



FAO Representation - Afghanistan

FAO Press Release – Kabul, 17 October 2012

World Food Day 2012

Today, 17 October 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) celebrated the 32nd anniversary of the World Food Day (WFD) at the main conference hall of MAIL in Kabul. The theme of this year's observance was "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. There is broad agreement that smallholders will provide much of the extra food needed to feed more than nine billion people by 2050. One of the necessary steps to achieving food security is to support and invest in cooperatives, producer organizations and other rural institutions.

The ceremony started with the opening remarks from His Excellency Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Minister of MAIL. The Minister said: "Afghanistan's path to peace, or part of it, is food, and cooperatives play vital role in improving the productivity of food production, by improving farmers access to new technologies, improved seeds, fertilizers, as well as better markets for their products". It was then followed by Mr. Ousmane Guindo, FAO Representative who read the FAO Director General's Message on WFD quoting: "for FAO and its partners, agricultural cooperatives are natural allies in the fight against hunger and extreme poverty." There were remarks on WFD from His Excellency Mohammad Ismail, Minister of Energy and Water (MEW) stating: "It is difficult to achieve food security without water security." and Mr. Louis Imbleau, Country Director of WFP highlighting: "WFP uses its purchasing power to strengthen Afghan businesses by buying locally where this is viable."

The event was well attended by over 200 guests from different Ministries, Donor Agencies, UN Organizations, National and International NGOs and FAO projects. A number of ten outstanding farmers received gifts containing agricultural inputs. A visit of the participants to the FAO/MAIL projects' exhibition displaying their activities adjourned the function.

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