

AFRICA'S
GREEN
REVOLUTION
A call to action



Innovative Approaches to Meet The Hunger Millennium Development Goal in Africa

Overview

Two hundred million of the world's hungry people live in Africa. Recognizing that a “business as usual” approach will not meet the needs of these people, on July 5th, 2004 an extraordinary group of African Heads of State and Government, ministers, world leaders, hunger experts and development specialists gathered at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Their purpose: to share practical, innovative solutions to cut by half the number of hungry and malnourished people in Africa by 2015.

The highlight of the day was a powerful call to action by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan: *“Given the right kind of national and international assistance, Africa can achieve the 21st Century Green Revolution it needs. So let us show the meaning of global solidarity. Let us all do our part to help Africa’s farmers and their families take the first steps out of chronic poverty and to help societies to make a decisive move towards balanced and sustainable development. Let us generate a uniquely African green revolution – a revolution that is long overdue, a revolution that will help the continent in its quest for dignity and peace. And let us never again allow needless hunger to ravage lives and the future of the continent.”*

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and the United Nations Millennium Project Hunger Task Force formally convened this special high level meeting, and in addition to the UN Secretary-General they were joined by such luminaries as Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Millennium Project and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General; Chair of the African Union Commission, H.E. Joaquim Alberto Chissano; H.E. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chair of the African Union; Professor Wiseman Nkulu, Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee; H.E. Jacques Diouf, Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization; Dr. Sheila Sisulu, Deputy Executive Director of

¹ Halving hunger by 2015 is one of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by UN member states in 2000 to reduce global poverty. The Millennium Project, led by Professor Sachs, is charged with advising United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on strategies to achieve these goals, which address poverty, hunger, education, health, gender, environment, water, urban development, international trade, and science and technology policy.

There is no reason why people today should be starving. We know what needs to be done and how to do it. What we need is the political will to transform that knowledge into action on the ground.

Jeffrey Sachs
Director of the
Millennium Project

the World Food Programme; Mr. Abdoulie Janneh UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, and Dr. Pedro Sanchez, 2003 World Food Prize Laureate and co-chair of the Hunger Task Force. Presidents of seven African nations personally participated in the day-long seminar; a number of whom presented their countries' action plans to fight hunger. Over 500 representatives of civil society, the private sector and the international donor community also took part in the event.

The Hunger Task Force has developed an overall strategy to overcome hunger that includes restoring budgetary priority to agriculture as an engine of economic growth, empowering women, and promoting community-based hunger-reduction actions that will boost agricultural production, improve nutrition, develop rural markets and infrastructure, and promote environmental sustainability.

"It is my earnest hope" stated Prime Minister Meles, "that all those who need to be mobilized will be made to realize how crucial the task that lies ahead is, and that they will be made equally aware about the real possibilities for defeating hunger, provided that, among other things, we achieve an effective global partnership. Here, one can be hopeful that there is a real possibility for making significant progress".

"There is no reason why people today should be starving," says Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Millennium Project. "We know what needs to be done and how to do it. What we need is the political will to transform that knowledge into action on the ground. No rich-country citizen has to compromise his or her standard of living in order to end extreme hunger. It makes perfect sense for the world's rich countries to pitch in the tiny percentage of their wealth necessary to solve this problem."

This publication contains a number of the key presentations that were made during the seminar, beginning with the welcoming remarks of Prime Minister Meles and ending with a synthesis of the seminar outcomes ("The Way Forward"). The printed document is supported by an interactive CD-ROM (see the inside back cover) that contains the entire proceedings,

including presentations as captured on video, PowerPoint programs, field videos demonstrating some of the practical solutions for cutting hunger and improving farm productivity, and hyperlinks to an array of websites where additional information relevant to hunger in Africa can be found.



Source: Lisa Dreier

Over 500 representatives of civil society, the private sector and the international donor community took part in the July 5th hunger seminar.



Source: ICRAF

Welcome Address

His Excellency Meles Zenawi

Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

*Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Excellency, Professor Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the
African Union Commission,
Excellencies, Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I would like to welcome you all to Addis Ababa for this important day-long seminar on a topic which we all know is critical for hundreds of millions of Africans. I thank each and every one of you for being here and for your kind acceptance of our invitation to join us in this seminar, the objective of which is to explore “Innovative Approaches to Meet the Hunger Millennium Development Goal in Africa.”

Excellencies:

Among the very many things that can be said about this Seminar, there are two or three that stand out for special attention. In the first place, this is a seminar at which we plan to focus on practical innovations that have produced results, or those which, if put into practice, could have a significant impact in terms of our attempts to meet the Hunger MDG in Africa. In other words, we are looking for solutions that work – free of ideological encumbrances. The focus is on innovation and on solutions, both in terms of policy and in the technical arena. Secondly, by no means is this seminar unrelated to a number of initiatives and activities that have been undertaken earlier in the fight against poverty and hunger, including by many who are participating in this event.

The two World Food Summits and their results— in particular the good work being done by the International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) – are sources of support and experience that we need to draw upon. It would be remiss of me if I were to fail to mention in this regard the meeting on “Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa By 2020”, held earlier this year in Kampala and organized by the Government of Uganda and

This seminar is conceived to focus on specific and concrete examples of successful technical and institutional approaches to tackling the challenges of hunger and food security. I have no doubt that it will help to strengthen the solidarity between Africa and its friends and partners in eradicating hunger and poverty from our continent.

H. E. Ato Addisu Legesse
Deputy Prime Minister
of Ethiopia



Source: United Nations

H. E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, meeting with Secretary-General Kofi Annan during the high-level seminar.

the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The Conference focused on very relevant issues for assuring food and nutritional security, on prioritizing our actions, on strengthening the many actors who must be involved, and on facilitating partnerships.

Excellencies:

I should also mention here the promising initiative which is being developed by NEPAD, represented by its Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) for which I wish to commend FAO and its Director-General for their support. Of course, most of what we aspire to do within the context of this Seminar is inextricably linked with the excellent work being done by the UN Hunger Task Force, under the stewardship of Professor Jeffrey Sachs, whose support and friendship has been critical in this and in other areas. No doubt we remain indebted, on this and on other matters, to Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. We thank him for having taken the lead and, I might add, for having made this seminar possible.

The Secretary General's continuing support will be even more indispensable in terms of the third element that this Seminar will highlight – the need for an effective global partnership based on practical commitment to the poor. It is my earnest hope that all those who need to be mobilized will be made to realize how crucial the task that lies ahead is, and that they will be made equally aware about the real possibilities for defeating hunger, provided that, among other things, we achieve an effective global partnership. Here, one can be hopeful that there

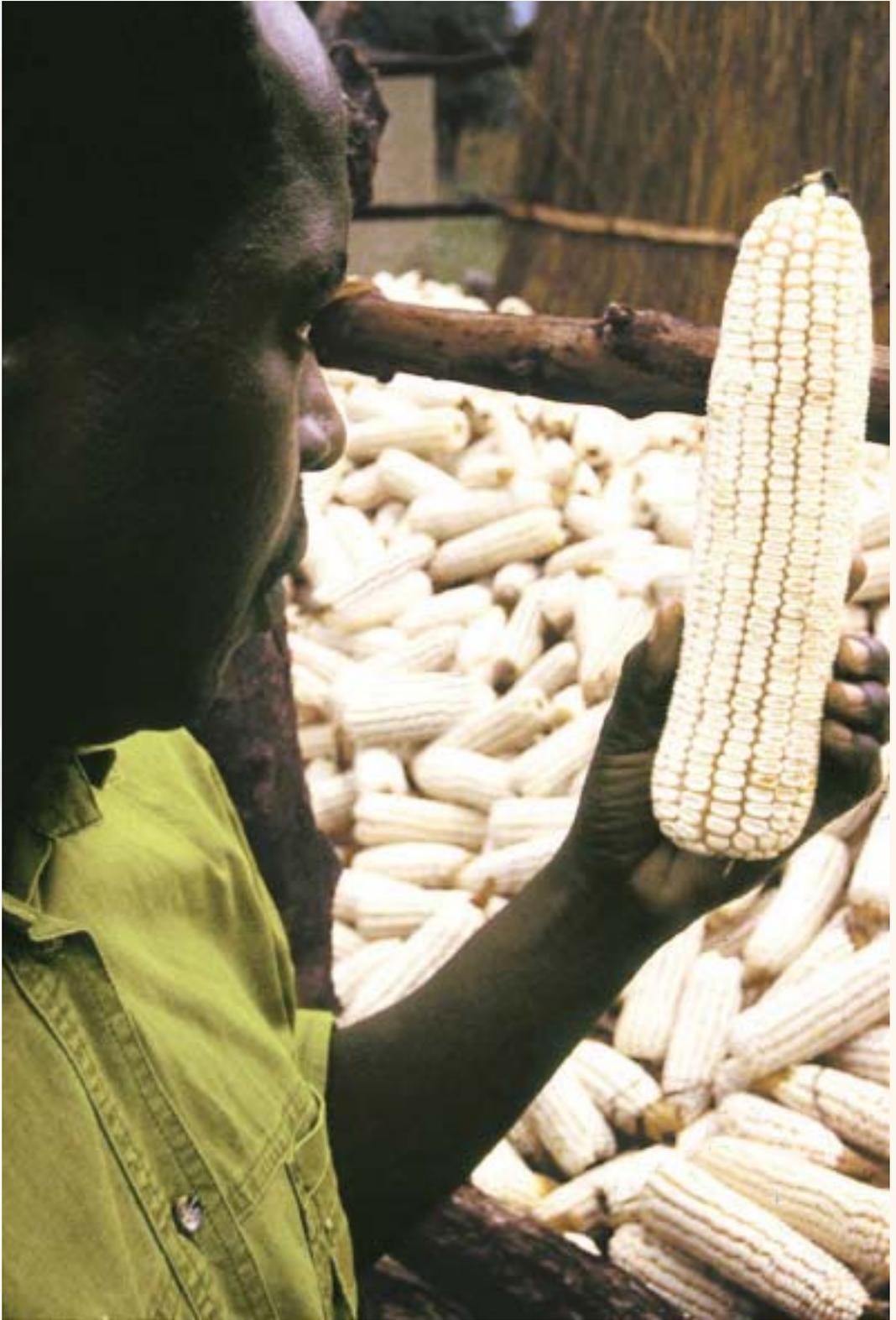
is a real possibility for making significant progress in strengthening the global partnership for meeting the Hunger MDG in Africa, including the contributions that could be made by the recently established Commission for Africa. The fact that the UK will be at the helm of both the G8 and the EU in 2005 could present a welcome opportunity for linking the issues of global security, development, and the fight against poverty which was highlighted in the G8 Summit this year. The Commission for Africa can greatly facilitate the creation of an enhanced global partnership for meeting the Hunger MDG in Africa, and do so in a manner consistent with the principles and objectives of NEPAD.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my earnest hope that this Seminar will take us, as our Deputy Prime Minister said, one step closer to achieving the Hunger MDG in Africa. I wish all of us a successful deliberation and, to those who have come from outside Ethiopia, an enjoyable stay in Addis Ababa.



