



**ACCELERATING**  
**THE END OF HUNGER**  
**AND MALNUTRITION**  
— A GLOBAL EVENT —



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

28–30 November 2018 | Bangkok, Thailand





# Why should we accelerate progress?



The world pledged to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030, but we are far off track:

- Global progress against hunger and malnutrition is stagnating.
- Since 2015 the number of undernourished people has risen.
- Overweight, obesity, and associated diseases are surging.





## Perspectives on the challenges



“We are racing against time. We only have a maximum of 11 years to end hunger in the world by 2030.” **Inonge Wina**, *Vice President, Zambia*

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“Having a healthy and productive population requires putting appropriate policies that fight hunger and malnutrition at center stage.” **Édouard Ngirente**, *Prime Minister, Rwanda*

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“Dealing with hunger and [malnutrition] in isolation will not work if you don’t deal with poverty at the same time.” **Phouang Parisak**, *Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR*



## Perspectives on the opportunities




“When hunger and malnutrition is put to an end, the result is a blessed generation; a blessed generation for a blessed nation is my vision.” **Zinash Tayachew**, *First Lady of Ethiopia*

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“Agriculture, nutrition, and gender—these are all interconnected issues.... If you have a healthy mother, you will have a healthy child and a healthy nation.” **Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury**, *Speaker, Parliament, Bangladesh*

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“I am very optimistic that we can end hunger in the next 10 years, because all the ingredients for ending hunger are there.” **M. S. Swaminathan**, *Founder, Chairman and Chief Mentor, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation*






## Learning from country experiences



“It was not by chance that microcredit was conceptualized in Bangladesh. It is not by coincidence that Bangladesh discovered oral rehydration therapy.... What accounts for all of these impressive achievements? It is knowledge. Bangladesh has a history of investing in knowledge in its various forms.” **Akhter Ahmed**, *Country Representative, IFPRI, Bangladesh*

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“If we’re going to tackle the problem of hunger seriously, we must focus. And the programs that we craft will have to be focused on the poorest of the poor. It’s not good enough to have a general program of agricultural development.” **Newai Gebre-Ab**, *former Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ethiopia*






## Learning from country experiences



“We have been engaged with young people to incentivize them in agriculture.... They don’t produce typical crops—they focus on high-value commodities. They focus on fruits; they focus on vegetables; they focus on eggs.” **Gerardine Mukeshimana**, *Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda*

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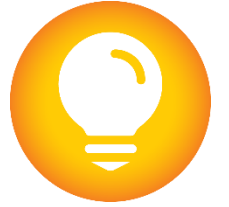
“What we did in Chile was put labels on the front of the packaging.... There can be up to four labels: high in salt, high in fat, high in sugar, high in calories.... If a food has even one black label, you can’t advertise on the internet or on television.” **Guido Girardi**, *Senator and President of the Commission of Health and Commission of Future Challenges, Chile*





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# Exploiting new technologies and other innovations

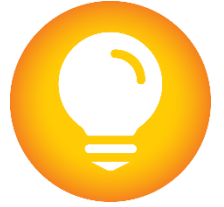


- Innovation is needed to drive progress, but it requires investment and an enabling environment.
- Transformative technologies include, among others:
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Blockchain
  - Genomics
  - E-commerce
  - Alternative proteins



## THEMES

# Addressing hunger and undernutrition



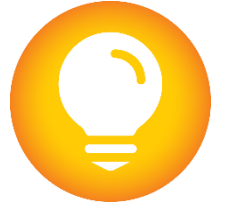
- 2 billion people lack key micronutrients, 151 million children are stunted, and 51 million children are wasted.
  
- Solutions include, for instance:
  - Increased smallholder productivity and climate resilience
  - Diversified food production
  - Food fortification
  - Biofortification
  - Social protection
  - Nutrition education and behavior change communication





## THEMES

# Addressing overweight and obesity

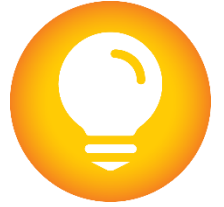


- 2 billion adults worldwide are overweight or obese. Unhealthy diets and noncommunicable diseases are the biggest causes of disease and death in the 21st century.
  
- Solutions include:
  - Diversified agriculture production
  - Healthier diets
  - Nutrition education and behavior change communication
  - More affordable healthy foods
  - Regulation and nutrition labeling
  - Use of healthy foods in public institutions
  - Research on nonstaple crops



## THEMES

# Building healthy urban food systems

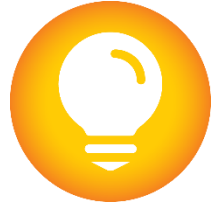


- By 2050, city dwellers will account for 67% of the world population.
- Cities are home to both undernutrition and rising overweight and obesity. To address both conditions, accelerators need to do double duty.
- Solutions include:
  - More affordable safe and nutritious foods
  - Supportive actions by local governments, including social protection
  - Inclusive economic growth
  - Behavior change communication promoting healthy diets



## THEMES

# Coping with challenges

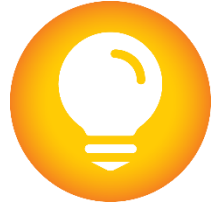


- A range of efforts will be needed to address the challenges to acceleration:
  - Promotion of resilient development to cope with conflict and natural disasters
  - Multisectoral engagement that brings together all stakeholders, including the private sector
  - Incentives for diversified agricultural production—in particular, production of underutilized and neglected species
  - Incentives for processors and retailers to supply healthy foods
  - More and better data—and a willingness to act in the absence of perfect data
  - Scaling up of small-scale actions shown to work
  - Strengthened governance at all levels



## THEMES

# Enhancing the return on investment



- Even though actions to address undernutrition have a high benefit-cost ratio, investment in nutrition is low.
- Solutions include:
  - Innovative, domestic, and local sources of financing
  - Public funding that leverages private investment
  - Multisectoral investments
  - Efficient and effective use of existing investments



## Where do we go from here?



“The power of nutrition ... applies to whole nations, as more and more political leaders realize that their human capital is so much greater if their population is well nourished.”


**David Nabarro**, *Curator, Food System Dialogues*

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“Our generation is better positioned than any other generation before us to address the challenge of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. We have the knowledge and the tools to take action.” **Kostas Stamoulis**, *Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

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“We must use nutrition as an opportunity to transform agriculture, an opportunity to promote economic growth, an opportunity to improve human capital.” **Shenggen Fan**, *Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute*





## About the conference

- 5 plenary and 6 parallel sessions over 3 days
- More than 650 participants from over 65 countries and 6 continents, 119 speakers
- Welcome and keynote addresses from country leaders including
  - **Inonge Wina**, Vice President, Zambia
  - **Édouard Ngirente**, Prime Minister, Rwanda
  - **Zinash Tayachew**, First Lady, Ethiopia
  - **Grisada Boonrach**, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
- Launch of FAO publications: *Dynamic Development, Shifting Demographics, Changing Diets and Future Smart Foods*
- Launch of *Global Nutrition Report 2018*
- More than 30 side events, plus an Acceleration Fair and Future Smart Food Fair



## Resources and media

For complete coverage of the conference:

<https://www.ifpri-faobangkokconference.org/>

[Speaker videos and presentations](#)

[Side events](#)

[E-posters](#)

[Video contest](#)

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