

**Biodiversity for food and nutrition security:  
the opportunity of the  
UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025**

*Regional workshop on the linkages between biodiversity and health in the  
European Region  
Helsinki, Finland 23-25 October 2017*

**Lina Mahy (@LinaMahyI)**



**World Health  
Organization**

Loosing biodiversity means loosing the option of making our diets healthier and our food systems more resilient and sustainable.



# Outline

- The problem: malnutrition in all its forms
- The commitments
  - Global Nutrition Targets and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) targets
  - Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
  - 2030 Agenda
- The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025
- Synergies
- Summary





**The problem(s)**



# Multiple forms of malnutrition

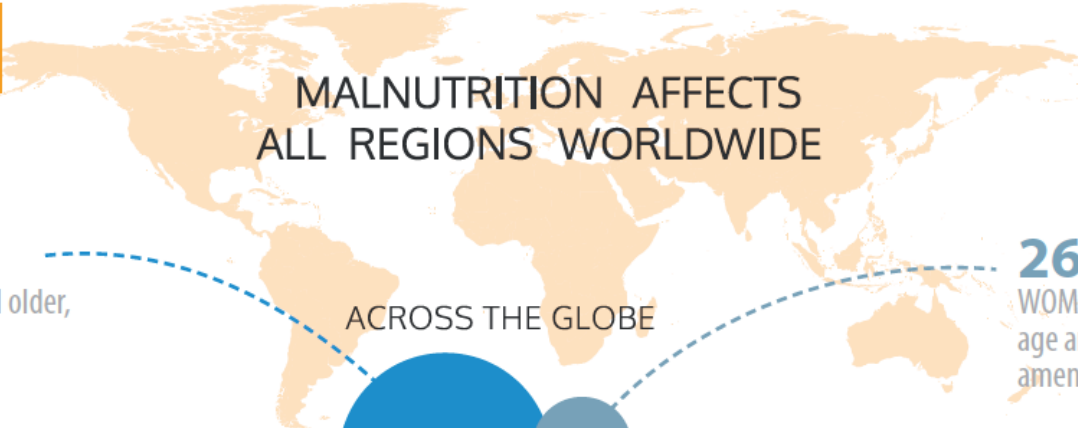


Undernutrition and overweight  
are now problems  
affecting people within the same communities.



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# WHERE ?



## MALNUTRITION AFFECTS ALL REGIONS WORLDWIDE

**1.9** BILLION  
ADULTS, 18 years and older,  
are overweight

**264** MILLION  
WOMEN of reproductive  
age are affected by iron-  
amenable anaemia

ACROSS THE GLOBE



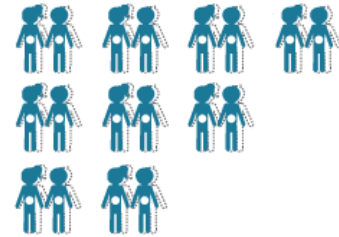
**>600** MILLION  
of these are OBESE

**462** MILLION  
ADULTS are underweight

**42** MILLION  
children under the age of  
5 years are overweight or obese

**156** MILLION  
children are stunted  
(too short for age)

**50** MILLION  
children are wasted  
(too thin for height)



Source:  
UNICEF – WHO – World Bank Group, 2015  
Lancet, 2016

# Unhealthy diet is now the number one risk factor for the GBD

## Health

### Poor diet is a factor in one in five deaths, global disease study reveals

Study compiling data from every country finds people are living longer but millions are eating wrong foods for their health



This article is 1 month old

6,966

Sarah Boseley Health editor

Thursday 14 September 2017 23.30 BST



**i** Eating foods high in salt raises the risk of an early death, the study says. Photograph: Dominic Lipinski/PA

Poor diet is a factor in one in five deaths around the world, according to the most comprehensive study ever carried out on the subject.

