



**World Food Day 2016**  
**Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too.**

Organized by the Permanent Missions of Morocco and Germany to the United Nations, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library (DHL)

**17 October 2016, 1:15-2:30pm**  
**Conference Room 12, UNHQ**

One of the biggest issues related to climate change is food security. Climate change and environmental degradation are threatening global efforts to increase food security and nutrition. The world's poorest - many of whom are farmers, fishers and pastoralists - are being hit hardest by higher temperatures and an increasing frequency in weather-related disasters, including droughts and floods. As key actors in food systems, managing natural resources and ensuring adequate nutrition of families and communities, rural women are at the center of this challenge and, yet, continue to face structural barriers and remain especially vulnerable.

The pressure of climate change on food security and nutrition will continue in the future, as the global population is growing steadily and is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. To meet such a heavy demand, it is urgent to transform agriculture and food systems so that they become more resilient, productive, sustainable, and reduce food loss and waste that affects one third of all food production. Unleashing the potential of rural people and ensuring that women farmers have equal access to and control over natural resources and productive assets, financial inclusion, technology, information and capacity building on sustainable and climate-sensitive techniques will be instrumental to make this happen. Only by strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers we can guarantee food security and nutrition for the planet's population, ensure the wellbeing of ecosystems and reduce emissions. Community-based approaches and community-driven development are particularly effective in helping poor rural communities cope with climate change.

Climate change is a challenge that must be addressed collectively in order to win the fight against hunger and malnutrition and leave no one behind. To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries need to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation in their food and agricultural development plans and invest more in gender-responsive rural development.

This is why our message for World Food Day 2016 is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too." It resonates with the crucial time in which the day will be observed, just before the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP 22, from 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco.

### **Objectives**

The event will aim to:

1. Increase awareness on the impacts of climate change on agriculture, particularly on rural communities.

2. Highlight importance of climate change adaptation, building resilience, and improving the lives and livelihoods of rural women and men.
3. Highlight the potential of rural women as critical agents of change in sustainable food systems, by stimulating discussion on how countries and stakeholders can develop gender-responsive agriculture and food security policies in the context of climate change.
4. Provide information about agricultural practices that can increase agricultural production and at the same time decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Additional information on World Food Day: <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2016/home/en/>



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of the Kingdom of  
Morocco to the UN



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