

Kontrolleres mot fremføring

We must end hunger and malnutrition. This ambitious and achievable target must be a backbone of the post 2015 development agenda.

If we are to succeed we need simultaneously to:

- Increase the availability of sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the needs of a population of 9 billion by 2050.
- Reduce income inequality and persistent social inequities within countries so that all citizens - women, men, girls and boys - have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, and that equal access to productive resources is secured.
- Promote robust food systems based on sustainable intensification of production.
- We need to respond to a changing climate in the way we manage agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Addressing the structural causes of poverty is at the core of these challenges. Democratic institutions are fundamental for the promotion of social equity and a fair distribution of wealth. The Norwegian government is committed to include equality and inclusive growth as key components in its international cooperation.

How should we respond to these challenges, and how can FAO contribute? I want to focus on the following three main messages:

Firstly - Food security and nutrition based on the human right to adequate food is a prerequisite for development. Hungry people are denied their most basic human needs and the ability to ensure their own well-being.

Empowerment of small-scale food producers is key. They are the main investors in agricultural development; and need access to secure and predictable tenure, economic resources and other production inputs, training and extension services. Rural institutions must promote inclusive growth. Producer organizations and cooperatives have important

roles to play. FAO should continue to promote favourable conditions for inclusive producer organizations and cooperatives.

Secondly - Gender equality is essential for development and the fight to end hunger and malnutrition. This is one of many good reasons why achieving full gender equality and empowerment of women is at the top of Norway's political priorities. Gender equality and empowerment of women need to be a core theme in the post 2015 agenda.

FAO has brought ample evidence of how the lack of gender equality hampers agricultural productivity and negatively affects food security and the livelihoods of rural populations. It is time we move from the why gender equality and women's empowerment to the how to achieve it. In this respect we commend FAO for its gender policy, and for the intention to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in each of the Strategic Objectives. However, we do miss clearer evidence of FAO's ability to implement the policy. We encourage FAO to compensate for this in the actions plans and results framework to be developed.

Last – but not least – climate change and degradation of the natural resource base pose unprecedented challenges to food security. Natural resources are under severe pressure due to unsustainable management practices, climate change and growing demand. FAO must promote sustainable management of natural resources.

A good example is the on-going work on the global guidelines for small scale fisheries development and the combat against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. FAO also has a crucial role in shaping global forest policies and must continue the important work for the development of sustainable forest management. FAO's work on genetic resources for food security is crucial. I would encourage all to support the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Let me conclude by underlining Norway's continued support to and belief in the UN system. The UN should play a key role in upholding and promoting a rule-based international order, which in turn promotes peace, development and human rights.

FAO and the other Rome-based agencies have crucial roles to play in these endeavours. A world free of hunger is indeed an important part of the future we want.