*The Guardian, Sept 2017*

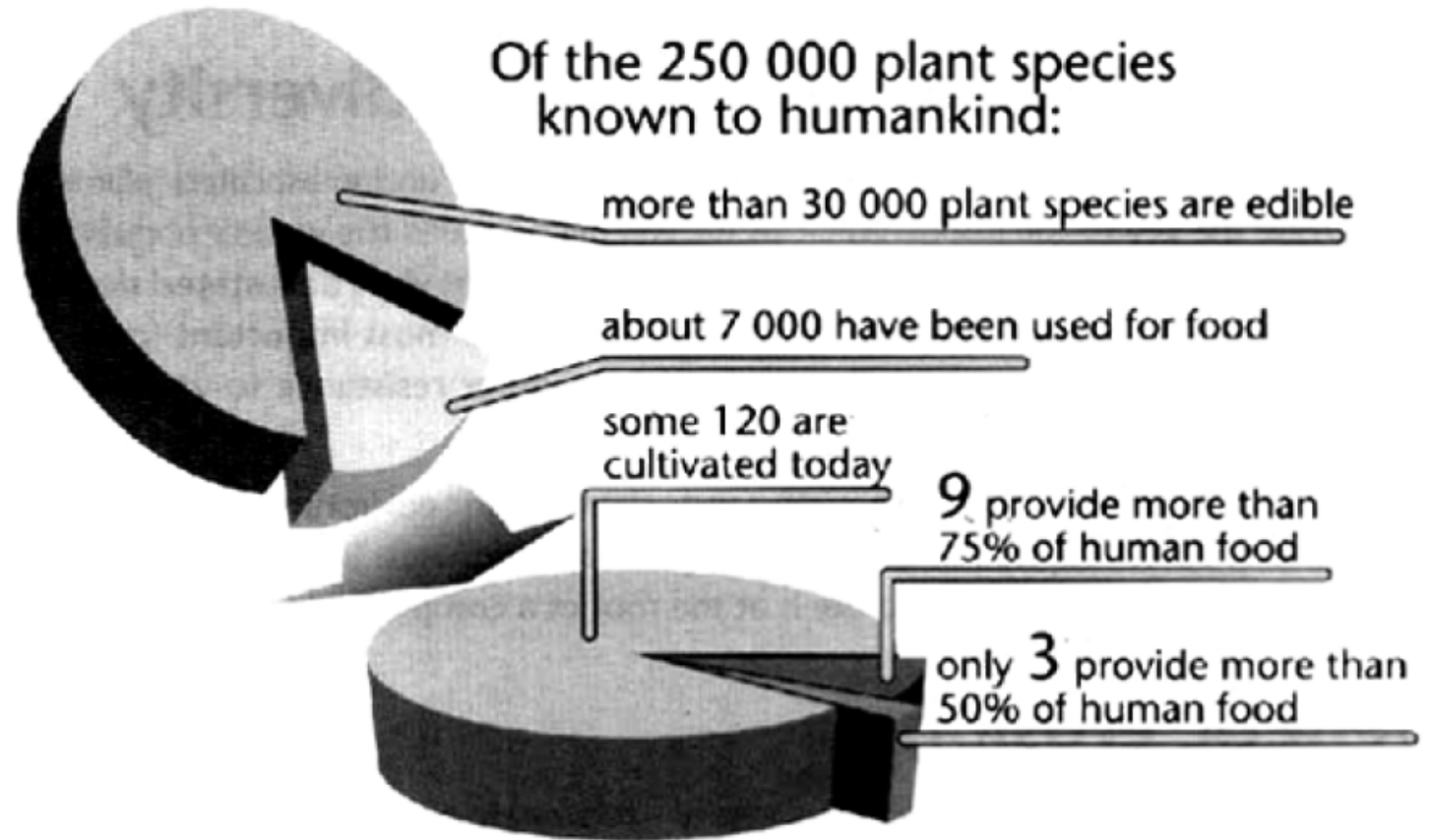
## Focus on staple foods

TABLE 4: **Top five items produced in 2013, thousand tonnes**

	2000	2013
Sugar cane	1 256 380	1 877 110
Maize	592 479	1 016 740
Rice, paddy	599 355	745 710
Wheat	585 691	713 183
Potatoes	327 600	368 096

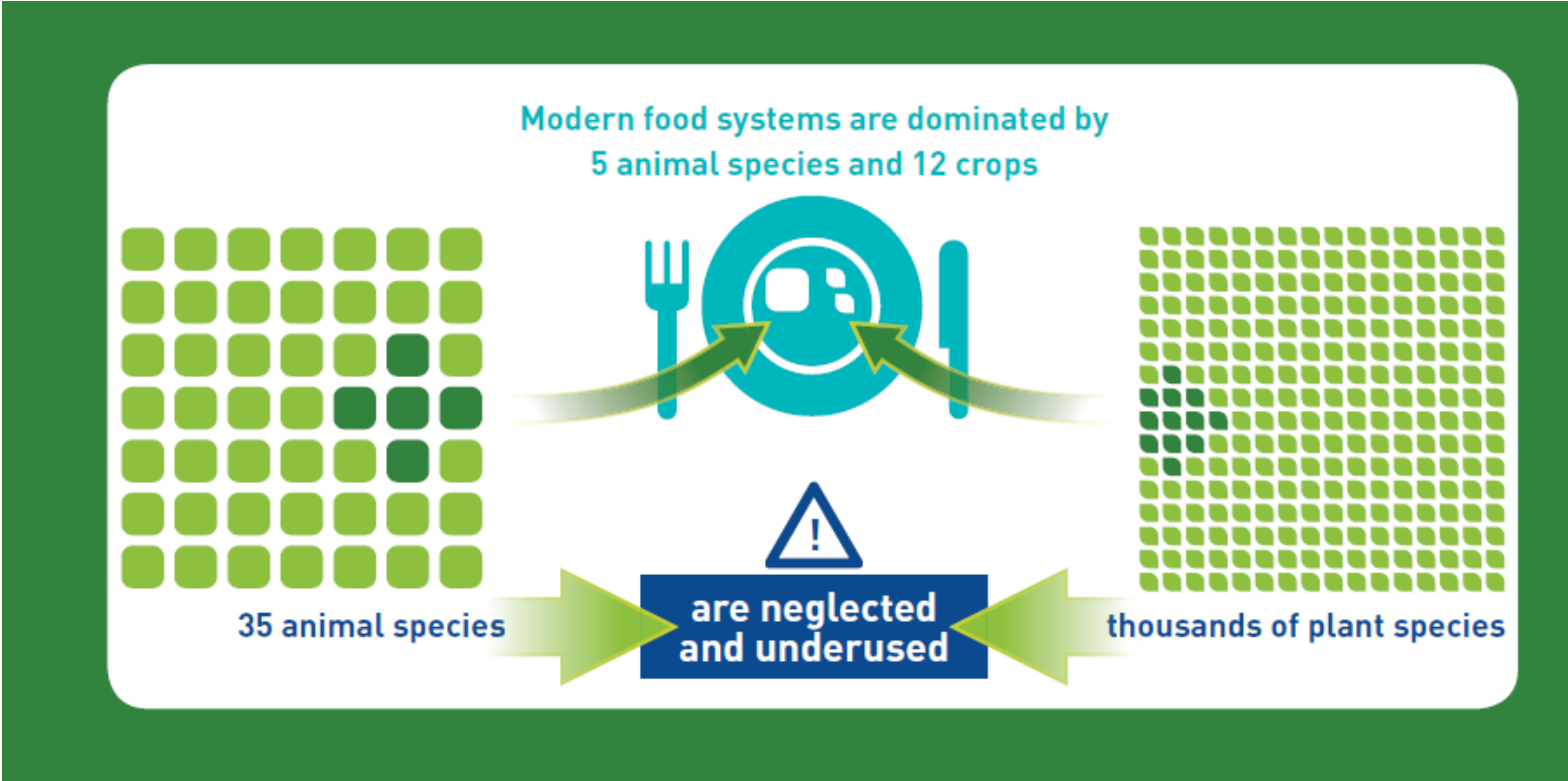
Source : FAO, 2015

# Rice, maize and wheat



Bifani (2017)

