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**Abstract**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

**“Atoms for Food: Against the Growing Food Insecurity  
in Light of the Climate Change”**

## Introduction

In 2009 there has been a significant worsening of an already disappointing trend in global food security. Although there would be far enough food all over the world to feed everybody adequately, the problem is the distribution of it. Over more than one billion people are now estimated to be undernourished and the hunger is just increasing in all of the world's major regions.

Food Security is defined as "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life". So malnutrition is an ever-growing problem in the developing countries and out of it the aim is to establish concrete steps against the food insecurity. Therefore it is helpful to be geared to the three pillars of Food security:

- Food availability
- Food access
- Food use

## Food Security and the IAEA

This century's stark realities of hunger, poverty, climate change, and environmental degradation bring an unprecedented scale of challenges to the fields of food and agriculture.

The Joint FAO/IAEA Programme assists Member Countries of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and the IAEA to use nuclear techniques and related biotechnologies for developing improved strategies for sustainable food security. There are four subjects on which the Programme focuses: Soil and Water Management & Crop Nutrition, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Insect Pest Control and Food and Environmental Protection. Within these fields the Agency supports the member states and provides them with technical and advisory services, laboratory support and training and a variety of Information Services.

Action requires the research, expertise, and experience of the FAO/IAEA partnership - and other effective alliances worldwide - to help countries achieve and sustain higher levels of food security for their people.

The world has to take concrete steps to move beyond the "business-as-usual" approach and to respond to growing food insecurity in developing countries, particularly in light of climate change that will worsen the living conditions of farmers, fishers and forest-dependent people.

## Current Programmes of the Joint FAO/IAEA in attention to Climate Change

Lack of water is one of the most urgent issues of Food and Agriculture Security, so it is important to try to ensure that every drop of water is used efficiently.

For that reason the **Soil and Water Management** and Crop Nutrient Section in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China Agricultural University and scientist from twelve countries evaluated a range of conventional and isotopic techniques therefore in a field campaign in Beijing, China.

The average temperature of the world has increased in the last years. A direct effect of that is the spread of diseases. The milder climate provides a good basis for bacteria and viruses to move into new areas and harm wild life, domestic species and humans as well.

The IAEA, through the **Animal Production and Health Section** is at the forefront of developing and validating early and rapid diagnostic techniques that are simple to use, inexpensive and can be applied in a "laboratory limited" environment. Most of this work has been done by the application of nuclear, nuclear associated and nuclear-related technologies