
Two years ago, she took the bold decision to switch to vegetable cultivation on more than half her one quarter hectare of rain-and-snow-fed farm, nearly 3 000 metres above sea level in the Himalayas. She grows maize and wheat in succession on 0.1 ha during summer and winter. Using an innovative mixed and rotational cropping, she grows improved potato, onion, radish, broad leaf and coriander on the rest of the land. This ensures her family year-round food security and an additional annual cash income of US$1 000 through the sale of fresh vegetables. Mrs Kumari has motivated 160 farmers to follow her example. Indeed, her farm is the village demonstration and training source for young and not-so-young villagers from the district. A former treasurer of the local wheat seed production group, she is now chairperson of the body. Her achievement was recognised with the first prize in vegetable and wheat seed production recently.

Niwat Pontchour

One of Thailand's most successful fruit farmers, Nivat Pontchour is 55 years old, married and the father of two grown up children. A resident of eastern coastal Rayong province, he has over a quarter century of experience in growing mangosteen for local and foreign markets. Starting from humble beginnings, Khun Nivat has overcome financial and psychological hurdles to prove his conviction that farmers, because they feed the world, can be rich and successful. His 8.8 hectares of fruit orchard produces close to 100 tonnes per year of mainly mangosteen, besides 'long kong', rambutan and durian. Two-thirds is exported to China, Japan and West Europe. He has an annual income of about 2.39 million baht (US$55 000).

A member of Thailand's Senate, his expertise is in great demand in the country and abroad. Mangosteen growers from several Southeast Asian nations visit his farm regularly. A graduate
in agriculture with honorary doctorates in horticulture, Khun Nivat mixes traditional and modern methods to nurture his orchard, including greater reliance on organic fertilisers. Already honoured with Thailand's best farmer award, he has innovated efficient ways of plucking, sorting and grading mangosteen. Khun Nivat helps poor farmers in Rayong by funding various village development projects.
Baan Talaad Khee Lek School in Doi Saket district of Chiang Mai province also won the contest in 1997.

Located amidst the idyllic environs of the Huai Hong Khrai Royal Development Study Centre, the school has emerged as a centre of excellence in nature training for young minds. Every year, students from schools across Thailand go to see the more than 300 species of medicinal plants, shrubs and trees in the botanical garden. The school has also set an example of blending nature and classroom instruction, making the study of biology, mathematics, English and social sciences, easier and more interesting.
Disability not a handicap for these farmers

Crippled by a road accident, Auradee Sirachai had given up hope of ever being self-dependent. Though confined to a wheelchair, the 20-year-old Thai village woman is now training other disabled farmers to discover their hidden abilities.

A resident of Ubon Ratchathani province, Auradee has regained self-confidence after attending a mushroom production-training course for people with physical and mental disabilities. "I used to keep myself in my room. I thought I was nothing. But when I came to the training, the ability that had been locked inside came out. I can do many things, not just mushroom cultivation. Now, my disability is not a problem any more," says Auradee.

Initiated by FAO, the project has so far trained 50 disabled villagers to start mushroom cultivation and marketing enterprises. The training is provided by the Government of Thailand's Department of Public Welfare at its Ubon Ratchathani-based Northeastern Training Centre for People with Disabilities.

On World Food Day, Auradee visited the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific along with some other disabled mushroom farmers who were trained by the project. The group of 50 was honoured with an FAO certificate of merit, which was conferred on them by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Pramuan Kanankaeng and Darat Banna received the award on behalf of the group. The two met two years ago at the training, fell in love, married and are now parents. Their oyster-mushroom production unit earns monthly profits of B.4 000 to 6 000.
The mushroom enterprise training for disabled farmers began in 1999 as part of FAO regional endeavours to help disabled villagers in the mainly rural Asia-Pacific countries, lead economically and socially useful lives. Most of the estimated 1.1 million people with disabilities in Thailand live in the villages.

The mushroom training project supports the Thai government's commitment to helping the disabled, which has been recognised by the fifth annual Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan presented the honour on 3 July 2001 to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at UN headquarters in New York. The Government of Thailand had cited the FAO project in its submission for the award.

