

**“OUR ACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE” – A ZERO HUNGER WORLD  
BY 2030 IS POSSIBLE**

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Mousumi Malo

Department of Agronomy  
Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur-741252, West Bengal, IndiaEmail: [moubckv15@gmail.com](mailto:moubckv15@gmail.com)

**C**onflict, immoderate weather phenomenon closely related to climate change and economic deceleration, as well as expeditiously escalating overweight and obesity levels, are overturning the advancement created in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. According to FAO, almost 821 million people in the world and one in nine people suffer from chronic hunger. In agreement with data received in 2016, nearly 11 per cent of the global populations are fighting with continual undernourishment. The dictatorial number of malnourished people is the greatest in Asia and the extensiveness of underfed persons is rapidly increasing in South Asia, from 9.4 per cent in the year 2015 to 11.5 per cent in 2016 (FAO, 2017) and United Nations confirmed that 3 out of 10 stunted children in the globe are observed in our country. The government has launched numerous techniques for the improvement of agricultural crop production and productivity and to guarantee that food can reach the poor section of our society through a well organized public distribution network. Nevertheless, the achieved production level is not sufficient to culminate the prevalence of severe malnutrition and to encourage dietary diversification. India, one of the largest food-producing nations, holds the rank of 103rd out of 119 countries while considering 2018 Global Hunger Index and suffers from a grievous level of hunger with a score of 31.1. Nelson Mandela once said, “It always seems impossible until it’s done”. This foundation of belief resonates with the theme of World Food Day 2018 *i.e.* Zero Hunger World is possible by 2030. World Food Day is celebrated on 16 October every year to reconsider the position of food, and nutritional assurance which recommences the pledge to end hunger reminds the world that Zero Hunger is conceivable if we can move altogether and take account of experiences learnt and also displays a commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2 – to acquire Zero Hunger status by the year 2030. It actually indicates working together to ensure everyone, everywhere, has access to the safe, healthy and

nutritious food they require. Combating hunger is a universal agenda and obtaining zero hunger demands agrarian systems to become more efficacious, sustainable and enduring, climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive as well as need synchronization among malnutrition, dietary and production diversity. ‘Zero Hunger’ is one of 17 SDGs that make up the 2030 Mission for sustainable development that needs a very strong determination level and commitment from individual nations.

### **Sustainable development goals (SDGs)**

- ✓ SDGs or Global Goals are a universal call to take action to combat poverty, safeguard our planet and make sure that all people can enjoy peace and prosperity, which came into existence in January of the year 2016 and will proceed to conduct UNDP policy and funding until the end of 2030.
- ✓ Aspire to culminate all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, ensuring all the people, specifically children and the more vulnerable sections have proper access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round.
- ✓ Promote sustainable agricultural practices, improve the livelihoods and capacities of small scale farmers, and allow equal access to land, technology and markets.
- ✓ Require international cooperation to ensure investment in infrastructure and technology to improve agricultural production and productivity.

### **Path to zero hunger by 2030**

#### **1. Demand for food will grow**

- Increase investment in agriculture
- Build market infrastructure and improve public goods to raise productivity and rural incomes.

#### **2. About 800 million people go hungry today**

- Promote nutrition policies, including dietary education, and shift to consumption and production approaches that promote biodiversity and long-term health benefits.
- Establish social protection systems to improve food access, such as school food and cash transfers. Without nourishment, humans cannot learn or lead healthy and productive lives.

