

Media Update

21 October 2016

FAO

Press Release

**FAO celebrates World Food Day
with the theme
“Climate is changing. Food and Agriculture must too.”**

A ceremony was held at the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC) in Islamabad to mark the World Food Day. The theme for World Food Day this year is “Climate is changing. Food and Agriculture must too.”

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan was the chief guest at the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion Minister Bosan said: “There is an immense pressure on natural resources and environment due to intensification of crop and livestock sectors in order to feed ever growing population in the country. As a result, we are experiencing rapid ground water depletion, watersheds degradation, desertification, deforestation and rangelands deterioration.”

He also said that that in the draft food security policy document of the Ministry, ample focus has been given to crop diversification, climate change, natural disasters, and zero hunger program

Mr. Patrick T. Evans, FAO Representative in Pakistan also addressed the ceremony. He said

“We need to mitigate the damage we are doing to our climate. There is a need to adapt our food and agriculture system to new realities of climate change. There is a long road ahead but with collaboration we can make the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals a reality in Pakistan.”

He also read out a message from Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva, Director General FAO.



Seven farmers including four women farmers were given cash awards of Rs.50,000 each for adopting climate smart agricultural practices.

An exhibition was also arranged that showcased the research that is being done in Pakistan in the agriculture sector.

Various organizations including Ministry of National Food Security Research, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and Oxfam came together to organize the event.

Background

FAO celebrates World Food Day each year to commemorate the founding of Organization in 1945. Events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. Rising temperatures, changes in rainfall, erratic weather patterns and the prevalence of pests and diseases resulting from climate change threaten agricultural productivity and therefore undermine global food security.

Simultaneously, the world's population is growing steadily and expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. To meet this growing demand, agriculture and food systems must adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and become more resilient, productive and sustainable. In celebration of this year's World Food Day theme '**Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too,**' here are **7 facts** around climate change

1. Livestock contributes to nearly two thirds of agriculture greenhouse gas(GHG) emissions, and 78% of agricultural methane emissions
2. Climate Change's negative impact on natural resources underlines the increasing importance of using these resources sustainably
3. FAO estimates that agricultural production must rise by about 60% by 2050 in order to feed a larger population.
4. Over 1/3 of food produced worldwide is lost or wasted. That amounts to about 1.3 billion tons per year.
5. By 2050 catches of main fish species are expected to decline by up to 40% in the tropics, where livelihoods, food and nutrition security strongly depend on the fisheries sector.
6. Deforestation and forest degradation account for an estimated 10-11 % of global GHG emissions
7. The world aims to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030; climate change is a challenge that must be addressed in order to continue the fight hunger and achieve this goal.

United Nations

Secretary-General Message

UNITED NATIONS DAY

24 October 2016

This year's observance of United Nations Day occurs at a time of transition for the world and for the United Nations.

Humanity has entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, the Organization's 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet.

The world is also moving at long last beyond the mindset which viewed the burning of fossil fuels as the path to prosperity. At a time of record heat, Member States have embraced the Paris Agreement on climate change in record time. This landmark measure will enter into force on 4 November. Across that historic threshold lies our best chance for greener, cleaner, low-carbon growth.

The United Nations is also in transition, from its eighth Secretary-General to the ninth. I have been honoured to serve “we the peoples” for the past ten years. Together, we have put in place some solid foundations for shared progress – which we must build on by working even harder to empower women, engage youth and uphold human rights for all. But we have also suffered enormous heartbreak -- including unresolved conflicts causing immense suffering throughout the troubled Middle East, South Sudan, the Sahel and beyond. On these and other frontlines of violence and disaster, courageous UN staff continue to rise to the occasion and respond to the plight of the vulnerable.

I thank people across the world for their support -- and urge all to give their full backing to Secretary-General-designate Antonio Guterres in continuing our global mission of peace, sustainable development and human rights.



UNDP

Press Release

UNDP appoints new Country Director for Pakistan

20 October 2016, Islamabad—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan is pleased to announce the appointment and arrival of its new Country Director, Mr. Ignacio Artaza.

Mr. Artaza has spent his professional career working in international development. Prior to his assignment in Pakistan, he served as Country Director of UNDP in Egypt, a position he has held since 2013. In this capacity, he oversaw the design and implementation of job creation for youth and women empowerment initiatives, as well as capacity building for administrative reforms and a vast climate change and biodiversity programme.

He has served the United Nations in various capacities since 1999. He was a Management Advisor at UNDP Headquarters in New York, Deputy Resident Representative at UNDP Moldova, Programme Specialist at UNDP Sudan and Programme Officer at UNDP in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. He is also a highly experienced SURGE advisor, which qualifies him to advise country offices in crisis situations.

He worked in emergency relief operations with Doctors Without Borders in Ecuador, Iran and Mozambique prior to working with UNDP.

He is a Spanish national and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Institut Supérieur de Gestion (Paris), and a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs from Miami University.

Mr. Artaza will lead the UNDP team in Pakistan, supporting the federal and provincial governments in achieving their development goals, notably the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Pakistan is a fascinating country. I look forward to working with the UNDP team and Government and people of Pakistan to develop and support nationally-driven solutions to poverty reduction and improving livelihoods and resilience" said Mr. Artaza.





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