

## 16 October 2020 **World Food Day**

### WHAT CAN **GOVERNMENTS** DO TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND OUR FOOD HEROES?

Governments around the world need to work together in solidarity and urgently address the devastating effects that the economic slowdown will have on the most vulnerable populations. They need to invest in social protection policies and programmes that ensure safe conditions and decent incomes for smallholder farmers and food chain workers, and adopt measures that avoid economic disruptions:

#### **TARGET THE MOST VULNERABLE**

Prioritize the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable households by expanding and improving emergency food assistance and social protection programmes, including cash transfers, the establishment of safe conditions and decent incomes that support the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and food chain workers.

#### **REINFORCE FOOD POLICIES WITH LEGISLATION**

Establish policy measures and legal frameworks that support sustainable food systems, for example on nutrition, decent employment and soil protection, etc.

#### **CLOSE THE DIGITAL GAP**

Prioritise innovation and digitalization. The international community needs to close the digital gap and ensure that technology flows to developing countries as it has the potential to improve both the food system and the livelihoods of farmers and food chain workers.

#### **PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES**

Promote climate-smart and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, such as agroecology, that preserve the Earth's natural resources, our health, and the climate and can also slow the habitat destruction that contributes to disease outbreaks.

#### **SUPPORT SMALLHOLDER PRODUCERS**

Support smallholder agricultural producers and other food heroes by helping them to respect safety concerns, while promoting market alternatives like e-commerce.

#### **AVOID FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY**

When battling health and economic crises with aggressive public spending, adopt measures to avoid food price volatility. Special attention needs to be given to the least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) but also countries that depend on primary exports, like oil, and countries, which rely heavily on food imports, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

**Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together.**

*Our Actions are our Future.*

**PRACTICE GLOBAL SOLIDARITY**

Enhance international cooperation and funding to help avoid devastating impacts on smallholder farmers in countries with very limited fiscal capacity.

**DIVERSIFY FOR HEALTHY DIETS**

Support nutrition-sensitive and biodiversity-smart food production for improved dietary health and protection of natural resources.



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