



WORLD FOOD DAY

OCTOBER 16

WORLD FOOD DAY

WORLD FOOD DAY, every year on October 16, commemorates the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The 50th anniversary of FAO in 1995 marked a half century of effort by the international community, by national governments and a great number of non-governmental organizations to build a global infrastructure to assure every individual and family the realizable right to food to lead a healthy and active life. This goal of food for all was embodied in FAO's founding charter, and although it is a promise yet to be fulfilled, it is now less elusive due to a strong political commitment undertaken last year.

WORLD FOOD SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

In November 1996, Heads of State and Government gathered in Rome for the World food Summit convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. By adopting the Rome Declaration on Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, they pledged their political will and national commitment to the continuing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries. They resolved to reduce the number of chronically undernourished people in the world by half in less than two decades--from more than 800 million to some 400 million by the year 2015.

But the tragedy of widespread hunger cannot be eliminated through government action alone. Only a broad mobilization of public and private commitment, of collective and individual resources, can deflect the course of history which, if nothing is done, suggests that 730 million people could still be suffering from chronic undernutrition by the year 2010.

FOOD FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

The Rome Declaration and World Food Summit Plan of Action represent the commitment of governments throughout the world to abolish the scourge of hunger from the planet. However, without the mobilization of the whole of society, this goal will not be realized. The Food For All Campaign has been launched worldwide by FAO to promote the fundamental concepts, issues and concerns of achieving adequate food for all and to call to action all sectors of society to