

# Food and Agriculture Organisation

October 15, 2020

## In News

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO's goal is to **achieve food security for all** and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

## More About FAO

- **With over 194 member states**, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. In Quebec City, Canada, the first session of the newly created United Nations established the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as a specialized UN agency. Its headquarters is in Rome.
- The **1961 Freedom From Hunger Campaign** is a milestone for FAO, in that it significantly contributed to **turning the organization from a technical agency into a development organization**. Launched with a five year mandate of raising global awareness about hunger, malnutrition and possible solutions to them, the Campaign is repeatedly extended until the early 1980s.
- In **1963, FAO and the UN General Assembly** adopted parallel resolutions that established the **World Food Programme** to deliver urgent food aid in real time to affected areas.
- In 1979, The 20th session of the FAO Conference took the unanimous decision of observing **World Food Day annually on the 16th October, in honour of the founding of FAO**.

## Objectives of FAO

- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters

### Approach of FAO

- Working with countries to **develop and implement agreements**, codes of conduct and technical standards
- Collecting, analyzing and **monitoring agricultural data** and information to support policy decisions
- **Enabling policy dialogue** at global, regional and country levels
- Working in **partnership with a wide range of institutions**, including international and regional organizations, universities, governments, civil society and the private sector
- **Building the capacity of countries** to meet their agricultural development goals
- Capturing and **sharing knowledge** internally and with partners
- **Communicating** about the work