Source: Minkot D., FAO library



Source: CIMMYT

Africa's Commitment to Achieve the Hunger MDG

His Excellency Joaquim Alberto Chissano

*President of the Republic of Mozambique and
Chairman of the African Union*

Your Excellency, the Prime Minister Meles

*Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government of the
African Union*

Your Excellency, Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

*Your Excellency Alpha Oumar, Chairman of the African
Union Commission*

Your Excellency Jacques Diouf, Director General, FAO

*Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the United Nations
Secretary-General*

and Director of the Millennium Project

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity given to me to address this important seminar on Agricultural Development and Food Security. The theme for this seminar is of fundamental importance for the sustainable development of the African continent. I would like, therefore, to congratulate the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the African Union, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the Millennium Project – co-organizers of this event— for their initiative, which offers us a unique opportunity to discuss the best ways and means for agricultural development and ensuring food security for the whole continent.

Excellencies:

A recent Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report on the state of agriculture and food security in Africa shows that agriculture contributes about 17% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It employs 57% of the labour force and it represents 11% of exports. However, in the last 40 years Africa is the only continent where average per capita food production has been constantly decreasing. The low levels of production and productivity in Africa are due mainly to low levels of

In the last 40 years, Africa is the only continent where average per capita food production has been constantly decreasing... An integrated approach to agriculture and other development factors has become an imperative.

H.E. Joaquim Alberto Chissano
President of the Republic of Mozambique
and Chairman of the African Union

investment in the sector, to the deficient access of our products to advanced technology and to markets, as well as the effects of natural disasters. This set of constraints results in high rates of poverty and food insecurity. Indeed, about 26% of the population of the continent lives in a situation of chronic malnutrition.

This grave situation has prompted us to adopt, at the Second Ordinary Summit of the African Union, the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, which embraces the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under NEPAD in which we committed ourselves to allocating at least 10% of our budgets to agriculture.

In our search for solutions for the challenge of development in Africa we should always bear in mind the CAADP approach, a programme that addresses the main challenges of agriculture in the continent. CAADP has four pillars:

- 1) The expansion of areas of production through the sustainable management of the land and the improvement of water control systems in order to reduce the dependence on rain;



H.E. Joaquim Alberto Chissano (right) President of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairman of the African Union, meeting with Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Source: United Nations?

- 2) The improvement of rural infrastructure and market access in order to reduce transaction costs and offer greater competitiveness to agriculture;
- 3) The improvement of national and regional agricultural production, aiming at attaining food security; and
- 4) The improvement of research systems and the creation of new agricultural technologies – ensuring their dissemination and use by rural producers with a view to achieving more sustainability of agricultural development in the continent.

These four pillars are undertaken together with concrete actions in animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries, as well as in improving strategies for natural disasters management, including emergency responses. In order to reinforce our commitment, during the Extraordinary Summit, we decided to discuss in greater depth the development of agriculture in an integrated manner with water, placing major focus on the need for investment in water management infrastructure.

It is encouraging to note the progress our countries and regions are making in implementing these decisions of the Heads of States and Government of the African Union. Since the adoption of the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, various actions have been carried out to promote CAADP's approach, including at ministerial level meetings on agriculture. As a result of these meetings, in which regional economic communities and regional financial institutions, United Nations agencies, and peasant organizations participated, we can proudly say that we have now established the CAADP Support Group.

This Group has contributed significantly to the sensitisation of countries for the allocation of more financial resources to agriculture, which is now a reality within the limitations each of our countries face. On the other hand, through the FAO, funds were allocated to African countries to finance the identification and preparation of bankable projects with the necessary feasibility and competitiveness to attract the involvement of our partners. We are happy to see that, in most countries, the bankable projects have already been formulated and submitted to the NEPAD Implementation Committee, while in other countries the process is in the final stages of preparation and harmonization with the regional approach within NEPAD. We

We are conscious of the fact that our fight against poverty and hunger will not succeed if we do not pull our efforts together towards preventing and controlling endemic diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, whose negative impact in agriculture and food security is unquestionable.

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President of the Republic of Mozambique
and Chairman of the African Union

may also refer to the example of the holding, last May, of the Extraordinary Summit of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) on Agriculture and Food Security, which approved a Plan of Action in order to accelerate the implementation of the CAADP. The challenges posed by the fight against hunger in the continent should be translated into concrete programmes in each of our countries, with the participation of all relevant actors through partnerships between government and civil society organizations.

In the case of Mozambique, since 1999 we have been implementing a national agriculture programme, known as the PROAGRI. This Programme is based on a partnership between the government, civil society, and development partners aiming at improving the agriculture framework and food security in the country. The PROAGRI vision rests on four pillars: access to land, access to technology, access to markets, and access to credit. These pillars are in keeping with those of the CAADP.

The actions taken under PROAGRI are multidisciplinary in nature, in terms of their reach and integration of diverse actors. They are based on the general framework of NEPAD for the development of agriculture in Africa. With the experience of PROAGRI, which enters into its second phase in January 2005, we have made it possible to look at agriculture in a different way, focusing on planning and defining priorities by the public sector together with the private sector, the peasants, and development partners.

This programme has already produced positive results and it has merited the appreciation of our cooperating partners, thus encouraging us to forge ahead. From 2000 to 2004, agriculture has contributed more than 30% to the Gross Domestic Product, with a rise in the national production of basic cereals from 56% to 78%. Food aid has dropped from 44% to 5%, which has made the country a success story in the reduction of dependence on food aid in Southern Africa. We may say, therefore, that we have in PROAGRI an effective and sound partnership between the Mozambican Government and about thirty active international partners. PROAGRI is indeed improving our agriculture and consequently the living standards of our rural populations.



Source: ICRAF

"The burden is borne by all in society, but women are on the frontlines." – Kofi Annan.

Excellencies:

Certainly, all the countries present here have experiences worth sharing. These are the initiatives that will make a difference and will add value to the implementation of NEPAD. We need to understand the approach and the implementation mechanisms of our programmes in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We are conscious of the fact that our fight against poverty and hunger will not succeed if we do not pull our efforts together towards preventing and controlling endemic diseases – especially HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis – whose negative impacts on agriculture and food security are unquestionable.

An integrated approach to agriculture and other development factors has become an imperative. We therefore consider it important that the initiative of holding this Seminar is a result of a partnership among African Governments, the United Nations and the African Union. We may thus maximize the comparative advantages of each partner. We hope that this Seminar produces concrete contributions for the integrated development of agriculture and food security in Africa.



Source: United Nations

Africa's Green Revolution: A Call to Action

His Excellency Kofi Annan

United Nations Secretary-General

*Prime Minister Meles,
President Konare,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

We are here together to discuss one of the most serious problems on earth: the plague of hunger that has blighted hundreds of millions of African lives – and will continue to do so unless we act with greater purpose and urgency.

The numbers are all too familiar. Nearly a third of the men, women and children in sub-Saharan Africa are severely undernourished. Africa is the only continent where child malnutrition is getting worse rather than better. This chronic hunger does far more than inflict terrible suffering.

Tragically, the past decade has seen very little progress in reducing hunger in Africa. For dozens of countries, the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger by the year 2015 seems more a far-off fantasy than an achievable target. Moreover, the AIDS pandemic is exacerbating the hunger crisis by robbing Africa of future generations of farmers. In Africa, fighting AIDS and fighting hunger must go hand in hand.

But we have not come here to rattle off statistics or recount our collective failures. We are here to discuss a way forward. We are here as part of the movement for the rural and agricultural transformation of our beloved continent.

Excellencies:

Hunger is a complex crisis. To solve it we must address the interconnected challenges of agriculture; health; nutrition; adverse and unfair market conditions; weak infrastructure; and environmental degradation.

In Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, a green revolution tripled food productivity and helped lift hundreds of millions out of hunger. Africa has not yet had a green revolution of its own.

This is partly because the scientific breakthroughs that worked so well in Asia are not directly applicable to Africa. Here, we produce a wide and different variety of food crops. African farmers use a wide variety of farming systems and depend largely on rain-fed agriculture rather than irrigation, leaving them vulnerable to climatic shocks. Africa's farmers also face much higher transport costs. The soils on which they toil have become severely depleted of nutrients. Erosion, deforestation, and biodiversity loss also take a toll. As Norman Borlaug, the father of the Asian Green Revolution, once said, "No man can be an environmentalist with an empty stomach."

The burden is borne by all of society, but women are on the frontlines. Women do the lion's share of Africa's farming. It is they who grow, process and prepare the continent's food. It is they who gather water and wood. It is they who care for people suffering from HIV/AIDS. Yet women lack adequate access to the credit, technology, training, and services. They are also denied legal rights, including of all things, the right to own land.