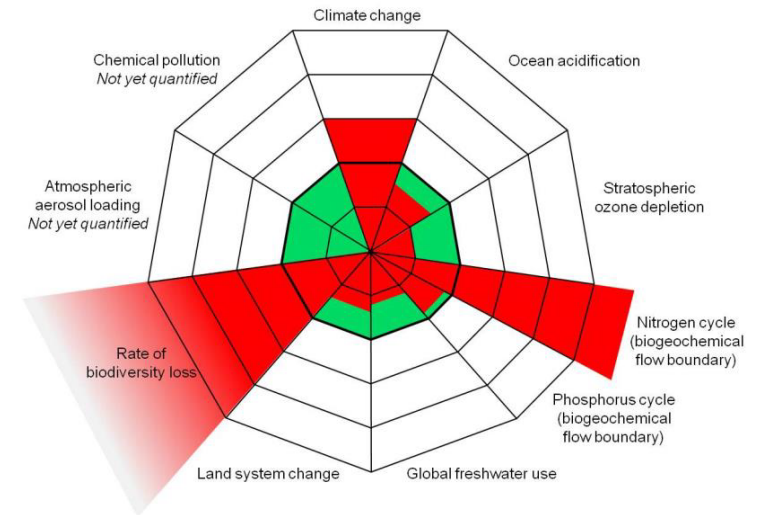
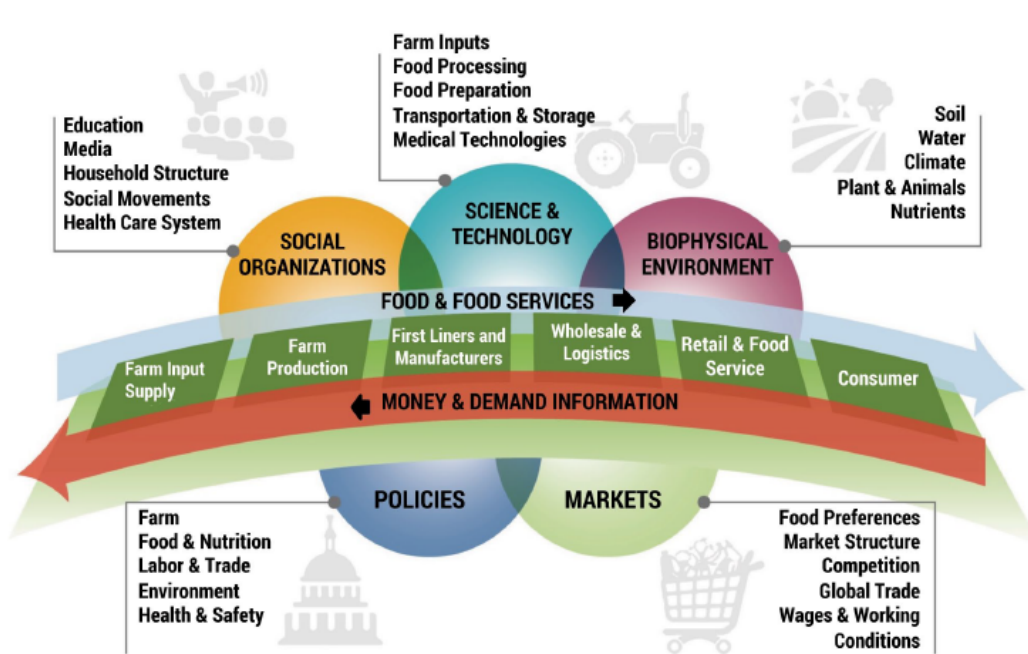
# Our diets become more homogeneous



*Bioversity International, 2017*

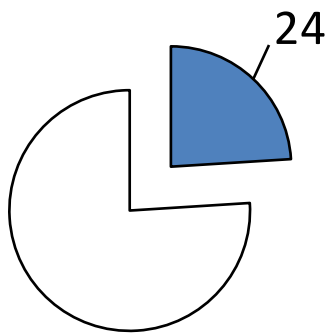


# Current food systems – environmental degradation

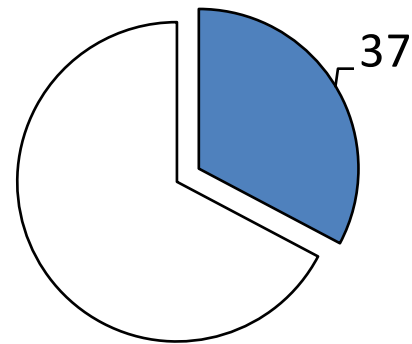


# Agriculture has a large share of the environmental impact

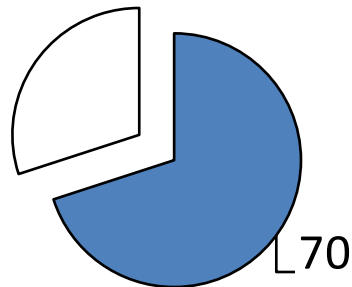
**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**