"Farmers with disabilities should be considered farmers first and people with disabilities second," FAO declared in a message on the International Day of Disabled Persons, 3 December 2000. FAO believes that enabling rural people with disabilities to stand on their own feet, is crucial for battling hunger and poverty in Asia-Pacific countries where farming and related activities give work and income to the majority of people. "It is easy to see someone's disability but much more difficult to see their capabilities," says FAO.

Since FAO's withdrawal last year, two batches of disabled farmers have finished the training course and started their own home-based mushroom enterprises. The FAO regional office in Bangkok has produced two videos on the project and an instruction manual with detailed step-by-step advice for starting mushroom training courses for disabled farmers.

More information on FAO's work with disabled farmers is available on the Internet on 

**FAO certificate of merit for disabled farmers**

The government of Thailand's endeavours to enable people with
disabilities to lead near normal lives, have been recognised by the conferment of the 5th Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award, which Your Royal Highness received from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan at UN headquarters on 3 July 2001.

The government cited its partnership of FAO’s mushroom training project in Ubon Ratchathani for farmers with disabilities. Today, the FAO regional office for Asia and the Pacific is honouring the 50 disabled farmers trained by the project, who now have their own mushroom enterprises, which have earned them a regular income and social standing.

Pramuan Kanankaeng and Darat Banna are representing the group. They met two years ago at the training, fell in love, married and are now parents. Their oyster-mushroom production unit earns monthly profits of B.4 000 to 6 000, proving that farmers with disabilities are farmers first and people with disabilities second.

FAO hopes its projects for disabled farmers in Thailand and Cambodia will inspire similar programmes in the Asia-Pacific region, harnessing the immensely under-utilized potential of disabled farmers and greatly strengthening the fight against hunger.
TeleFood projects bring food abundance and prosperity in China, Thailand and Tonga

Since its launch in 1997, FAO's TeleFood campaign has harnessed the power of the mass media and entertainment industry to raise funds to eradicate hunger by helping the hungry help themselves. International celebrities - film, music and sports stars - have taken part in TeleFood broadcasts, concerts and sports events in more than 60 countries, reaching global audiences of over 500 million people and mobilizing donations of more than US$6 million.

Every dollar donated to TeleFood goes directly to grassroots projects that enable hungry people to feed their families. The money is used only to pay for seeds, agricultural tools and other materials with none going toward administrative costs.

TeleFood is funding more than 150 micro-input schemes worth more than US$1 million in 26 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

During 2001 the FAO regional office in Bangkok produced three video documentaries on the successful outcome of TeleFood projects in selected Asia-Pacific countries.
China

Training in improved water melon cultivation practices, 480 kg of high quality water melon seed and 80 000 kg of special fertiliser, all arranged by TeleFood funds, have dramatically changed the lives of 456 households in Langouyan village in Pengxi county of China's western Sichuan province. Langouyan stands out as an island of affluence in the Pengxi countryside where declining farm incomes and growing pressure on farmland have led to large-scale out-migration from most villages to the big cities.

Starting in 1998, the TeleFood project has enabled Langouyan farmers to improve the size and quality of their watermelons, which are now in great demand in far away markets. More than 1 000 farmers have been trained and the average yield has gone up from 1 900 kg per mu before 1998 to 2 450 kg per mu in 2001. The average family income has shot up to 1 685 yuan from 1 086 yuan during this period. The project has helped check out-migration of village youth, made women earn as much as men and increased the social standing of village women. Many families now have colour TV sets, telephones and motorcycles. The village now has paved roads, new houses and a primary school is being built. The success of Langouyan has inspired similar TeleFood projects in Anhui, Jiangxi and Chongqing provinces or cities. Government leaders in Sichuan are impressed by the TeleFood project, which they see as a model rural development scheme.

Thailand

TeleFood assistance worth US$2 500 in the form of vegetable seeds and fertilisers, has brought prosperity to the residents of Phonbang village in Thailand's northeastern Yasothorn province, some 500 km northeast of Bangkok. The northeast is the country's poorest region where average earnings are less than half the average national income. Low yields on their tiny, rainfed farm lots, forces more and more households to sell off their lands and send able-bodied members to work in the big cities. This has shattered family and social life with women and children affected the most.