Africa's women and girls also suffer disproportionately in terms of nutrition, and often after marrying early, they give birth to low weight babies because they themselves are undernourished. The net result is that the plight of poverty and disease is carried forward to the next generation.

We are here today to end this pattern, and to ensure that Africa's children enjoy a different inheritance.

Excellencies:

The world has fallen terribly short in implementing the Plan of Action adopted at the World Food Summit in 1996. Africa in particular has been unable to break free of recurring hunger crises. That is why I have challenged the world's scientists and scholars to give us their ideas, innovations and intensity, and called on them to rally around the cause of food security and agricultural development in Africa. Today, as various

Hunger is a complex crisis. To solve it we must address the interconnected challenges of agriculture; health; nutrition; adverse and unfair market conditions; weak infrastructure; and environmental degradation.

H.E. Kofi Annan
United Nations
Secretary-General

stakeholders present their proposals, we can begin to see the fruits of their labours.

Two years ago, I called on the InterAcademy Council to come up with a plan for preventing famines and eliminating hunger for many millions of people in Africa. Last week, The Council put forward a powerful set of ideas that focus, in particular, on building strong scientific and technical institutions for agriculture – not as an afterthought, but as a strategic goal. The Council is also stressing the need, not for a single green revolution, but for a number of–“rainbow evolutions” to respond to a wide range of challenges. I urge you to listen closely to the Council’s presentation later today.

I also called on the formidable expertise of the United Nations Millennium Project’s Task Force on Hunger. Their recommendations are far reaching and refreshingly concrete.

I have challenged the world’s scientists and scholars to give us their ideas, innovations and intensity, and called on them to rally around the cause of food security and agricultural development in Africa.

H.E. Kofi Annan
United Nations
Secretary-General



Source: MDG Centre

Given the right kind of national and international assistance, Africa can achieve the 21st Century Green Revolution it needs.

H.E. Kofi Annan
United Nations
Secretary-General

They call on countries to adopt national action plans consisting of six main components:

- Improving agricultural productivity;
- Enhancing nutrition;
- Promoting market access;
- Restoring degraded farming landscapes;
- Empowering women; and
- Increasing spending on agriculture.

These initiatives and their recommendations are fully in step with the approach endorsed by the World Food Summit, which calls for long-term agricultural and rural development and short-term help for the needy. Perhaps most importantly, they are not wishful thinking. Quite the contrary – they are the product of rigorous analysis and experience.

Given the right kind of national and international assistance, Africa can achieve the 21st Century Green Revolution it needs. What would such a revolution look like?

- We would see proven techniques in small-scale irrigation and water harvesting scaled up to provide “more crop per drop”;
- We would see improved food crops developed through publicly-funded research focused specifically on Africa;
- We would see soil health restored through agroforestry techniques and organic and mineral fertilizers;
- Electrification and access to information technologies such as cell phones would increase rural productivity;
- Homegrown school feeding programs would provide nutritionally balanced meals, further stimulating demand from local farmers;
- And social safety nets, from grain reserves to early warning systems, would protect the most vulnerable.

This list could of course go on. But taken one by one, such solutions are bound to remain inadequate. It makes little sense to help with soils and water, while leaving impoverished villages without improved roads, energy or seeds. And few productivity improvements will be achieved if soils are healthy but farm families continue to die of preventable and treatable diseases

such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, and remain vulnerable to economic shocks and natural disasters.

We must also not shy away from considering the potential of biotechnology, which can contribute significantly to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, but which must be developed judiciously and with adequate and transparent safety measures.

Success will require each African government to commit itself wholeheartedly to the Millennium Development Goals by developing national strategies consistent with the time-line targets of 2015.

We will need more convincing action from the developed countries to support these strategies, in particular by phasing out harmful trade practices, by providing technical assistance, and by increasing both the volume of aid to levels consistent with the Goals and the percentage invested in agriculture, which is half of what it was two decades ago, as promised in the Monterrey Consensus and elsewhere.

And we will need close partnerships with the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), civil society, private sector and, of course, African farmers.

Success will require a political breakthrough. As today's presentations will show, knowledge is not lacking. The basic policy directions are well established and widely accepted. What is lacking, as ever, is the will to turn this knowledge into practice.

So let us show the meaning of global solidarity. Let us all do our part to help Africa's farmers and their families take the first steps out of chronic poverty and to help societies to make a decisive move towards balanced and sustainable development. Let us generate a uniquely African green revolution'— a revolution that is long overdue, a revolution that will help the continent in its quest for dignity and peace. And let us never again allow needless hunger to ravage lives and the future of the continent.

I pledge the full support of the United Nations System, and I thank all those who have worked to make today's event possible, including the Government and people of Ethiopia, who have welcomed us so warmly into their midst.

So let us show the meaning of global solidarity... Let us generate a uniquely African green revolution'— a revolution that is long overdue, a revolution that will help the continent in its quest for dignity and peace.

H.E. Kofi Annan
United Nations
Secretary-General



Source: World Agroforestry Centre

Peace and Stability to Achieve the Hunger MDG in Africa

His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare

Chair of the African Union Commission

Your Excellencies:

President Chissano of Mozambique,

President Museveni of Uganda,

Vice President Awori of Kenya,

President El-Bashir of Sudan,

President Compaoré of Burkina Faso,

President Touré of Mali,

Prime Minister Bérenger of Mauritius:

I would like to recognize you for your presence here, which is a sign of great leadership, the leadership that our continent needs so much today to support the international partnership that we are putting in place. Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations, you are always with us, to our pride and to our satisfaction.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to thank you and to congratulate his Excellency, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Meles Zenawi, for the great idea of inviting many strategic actors to a discussion of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the relationship between peace, stability and food security. Incidentally, your Excellency, the Prime Minister, your leadership commitment has been observed in the implementation of NEPAD and also in the great initiative that you took some months ago in the creation of a coalition for food security in Ethiopia. As you clearly know, for the coalition to be effective, and for the crucial technical and financial resources to be available, peace and security are essential in Ethiopia, as well as in the region and in the continent.

I would like to take this opportunity to indicate clearly to all our partners the importance of strongly supporting this coalition, which is a good example for Africa to follow. Support



Source: United Nations

Secretary-General Kofi Annan (left) being greeted by H. E. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chair of the Africa Union Commission.

for such coalitions cannot be conditional if Africa is to succeed in its fight against hunger.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The prospects for our continent are gloomy. Africa could be the only continent where hunger and poverty grows significantly in the next ten years if nothing is done, if wars and conflicts continue, if the environment continues to deteriorate, if poverty continues, if public aid for development remains insufficient and, finally, if decision-making bodies do not come together to save Africa from this vicious downward spiral. It is not my intention here to be unduly critical. However, it is not right to believe that the Millennium Development Goals, focused as they are on food security and other strategic areas, can be achieved without major, well-focused interventions aimed at bringing peace to the continent.

The impact of conflicts on food security is obvious to us. It is with that understanding that the Second Extraordinary Session of the African Union, held in February 2003, closely linked our policies on security and food security. That Session set up a democratic structure for peace, and for economic and social development.

The Act that created the African Union clearly indicates these links. The Council for Peace and Security was created precisely to help in conflict resolution. This Council has been in place since 25th May 2003. Regional forces representing the permanent African armed forces and the Council of Wise Men will be put in place very soon.

A continental early warning system is also being set up. This development will be in full harmony with the economic regional communities that are the backbone of the African Union.

We must act quickly to resolve current conflicts and avoid new ones. We must provide means and ways in our politics. The sad reality is that conflicts slow down the continent's economic and social development. This has badly compromised the capacity of some of our countries to become net food exporters. This vicious cycle is well known: insecurity stops production and shortages in production bring about further insecurity. The downward spiral starts and slowly destroys the ability of communities to absorb shocks, while traditional solidarity, which is a compensation mechanism within African societies, becomes weak. The present manifestation of the destruction of the food production process is reflected in the massive displacement of people, along with the economic and psychological consequences experienced by families, and particularly by women and children.

In 2002, UNHCR recorded 12,000,700 displaced people in Africa, plus 2,000,000 others who are not able to return to their countries of origin and need protection and food aid. This is wasted manpower that should be available for African agriculture.

The most recent illustration of this phenomenon is the Darfur conflict. The situation is difficult, and it could worsen unless we join hands to support the Sudanese Government effort to stop the militia action, and particularly the Andaoui Militia, for security to be re-established.

We must all support the action of the Sudanese Government to ensure that humanitarian organizations are able to carry out their work, to ensure that human rights are absolutely respected. We must support recent actions. I repeat: we must strongly support recent actions for the sake of

I am compelled to mention the chronic food deficiencies that are found in some agro-ecological zones of the continent, and the fact that wars and conflicts are often closely linked to these tragic circumstances.

H. E. Alpha Oumar
Konare
Chair of the African
Union Commission

humanitarianism. We must move beyond declarations if we want to avoid the deterioration of the situation in this region, in this big country, which is so important to the African continent.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am compelled to mention the chronic food deficiencies that are found in some agro-ecological zones of the continent, and the fact that wars and conflicts are often closely linked to these tragic circumstances. I believe that, in the face of all the misery that comes with wars and conflicts, Africa will not be able to meet the food production challenge it faces. The reconstruction costs in countries emerging from conflict consume funds that could have been used in longer term development projects.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

If Africa is solely responsible for its failures, miscalculations, and bad governance, which lead to extreme situations such as wars and conflicts, then Africa is also a continent that is often insufficiently helped. More often, Africa receives incorrect advice, becomes a victim of excessive competition, and most of the time is forced to negotiate under bad terms. Africa is too often subjected to short-term dictatorships.

This situation requires everybody's attention. This is why we are trying to promote, within the African Union Commission, an approach to human security that will enable us to carefully examine all aspects relating to the development of the continent. The concept of human security highlights a vision and a process of long-term planning, local resource exploitation, local practices and mandatory protection of the progress of science and technology. We must avoid emergency aid, which leads to indefinite food aid, although economic rationality means investing first in food production so that food aid dependency and fluctuation in food supplies can be minimized.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We do not intend to absolve Africa of guilt as far as its present situation is concerned. We must instead clearly define its responsibilities going forward, and also emphasize the need for developing effective partnerships between Africa and wealthy countries. At the individual level, what matters is the right of each human being to food, and at a larger scale, Africa's right to food sovereignty.