**EARTH'S LANDMASS**



**WATER WITHDRAWAL**

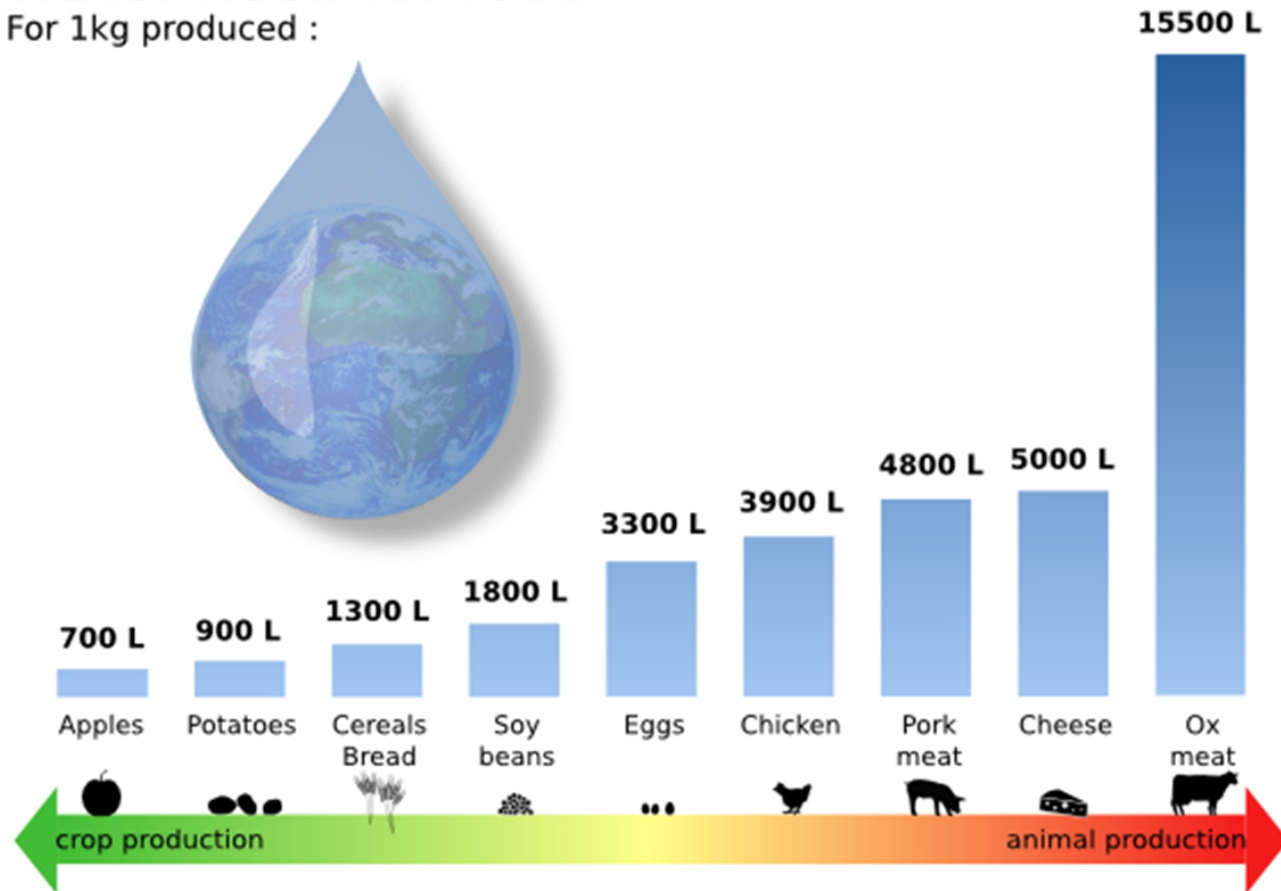


Source : World Resource Institute



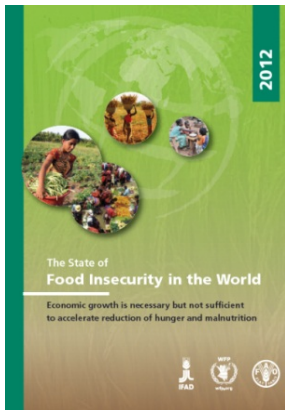
## Water need for food

For 1kg produced :

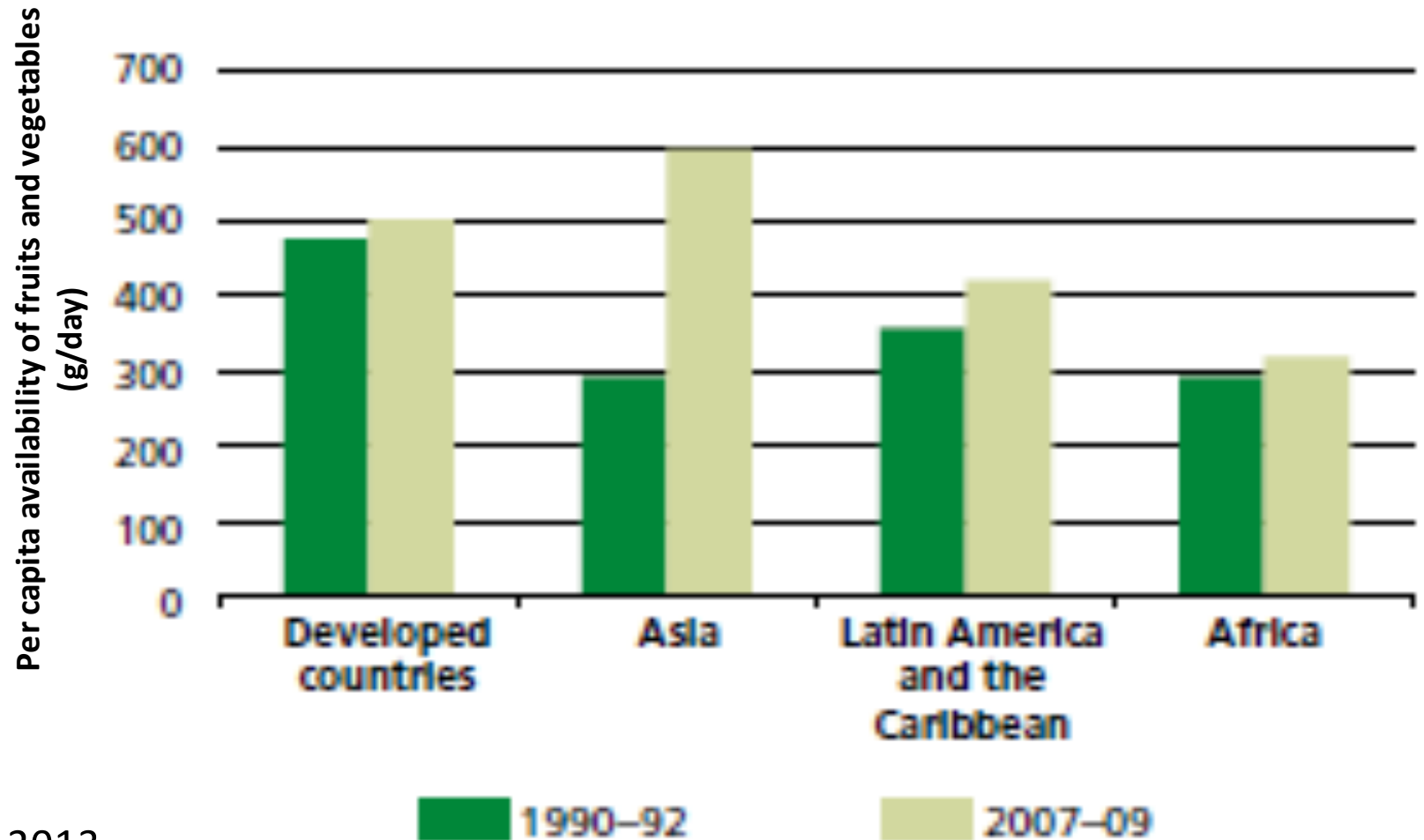


Source : Water Foot Print <http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/productgallery>