TeleFood has cashed in on the entrepreneurial drive of the women farmers of Phonbang who grow vegetables in home and community gardens to feed a food processing factory they run as a cooperative
enterprise. The cooperative factory supplies to popular supermarkets in northeastern provinces. Incomes range from B 100 to B 200 a day - more than enough for basic household needs. More importantly, the women are happy because they no longer have to leave their village to seek a livelihood in big cities like Bangkok. The women were also helped to start duck, fish and frog breeding. In late 2000, TeleFood introduced new vegetables like Chinese broccoli to Phonbang.

Grown without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the vegetables are certified toxic-free by Thailand's Food and Drug Administration. Officials in the government's provincial cooperative promotion department say that marketing surveys have found high demand for the produce of the Phonbang food factory.

Tonga

One of the 172 coral and volcanic islands that make up the Kingdom of Tonga, about 2 000 km northeast of New Zealand, Ha'afeva has no electricity, no cars, no tourists and a single village telephone. Besides handwoven goods, the sea catch is the main source of food and income for Ha'afeva's about 500 people. However, the annual household income of about US$500 is not reliable. Things are changing ever since TeleFood shipped about US$5 000 worth of fish processing and preservation equipment to the island in October 1999. This has enabled the locals to prepare a delicious new product - dried, salted fish that lasts longer and fetches a higher price. The ministry of fisheries provided training and marketing for the processed fish. More and more households are now turning from weaving to fish processing as their main source of income.
### Annexes

#### Annex 1 - Media coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>12 October</td>
<td>Announcement in Thai Rath newspaper&lt;br&gt;Minister of Agriculture delivering WFD message on Channel 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 October</td>
<td>Announcement on Radio Thailand world service</td>
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<td>14 October</td>
<td>Report on national WFD celebration in Chiangmai in Thai News newspaper&lt;br&gt;Announcement on Radio Thailand world service</td>
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<td>15 October</td>
<td>Announcement on Radio Thailand world service&lt;br&gt;Announcement in Daily News newspaper on MCOT 105.5 FM (19:00 hours)</td>
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<td>16 October</td>
<td>Announcement on Radio Thailand world service (07:00 hrs.) and an interview with R B Singh, ADG/RR (07:14 hrs.)&lt;br&gt;Advertisement in the Bangkok Post&lt;br&gt;Advertisement in the Nation&lt;br&gt;8 o'clock news report on WFD celebration at FAO Regional Office presided over by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on TV channels 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, UBC7, ITV and an interview with R B Singh, ADG/RR (07:14 hrs.)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>17 October</td>
<td>Photo of HRH Princess bestowing YS Rao award on outstanding farmer in Thai Rath newspaper. Public service announcement on Radio Thailand world service on <em>Fight hunger to reduce poverty</em>.</td>
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<td>18 October</td>
<td>Report on WFD celebration at RAP and the Princess speech in Daily News.</td>
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<td>More detailed report on the event with photograph in Daily News.</td>
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<td>20 October</td>
<td>Public service announcement on Radio Thailand world service on <em>Fight hunger to reduce poverty</em>.</td>
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<td>31 October</td>
<td>Report on WFD observance and YS Rao awardee from Thailand.</td>
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สินธุ์ชุมชนบางกอกพิศาล

กระทรวงเกษตรและสหกรณ์ จัดงานเฉลิมฉลองวันอาสาพันธุ์ ประจำปี 2544 ที่ชุมชนบางกอกพิศาล กลุ่มสหกรณ์กลุ่มแม่บ้านร่วม

เนื่องในวันที่ 12 ตุลาคม ที่กรา

ประเทศไทยเป็นประเทศเกษตร

ภาระเงินส่งมื้อประทานของชีวิต ขอให้ทุกท่าน

รัฐบาลจึงมีนโยบายที่จะจ่ายเงินภาษีการคืน

รายได้ให้แก่ประชาชนรายที่ ซึ่งปัจจุบันมี

เวลา 12 วัน กรมที่อยู่ในสถานะที่ต้องการ

ระดับความยากจน

ในส่วนของกระทรวงเกษตรและ

สหกรณ์ถึงได้มีการดำเนินการตามนโยบาย

เพื่อส่งผ่านให้กับประชาชน ซึ่งสุดท้าย

ประชาชน ซึ่งจะเริ่มในการส่งผ่านที่จะให้การ

ดำเนินการของหน่วยที่มีการสร้างสรรค์ให้พอ

เพียง ผลการที่มีความสูง การพัฒนา

สำหรับการพัฒนาของประเทศ

หรือมีรูปแบบที่สามารถให้การพัฒนาในทุกๆด้าน ซึ่งจะ

เป็นประโยชน์สำหรับประเทศไทย และด้าน

วัฒนธรรมยุคต่อไป
The Nation — 16 October 2001

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

56th anniversary

Message from R.B. Singh
Assistant Director-General
and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has graciously consented to preside over the World Food Day celebration - marking the 56th anniversary of the founding of FAO - at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Guests invited to the function include ministers and members of the