Africa could be the only continent where hunger and poverty grows significantly in the next ten years if nothing is done, if wars and conflicts continue...the Millennium Development Goals, focused as they are on food security and other strategic areas, cannot be achieved without major, well-focused interventions aimed at bringing peace to the continent.

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Konare
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Africa will remain a threat to itself and to others if it lacks the manpower that will allow it to become a productive member of the global community. In this respect, I would like to point out that a fundamental limitation to food production, stability and the development of the continent relate to health and sanitation. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, the devastating malaria epidemic, and the re-emergence of polio are matters of grave concern. I need not stress the damaging effects of AIDS and malaria on food production in rural areas.

The warning signal has been raised in many countries. The continent is in an emergency sanitary situation in many areas. It is important that Africa sets out means and ways to solve locally problems that are caused by AIDS and malaria. This can be achieved through the production of medicines in Africa that can cure our illnesses, without neglecting or minimizing the importance of prevention. We must guard our means of food production, and assure the survival of the continent; it is in fact an obligation we have to safeguard all humanity.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Africa must set up its own agenda and take its position in the world. Africa must find its own solution to its problems, a regional solution, indeed an African solution. Our survival depends on the integration and, to a large extent, on the advancement of the African Union. This can be seen in all areas, but more so in the realm of food security on the continent. The African Union can play a role in the creation of an African market for strategic food products – encouraging the movement of food from areas of surplus to areas of reduced production.

An integrated Africa will be an Africa that can easily feed its people, an Africa that is responsible. These are the political projects and programs that the emergency services of the African Union will be studying in the near future.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our belief is that a new Africa can be built, and the creation of this Africa, in which more solidarity, hard work and justice prevails, cannot wait. This Africa is the one that will bring a future without conflict, without hunger, and without refugees. I wish us all immense success.

A new Africa can be built, and the creation of this Africa, in which more solidarity, hard work and justice prevails, cannot wait. This Africa is the one that will bring a future without conflict, without hunger, and without refugees.

H. E. Alpha Omar
Konare
Chair of the African
Union Commission



Source: MDG Centre

Upholding International and National Commitments in the Fight Against Hunger

His Excellency Dr. Jacques Diouf

Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Your Excellency Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia

Your Excellency Joaquim Alberto Chissano, Chairman of the African Union

Your Excellencies, the Heads of State and Governments

Your Excellency Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN

Your Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairman of the African Union Commission

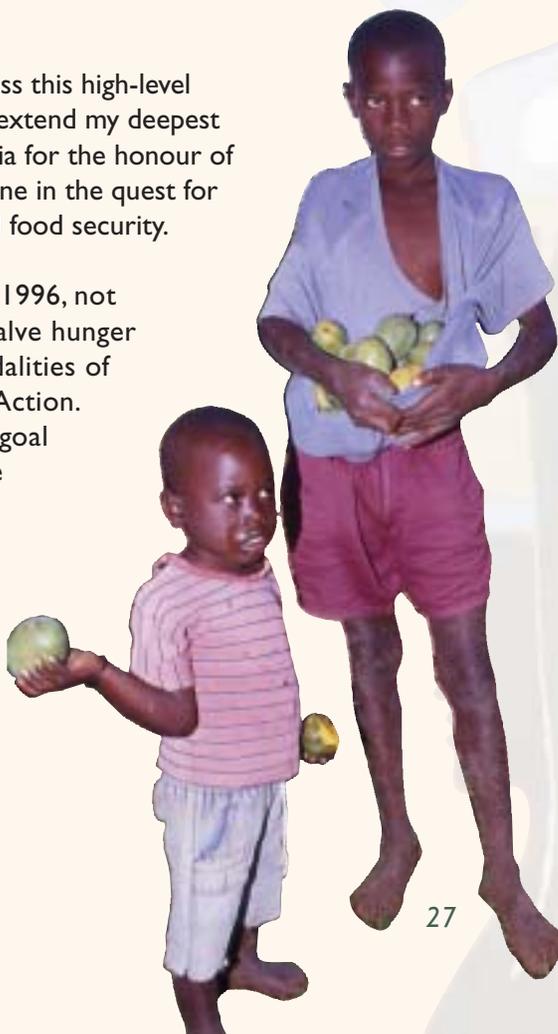
Professor Sachs

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me to address this high-level presidential seminar. I should like to extend my deepest thanks to the Government of Ethiopia for the honour of inviting me to this important milestone in the quest for African agricultural development and food security.

During the World Food Summit in 1996, not only did world leaders pledge to halve hunger by 2015, they also laid out the modalities of how to do this in the WFS Plan of Action. They are still valid today. The WFS goal became part of the first goal of the Millennium Declaration.

Facts and figures on hunger show that we are far from meeting the hunger goal. There are about 842 million persons in the world today who are undernourished, 798 million in developing countries, 34 million in countries in transition and 10 million in industrialized countries. Progress



in cutting the incidence of hunger thus remains painfully slow. At the current rate of progress, the goal will only be achieved in 2150.

While Asia is home to the largest number of hungry people in the world, it is Africa that has the highest prevalence of hunger – 26 percent, amounting to about 207 million people in 1999-2001.

In the coming decades, Africa will have to feed a population that is expected to increase from 832 million people in 2002 to over 1.8 billion in 2050. It will have to raise agricultural productivity if it is to meet this challenge and its small-farm agriculture must be a central element of any effective food security programme.

In Africa, agriculture accounts for 17 percent of GDP, 57 percent of employment and 10 percent of export earnings. Over 70 percent of the continent's poor live in rural areas, and are primarily dependent upon agriculture for their employment and income. And yet Africa is the only region in the world in which average per capita food production has been constantly falling for the past 40 years. If current trends persist, the number of undernourished persons on the continent will increase between now and 2015, in contrast to the other developing regions.

The continent's countries suffer the consequences of variability of output, relatively low yields and heavy dependence on the export of primary commodities, in a context of low elasticity of supply and high volatility of prices. Africa's agriculture is also undercapitalized and thus uncompetitive.

There are many reasons for this:

- Africa uses only 4 percent of its renewable water reserves for irrigation (1.6 percent in the case of sub-Saharan Africa), compared to 17 percent in Asia. Only 7 percent of Africa's arable land is irrigated, comprising about 13 million hectares, compared to 37 percent in Asia. Yields from irrigated crops are three times higher than yields from rainfed crops and 80 percent of food emergencies are linked to water, especially water stress. But agricultural activity on 93 percent of Africa's arable land is dependent on extremely erratic rainfall, and

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FAO Director-General

therefore is seriously exposed to the risk of drought. The WFS objective cannot be attained without new water control over 16 million hectares and an upgrading of 4 million hectares distributed throughout all African countries. With an average cost of US\$2500 per hectare, it should be possible to rapidly double the irrigated area to 14 percent.

- The serious shortage of rural infrastructure places present-day Africa on a par with India in the 1950s. A package of investment covering infrastructure (rural roads, markets, storage, processing and packaging facilities) is thus indispensable. Mobilizing local labour for these infrastructural works should make it possible to cover 40 percent of the cost.
- There is also the insignificant use of modern inputs, with only 22 kg of fertilizer applied to each hectare of arable land, compared to 144 kg in Asia. The level is even lower in sub-Saharan Africa, which uses only 10 kg per hectare.
- The seeds that spurred the success of the Green Revolution in Asia and in Latin America are barely used in Africa.
- During the past ten years, Africa's fish production has stalled and per capita fish supply has dropped from 9 to 7 kg per year. At the world level, fish supplies from aquaculture now account for almost 30 percent of global output, but in Africa aquaculture's contribution is insignificant.

We need to repeat again and again that inadequacy of water control and a lack of infrastructure constitute the structural limitations that largely explain why Africa's agriculture is unproductive and uncompetitive.

Peace and political stability are essential if hunger and poverty are to be drastically reduced. And yet, of the 16 African Least Developed Countries –those with more than 35 percent of their population under-nourished – 13 are prone to conflict. Conflict in Africa resulted in estimated losses of almost US\$52 billion in agricultural output between 1970 and 1997, a figure equivalent to 75 percent of all official development assistance received by the conflict-affected countries.

Getting rid of hunger in Africa and elsewhere in the world does not depend on any leap in technology. In the short-term, the focus must be on solutions at village level which lie largely within the reach of Africa's small-scale farmers... a momentum now exists for a renewed effort to fight hunger. It should not be wasted.

H. E. Dr. Jacques Diouf
FAO Director-General

As I speak, 35 countries in the world are experiencing serious food emergencies, 24 of them in Africa, where a large number of people depend on food assistance. FAO is working with governments and UN and NGO partners to protect and restore agriculture-based livelihoods in crisis countries through the supply of essential inputs, pest and disease control campaigns, rehabilitation of essential agricultural infrastructure, and natural disaster prevention mechanisms.

HIV/AIDS has already killed about 7 million agricultural workers since 1985 and is likely to kill 16 million more before 2020. FAO, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNICEF and WFP, has embarked upon an innovative global programme starting in selected countries in Africa to protect and improve food and nutrition security among populations heavily affected by this epidemic. In addition, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases continue to exact a heavy toll on Africa.

Getting rid of hunger in Africa and elsewhere in the world does not depend on any leap in technology. In the short-term, the focus must be on solutions at the village level and which lie largely within the reach of Africa's small-scale farmers. Small-scale irrigation, water harvesting, soil conservation and tillage practices, but also high-yielding crop varieties from the international agricultural research centres and national agricultural research systems, should solve most of the present problems.

