

Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030

Sustainable Development Agenda

22-23 February 2017, Ankara, Turkey

Opening Speech by Ms. Yuriko Shoji,

FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia and

FAO Representative in Turkey

Dear Participants and Colleagues,

- I am delighted to receive you here in Ankara for the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, jointly organized by the Statistics Division of FAO, FAO Sub-regional Officer for Central Asia and SESRIC. A very warm welcome to all of you.
- The FAO Sub-regional Officer for Central Asia is particularly pleased to host this workshop today, because understanding and monitoring food security situation requires a joint effort of countries and international and regional organizations such as FAO and SESRIC. National data collected by governments should form the foundation for monitoring at regional and global levels. Information at national, regional and global levels will provide critical foundation for action leading to policies that reach the most vulnerable groups in all countries.
- FAO has been closely monitoring the progress towards achieving the internationally established food security targets since 1990 at regional and sub-regional level, as well as for the world as a whole. The results were compiled, analysed and widely disseminated every year through the State of Food Insecurity report since 1999.
- The result shows both positive and negative experiences. Since 1990, the share of food insecure people in the world population has almost halved. 72 of the 129 countries monitored for progress have reached the Millennium Development Goals target, including most of the countries which today's participants are representing.
- While we should take pride in our achievements, we must remain committed to the challenging agenda ahead of us. 5 to 33 percent of the population of the countries participating today still remain food insecure. We would need to pay more attention to inclusive growth to provide opportunities for improving the livelihoods of the poor, social protection to increase human capacities of the most vulnerable, supporting sustainable food systems to adapt to the effects of climate change, and nutrition education to improve people's diet.
- However, there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to dealing with food insecurity. Food insecure families are in greatly varying socio-economic conditions, and solutions have to be tailored to address them. For example, families who are displaced by war and conflict will need to build resilient livelihoods for ensuring their sustainable access to sufficient food, along with emergency assistance to meet immediate basic needs.
- Information regarding where food insecure people are, why they are food insecure, and what future risks they might face, can contribute to designing effective policies and targeting allocation of resources. Therefore, efforts to measure and monitor food insecurity are critical for all stakeholders to engage in collaborative action.

- Today and tomorrow, FAO and SESRIC will facilitate discussion on how the national statistics systems can provide food security information which is relevant for decision-making of government officials, development partners, community leaders, advocates and researchers. All participants are encouraged to share their experiences in food security monitoring, particularly the challenges faced for producing food security statistics at household and individual levels. Statistic Division of FAO will provide comprehensive information about relevant methodologies, while FAO Sub-regional Office and SESRIC are here to support regional coordination and collaboration in implementing food security monitoring. I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunity that this workshop provides to learn about approaches and methodologies, as well as experiences in other countries.
- In closing, I would like to wish you a very productive workshop and a pleasant stay in Ankara.