



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food Programme

SAVE THE DATE

“Food and Nutrition in the New Urban Agenda”, an event in support of HABITAT III

29 June 2016, 13.15-14.30

Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters



The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, FAO, IFAD and WFP cordially invite you to a discussion on the essential linkages between urban and rural areas in the New Urban Agenda, using issues related to agriculture, food security and nutrition as a powerful entry point into maximizing the potential of these linkages and to deliver on the transformative future envisioned by the 2030 Agenda.

The event will take place on Wednesday, June 29, 1.15pm, in Conference Room 7, at the United Nations on the margins of the informal intergovernmental negotiations on the draft outcome document of the Habitat III Conference.

Speakers will include the Netherlands Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Mr Kees Rade, the co-chair of the farmers constituency for the Habitat III General Assembly of Partners, Mildred Crawford ; and, food policy and governance expert, Thomas Forster.

The New Urban Agenda will be a defining step in ensuring the sustainability of human settlements, one of the Sustainable Development Goals agreed in the 2030 Development Agenda. Ensuring food security and nutrition is a challenge in every human settlement in the world. It requires a combination of actions, involving multiple actors, layers of governance at multiple levels and different settings. How the different connections play out will help determine the sustainability of the food systems that feed people in urban centres and rural areas, and the prosperity of cities themselves. Join us in this conversation.



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Concept Note

“Food and Nutrition in the New Urban Agenda”, an event in support of HABITAT III 29 June 2016, 13.15-14.30 Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters

The New Urban Agenda will be a defining step in ensuring the sustainability of human settlements, one of the Sustainable Development Goals agreed in the 2030 Development Agenda. Ensuring food security and nutrition is a challenge in every human settlement in the world. It requires a combination of actions, involving multiple actors, layers of governance at multiple levels and different settings. How the different connections play out will help determine the sustainability of the food systems that feed people in urban centres and rural areas, and the prosperity of cities themselves.

Cities are increasingly linked with peri-urban and rural areas. This requires an integrated approach to addressing connected rural and urban development challenges. Territorial approaches can help here as they can reflect the multiple reciprocal flows between rural and urban areas, and foster cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation among settlements of different sizes and across territories, in across urban and rural areas. That also means fostering development in cities and rural areas alike.

FAO, IFAD and WFP invite you to a discussion on the essential linkages between urban and rural areas in the New Urban Agenda, using issues related to agriculture, food security and nutrition as a powerful entry point into maximizing the potential of these linkages and to deliver on the transformative future envisioned by the 2030 Agenda. The event will take place on June 29, 1.15pm, in Conference Room 7.

Taking into account the broader connections related to the rural-urban nexus, the event will look at how to integrate food into urban planning and explore the extent to which current food systems can be improved through territorial approaches to development. The discussion will also look at how to make the best use of food systems as a driver of inclusive economic growth and of greater urban sustainability.

The starting point of the discussion will be the key messages from the Habitat III Expert Group Meeting “Integrating Food into Urban Planning” (May 2016), and the German Habitat Forum Workshop on “Realizing Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Urban Linkages through Food and Agriculture” (June 2016). Following these presentations, the participants will be invited to join the debate on food and nutrition in the New Urban Agenda.

The overall main message conveyed is that food security and nutrition are key for sustainable settlements, urban centres and rural areas alike, and must be appropriately addressed in the New Urban Agenda. There are different ways to accomplish this. Through zoning policies, social protection, school meals and public, or jointly public-private food procurement and distribution schemes, governments can help ensure the possibility of sustainable food environments and healthy diets to the most vulnerable thus reducing inequality in access to food.

At the same time, private sector operators and markets are the main source of food for urban dwellers and play a key role in determining the diversity and nutritious quality of food available across all zones of towns and cities. Civil society and non-governmental organizations also have a role to play in helping identify and address gaps that may prevent urban population groups from achieving food security and nutrition.

However, urban food security and nutrition does not start or is limited by the city limits: rural-urban connections ensure the availability of food in cities, thus linking urban and rural development as well as urban and rural populations.

A well-coordinated and inclusive approach to urban and rural planning is as relevant to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as to the New Urban Agenda. In fact, food is a key integrator of urban and rural flows of products, services, people and capital touching on a number of SDGs. The food system, from producers to distributors, processors, retail, wholesale and informal markets, restaurants, institutional food service and waste management, as well as sectors servicing or benefiting from the food sector economy, represents a great majority of the employment source in many towns and cities.

The Netherlands Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kees Rade, will give opening remarks. Speakers will also include the co-chair of the farmers' constituency for the Habitat III General Assembly of Partners, Mildred Crawford; FAO Agro-Industry Expert Jorge Fonseca; and, food policy and governance expert, Thomas Forster. WFP Liaison Officer Brian Bogart will moderate the event and the head of the IFAD Liaison Office Zak Bleicher will offer concluding remarks.