#### **3. Increasing competition for natural resources**

- Sustainably manage forests, oceans, water, land and soil and promote an ecosystem approach to extract greater agricultural yield with fewer inputs.
- 4. A large share of food produced is lost or wasted**
    - Make food systems more efficient, inclusive and resilient and limit extreme food price volatility
  - 5. 4 in 5 poor people live in rural areas**
    - Develop pro-poor growth strategies in rural areas, focusing on small-scale farmers and the people left furthest behind.
  - 6. Gender equality is a precondition for prosperity**
    - Ensure rural women have equal access to resources, income opportunities, and education.
  - 7. Youth numbers are rising fast**
    - Diversify rural employment into non-agricultural activities targeting youth to slow their exodus to cities.
  - 8. Inequalities are increasing both within and between countries**
    - Address the root causes of inequality. Give poor people access to health, education, land, finance and new technology.
  - 9. Outbreaks of transboundary pests and diseases are growing alarmingly**
    - Establish best practices in preventing diseases and anti-microbial resistance that threaten plant and animal production, public health and trade.
  - 10. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions are exacerbating climate change**
    - Transform agriculture so that it contributes to fossil fuel reduction.
  - 11. Climate change is jeopardizing crop and livestock production and fish stocks**
    - Adopt holistic approaches, such as agro-ecology, agroforestry, climate-smart and conservation agriculture
  - 12. Conflicts and crisis are becoming increasingly protracted**
    - Build the resilience of rural communities to withstand shocks, crisis and disasters. Tackle distress migration.
  - 13. Globalization is increasing demand for information, technology and participation**
    - Build institutions and mechanisms that provide international norms, standards and data, and promote cooperation among countries and partners.

## Zero Hunger challenge

The Zero Hunger vision is comprised of five elements which can end hunger, eliminate all forms of malnutrition and build inclusive and sustainable food systems if taken together. These five elements are:

1. All food systems are sustainable: from production to consumption
2. An end to rural poverty: double small-scale producer incomes & productivity
3. Adapt all food systems to eliminate loss or waste of food
4. Access to adequate food and healthy diets, for all people, all year round
5. An end to malnutrition in all its forms

## How India can overcome the zero hunger challenge

1. Design and development of efficient integrated systems of food production, processing, preservation and distribution
2. Adequate warehousing facilities, cold storages, resilient transportation infrastructure and improved marketing channels
3. Developing and upgrading rural infrastructure
4. Impart training to farmers about post-harvest practices
5. Integrating small scale enterprises into value chains
6. Organizing smallholder farmers into farmer producer organizations
7. Customized financial services and investment in agricultural research
8. Setting up genetic gardens for bio-fortified plant crops

## Solutions for world hunger

### 1. Food donations

One of the easiest means of combating world hunger and malnutrition is to commence more food collection drives which can bring the entire world to a position of self-sustainability, and it is not something that can happen overnight.

### 2. Urban farming

Almost one-quarter of malnourished people dwell in an urban environmental condition; therefore, a big initiative for urban farming has been taken up that gives empowerment to the families to gain control over their own food source. Rooftop/indoor farming in the middle of

cities can solve the hunger problem, and vertical farming can feed about 10 billion people and make agriculture independent of weather and the need for land.

### **3. Sustainable farming**

Sustainable agriculture integrates three main goals like environmental soundness, economic profitability and social and economic equity which is based on the principle that farmers must meet the requirement of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their demands.

### **4. Government intervention**

Encouragement should be given to foreign nations to be more focused on government intervention programs that contribute food to mothers and children in poor areas to fight global hunger.

### **5. Birth control education**

Higher birth rates impose a major threat while trying to solve the hunger problem as many people are not well educated on reproduction or do not have enough access to contraceptives.

### **6. Access to credit**

In the last few years, a large section of people in poor countries has gained access to credit by many organizations. Most of these credit loans are repaid, and they have created many industries, like farms, that can generate a sustainable provision for people and also develop an economically viable nation.

### **7. Access to education**

A better education system is the best weapon against poverty and hunger, and it can provide better opportunities and more access to income and food. Additionally, some countries have food-for-education programs where students are given free food for coming to school.

## **Conclusion and way forward**

Agriculture is a huge business which can create opportunities for the younger generation to take up agriculture as their profession in order to protect long-term food and nutritional security and technologies like mobile phones and many others can be used for knowledge dissemination to rural farmers on the food production cycle and market linkages. There is a huge need to formulate policies for supporting better agricultural investments; on the other hand agricultural subsidies and incentives must be provided as well as the production and consumption of climate-resilient native nutritional crops should be encouraged. To achieve

the mission entitled ‘Zero hunger’, we must adopt a more sustainable lifestyle, work with others, share our knowledge and be willing to change the world – for the betterment. It is at the heart of FAO’s mandate to ensure that people have access to sufficient high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives. FAO collects, analyses and disseminates data that aids development and works with countries both to devise and implement policies that take into account the multifaceted elements of Zero Hunger.

### Reference

FAO. (2017). The future of food and agriculture- trends and challenges.