Diagram [www.L214.com](http://www.L214.com)

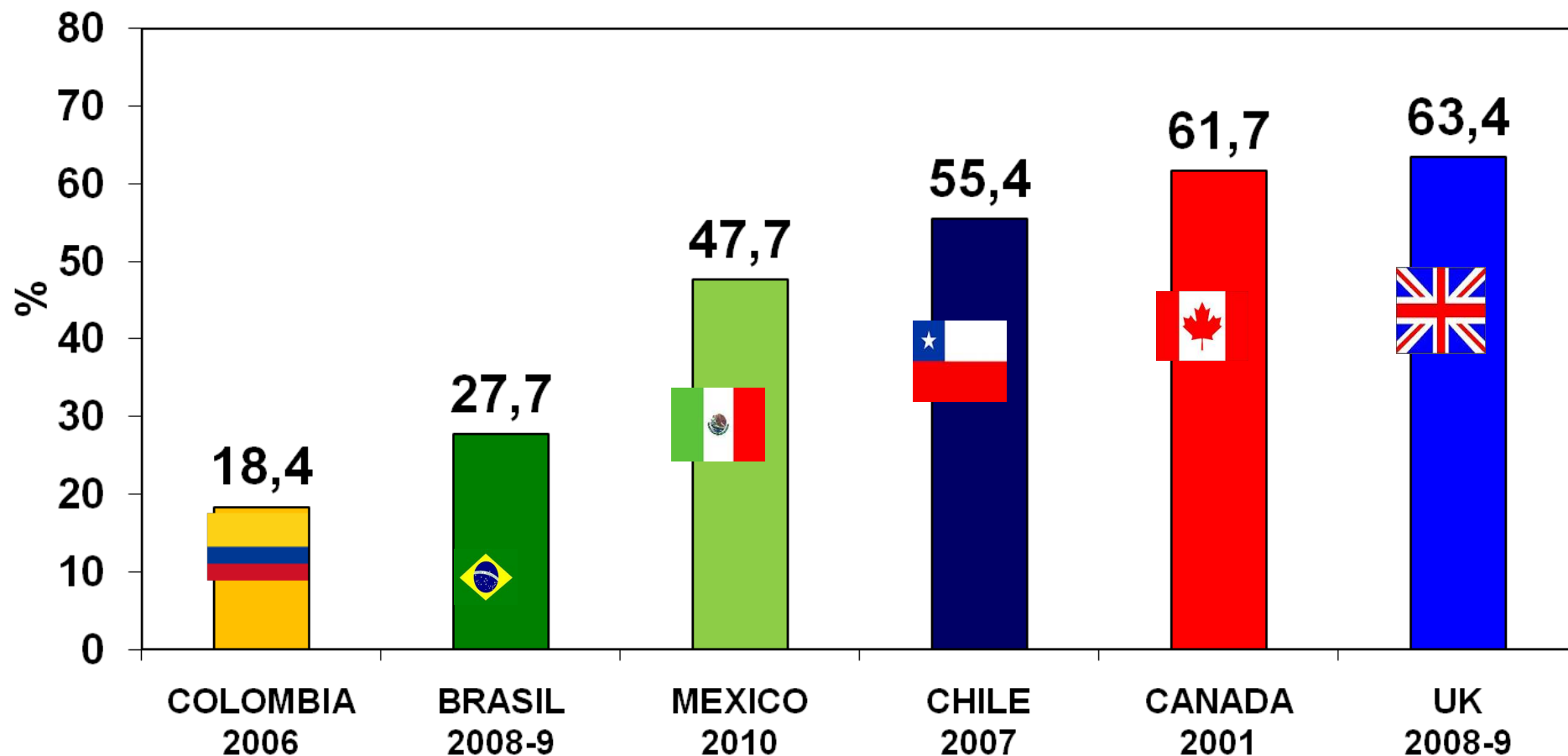


# Not enough fruit and vegetables



Source : FAO, 2013

# Caloric share (%) of ultra-processed products in the national food basket \*



\* Estimated from national household food expenditure surveys: Brasil (HBS), UK (LCF), Canada (FOODEX), Chile (EPF), Colombia (ENIG), and Mexico (ENIGH).

Source : Monteiro, 2013

# One third of food is lost/wasted



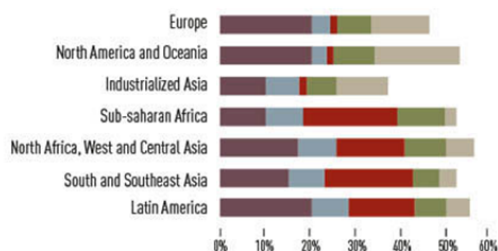
**45%**  
**FRUIT & VEGETABLES  
FOOD LOSSES**

Along with roots and tubers, fruit and vegetables have the highest wastage rates of any food products; almost half of all the fruit and vegetables produced are wasted.



