



# Forestry Information & Fact Sheet

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## Director's Note:

**World Food Day:** World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on 16th October to commemorate the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) established World Food Day at their 20th General Conference in 1979. The day is celebrated widely by many other organizations concerned with hunger and food security, including the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agriculture Development. The theme for this year's celebration is ***“Safe Food Now For A Healthier Tomorrow”***

The day is used to promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all. Every year a number of events; from marathons and hunger marches, exhibition, cultural performances and contests are held across the world in celebration of world food day.

## **Who started World Food Day?**

The day is marked not only to celebrate the amazing food that we get to eat everyday, but to also spread awareness about those who struggle to get even one meal a day.

The day was first established in November 1979. The idea was suggested by former Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Food Dr. Pal Romany. Since then the day has been celebrated by more than 150 countries around the world. Most of the themes for the day over the years have revolved around agriculture and investment in the sector to increase production, investment in agriculture along with education and health can help in turning around the situation of hunger.

However, despite knowing the fact that agriculture needs investment, the sector has been starving for both public and private investments. The world today faces two major problems. One is the issue of providing a healthy diet which affects both the rich and poor causing lifestyle issues such as obesity, diabetes. On the other hand, there is the issue of hunger which leads to malnutrition, death and abnormal growth in children.

According to World Hunger Statistics, 785 million people across the globe do not have enough food to sustain a healthy lifestyle. The number equals about one in nine people in the world. Surprisingly, the majority of hunger people live in developing countries. Poor nutrition causes 45% of deaths in children under the age of 5. That means just over 3 million children a year die because they don't have access to enough nutritious food.

World hunger is a complex issue. Some believe the problem is solvable. World hunger solutions include:

- Help people provide food for themselves in a sustainable way
- Give people in developing countries access to credit so they can create their own farms
- Encourage individuals and businesses to donate to hunger relief organizations.

- Provide access to education, which is the best defense against poverty and hunger.
- Allow for increased government intervention

Some experts believe the answer to world hunger is much more straightforward. They believe the key to ending world hunger is to stop wasting food. The most wasted food include:



- Vegetables,
- Cereals
- Starchy Roots

These foods are wasted during agricultural production and in the post harvest storage. Food waste increases the need to produce more food. When not enough food gets produced, people go hungry.

Reducing food waste is good for the planet, as it helps slow down global warming. If global food waste were a country, it would be third largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and US

Benefits of reducing food waste:

- **Saves money** from buying less food.
- **Reduces methane emissions** from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.
- **Conserves energy and resources**, preventing pollution involved in the growing, manufacturing, transporting, and selling food (not to mention hauling the food waste and then landfilling it.)
- **Supports your community** by providing donated untouched food that would have otherwise gone to waste to those who might not have a steady food supply.



*“Our Actions Are Our Future. Healthy Diets For A Zero Hunger World”*

