

Organic Agriculture & Food Security

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

FOOD SECURITY has been defined by the World Health Organization as "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life."

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY IN NUMBERS

We are producing enough food to feed the world but...

**THERE ARE
7 BILLION PEOPLE
IN THE WORLD.**



800 MILLION
people are
undernourished
in terms of
energy intake.

2 BILLION
people suffer
from one or
more micronutri-
ent deficiencies.

1.4 BILLION
people are over-
weight, of whom
500 MILLION
are obese.



1 IN 4
people in Sub-Saharan
Africa are **chronically**
hungry.



HALF A BILLION
people in Southern Asia
suffer from hunger.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CAN CHANGE THIS!

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

supports and enhances ecologically sound systems of food production that can achieve food security by:

- Increasing and stabilizing yields, particularly in marginal lands.
- Improving resistance to pests and diseases.
- Combating desertification through decreasing erosion and improving water uptake and retention.
- Battling poverty through reducing debt and increasing returns on labor invested.
- Maintaining genetic crop diversity, which helps cope with climate change.
- Maintaining and improving environmental services.
- Building on local management skills and resources and enabling local communities of farmers, fisherfolk and pastoralists to be food self-sufficient and combat poverty.
- Providing diversified, healthy and nutritious food for farming families and communities.
- Access to organic markets that are continuously on the increase also in developing countries.



OUR CAMPAIGN

Ever increasing demand for healthier food, free from pesticide contamination and genetically modified organisms, is increasing the demand for organically produced crops. Good news for farmers in both developing and developed countries as organic production provides them with the means to obtain better prices for their products. Agriculture based on organic principles is gaining greater recognition as a possible major contributor to combating poverty and achieving food and nutrition security.

To increase the use of organic agriculture as a tool for food security and also maximize its benefits, we call on:

- **Governments** around the world to provide focused support and appropriate policies, including local market promotion for organic products by raising consumer awareness about nutritional benefits
- **Donors** and major development agencies, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to support and help accelerate the uptake of organic agriculture and other agro-ecological systems as they are crucial to ensuring healthy food for all in the 21st century
- **Research** and extension institutions to focus their work on agroecology and organic agriculture. To develop long-term solutions and promote and exchange successful techniques amongst farmers and technicians.

CHEMICALLY BASED AGRICULTURE

is proving unsustainable. Agribusiness-based food systems produce low-quality food and contribute significantly to all forms of malnutrition.

- “Green revolution” agriculture often makes wasteful use of water, destroying soils and increasing threats to biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Each year, salinization leads to about 1 million hectares of agricultural land going out of production.
- Many parts of the world are experiencing a decline in yields despite the increased use of chemical inputs.
- Pesticides are a major health hazard for farmers and farm workers, particularly in developing countries, as well as to wildlife.
- Genetically modified crops, rather than reduce pesticide inputs, are causing them to skyrocket in amount and toxicity.