



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

IFHE

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Press Release

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World Food Day - 16th October 2012

Home Economists in the Field of Agricultural Cooperatives – Key to feeding the World

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) celebrates World Food Day each year on 16th October. The theme of the World Food Day 2012 is “**Agricultural Cooperatives - Key to feeding the World**” in recognition of the role cooperatives play in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger.

At a glance agricultural cooperatives and Home Economics seem unrelated. But on closer examination there are many ways in which Home Economists and Home Economics organisations all around the world initiate the building up of agricultural cooperatives.

Home Economists who work in developing countries provide education to people about the growing and harvesting of healthy foods in a sustainable way. This is especially evident with the production of food in domestic gardens and in small agricultural properties - an important part of the food supply chain in developing countries. Utilising food preservation technologies is a fundamental Home Economics skill.

Home Economics educates especially women in developing countries to produce and process food for selling. For food production, as well as for food processing technical equipment and devices are necessary. As a co-operative agent, women are able to finance the required facilities, use them together and transport products to the markets.

In addition Home Economists educate and support families in managing the resources and finances of their households. Financial management of a household does not only mean to manage the spending of money but also the income generation. Home Economists empower women and men to run their own business by selling their products.

As a global network of Home Economist the IFHE and its members support projects and efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty in every region of the world. It supports the exchange of experiences and promotes the role of Home Economics in reaching the UN MDGs. An overview about UN MDGs related projects, including projects in the area of agricultural cooperatives, is available at www.ifhe.org.



The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO), having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) and with the Council of Europe.

To strengthen and initiate agricultural cooperatives the IFHE demands to:

- Highlight the contribution of agricultural cooperatives to reduce poverty and hunger.
- Support the development of grass root projects in the area of producing, processing and selling food in rural areas of developing countries.
- Focus on strategies at the international level to eliminate poverty and hunger beyond 2015 as a key area of action.