3.7 trillion apples

■ Agriculture ■ Distribution  
■ Post-harvest ■ Consumption  
■ Processing

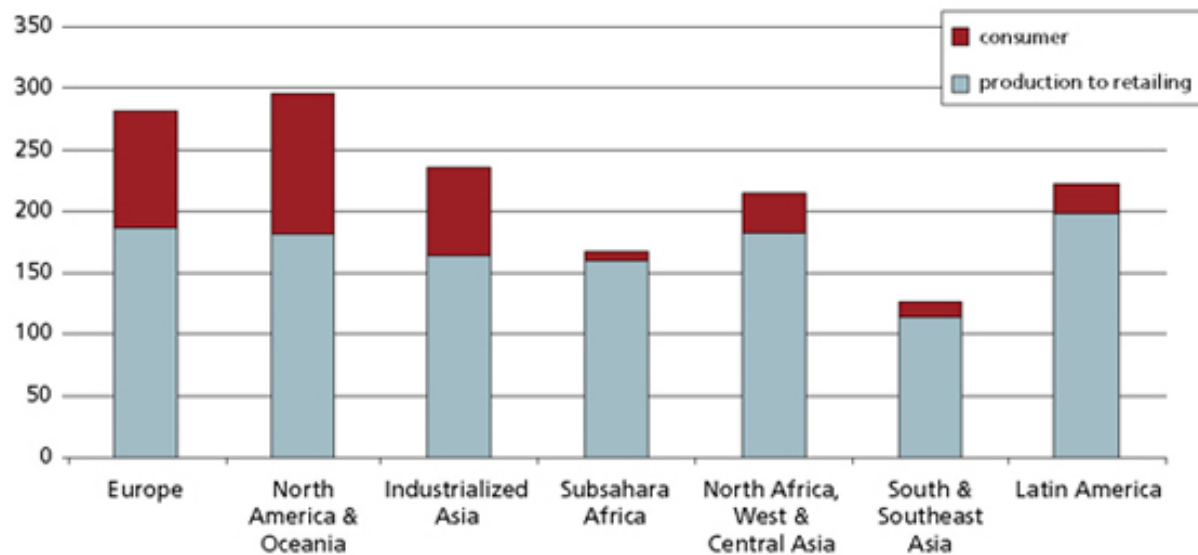


## Infographics

Click on images to enlarge



Per capita food losses and waste (kg/year)



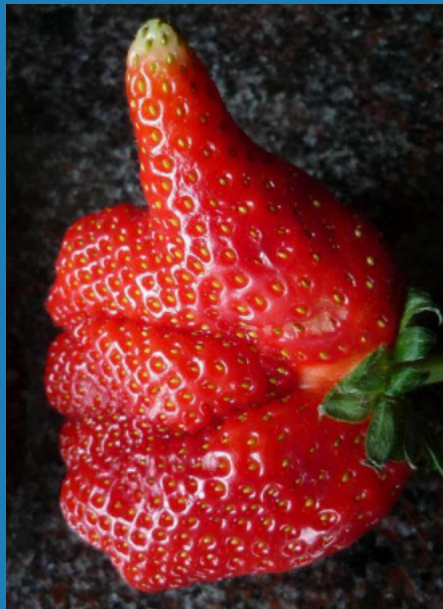
Source: FAO



World Health Organization

# Unhealthy diet, unhealthy people, unhealthy planet





# The commitments

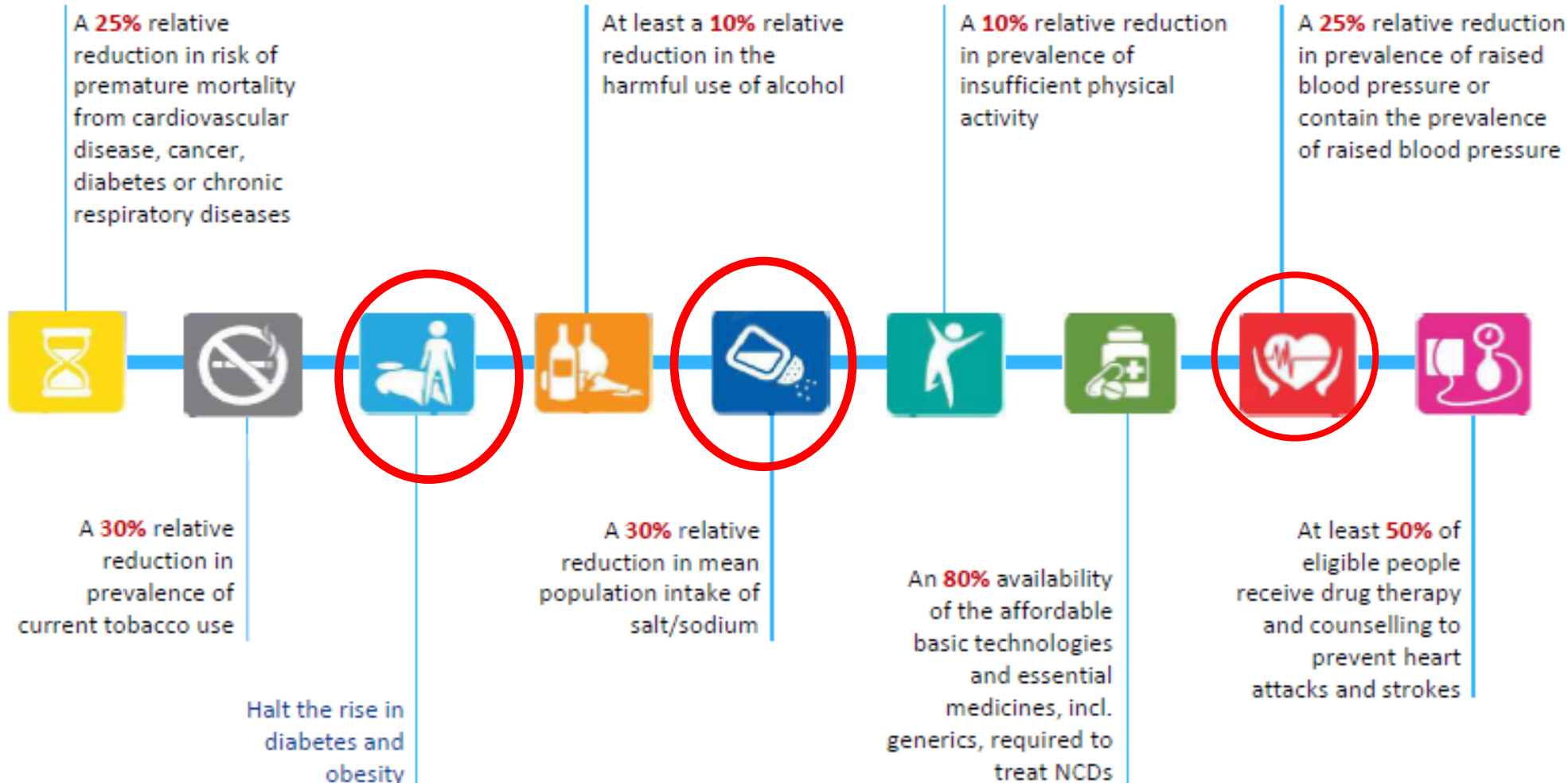


# The WHA six global nutrition targets



# WHO Global Monitoring Framework on NCDs:

9 global NCD targets to be attained by 2025







# The Second International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, 18-21 November 2014)



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

# Outcome of ICN2

## **Rome Declaration on Nutrition**

**10 commitments for more effective and coordinated action to improve nutrition**

## **Framework For Action (FFA)**

**60 policy recommendations for implementation of the political commitments**



# The Rome Declaration

- ① Eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition
- ② Increase investments
- ③ Enhance sustainable food systems
- ④ Raise the profile of nutrition
- ⑤ Strengthen human and institutional capacities
- ⑥ Strengthen and facilitate, contributions and action by all stakeholders
- ⑦ Ensure healthy diets throughout the life course
- ⑧ Create enabling environment for making informed choices
- ⑨ Implement the commitments through the Framework for Action
- ⑩ Integrate vision and commitments into the post-2015 agenda