[Further text not visible due to image quality]
The theme chosen by the FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf for this year’s 21st World Food Day celebration is:

**Fight hunger to reduce poverty**

This year’s theme reminds the world that hunger reduction is an important condition for the success of poverty alleviation efforts. Lack of minimum food energy affects the physical development of children who are slow learners at school and grow up into unhealthy, poorly educated adults incapable of taking advantage of economic opportunities. Studies show that raising the food energy intake of the hungry in poor countries can result in faster economic growth.

Let World Food Day on 16 October be the occasion to reflect on the development challenges for Asia-Pacific countries where two-thirds of the world’s 800 million hungry people live.
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**Fight hunger to reduce poverty**

This year's theme reminds the world that hunger reduction is an important condition for the success of poverty alleviation efforts. Lack of minimum food intake is a severe constraint to the productive capacity of the world's poor and the very poorest among them. The theme is a call to combined efforts of all the world community to provide adequate food and nutrition to all.
condition for the success of poverty alleviation efforts. Lack of minimum food energy affects the physical development of children who are slow learners at school and grow up into unhealthy, poorly educated adults incapable of taking advantage of economic opportunities. Studies show that raising the food energy intake of the hungry in poor countries can result in faster economic growth.

Let World Food Day on 16 October be the occasion to reflect on the development challenges for Asia-Pacific countries where two-thirds of the world’s 800 million hungry people live.
สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สิริมงคลภูมิพล เสด็จไปทรงปิดงานฉลอง วันอาสาฬหบูชา ประจำปี 2544 ณ สำนักงานองค์การอาเซียนและเกษตรแห่งสหประชาชาติ ถนนพระอาทิตย์ ในกรณี พระราชทานรางวัล "วุฒิศาส. รางวัล" แก่ชาวนาดีเด่นจากภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก เมื่อวันที่ 16 ตุลาคม.

Daily News -- 18 October 2001
พระราชทานพระบรมราชานุสรณ์ เรื่องพิธีการรดน้ำ

เมื่อวันที่ 16 ต.ค. ซึ่งเป็นวันอาสาฬหบูชา สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จฯ ยังสำนักงานองค์การอาหารและเกษตร แห่งสหประชาชาติ ประจำภาคพื้นเอเชียและแปซิฟิก (FAO) สถานพระอาทิตย์ ทรงเป็นประธานเปิดงาน "วันอาสาฬหบูชา" พร้อมพระราชาท่านวาง "ราชแอส ราว์" แก่เกษตรกรที่คืนของภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก จำนวน 4 คน และรางวัลสัตว์พุฒตรวจสอบสินทรัพย์ในโรงเรียนเด็กล้นประจำปี 2544

ก่อนพิธีพระราชาท่านวางแก่เกษตรกร คืนกิจ สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชาภูมิ ทรงมีพระราชดำรัสที่ประชุมถึงเรื่องการจัดความทิศทางว่า ปัญหาเรื่องความทิศทางเป็นปัญหาหลักสำหรับการแก้ไข เพื่อจัดการรักษาความทิศทางและอาชีพ ต้องเน้นการพัฒนาและการจ้างงานอาชีพเป็นสำคัญ ซึ่งเป็นที่หาย
ผลิตและการจัดหน่วยของการเป็นสิทธิ ซึ่งเป็นหมาย
คือการผลิตในระดับจุดสหครม และจุดเดียว
กันต้องส่งเสริมการผลิตในระดับท้องถิ่นควบคู่
ไปด้วย

สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยาม
บรมราชกุมารี ทรงนั่งด้วยว่า อาหารคือผลผล
ทางการเกษตร จึงควรพัฒนาระบบการผล
ผลิตทางการเกษตร ด้วยการพัฒนาระบบพื้นที่ น้ำ
วัน เทคโนโลยีในการเก็บเกี่ยว วิชานิยมสัตร
ระบบสารสนเทศทางภูมิศาสตร์ วิทยาการคอม
พิเศษ นอกจากร่นการศึกษาก็มีส่วนสำคัญ ไป
เพียงแต่การศึกษาขั้นพื้นฐานเท่านั้น ทุกคนควรมี
การเตรียมร่างกายความรู้เกี่ยวกับโภชนินครรัง และ
สุขภาพทั้งในโรงเรียนและนอกโรงเรียน

"การจะขอข้อความให้โทษของประชาชน
นั้นทั้งโลกจะด้วยช่วยกัน โดยไม่ค่านิยมช่องทางติด
สถาน การเมือง สถานทางสังคม และราชการจะ
ให้ประชาชนมีความพอใจมากกว่าความต้องการ
อีกประชาชนมีความต้องการ ก็ไม่มีความสันสุค
และจะรู้สึกอยู่ขู่อว่าประชาชน จำเจดีอย่างจด
เรียกกลับให้ประเทศในภูมิภาคเอเชียและเปรียบ
เรียกกลับต้องด้านความห่างไกลอย่างมีอภิปราย อัน
จะมีผลต่อการพัฒนาความเป็นอยู่ที่ดี และสภาวะ
ทางเศรษฐกิจที่ดีขึ้นแก่ประชาชนได้" สมเด็จพระ
เทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี ทรงมีรับ

เศรษฐีมีจำเป็นต้องมีการคัดเลือกสิ่งของที่มีคุณภาพและเหมาะสมกับการใช้งาน ดังนั้น การปลูกต้นไม้ที่มีคุณภาพดีและราคาที่เหมาะสมจะช่วยให้เศรษฐีมีสิ่งของที่มีคุณภาพดีที่สุดได้ตลอดไป
Each year, Thailand joins the world community in celebrating World Food Day, 16 October. The
celebration marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The theme for World Food Day in 2001 is "Fight hunger to reduce poverty." Thailand has adopted many strategies to overcome poverty. One of them is to enhance the capabilities of the people and empower them to effectively deal with poverty, employing strategies based on self-reliance. According to the message by FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf, almost 800 million people in the developing world remain locked in a desperate cycle of hunger and poverty. Five years ago world leaders met in Rome at the World Food Summit to pledge a solemn commitment to halve the number of hungry people from 800 million to 400 million by the year 2015. Although there are some countries that have made enormous strides in reducing hunger and poverty, the target set five years ago remains far away. The answer does not simply lie in boosting agricultural production. Ironically, the world now has enough food to feed every man, woman, and child on the globe. If all the food produced in the world were to be shared equally among its inhabitants, every living person would have a daily intake of 2,760 calories, more than enough to lead a healthy and productive life. Thailand is one of the largest trading countries in agricultural products. It is the world leader in the production and export of rice, tapioca, sugar, and canned pineapples. The FAO has projected that rice production in Thailand will play a crucial part in maintaining the security of world food. In fisheries, it is the world's largest exporter of frozen shrimps and canned tuna. In poultry, it is among the largest exporters of frozen chicken. The country is further known for its wide selection of fruits and vegetables, as well as processed products such as juice concentrates and frozen or dehydrated vegetables and fruits. Food processing and the agro-industry in general have played a leading role in the export market. With promising prospects in the food industry, the Thai government has established a policy to develop the country as a major world food center. The country is also striving to become "the kitchen of the world" by 2020. In tackling the poverty problem, the Government stressed the need to reduce poverty through job creation and income creation at the grassroots level. It has established the one-million-baht Village Fund to help each community to finance projects and to develop and market its own products. The People's Bank was launched in late June 2001 to help poor people secure low-interest loans without collateral for their business operation. In addition, more than 2.3 million small farmers whose debt burden is less than 100,000 baht each will benefit from the Government's interest suspension scheme. Of this number of farmers, 52 percent will be given a grace period for both interest and principal payments for three years. The remaining 48 percent will derive other benefits from the scheme to help in their production restructuring. These measures will reduce small producers' dependence on
financial sources with high interest rates. They are believed to help stimulate the grassroots economy and contribute to poverty reduction. The current five-year National Economic and Social Development Plan makes poverty reduction the main objective of Thailand's national development. Its strategies are designed to tackle poverty for the target group of 9.9 million people in Thailand by the end of the 9th National Development Plan. His Majesty the King of Thailand in 1999 was presented with the first Telefood medal by the FAO in recognition of his contributions to the building of food security. He has been praised for his strong support in the battle against hunger and poverty to ensure food security and his advocacy of self-reliance for Thai farmers. His concept of "Sufficiency Economy," with emphasis on self-reliance, has been adopted as Thailand's new strategy to overcome poverty.

