# Event on “SDG 2: *We can still end hunger by 2030 if we take ambitious climate action”*

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| **Date: Thursday, 13 December 2018** **Time: 11:30 to 13:00****Room: Wisla, Area G****IISD Coverage:** [**http://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop24/side-events/13dec.html#event-1**](http://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop24/side-events/13dec.html#event-1) |
| **Event Rationale**Creating an enabling policy environment for climate action in the agricultural sectors has never been more urgent. The agricultural sectors of developing countries already absorb 26 percent of the total damage and losses caused by climate related disasters. In the past three years, following a promising period of decline, world hunger has been on the rise, with around 821 million people going hungry today. Conflict and climate change have been identified as key drivers of this increase. What is more, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming highlights that about 122 million additional people will likely be hit by extreme poverty by 2030, mainly due to higher food prices and declining health. Under 2 degrees Celsius of warming, achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) on ending hunger would become extremely challenging. At the same time, the agricultural sectors contribute around 24 percent of global emissions. However, they also offer significant potential to provide emissions efficiency gains, absolute reductions and carbon sinks, while simultaneously supporting resilience-building and socioeconomic development. They are fundamental to achieving both the adaptation and mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change (linked to SDG 13) while simultaneously contributing to multiple objectives of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including reduced poverty (SDG 1), the realization of the human right to food (SDG 2), the empowerment of women (SDG 5). To harness this significant positive potential, fundamental changes to the “business as usual” scenario are needed – starting immediately, and at scale.Momentum for this kind of action is growing. Ninety percent of countries included the agricultural sectors as a priority in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The historic Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, adopted by the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 23), recognizes that, in order to achieve greater results, it is necessary to combine scientific and technical negotiations with exchanges on how to facilitate implementation. Ongoing preparations for the 2019 Climate Summit of the UN Secretary General, the revision of NDCs now underway for 2020, and current discussions on how to conduct the 2023 global stocktake set the stage for an open conversation and constructive review of commitments to the Paris Agreement in relation to agriculture and food security. Many inspiring solutions exist. They now need to be taken to scale, in order to shift environmental and socioeconomic paradigms hand-in-hand. We need to build resilience systematically, in particular supporting the most vulnerable populations in the face of climate variability and shocks. The IPCC report on 1.5 degrees of warming emphasizes that special attention should be given to the design of adaptation and mitigation options that are not detrimental to food security and nutrition and that mitigation options limiting the demand for land include sustainable intensification of land use practices, ecosystem restoration and changes towards less resource-intensive diets. Our soils, forests and oceans are huge carbon sinks and are our allies for climate action. We need to leverage them as such – and fast. Let us act on behalf of the 1 in 9 people going hungry today, and on behalf of the 9 billion people that stand to live in a warmer world by 2050. Our actions are our future.**Short description**The event will commence with a keynote speech by the IPCC chair to set the scene with the findings of the Panel’s 2018 report on 1.5 degrees of warming. This will be followed by a panel discussion reflecting the diverse perspectives of different actors, including developing and developed country Parties, leading research insitutions and farmers’ groups. Panelists will be asked to make short interventions (ca. 5 minutes each), focusing on the event’s guiding questions, after which an interactive discussion with the audience will be facilitated.**Event Objectives*** To highlight the “state of the art” of facts and figures on the relationship between climate action, food security and the right to food.
* To explore diverse examples of transformational actions and measures that can set the agricultural sectors on a path to deliver both on climate and development goals.
* To help raise ambition for climate action in agriculture at national and international level.

**Key Messages*** Recent flagship reports sound the alarm: global hunger and temperature averages are both on the rise. Decisive action at scale is urgent.
* We can still end hunger by 2030 if we take ambitious climate action now. And we can still meet the Paris Agreement’s target to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, if we include the agricultural sectors in a coordinated, holistic climate response.
* With the right support, the agricultural sectors can play a leading role in shaping resilient, low-emissions futures in a more equitable world.

**Guiding Questions for Panelists*** Given the current trend in emissions explained in the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degrees of warming, scientists are recommending carefully designed adaptation and mitigation options that are not detrimental to food security and nutrition. Could you please provide some examples of interventions that are designed to reduce or avoid trade offs and maximize outcomes to achieve SDG 2?
* How do you see the NDC process in helping achieving food security outcomes in the long-terms and / or reduce growing risk of food crisis?
* What type of innovations are needed to ensure sustainable food system and a less resource intensive diets?
* What kinds of interactions between the climate community and the development community should be further strengthened to ensure that action on SDGs 2 and 13 are effectively linked?

**Chair*** **Mr. Zitouni Ould Dada**, Deputy Director (Climate and Environment Division), FAO

**Opening*** **Ms. Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director-General (Climate and Natural Resources), FAO

**Speakers*** **Mr. Hoesung Lee**, IPCC Chair
* **Mr. Ryszard Zarudzki,** Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland
* **‎Mr. Joseph Jouthe**, Minister of Environment, Haiti
* **Mr. David Nabarro**, Strategic Director, Skills, Systems & Synergies for Sustainable Development (4SD)
* **Ms. Pramisha Thapaliya**, Agriculture Working Group, YOUNGO
* **Mr. Raphaël Podselver**, Political Outreach, ProVeg
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| ***Organizing partners*** | **Co-leads:** FAO, IFAD, WFP**Contributors:** CEPAL, WHO, OHCHR, UN-Women; UN Environment |
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