

Speech

13 July 2015

Third International Conference on

Financing for Development

Plenary address

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva

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Your Excellency,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Through the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Accord on Financing for Development, the world has declared: “Our goal is to end poverty and hunger.”
2. To achieve this, we need to create enabling environments and give significant boosts to investment in both social protection and, rural development.
3. This investment must ensure that every person has adequate access to food all year long, and improve the productivity, incomes and livelihoods of the poor.
4. Besides, it should focus on adapting to climate change, and on supporting sustainable and inclusive food systems.
5. Farmers are the major source of investment in agriculture, but formal systems of credit and insurance often discriminate against them.
6. We need to support them, especially small-scale family farmers, to make growth inclusive and sustainable.
7. For the very poor, investing only in their productive capacities is not enough. Strengthened social protection is crucial for rapid progress to end hunger and to reach the most vulnerable families.
8. And because well over 70 percent of the world’s poor live in the countryside, priority must be given to social protection in rural areas, which usually escapes the attention of traditional social security systems.

Mr Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen,

9. FAO, IFAD and WFP estimate that investments of some 267 billion US dollars per year on average are necessary over the next 15 years to end hunger.
10. This may seem a lot, but it is only a fraction of the costs that malnutrition, including hunger, imposes on economies, societies and people.
11. For each poor person, it means an extra investment of US\$ 160 a year. That is the equivalent amount of a cow in India, or a parking fine in London or a ticket of a Broadway show in the United States.
12. And it is an investment that is essential to reach the future we want. Ensuring food security and nutrition for all is a condition for sustainable development.
13. We know what it takes. We know what it costs. We can be the zero hunger generation, paving the way to a sustainable and inclusive future that leaves no one behind.
14. It is up to us. Let us not let the opportunity slip through our fingers.
15. Thank you for your attention.