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Food and Nutrition Security: Global Challenge – Site-Specific Solutions

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821 million people in the world are suffering from hunger, 2 billion from malnutrition. At least 70 % of the food insecure population live in rural areas of developing countries and depend on agriculture. Food security has long been regarded as a matter of balancing supply with demand. In the past, policies were limited to increasing agricultural production and/or slowing population growth. This perspective has fundamentally changed. Nowadays concepts and policies address four central ingredients, or pillars of food security: availability, access, utilization, and stability.

In respect of these pillars, agriculture has many functions: it must provide nutritious food, create income and contribute to the conservation of natural resources. To make sure that cultivation methods are appropriate to the location, they must be adapted to local environmental conditions, take the cultural context into account and be based on existing knowledge. In many developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, much of the farmland is still cultivated with the hand hoe and agricultural processing and transport are often done manually. Additionally, the pressure on natural resources has been growing for a long time, above all due to population increases, changing consumption patterns and climate change. Increasing and stabilizing yields and income through site-specific agriculture is an important driver of rural development and poverty reduction. In this regard there is a substantial need for better production techniques based on traditional knowledge but at the same time including innovative approaches.

International demand for food and biomass is steadily growing. Though rising concerns about sustainability aspects in biomass production have led to the development of voluntary certification standards to ensure that biomass is sustainably produced, food security aspects are hardly addressed. WWF Germany, the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) and Welthungerhilfe work on the establishment of a Food Security Standard (FSS). This set of criteria takes up the Human Right to Food as a new building block for existing sustainability standards and certification schemes. The FSS represents a best-practice set to ensure that the Right to Food is not violated at local level when producing certified biomass. Sustainability is feasible and the implementation of the FSS can play a crucial role for a successful *Revolution in Biomass and Food Production*.