



# NUTRITION, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

**AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED: ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD IS A KEY COMPONENT OF FOOD SECURITY, AND AGRICULTURE SUPPORTS BOTH FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY.**

## THERE IS NO NUTRITION SECURITY WITHOUT FOOD SECURITY

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations defines food security as a situation when “all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and **nutritious** food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”
- Nutrition is not just hunger. Nutrition security requires food, health and care simultaneously – there is no way to achieve nutrition security without household food security, but food security is only one component of good nutrition.

## AGRICULTURE IS A KEY PATHWAY TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION

- By 2050, food demand is projected to increase by between 70 and 100% to meet population growth, which will require growth in agricultural production.<sup>1</sup>
- People – particularly children, adolescent girls and pregnant women – need access to locally available and affordable diverse diets that provide enough micronutrients, not just calories. Agricultural interventions to increase crop and livestock productivity and reduce yield losses can help households to access more nutritious foods in their local markets.
- An additional US\$8 billion dollars of investments per year into agricultural growth would, by 2050, reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 210 million and the number of underweight children by 10 million.<sup>2</sup>

## BETTER NUTRITION IS NEEDED IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- 75% of the world’s hungry live in rural areas – many of them are also smallholder farmers.<sup>3</sup>
- Smallholder farmers produce 80% of the food supply in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.<sup>4</sup>
- Interventions to improve the food security, nutritional status and income of food producers such as smallholder farmers may help to increase their contribution to agricultural production, and to the food systems of developing countries in particular.<sup>5</sup>



2

ZERO HUNGER



Food security, nutrition and agriculture are part of the same global agenda. SDG 2 encourages the world to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.”

The Nutrition in the Global Agenda Series, issued by The Power of Nutrition, aims to clarify why and how investments in nutrition can maximise other development objectives and be a major pathway towards the achievement of the world’s shared Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



The Power of Nutrition is a charitable foundation whose primary focus is improving the nutritional welfare and care of young children and adolescent mothers in Africa and Asia. Visit [www.powerofnutrition.org](http://www.powerofnutrition.org) and follow @gofundnutrition to learn more about our work.

<sup>1</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the World Trade Organisation, the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the United Nations High Level Task Force on Global Food Security and Nutrition Security, ‘Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses’, 2 June 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Hoddinott, John et al., ‘Investments to Reduce Hunger and Undernutrition’, in: Lomborg, Bjorn (Ed.) Copenhagen Consensus, 2012, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> The International Fund for Agricultural Development, ‘Improving Nutrition through Agriculture’, Rome, June 2014.

<sup>4</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ‘Enduring Farms: Climate Change, Smallholders and Traditional Farming Communities’, 2012.

<sup>5</sup> The International Fund for Agricultural Development, ‘Improving Nutrition through Agriculture’, Rome, June 2014.