

## SDG 2 Zero Hunger

**Speaker:** Ahmad Mukhtar <sup>1</sup>

**Career/Experiment:** Senior economist, FAO

### Introduction of the speaker

- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)
  - Senior economist in Geneva Office and Cairo
  - He is leading the economic analysis and reporting on FAO's priority areas in the Near East and North Africa to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the socioeconomic aspects of food security, rural transformation, food and agricultural policy, institutional reform, sustainable and healthy food systems, natural resource conservation and climate change impacts.
- He carries over 20 years of experience in public, private and international development sectors, working on national and international/multilateral assignments in the areas of international economic and trade policy, agriculture economics and trade, commercial diplomacy, bilateral and regional trade issues and implementation of trade and investment policies.
- Prior to joining the FAO regional office, he worked at the FAO office in Geneva, while previously he worked with the UNCTAD, UNDP, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO, Ministry of Commerce Pakistan, Board of Investment Pakistan and with donor projects of USAID and the EU Technical Assistance.
- He has also led the multilateral negotiations on Domestic Regulations for Trade in Services as Chairman of the WTO Working Party on Domestic Regulations (2010-2011).
- He has educational and professional qualifications in Economics, Law, Public Policy, Finance, and Biotechnology.

### FAO Overview:

- A specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. With 195 members - 194 countries and the European Union, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.
- Goal
  - achieve food security
  - make sure that people have regular access to enough nutritious food
- Areas of work:

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- Agriculture fishery and agriculture forest
- Biodiversity, climate change and disaster risk reduction, rural livelihood
- Data information and capacity building

#### Lecture Overview

- Brief Description: Summary of targets & indicators and links to other SDGs
- Current State of implementation, progresses, and an example of good practice where youth are active
- Key issues & challenges related to the achievement of this Goal
- Suggested action areas for the youth to engage and contribute

#### Q1a: The importance of SDG 2

- “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.”
  - Yet up to 811 million people remain chronically undernourished or hungry
  - malnutrition: hunger, over nutrition (obesity), micronutrient deficiencies
- These worrying trends coincide with...
  - the diminishing availability of land
  - increasing soil and biodiversity degradation
  - more frequent and severe weather events.
- The impact of climate change on agriculture compounds the situation.

#### Q1b: What does it entail in terms of targets & Indicators?

- Target 2.1: ensure access to safe nutritious and sufficient food for all in the world (roughly 800 plus million people)
- Target 2.2: end all forms of malnutrition (over 2 billion people)
- Target 2.3: double the small holder food production and income (90% farmers are smallholders)
- Target 2.4: deliver on the sustainable and resilient food systems to withstand the climate change or war risk
- Target 2.5: maintain or even increase the agrobiodiversity (since the commercial farming cause a lots of loss)
- Target 2.a: increase the investment in the rural infrastructure and services (based on the consideration of economic benefits, the country usually does not invest in the coexistence area, but around the urban area)
- Target 2.b: correct and prevent the world agriculture trade distortions  
# Trading relationship among countries
- Target 2.c: ensure the proper functioning of the food commodity markets

## **Q2: How much progress have we made since the launching of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2016?**

- Unfortunately, the number of hungry people have increased globally from 700 million to 811 million.
- SDG-2 Progress: Target 2.1:
  - overall the trend line which is Global line it is going up
- SDG-2 Progress: Other Targets and Indicators
  - \*\* Demo of the FAO Data website <sup>2</sup>

## **Q3: What are the key challenges in implementing this particular SDG?**

The amount of food is enough for all people to eat, but it is not achieved because of the following dimensions:

- Food security dimensions:
  - Availability: make food available at each and every place where population or people live
  - Access: poor people can't really afford food
  - Utilization: not knowing the right nutrients to eat can lead to malnutrition with adequate caloric intake
  - Stability: the use of food as bioenergy and indirect consumption is one of the reasons for food instability
- External factors:
  - Climate change: water shortage, floods
  - Conflicts: the majority of the increasing hungry people are in the conflict affected countries
  - Calamities: Covid

## **Q4: Is there a good practice example in implementing this SDG goal? Any example where young people have been active in contributing to this SDG Goal?**

- The World Food Forum (scheme example: healthy diets Healthy Planet)
- It is powered by global youth and all sustainability things they did fantastic the previous events is essentially a youth representation on the global food systems
- Supported by organizations like FAO and others but it is up to them to mobilize everything

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home>

**Q5: What do you suggest for young people to engage in order to achieve this SDG Goal?**

- Mobilize awareness
- Productivity approaches
- Innovation such as urban farming, kitchen gardening.
- Engage in agriculture by considering it equally interesting and profitable career like others.