Successful examples exist in countries implementing FAO's Special Programme for Food Security and its south-south cooperation component, an initiative launched in 1994 and now operational in 101 countries, of which 42 are in Africa. It aims at assisting mainly low-income, food-deficit countries to improve their household and national food security through reduction of year-to-year variability in crop production, and through diversification in small animal production, fisheries and aquaculture. People's income and employment are thus increased and access to food ensured.

Inadequate policies, sometimes coupled with insufficient public resource mobilization for the rural sector, have compromised investment in agriculture. The structure of incentives is further

The problem of hunger in Africa is immense and deeply rooted in history, but it is also solvable within our lifetime. We know what to do to end hunger.

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distorted by the lack of a level playing field in trade, resulting from price supports, high tariffs and other barriers to trade. In addition, external assistance to agriculture and rural development in constant 1995 US\$ has declined from US\$ 3.7 billion to US\$ 2.4 billion during the period 1990-2000. This situation needs to be reversed.

But African governments, for their part, do not always prioritize agriculture, rural development and food security in their requests for development assistance or in national poverty reduction strategies. The fundamental message which we all share today is yet to be assimilated by ministries of finance and planning, and also by some donors. Africa has the capacity to enhance agriculture and ensure food security. But this requires that there is political commitment and that it translates into coherent and effective programmes. There are hopeful signs now.

Africa has the capacity to enhance agriculture and ensure food security. But this requires that there is political commitment and that it translates into coherent and effective programmes. There are hopeful signs now.

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Source: F. Botts, FAO library

Agriculture is one of the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). At the Maputo Summit in July 2003, Heads of State and Governments of the African Union adopted the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa. They called for the urgent implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). They agreed to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets, within five years, to agriculture and rural development. African governments must now implement this decision. These decisions were confirmed at the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Water and Agriculture in February 2004, which committed member countries to strengthen the development of agriculture and related value-added activities, rural development and food security at national and regional levels. Agriculture thus needs to receive an appropriate allocation of resources from poverty reduction and debt alleviation programmes.

The Declaration of the Fourth Summit of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Heads of State and Governments, held in Maputo in July 2004, should encourage more priority to agriculture and rural development – and to water in particular – in the successive European Development Funds in line with the Brussels Declaration of Ministers of Trade held in 2003.

The new World Bank Rural Strategy, which calls for renewed emphasis on agriculture development, should be an incentive for more flow of concessional funds from this institution. The focus of the African Development Bank on the financing of agricultural and rural water projects is also a positive signal. After Genoa, the G8 Summit at Sea Island this year underlined the importance of agriculture for socioeconomic development, in particular in Africa. Moreover, several OECD countries have amended their development cooperation policies to prioritize agriculture as the key factor in the fight against hunger and poverty. FAO, using the resources of its regular programme budget and of the Voluntary Trust Fund to which Italy generously contributed 100 million Euros, 50 million already paid, is working closely with its member countries to prepare strategies and programmes to translate this political will into actual public investment in agriculture and food security. This process started after the 1996 World Food Summit, when FAO assisted 150 developing countries to produce national long-term strategies toward 2010. In 2002, we began updating and extending these strategies to 2015.

Several OECD countries have amended their development cooperation policies to prioritize agriculture as the key factor in the fight against hunger and poverty.

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Source: CIMMYT

FAO, within the framework of the NEPAD agriculture programme, is currently supporting 49 African countries to translate the continental vision into viable national programmes, with a view to securing funding. The first step in this process is the formulation of National Medium-Term Investment Programmes (NMTIPs). They will allow the preliminary identification of “bankable investment project profiles”, to be the basis for national consultative group meetings of bilateral and multilateral donors for attracting the necessary external financing. A momentum now exists for a renewed effort to fight hunger. It should not be wasted. We should support existing initiatives that are promising and working. We need to ensure that resources reach rural communities by preparing and implementing programmes with projects in each village.

The problem of hunger in Africa is immense and deeply rooted in history, but it is also solvable within our lifetime. We know what to do to end hunger. Several African countries have succeeded in turning the tide against hunger. FAO stands ready to provide assistance in this struggle and together we shall prevail.



Source: MDG Centre

New Ways to Meet the Hunger MDG in Africa

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs

Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the MDGs and Director, UN Millennium Project

Your Excellencies: our wonderful host Prime Minister Meles; UN Secretary-General, the world's greatest political leader; AU Chair, President Chissano; AU Commission Chair, Excellency Alpha Konare; Dr. Jacques Diouf, great leader of FAO; distinguished delegates, among whom are many of the world's leading scientists, including those on the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger and the Inter-Academy Council Panel whose recent report will be presented later this afternoon; and many friends.

This seminar is a moment of historic opportunity but it is also a moment of great need. You, the African leaders, inspire us. We know that the future of Africa is bright. But we also know that the work ahead is hard.

You are here because Africa, alone among all the major regions of the world, has yet to have its Green Revolution. Food yields



Professor Jeffrey Sachs (centre) and Dr. Pedro Sanchez (right) discuss Hunger Task Force recommendations with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Source: United Nations?

Africa can at least double, and perhaps triple, food yields by 2015. We know of a number of specific interventions that have been scientifically proven and practically demonstrated to be effective.

Jeffrey Sachs
Director of the
Millennium Project

per hectare are the lowest in the world, and have increased little if at all in recent years. Food production per capita has been declining.

Today, as Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated, you are here to launch a 21st Century African Green Revolution.

Why a “21st Century” Green Revolution? Not only because we are at the start of our new century, but because we have new



Source: J. Spauli, FAO library

powerful tools of 21st century science and technology that can enable Africa to increase food production markedly and in an environmentally sustainable manner.

African leaders are at the forefront of this battle. When I meet with Prime Minister Meles and President Museveni I feel like I am attending a development seminar. They are ingenious, deeply knowledgeable, and bold.

But Africa still faces critical challenges, indeed challenges that are unique to the continent, including:

- A climate vulnerable to drought and instability, coupled with rainfed agriculture. The vulnerability to climate instability is increasing due to long-term global climate change. A recent scientific study found that every 1 degree Celsius increase in ambient temperatures led to a 10 percent decrease in the fertility of rice crops.
- A rural population very far from ports and navigable rivers, leading to extremely high overland transportation costs.
- A rural population vulnerable to resurgent malaria – resurgent due to growing drug resistance – and now the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Widespread deforestation and biodiversity losses that are intensified by rapidly growing rural populations.
- Farm soils that are gravely depleted of nutrients, leading to falling food productivity and increased hunger.
- Lack of financing for science and technology solutions.

Africa can at least double, and perhaps triple, food yields by 2015. We know of a number of specific interventions that have been scientifically proven and practically demonstrated to be effective. These include:

- Investments in soil health technologies, as Dr. Pedro Sanchez will tell you about later today, through agroforestry techniques as well as chemical fertilizers.
- Water harvesting and irrigation investments, coupled with improvements in access to safe drinking water.
- Roads connecting rural communities to markets.
- Community-based health workers to deliver basic health services.

Africa, alone among all the major regions of the world, has yet to have its Green Revolution. Food yields per hectare are the lowest in the world, and have increased little if at all in recent years. Food production per capita has been declining.

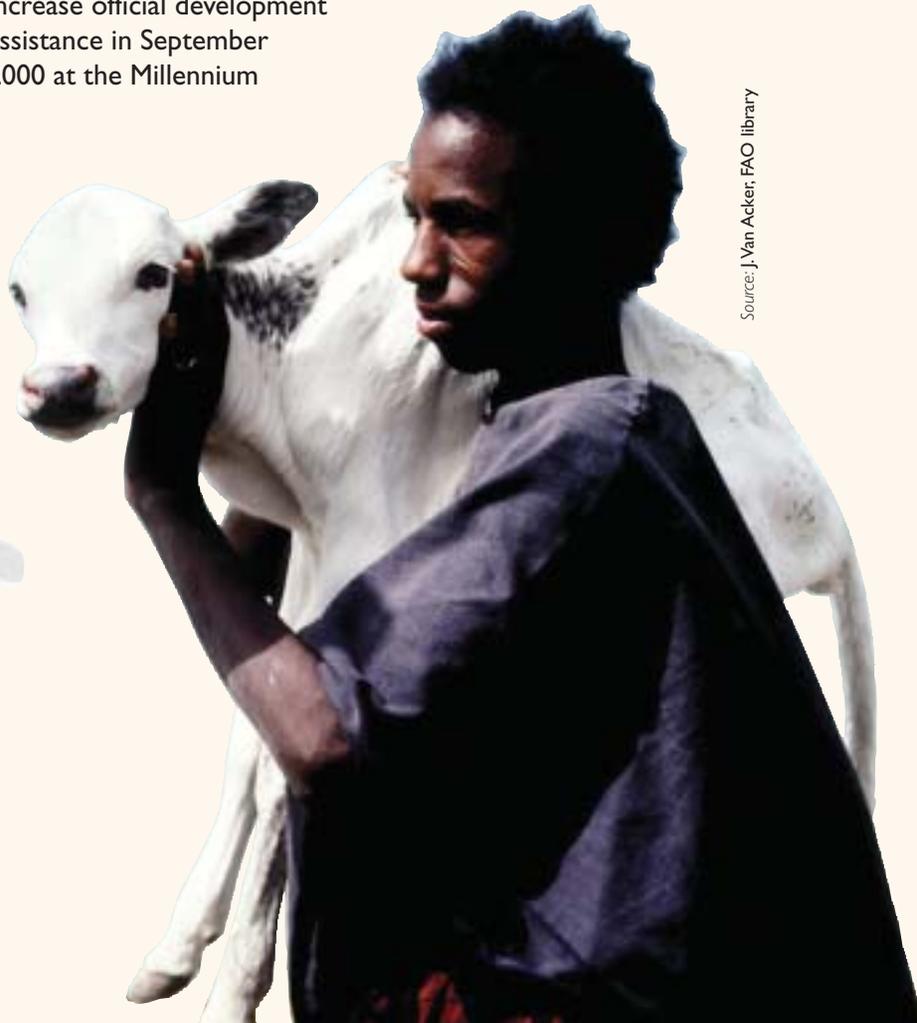
Jeffrey Sachs
Director of the
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It is time the world realized that there can be no peace with chronic hunger. The fight against hunger is a fight not only for health and prosperity, but for peace itself.

