

## **Food Security in the Context of Rio+20**

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Food security covers availability, access, utilization and stability issues, and in its focus on individuals also embraces their energy, protein and nutrient needs for life, activity, pregnancy, growth and long-term capabilities. Sustainable agriculture is not officially defined but generally refers to the capacity of agriculture over time to contribute to overall welfare by providing sufficient food and other goods and services in ways that are economically efficient and profitable, socially responsible, and environmentally sound.

Rio+20 Conference will have as main themes a Green Economy for Poverty Reduction and Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development: why and in which measure Food Security fits in the framework of the UNCSO Conference? Since 1992 the UNCSO has acted firmly to implement international time-bound and some qualitative commitments in the area of food security and sustainable agriculture agreed to in: Agenda 21 (1992); Rome Declaration on World Food Security (1996); JPOI (2002); MDGs (2000) and CSD17 decision on agriculture, rural development and drought and desertification. Global delivery of the food security and sustainable agriculture-related commitments has, however, been disappointing. Since the 1996 World Food Summit, the 8th session of the Commission on the Sustainable Development in 2000 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, as well as the Millennium Declaration goals all reaffirmed the objective of, and called for the implementation of, the World Food Summit.

The poor management and regulation of natural assets and ecosystems leads to increasingly frequent and severe regional and global crises and is a major factor behind food, water and energy insecurity and threatens global, regional and local stability. Rio+20 comes at the right moment to deliver a new framework to address the inter-linkages between these common challenges. Implementation activities against these commitments are reviewed as well as proposals made so far by member states and other stakeholders in the context of Rio+20 to fill gaps in implementation. To better secure the rights to natural resources for future generations and ensure adequate security for all, Rio+20 Parties should:

- Significantly strengthen and invest in government processes responsible for the allocation and sustainable management of resources, for example by land-, sea-and water-use planning within and between countries;
- Encourage investment in restoring the ecological and natural resource base of our economies, for example eroded soils, degraded water bodies, degraded forests and savannas, overexploited fish stocks and degraded lands;
- Preserve and protect ecosystems that provide key ecosystem services necessary to achieve food security;
- Prioritise the rehabilitation of degraded, abandoned or underperforming lands rather than farming in new areas. This requires reversing erosion and degradation through the construction of terraces and the planting of trees and grasses, rehabilitating waterways and cleaning up pollution.