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Annex 2 - List of guests

The following is a list of selected guests who attended the regional observance of World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 16th October 2001.

Guest of Honour

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Guest speaker

William D. Dar, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

Outstanding farmers

Hafez Sk. Mezbahuddin, fish culture, Bangladesh
Iyam Maryamah (Ms), rice farming, Indonesia
China Kumari K.C. (Mrs), highland farming, Nepal
Nivat Pontchour, horticulture, Thailand

**2001 Best school botanical garden**

Chumpol Chaimongkol, Principal
Ban Talad Kheelek Primary School, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand

**Disabled farmers group from Ubon Rachathanee**

Jongjai Tarunjan, farmer
Pramuan Khanankhaeng, farmer
Darat Banna (Mrs), farmer
Saengpet Thamdee, farmer
Umpon Thamdee (Mrs), farmer
Sawaeng Srisawang (Ms), farmer
Auradee Sirachai (Ms), farmer

**Office of the Royal Development Projects Board**

Panthep Klanarongran, Secretary-General
Pisit Voraurai, Chairman of the Executive Board, Plant Genetics Conservation Project
Somsong Rungroengsilpa, Director of Computer Center
Udom Dechmanee, Advisor

**Royal Thai Government**

**Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives**

HE Prapat Panyachartrak, Deputy Minister
Petipong Phungbun Na Ayudhya, Permanent Secretary
Sitdhi Boonyaratpalin, Deputy Permanent Secretary
Thongtavee Deemakarn, Inspector-General
Phinit Korsieporn, Director, Foreign Agricultural Relations Division
Kasem Prasutsaiengchan, Foreign Agricultural Relations Division
Prachuab Lewchalermwong (Ms), Foreign Agricultural Relations Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Laxanachantorn Laohaphan (Mrs), Director-General, International Organizations

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Surapee Vasinonta (Mrs), Director, Committee for Rehabilitation of Disabled Person, Department of Public Welfare

Boupha (Mrs), Committee for Rehabilitation of Disabled Person, Department of Public Welfare

National Research Council, universities and academic institutions

Songsak Sriannujata, Director, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University

Warunee Varanyanond, Director, Institute of Food Research & Product Development

Vilas Techo, Deputy, Urban and Rural Development Bureau, Population and Community Development Association (PDA)

Naresuan University

Mario Tabucanon, Provost, Asian Institute of Technology

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Sriwat Thiptaradon, Deputy Secretary-General
Non-governmental organizations and associations

Khunying Ambhorn Meesok, President, Foundation for Life-long Education

Sumet Tantivejakul, Secretary-General, Chaipattana Foundation

Ratana Tungasudi, Vice-President, The National Council of Women of Thailand

Chandra Pitrachat (Ms), Board Member and Treasurer, Chairman, International Relations, Distance Learning Foundation

Sorada Duke (Mrs), Member, Board of Foreign Relations, Distance Learning Foundation

J. S. Sindhu, Director (In-coming), Asia-Pacific Seed Association

N. Mamicpic, Director (Out-going), Asia-Pacific Seed Association

Embassies

Australia  Craig Keating, Second Secretary, Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID)
Bangladesh  HE Hemayeduddin, Ambassador
            Mashfee Binte-Shams (Mrs), Counsellor Political
Belgium    HE Pierre Vaesen, Ambassador
France     Philippe Letrilliart, Counsellor
Germany    HE Andreas von Stechow, Ambassador
India      HE L.K. Ponappa (Mrs), Ambassador
Indonesia  Slamet S. Mustafa, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission
Iran       Abdol Reza Ghofrani, Counsellor and Deputy Secretary to ESCAP
Israel     Edward Shapira, Deputy Chief of Mission and Counsellor
Italy
Ricardo Manara, Counsellor and Charge de Affairs