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- Community-based agricultural extension workers to improve farm management and to spread technological innovations.
- Effective anti-malarial control.
- Rural small-scale electrification through off-grid systems and improved cooking fuels to eliminate indoor air pollution.
- Improved seed varieties to increase food output. Monsanto is on the verge of announcing a drought-resistant seed variety, which it has committed to sharing with Africa to increase production in drought-prone areas.
- Spread of microfinance in providing access to credit.

The world has promised to help. The world promised in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to help stop the long-term climate change which is already ravaging the continent; the world promised to increase official development assistance in September 2000 at the Millennium



Source: J. Van Acker, FAO library

Summit in New York, and then again in 2002 at the International Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, Mexico. In the Monterrey Consensus which emerged from that conference, the signatories, including the rich countries, stated:

“We urge all developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of GNP as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries.”

But despite the promises of help, we are getting band-aids, not solutions. No climate change treaty is yet in force, and the United States, the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has opted out of the Kyoto Protocol. Regarding official development assistance, “concrete efforts” towards 0.7% are still not evident in the largest donor countries, and, again, notably not in the U.S., where the share of ODA in GNP is a mere 0.14 percent.

The Millennium Development Goals will not be met in Africa under the current circumstances. Failure to make progress on cutting hunger and the other goals comes at a cost. Of course, there is the wholly unnecessary suffering of the poor, but there are also the emergency outlays of the rich.

This is illustrated in the case of the United States of America, which last year provided \$500 million in emergency food aid to Ethiopia but only around \$5 million for agricultural development. It is time to reverse that ratio. It is a much better investment to spend on long-term solutions that would enable Africa to feed itself rather than short-term emergency food relief.

Similarly, the developed world is spending much more on arms and war than on long-term solutions. It is time the world realized that there can be no peace with chronic hunger. The fight against hunger is a fight not only for health and prosperity, but for peace itself.

Your Excellencies, what to do?

First, every low-income country should develop an MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy, including National Action Plans to address specific challenges of hunger, education etc. The UN Millennium Project, NEPAD, WFP, FAO, and other agencies stand ready to help, if requested by governments. Governments



Source: MDG Centre

need to develop a rigorous and detailed “needs assessment,” identifying the appropriate strategies for scaling up the investments in infrastructure, health, and education, and calculating the financing needs to do so.

Second, significantly increased ODA is needed. The work of the UN Millennium Project has shown that ODA would need to at least double, from a current level of around \$60 billion per year to a minimum of \$120 billion per year. This is a conclusion also reached earlier by the World Bank and the Zedillo Commission in the lead-up to the Monterrey Consensus.

Let me speak for a moment to the donors, to the rich world where I come from: Let us be honest with ourselves about our policies. We in the US have pursued tax cuts on the order of \$250 billion a year, and defense spending of \$450 billion a year, and yet we are managing ODA of only around \$15 billion per year. Something is wrong when military spending of \$450 billion per year outpaces development aid by a ratio of some 30 to 1.

Ironically, all of that military spending is not buying peace and stability, which can only be achieved with shared prosperity.

Other large donors, including Germany and Japan, are very far from the 0.7 target, and have yet to demonstrate “concrete efforts” to reach that target.

To the African leadership here: You have led the effort to launch a new war against malaria and led the effort to launch a war against HIV/AIDS. You have helped to spur the establishment of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria.

Today you can lead the 21st Century African Green Revolution. I would recommend that in your declaration of this Summit, you call on donors:

- 1) To redouble their efforts to meet the MDGs, and specifically to at least double the level of ODA, and to direct it towards the poorest of the poor – especially towards Africa.
- 2) To demonstrate their readiness to be true partners by:
 - At least doubling, preferably tripling, the level of assistance from IDA at the World Bank (thus, from around \$8 billion to \$25 billion) and to convert the programme from loans to grants for the poorest countries.
 - At least doubling, preferably tripling, the level of the next replenishment of the African Development Fund, and similarly to make it a grant rather than loan facility for the poorest countries.
 - Cancelling 100% of the debts of the highly indebted poor countries. You need to make it clear that you will re-channel the funds in a clear and transparent way to investments needed to meet the MDGs.
 - Adopting a specific 10-year Global Plan of Action to Achieve the MDGs at the time of the High-Level 5-Year Review of the Millennium Declaration that will occur at the United Nations in September 2005.
 - Opening their markets. It is truly shameful that the US spends \$3.1 billion in cotton subsidies on around 26,000 cotton farmers, while depressing market prices for impoverished cotton producers in Uganda and Burkina Faso and other countries of Africa.



Source: CIMMYT

You, the leaders of Africa, are true revolutionaries. You have been revolutionaries for freedom and now for the escape from hunger and poverty. Today, you launch the 21st Century African Green Revolution that will help lead to a continent and a world of peace and dignity.

Jeffrey Sachs
Director of the
Millennium Project

Please permit me one more thought about the debt. Africa's debts continue to cripple the continent. The HIPC initiative was a step in the right direction, but is not enough. "Debt sustainability" should not be defined according to arbitrary ratios of debt to exports or to government revenues. Debt sustainability should be defined in the context of the MDGs.

Is debt servicing compatible with achieving the MDGs? In dozens of the world's poorest countries, the debts ought to be cancelled in their entirety, to help the debtor countries meet the MDGs. The creditors ought to do this, on the basis of their long-standing commitments, including Goal 8 of the MDGs. But if the creditors do not do this, Africa is pushed to a choice: should it save its dying children or should it pay its debts? I say it should save its children. Unilateral debt repudiation is preferable to death by debt.

Of course, I stress once again that the creditors should do this first. No creditors should ever force a country to choose between debt servicing and the survival of its children. And when the debt servicing is ended, whether by actions of the creditors (preferably) or the debtors, the debtors still have the utmost obligation to ensure that the debt service saving is channelled to the urgent needs of health, education, nutrition, and basic infrastructure – in short, to meeting the MDGs.

The world has the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to this package of measures in major events at least three times next year: in the report of the Blair Commission on Africa, at the G-8 Summit, and most importantly, at the meeting of world leaders at the UN in September 2005.

We are here today because these great challenges can be met. We are here because you, the leaders of Africa, are true revolutionaries. You have been revolutionaries for freedom and now for the escape from hunger and poverty. Today, you launch the 21st Century African Green Revolution that will help lead to a continent and a world of peace and dignity.



Source: MDG Centre



Source: CIMMYT

The Role of the World Food Programme in Meeting the Hunger MDG

Dr. Sheila Sisulu

Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme

*Your Excellency Prime Minister Zenawi of Ethiopia,
Excellencies Heads of State and Governments,
Honourable Ministers,
Colleagues from sister UN Agencies,
Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the Secretary General and
Director of the Millennium Project,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

It is indeed an honour to be here with so many distinguished colleagues and guests, who together with the citizens of Africa hold such a great responsibility for food security on this continent. The challenges that we face are daunting but not insurmountable. As we have been hearing all day, there is good reason to hope that, by working together in partnership, we can make inroads towards eradicating hunger and malnutrition in Africa. But if we are to succeed, business as usual is not an option.

The Millennium Development Goals, the Millennium Compact, and now NEPAD have refocused global and local attention on the urgency of the job. That Africa is the only continent where malnutrition is on the rise is an outrage. Of course the reasons are many and complex. Trade rules that actually hinder our trade, a lack of both external and internal investment, a lack of infrastructure, armed conflicts and natural disasters, and now HIV/AIDS. However, whatever the reasons, the effect is the same: one in three Africans is undernourished.

The continued prevalence of hunger is at heart a political issue. It is about our willingness to prioritise and to act to finally eliminate hunger. We have all demonstrated our intellectual commitment to this task. What we need to demonstrate now is our willingness to match rhetoric with action, including a



Source: Lisa Dreier

Dr. Sheila Sisulu, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme addressing hunger seminar participants.

The continued prevalence of hunger is at heart a political issue... We have all demonstrated our intellectual commitment to this task. What we need to demonstrate now is our willingness to match rhetoric with action, including a significant global investment in both food and nutrition.

Dr. Sheila Sisulu
Deputy Executive
Director of the World
Food Programme

significant global investment in both food and nutrition. The burden of hunger is carried, not just by individuals, but by entire societies. We all know that maternal malnutrition determines the health of newborns and the trajectories of infant growth. There is an inheritance of hunger passed from parent to child. Being malnourished from day one often means being malnourished for the rest of your life. This is why malnutrition has serious developmental implications. The World Bank has recently argued that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be reached without significant progress in eliminating malnutrition. This is not just rhetoric. Such statements are grounded in scientific evidence that documents the importance of nutrition, not just an outcome of development, but as underpinning the development process itself.

Four of the 17 challenges recently examined by some of the world's top economists in the Copenhagen Consensus related to malnutrition. Their second highest priority in terms of impact and cost effectiveness was the provision of iron supplements to combat anaemia. That highlights why it is so important to address malnutrition, not just food supply. We need to pay attention, not only to energy and protein, but also to micronutrient deficiencies such as insufficient iron, iodine or vitamin A, as President Museveni so eloquently put it, which interacts so cruelly with diseases like AIDS, malaria and

tuberculosis. Malnutrition is directly implicated in the death of millions of children and mothers each year. We heard this morning that 11 children will die from malnutrition-related causes during the minute that I have been talking so far. Malnutrition is directly implicated in the deaths of millions of children and mothers each year and although the media focuses most on large-scale disasters and conflicts, most preventable deaths among hungry people take place outside of the context of an emergency. Many of them die in the shadows, away from the glare of the media.