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Organization



# Biodiversity and nutrition

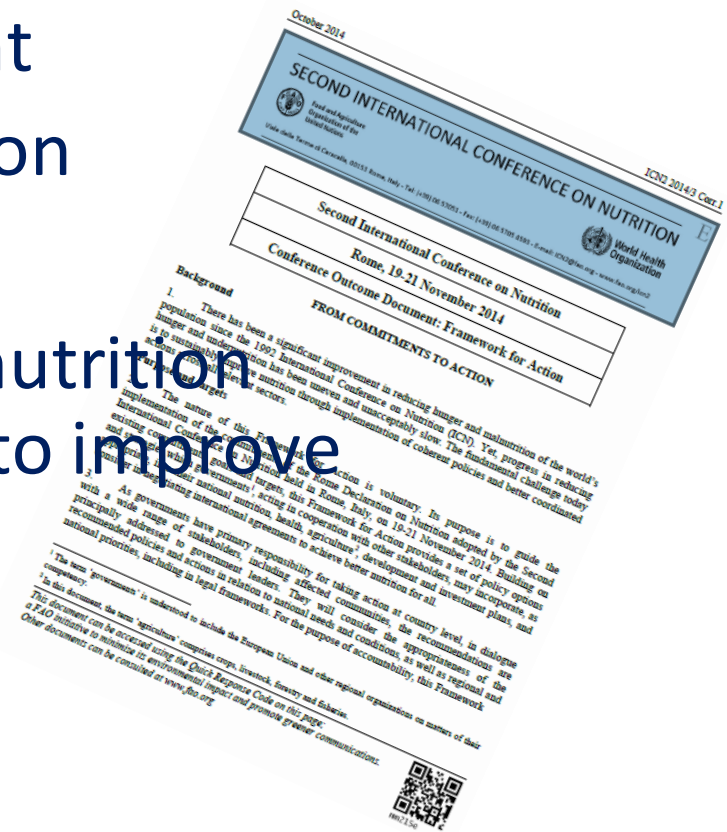
The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Rome Declaration recognizes "the need to address impacts of climate change and other environmental factors on food security and nutrition, in particular on the quantity, quality and **diversity of food** produced, taking appropriate action to tackle negative effects."



# Framework for Action

## 60 policy and programme options

- Sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets
- International trade and investment
- Nutrition education and information
- Social protection
- Health systems delivery of direct nutrition interventions and health services to improve nutrition
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Food safety



# On 25 September 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# Nutrition is central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Nutrition as a direct goal



End hunger, access to safe, nutritious food (2.1)  
End all forms of malnutrition (2.2)

Nutrition as an enabler for health related goals



Women (3.1) & Children (3.2)

NCDs (3.4)

Communicable diseases (3.3)

Emergencies (3.d)

Nutrition as an enabler for other goals



## SDG Vision for nutrition:

End all forms of malnutrition, address the nutritional needs throughout the lifecycle, give universal access to safe and healthy food sustainably produced and ensure universal coverage of essential nutrition actions.



# GOAL 2



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND  
IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL





## Improve food systems and nutrition

Target 2.1 : By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Target 2.2 : by 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons



## Maintain genetic diversity

Target 2.5 : By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed



# The actions

عقد الأمم المتحدة  
للعمل من أجل التغذية

2025-2016

联合国  
营养问题行动十年

2016-2025

DECENIO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS DE  
**ACCIÓN SOBRE LA NUTRICIÓN**

2016-2025

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF  
**ACTION ON NUTRITION**

2016-2025

Десятилетие действий Организации Объединенных Наций

**по проблемам питания**

2016-2025

DÉCENNIE DES NATIONS UNIES  
**ACTION POUR LA NUTRITION**

2016-2025

# Why a Nutrition Decade?

## Decade of impact for all stakeholders



To catalyse and facilitate **alignment** of ongoing **collective efforts worldwide** towards **eradicating hunger and ending all forms of malnutrition**



To stimulate effective **translation of ICN2 commitments and 2030 Agenda into concrete policies, programmes, and investments**



To mobilise coordinated support from across society to **increase the scale, scope and impact of actions for improved nutrition**



To promote **mutual learning and collective accountability** for achieving global, regional and national nutrition targets

*Working together guided by a collective vision to improve nutrition*

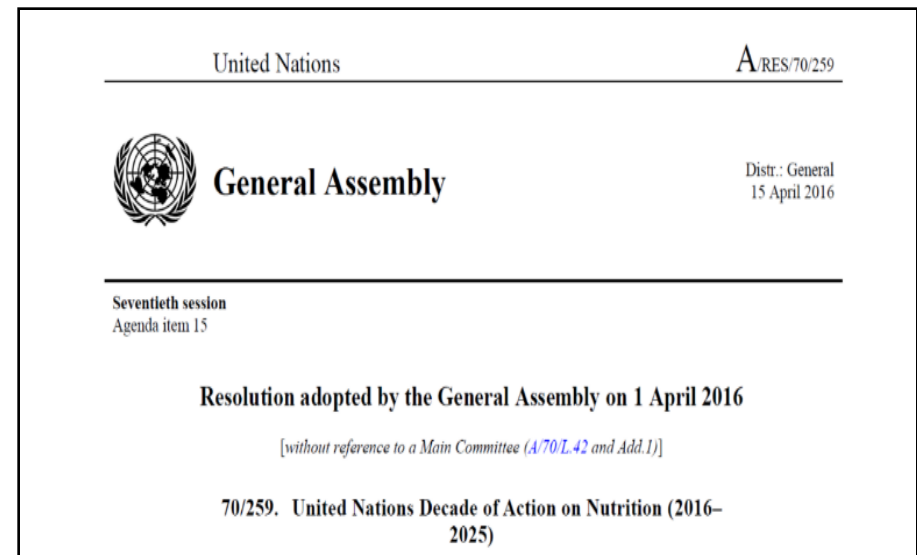
# What is it?