Japan
Masao Matsumoto, First Secretary and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to ESCAP

Korea, DPRK
HE Jo In Chol, Ambassador

Rep. of Korea
Noh Moon Ok, Counsellor

Laos
Phouangkeo Langsy, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission

Myanmar
HE U Myo Myint, Ambassador

Nepal
HE Janak Bahadur Singh, Ambassador

Philippines
HE Romeo L. Manalo, Charge de Affairs

Sri Lanka
HE S. Palihakkara, Ambassador

UK
Peter West, Deputy Head of Mission

US
Maurice House, Counsellor for Foreign Agricultural Affairs

CEC
Johan Cauwenberg, First Counsellor

United Nations

ESCAP
Cengiz Ertuna, Chief, Population and Rural and Urban Development Division

ILO
L. Mishra, Senior Advisor, Declaration on Fundamental Principle and Rights at Work and their Follow-up

UNDP
Zhe Yang, Deputy Resident Representative

UNDCP
Narumi Yamada (Ms), Deputy Representative

UNESCO
A. Hakeem, Director, a.i.

UNICEF
Gamini Abeysekera, Representative for Thailand

UNIDO
Jesper Kleindt, Programme Officer

WFP
John M. Powell, Regional Director

WHO
Bjorn Melgaard, Representative

Other invited guests

Prem Nath, former FAO Assistant Director-General
Annex 3 - 2001 WFD organizing secretariat

Steering committee

R.B. Singh, Chairperson
Dong Qingsong, Deputy Regional Representative
N.M. Hla, Chief, Management Support Unit
Donato B. Antiporta, Policy Assistance Branch
Sri Limpichati (Mrs), Consultant
D. de Vleeschauwer, Information Officer (Secretary of Steering Committee)

Organizing committees

Invitations, reception and protocol

Dong Qingsong, Chairperson
D. de Vleeschauwer
Kanokporn Chansomritkul (Ms)
Veena Tohsanguanpun (Ms)
Kanjerat Boonyamanop (Ms)
Vishnu Songkitti
Nawarat Chalermpao (Ms)
Chanrit Uawongkun
Adosirn Chanprapalert
Sataya Paengpong
Tess Rattana-Areeyagon (Ms)
Jaruwan Thananimit (Ms)
Phavinee Tithipan (Ms)
Bongkoch Prasanakarn (Ms)
Aruneeprapa Peansanong (Ms)
Chatreudee Wilkie (Ms)
Monpilai Youyen (Ms)
Jintana Anunacha (Ms)
Duangporn Sritulanondh (Ms)
Kanerng Kamuthavanich
Pannee Sophannakorn (Ms)
Sunee Hormjunya (Ms)
Thamrongsak Techatadakul
Suthep Rakpanyakaew
Veravat Hongskul (MC)

Officers for the outstanding farmers:

Pijush Saha, Darmo Suparmo, S.L. Kang, Purushottam Mudbharry, Prphas Weerapat
Best school: Nongnuch Tuntawiroon

Liaison with Thai government

Dong Qingsong, Chairperson
Sri Limpichati (Mrs)
D. de Vleeschauwer
Prphas Weerapat

Logistics

N.M. Hla, Chairperson
Pravet Awachanakarn
Wichai Nomkhumtode
Pensri Yujang (Ms)
Prasert Huatsawat
Catering

Limpichati (Mrs), Chairperson
Chainarong Palaprasert

Media, publications and photographs

D. de Vleeschauwer, Chairperson
Apinya Petcharat (Ms)
Kanokporn Chansomritkul (Ms)
Prayoon Amari
M. Uniyal (consultant)
Vicky Suntonvipart (consultant)

Annex 4 - List of publications distributed

- 2001 WFD information note
- 2001 WFD book mark
- 2001 WFD post card
- 2001 WFD poster
- TeleFood 2001 pamphlet
- TeleFood projects pamphlet
- WFS: fyl pamphlet
- Brochure FAO what it is
· Brochure *RAP fighting hunger in Asia-Pacific*

· RAP publication *Selected Indicators*

· Reforming FAO

· SOFI 2001

· Address by H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

· Message by the FAO Director-General

· Address by ADG/RR

· Keynote speech by William D Dar