There is hope yet, with the right investment in nutrition, education and agriculture combined, that enormous progress can be made. The solutions are well within our reach and our capacity. The plans that we have heard about today revolve around a clear set of goals. We need to help farmers, particularly food insecure smallholders, to grow more food. We need to ensure that people can earn enough money to buy the food they need. To make sure that markets, both local and international, serve the needs of the hungry rather than ignoring the hungry. We need to restore degraded ecosystems that hungry people in particular depend on for their livelihoods. We must empower vulnerable people, especially women, with the knowledge, services and resources they need to achieve good nutrition for themselves and their children. And we must ensure that vulnerable people are protected as far as possible from the devastating effects of natural shocks and conflict-induced emergencies. We have the technology and knowledge right now to meet these challenges. This is not rocket science, but somehow we have succeeded in putting rockets into space faster than we have managed to do these things here on earth. Even the private sector has gone into space.

We have to pull together. In all cases, action must be framed in terms of Africa-owned priorities. Partnerships of many kinds are needed but it is Africa-wide initiatives such as NEPAD that must guide our steps. The WFP is proud to be working with NEPAD to get the 40 million African children who do not currently attend school into classes, and to ensure that they are properly nourished once they get there. Together with NEPAD and the Millennium Project Hunger Task Force, WFP has agreed to assist in launching a pilot programme called Home-Grown School Feeding, designed to stimulate local food production while simultaneously enhancing child nutrition. The effort to attract children into school takes on renewed relevance with a

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growing number of children living in families affected by HIV/AIDS. In Africa, some 34 million orphans, 11 million of them as a result of AIDS, currently struggle for a future. A WFP study last year found that, compared to children whose parents are alive, orphans are more likely to be malnourished, to drop out of school, and to have limited access to health and social services.

Recent experience in southern Africa has shown how giving orphans an extra take-home ration of food can help to do two things. One, it can relieve some of the burden on the grandparents and members of the extended family who are taking these children in to keep them in the family and off the streets. It also helps to keep the children themselves in school, where their access to information about HIV/AIDS and social services is greatly increased.

If you allow me, I would like to just extend a little bit on the issue of orphans and the African family. We have heard much, not only today but in every forum, about how much HIV/AIDS is devastating communities. It is taking out the productive people. We have also recently heard how much it is devastating the strength of the African family to cope. The African extended family is dependent solely on the strength of its able-bodied members – those who often are able to work, either in the field or in the cities, and provide money and other required resources to the family.

We must empower vulnerable people, especially women, with the knowledge, services and resources they need to achieve good nutrition for themselves and their children.

Dr. Sheila Sisulu
Deputy Executive
Director of the World
Food Programme

With HIV/AIDS taking out those able-bodied people, women and men alike, families are stretched to the limit and are falling apart. Our governments, however, are never going to be able to take care of 11 million children in institutions – 11 million as we speak today and growing. Therefore the extended family structure remains the most important one we have to ensure that we have a fighting chance to deal with the effects of HIV/AIDS on children, particularly orphan children. I would like to put it to you that investment in food for these families can in fact help to keep them together. Families are not refusing to take children in as it is popularly said. Families are unable to take in children who come in multiple numbers. The extended family in Africa has always been able to take care of orphans. We believe that in fact we have never had concepts like orphans in the African community. We do now because grandparents and the extended families themselves are over-stretched in as far as food is concerned. If they do not have

such a basic commodity, how are they going to feed an additional nine mouths, when they cannot feed themselves directly? So I would like to say that, if we invest in making sure that these families receive food by whatever means possible, we are likely to keep these children in the families, socialised properly, and therefore able to access all of the services that I spoke about.

WFP is also working with NEPAD and the World Bank to determine how more modern food reserve systems can play a smarter role in protecting food security. Protecting the vulnerable from shocks and food crises is in itself an investment in future productivity of Africa's poor. We would like to see more people who are currently locked out of market systems to become full players in freer markets. Even when markets function well, few hungry people can hope to compete. All too often markets do not function well, and hunger deepens and spreads as a result. Rebuilding effective food reserve and distribution systems can be part of the solution, as shown in Ethiopia. We need to assess how food reserves can better permit us all to address emergency needs and to facilitate broader access to food, boost agricultural production, and promote commodity trade in timely, cost-efficient ways.

WFP is also working with NEPAD and the World Bank to determine how more modern food reserve systems can play a smarter role in protecting food security. Protecting the vulnerable from shocks and food crises is in itself an investment in future productivity of Africa's poor.

Dr. Sheila Sisulu
Deputy Executive
Director of the World
Food Programme



Source: Bleich M., FAO library

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More broadly, helping governments establish and manage their own food support assistance programmes is one of WFP's five strategic priorities from now through 2007. Food is neither the only, nor always the best resource to respond to hunger. But where malnutrition is linked to limited access to food and where food and other resources can be targeted to meet clearly identified needs, then food is a critical element. WFP offers its expertise and experience to countries wanting to make such investments in the well-being of their people. We will help them get in touch with other governments who have succeeded in this area.

Advice, training manuals, and information on identifying food needs, developing strategies and implementing programmes will be available. In recent years, the amount of food aid and ODA directed at agricultural development has plummeted. With reduced external resources available, it is imperative that we take care to maximise the resources that are available. That means collaborating more closely than ever, and carefully analysing the scientific and technological advances which impact on food security.



Source: Bleich M., FAO library



Source: F. Botts, FAO library

WFP is collaborating more closely than ever with its UN colleagues and with the Rome-based agencies, in particular FAO and IFAD. We are also collaborating with WHO to ensure that food, as part of their effort to reach three million people with antiretroviral drugs by 2005, succeeds. As important as it is to get antiretroviral drugs to more people, few it seems, are seriously thinking about the effects of antiretroviral drugs when people are malnourished and have limited access to sanitation. WFP would like to see food, nutrition and clean water as part of the package of care for people with HIV/AIDS, to ensure that the people receiving them get maximum benefits from the drugs. The Haitians have a saying about TB drugs which is very applicable to ARVs. They say “giving medicine without food is like washing your hands and drying them in the dirt.” So, business as usual is not an option. We need priority actions, focused on enhancing food consumption and eliminating malnutrition. We need collaboration across sectors and across communities, nations, and international bodies, and we also need creative commitments to stop hunger from falling once again off the radar screen of the world.

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Deputy Executive
Director of the World
Food Programme



Source: MDG Centre

The Way Forward

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh

*UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP
Regional Bureau for Africa*

*Your Excellencies,
Dear Participants:*

Based on the very vibrant discussions we had, very excellent presentations that we have made here, I have tried to capture the first draft of what I feel could be a consensus emerging out of this meeting as we move forward. You would agree with me that given the very limited time that we had and the various discussions, we should see this as a work in progress. Eventually we will get feedback from some of you and then we will see how best to finalise it.

First let me say that the participation of the African Presidents and Heads of Government, Ministers, CSOs, the private sector, development practitioners and partners, and scientists from Africa and around the world at this very high level seminar underscores the political commitment and a “can-do” practical approach that is needed to meet the Hunger MDG. Our Secretary-General has called for a 21st Century African Green Revolution, a Rainbow Evolution, to meet the challenges of overcoming hunger and meeting the MDG Hunger Goal in Africa.

Our seminar participants, all of you here, have urged that existing solutions and practical innovations be used to produce results by taking to scale what works, free of ideological and other encumbrances. The excellent presentations about policy and the technical and operational statements of the meeting indicate the challenges, but more importantly the opportunities for meeting the Hunger MDG through innovations in policy, scaling up of pilot projects and best practices, judicious use of biotechnology, and partnerships among political leaders, scientists, researchers, policy makers and service providers from within and outside of Africa.

The Millennium Project, led by Professor Sachs, and the work of the Inter-Academy Council reflect many such partnerships,



Source: R. Faidutti, FAO library

A key message from the participants is not to make new promises, but to take action in an emergency mode and to deliver on promises and commitments already made.

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh
UN Assistant
Secretary-General

which are directly supporting countries in Africa to deliver on NEPAD commitments and the Millennium Development Goals. Today's deliberations build on the AU Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and national efforts in various countries. This also reaffirms the commitments made in earlier international summits, including the Millennium Declaration in September 2000 in New York, the World Food Summit in Rome, the International Conference on Financing Development in March 2001 in Monterrey, Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg. The G8 Summit in Georgia, the work of the Blair Commission on Africa, and the AU Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa and the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and the deliberations of today will also fit into the upcoming MDG Review next year. A key message from the participants is not to make new promises, but to take action in an emergency mode and to deliver on promises and commitments already made at the various international forums and create new opportunities to address the Hunger MDG challenge and the MDGs as a whole.

Let me now try to enumerate a few key outcomes and actions for which I felt there was consensus, and I say this list is not exhaustive, given the time limit we had, and you should take them as a work in progress. Your inputs and feedback will be appreciated. I think that we agreed on the following urgent actions:

- 1) Accelerate governments' political commitment through scaling up of innovative solutions, use of cutting edge technologies, and replication of best practices.
- 2) Take a longer term development and human security approach based on an African agenda and Africa-specific response. This will include *inter alia* the implementation of the following key decisions taken at previous regional and international meetings.
 - a) An allocation of a minimum of 10 percent of national budgets for agriculture and rural development to start reversing the declining investment in the agriculture sector;
 - b) Increased investment in rural infrastructure, and in water resources development and management, particularly small-scale water and soil conservation and management systems;
 - c) An integrated response to food security and overcoming hunger to increase food production, improve nutrition, make markets work for the poor, increase rural credit, improve agricultural research, and empower women to increase their access to land, technology, markets and credit.
- 3) The development and implementation of bold PRSPs, which are commensurate in scope and funding to achieving the MDGs.
- 4) The recognition of the centrality of communities and farmers, and in particular their empowerment, as key to addressing the issues of food security.
- 5) Women must be recognised as the backbone and major productive force for agriculture. This is critical to food security and further elevates the need to focus on capacity development and empowerment of women.
- 6) An important dimension of achieving food security is to transform subsistence farming into commercially based

Women must be recognised as the backbone and major productive force for agriculture. This is critical to food security and further elevates the need to focus on capacity development and empowerment of women.

