



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

IFHE

INTERNATIONALER VERBAND
FÜR HAUSWIRTSCHAFT IVHW

Kaiser-Friedrich-Straße 13
53113 Bonn · Germany
Fon +49 (0)228 9212590
Fax +49 (0)228 9212591
E-Mail office@ifhe.org

www.ifhe.org

IFHE · Kaiser-Friedrich - Straße 13 · 53113 Bonn · Germany

Press Release

World Home Economics Day 2012 – 21st March

“Home Economics Empowerment: Education for Sustainable Lifestyle”

Education for Sustainable Development - for which the special Decade was established, addresses all three pillars of sustainable development – **Environment, Society and Economy**. Its aim is to *“help people to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions”*.
(UNESCO – Education for Sustainable Development)

Elements of sustainable development should be seen as an integrated whole, where one affects the others. Long-term economic or social development is not possible on a depleted planet. That is why environmental education lies at the core of education for sustainable development. Environmental sustainability is one of the keys to achieving overall sustainable development and achieves the eight UN Millennium Goals.

Families and Households are basic actors of societies and economics; they especially are responsible for resource management and sustainable consumption on household level.

Home Economics education not only focuses on the context of the home and household, but also includes the wider living environments. From the perspective of Home Economics the capacities, choices and priorities of individuals and families impact at all levels, ranging from the household, to the local and also the global community.

Home Economics as a curriculum area gives concrete frames and context to education for sustainable development. This combination of Home Economics and sustainability perspective is valuable as much as in school context as in adult training and other education programmes.

Culture, values and traditions determine the decisions of families and households on both developed and in developing countries. All over the world there is a need to develop a new awareness regarding ecological, economic and social challenges.

Education is recognised as the most important precondition for families and households to improve their lives and for societies to reach the MDGs.

Home Economics education empowers families and households:

- To overcome poverty and hunger.
- To realise sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods.
- To contribute to sustainable societies.
- To act mindful as responsive citizens.

The **International Federation for Home Economics** (IFHE) is the only worldwide organisation concerned with Home Economics and Consumer Studies. IFHE is very much committed to promote Home Economics education to realise sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods. IFHE is an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO), having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, FAO, UNESCO and UNICEF) and accredited by UN Department of Public Information.