- The Nutrition Decade is for everybody
- An opportunity to work together and fight all forms of malnutrition
- Country-owned and country-led action to implement Agenda 2030
- A time for all stakeholders to take ACTION

## UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF **ACTION ON NUTRITION**



2016-2025



# Six cross-cutting action areas

- Action area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets**
- Action area 2:** Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions
- Action area 3:** Social protection and nutrition education
- Action area 4:** Trade and investment for improved nutrition
- Action area 5:** Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages
- Action area 6:** Review, strengthen and promote nutrition governance and accountability

# Means of implementation: Commitments for action

- Member States and other partners are encouraged to make **SMART commitments** for action on nutrition.
- Country-specific commitments will **reflect national priorities** and depend on the country's nutrition situation, and current food and health systems.
- FAO and WHO are preparing a **resource guide** to assist countries.
- Commitments are expected to be signed off by **high-level representatives** of countries.
- Registration in an open access **commitment repository**, created and managed by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat.
- For public accountability, the submitted commitments will be **tracked** on a regular basis by country **self-assessments**.





**Compromissos do Brasil**  
para a Década de Ação  
das Nações Unidas para a Nutrição  
(2016-2025)



**Nutrition**

**Brazil first country to make specific commitments in UN Decade of Action on Nutrition**

3 commitments, to be achieved by 2019, focus on curbing obesity

22 MAY 2017 | GENEVA – Today Brazil became the first country to make SMART<sup>1</sup> commitments as part of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016–2025. Ricardo Barros, Minister of Health of Brazil, made the announcement at the UN in Geneva, on the first day of the Seventieth World Health Assembly.

Brazil's 3 commitments, to be achieved by 2019, are as follows:

1. Stop the growth in the adult obesity rate (which currently stands at 20.8%)
2. Reduce by at least 30% consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among adults
3. Increase by at least 17.8% the proportion of adults who regularly eat fruit and vegetables



# Means of implementation:

## Action networks

- Action networks are informal coalitions of countries.
- They aim at advocating for the establishment of policies/legislation, allowing the exchange of practices, providing mutual support to accelerate implementation.
- An action network may be established at the request of one or more countries that have made formal commitments. The network consists of countries committed to being active members being prepared to put actions forward and implement them.
- The joint Secretariat will disseminate action network information.
- Nutrition Decade champions are frontrunners and lead by example.

## Nutrition

- [Nutrition home](#)
- [Nutrition topics](#)
- [Databases](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Collaborating centres](#)
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### Norway announces the establishment of a sustainable fisheries action network

Working towards achieving the SDGs under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

6 JUNE 2017 | NEW YORK – Norway has become the first country to establish an action network as part of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025. The Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Ocean for Food Security and Nutrition calls for higher priority to be given to fisheries and aquaculture in efforts to improve global food security.

This action network is a direct follow-up of the *Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025*. It will facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and experiences between Member States on effective policies and actions to ensure sustainable fishery and aquaculture practices. Through Norway's action network, participating countries can work towards the commitments of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and SDGs 1, 2, 3, 12 and 14.

In April 2016, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2016-2025 the Decade of Action on Nutrition. Led by WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Nutrition Decade is a framework for making commitments, tracking progress and ensuring mutual accountability in line with the global nutrition targets.



Geir O. Pedersen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN in NYC, supporting the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025



#### Related links

- [United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition](#)
- [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [70/259 United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition \(2016–2025\)](#)

The Decade calls for policy action across six key areas:

# Synergies

UN Decade of Action on Nutrition  
and  
UN Decade on Biodiversity



# The Nutrition Decade can contribute to the Convention on Biological Diversity by promoting commitments and action networks in food systems

- promoting national policies and programs that mainstream biodiversity for food and nutrition
- Embedding biodiversity in action networks
  - Fruit and vegetable action network: sustainable intensification of agricultural production and agro-ecology, post-harvest and processing, markets, public and private investments, incentives for local markets and small farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
  - Animal source foods: sustainable livestock and poultry production, sustainable fisheries, markets and value addition, circular economy and waste reduction, equitable access, moving away from intensive farming systems and supporting small-scale farming and SMEs
  - Sustainable, healthy fisheries, oceans, seas and marine resources





# WHO's Ambition and Action in Nutrition 2016-2025

- Vision: “A world free from all forms of malnutrition where all people achieve health and well-being.”
- Mission: “To work with Member States and partners to ensure universal access to effective nutrition actions and to healthy and sustainable diets. ”
- 3 functions: leadership, guidance and monitoring





## Leadership priority 2: Leverage changes in relevant non-health sectors to improve and mainstream nutrition

### ENVIRONMENT:

- Participate in the development or update of global policy frameworks addressing climate change and **biodiversity loss**.
- Develop the evidence base for the alignment of measures to reduce the environmental impact of food production and the promotion of healthy diets.



# The COP to the CBD can contribute to the Nutrition Decade

Protecting and promoting biodiversity contributes to dietary diversity and healthy diets (see Decision XIII/6) e.g. improving nutrition of infants and young children through local agrobiodiversity

- Building evidence and sharing knowledge
- Promoting sustainable use of crops and livestock diversity and wild foods
- Promoting economic incentives throughout the supply chain
- Capacity building on nutrition and biodiversity, governance



## Key messages

- Malnutrition in all its forms affects all countries
- Industrial agriculture and current food systems impact the environment, including biodiversity
- Biodiversity is needed to ensure healthy and diverse diets
- Nutrition and biodiversity communities need to collaborate as it is a natural win-win
- Countries are encouraged to make SMART commitments or lead an action network under the Nutrition Decade



**Thank you  
Kiitos**



**Contact us: [nutrition@who.int](mailto:nutrition@who.int)**