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh
UN Assistant
Secretary-General

An important dimension of achieving food security is to transform subsistence farming into commercially based enterprises, and in this way make markets work for the poor...we made a commitment to implement an African green revolution.

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh
UN Assistant
Secretary-General

enterprises, and in this way make markets work for the poor. Selected Action Plans were presented and exemplary work has already been done by some African countries, as presented by the Heads of States here today; these could serve as good models for others to follow.

- 7) As declared by our Secretary-General, we made a commitment to implement an African Green Revolution within the time frame set for meeting the Hunger MDG. This is meant to be accomplished through the development of a ten-year plan of action, 2005 to 2015.



Source: G. Bizzarri, FAO library



Source: Minkoh D., FAO library

- 8) We must put in action an effective global partnership for mutual accountability and ownership, making on good commitments, including in particular the provision of ODA by developed countries at 0.7 percent of GDP. We should continue to treat food security processes in a sustained emergency mode and continuously energise joint efforts to address humanitarian, livelihood and rural development issues.
- 9) We must foster synergy between actions for meeting the Hunger MDG and all the MDGs, including those dealing with reducing poverty, education, health, gender equality, empowerment, HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability and a global partnership for development.
- 10) We must also critically consider actions towards halving hunger by 2015, and truly interlink those actions with the triple threats of food security, HIV/AIDS and governance in Africa.
- 11) Finally, political stability and peace must be recognized as necessary to creating enabling environments for moving forward and meeting the Hunger MDG.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As I said I put this together in a very rapid manner but I believe to a great extent it reflects the consensus that this meeting represented. This meeting was, to me, a great day for African agriculture and for the hungry in Africa.

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Mr. Abdoulie Janneh
UN Assistant
Secretary-General



Innovative Approaches to Meet the Hunger MDG in Africa

A high-level seminar convened by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and The Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger

Monday 5 July 2004

United Nations Conference Center,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

08:30 – 9:00 **Registration and Coffee**

09:00 – 11:00 **Session I: Setting the Agenda for Action**

Co-chairs: **H.E. Ato Neway Gebreab**;
Special Economic Advisor to the
Prime Minister of Ethiopia
Mr. Samuel Nyambi, Regional
Manager, UNDP Regional
Service Center

09:00 – 09:05 Opening remarks by **H.E. Ato Addisu Legesse**, Deputy Prime Minister;
Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development; and Chairman of the Seminar
Steering Committee

09:05 – 09:15 Welcome by **H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi**

09:20-09:35 **H.E. Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano**,
President of Mozambique and Chair,
African Union
Africa's Commitment to Achieve the
Hunger MDG

09:40 – 09:55 **H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan**, United Nations
Secretary-General
Africa's Green Revolution: A Call to Action

- 10:00 – 10:15 **H.E. Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare**, Chair,
Africa Union Commission
Peace and Stability to Achieve the Hunger
MDG in Africa
- 10:20 – 10:35 **H.E. Dr. Jacques Diouf**, Director-General, FAO
Upholding International and National
Commitments in the Fight Against Hunger.
- 10:40 – 11:00 **Prof. Jeffrey Sachs**, Special Advisor to the
UN Secretary-General and Director,
Millennium Project
New Ways to Meet the Hunger MDG in Africa
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00 ***Session 2: Synergistic Innovations to
Improve Agricultural Productivity, Food
Security and Nutrition***

Co-chairs: **H.E. Ato Belay Ejigu**, State
Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development, Ethiopia;
Mr. G.K. Mburathi, FAO
Representative in Ethiopia, and to
the AU and ECA

- 11:30 – 11:45 **Dr. Akin Adesina**, The Rockefeller
Foundation, Nairobi
Making Markets Work for the Poor
- 11:50 – 12:05 **Ms. Abenaa Akuamoah-Boateng**, Ministry of
Health, Ghana
Innovations to Improve Child Nutrition and
Stimulate Farm Demand
- 12:10 – 12:25 **Ato Ibrahim Mohammed**, Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia
Water Harvesting and Water Management at
the Household and Community Levels: The
Ethiopian Experience

12:30 – 12:45 **Prof. Pedro Sanchez**, Co-Chair, Millennium Project Hunger Task Force
Investing in Healthy Soils and Better Land Management

12:45 – 13:15 **Discussion**

13:00- 14:30 **Lunch** (with 15-minute presentation)
Dr. James Ryan, Study Director, Inter-Academy Council Panel commissioned by the UN Secretary-General.
Realizing the Promise and Potential of African Agriculture

14:30 – 17:00 **Session 3: Leaders' Forum on Meeting the Hunger MDG'**

Co-Chairs: **H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi**;
Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Director, Millennium Project

14:30 – 15:45 **Country Action Plans**

1. Ethiopia: **H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi**
2. Uganda: **H.E. President Yoweri Museveni**
3. Kenya: **H.E. Vice President Moody Awori**
4. Algeria: **H.E. President Abdul Azziz Bouteflika**
5. Sudan: **H. E. President Omar Hassan El-Bashir**

15:50 – 16:20 **Keynote Remarks**

1. **Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu**, Chair, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
2. **Dr. Sheila Sisulu**, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme:
3. **Dr. Joachim Von Braun**, IFPRI Director-General
4. **Dr. Anna Tibaijuka**, Executive Director, UN Habitat

16:20 – 16:50 **Remarks from Development Partners**

16:50 – 17:15 **Discussion**

17:15 – 17:45 **Coffee Break**

17:50 – 18:10 **Session 4: Synthesis of Proceedings and Next Steps**

Co-chairs: **H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi;**
Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Director, Millennium Project

17:50 – 18:05 **Mr. Abdoulie Janneh**, UN Assistant Secretary General and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa
The Way Forward

18:05 – 18:10 **Prof. Jeffrey Sachs**, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Director, Millennium Project
Final Comments

18:30 – 19:00 Press Conference.

Contents of the Interactive CD-ROM

In addition to the eight presentations included in this publication, the interactive CD-ROM located inside the back cover of this document contains a wealth of important information emanating from or related to the July 5th seminar.

All the presentations contained in the foregoing Seminar Agenda are included in three different access formats: video, Adobe PDF files, and text files that the user can scroll through as desired. Especially noteworthy are the more technical presentations by **Dr. Pedro Sanchez**, Co-Chair of the Hunger Task Force; **Dr. Akin Adesina**, representing the Rockefeller Foundation; **Ms. Abenaa Akuamoah-Boateng**, from Ghana's Ministry of Health; and **Ato Ibrahim Mohammed**, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Country action plans for achieving the Hunger MDG by 2015 – those for **Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Algeria** – are presented either by the leaders from those countries or their chosen representatives.

Also included are the keynote remarks made by **Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu**, Chair of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); **Dr. Sheila Sisulu**, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme; **Dr. Joachim Von Braun**, Director-General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); and **Dr. Anna Tibaijuka**, Executive Director of UN Habitat.

Remarks made by development partners are also provided, including the **United Kingdom** (DFID), **Canada** (CIDA), the **World Bank**, the **European Union**, and the **United States**.

The CD also includes short videos from the field that were presented during the seminar, as well as the PowerPoint presentations that were used by some speakers. A number of hyperlinks to valuable websites are provided, as are a variety of background documents (in PDF format), including the UN Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the Executive Summary of the report by InterAcademy Council Panel on "Realizing the Promise and Potential of African Agriculture," and the Hunger Task Force's Interim Report.





The UN Millennium Project

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders placed development at the heart of the global agenda by adopting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which set clear targets for reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by 2015.

In support of these Goals, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Mark Malloch Brown, launched the **UN Millennium Project** to develop and recommend the best strategies for achieving the MDGs. Established in 2002, the Millennium Project is working to devise a recommended Global Plan of Action enable to all developing countries to meet the MDGs and thereby substantially improve the human condition by 2015. While this is a bold ambition, success is both necessary and achievable. This Global Plan is scheduled for release in January 2005.

The Millennium Project focuses on identifying the operational priorities, organizational means of implementation, and financing structures necessary to achieve the MDGs. Ten thematically-orientated Task Forces are responsible for the bulk of the work. They comprise representatives from academia, the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and UN agencies with the majority of participants coming from outside the UN system. The Millennium Project is directed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University, who serves as Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals.

The Hunger Task Force

Charged with developing a global action plan to halve global hunger by 2015, the Hunger Task Force is co-chaired by Dr. Pedro Sanchez, Director, Tropical Agriculture Program, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and Professor M.S. Swaminathan, Cousteau Chair of Ecotechnology for UNESCO and chairman of the M.S. Swaminathan Foundation in Chennai, India. Both co-chairs are World Food Prize laureates. The Task Force comprises 30 leading experts from around the world representing a wide range of disciplines (including science, economics, nutrition, business, and development policy), sectors (including international agencies, national governments, business, NGOs, and academia) and regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas). The Hunger Task Force will release its final report in January 2005.

The MDG Technical Support Centre

The MDG Technical Support Centre, under the direction of Dr. Glenn Denning, was established through the collaboration of the Earth Institute, the Millennium Project, UNDP, the UNIDO, World Agroforestry Centre, and a number of other UN and international organizations. Initial financial support has come mainly from UNIDO and the Open Society Institute with important in-kind support provided by the Earth Institute, the Millennium Project, UNDP, WHO and the World Agroforestry Centre.

With its base in Nairobi, the Centre provides support to governments and their national and international partners in areas of science and policy in order to enhance the quality of development planning and implementation, particularly in relation to Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and other national action plans. Though spanning the full MDG agenda, the Centre focuses primarily on the rural development challenges of Africa, recognizing the intensity of rural poverty and its impact on rural and urban growth. The Centre's special contribution is to support a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, multi-institutional approach to development planning and implementation. Serving as a platform for partnership and collaboration, the Centre draws on the best science and policy options available based on research and field experience from around the world.