



## IFHE Press Release 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### World Food Day 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016

#### “Climate is changing: Food and agriculture must too”

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) initiates the World Food Day each year on 16<sup>th</sup> October. On the base of the UN Sustainable Summit in September 2015 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in the same year the theme of the World Food Day 2016 focusses on one of the biggest issues related to climate change, which is food security. As FAO states “The world poorest - many of whom are farmers, fishers and pastoralists - are being hit hardest by higher temperatures and an increasing frequency in weather-related disasters.”

FAO also notices that at the same time, the global population is growing steadily and is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. The consequence will be a heavy demand for food. Meeting it “agriculture and food systems will need to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and become more resilient, productive and sustainable. This is the only way to ensure the wellbeing of ecosystems and rural populations and reduce emissions.”

Following the FAO call that “Everyone has a role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change and support food security” the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) as an acknowledged partner of the Zero Hunger Challenge and its members world-wide are promoting the aim **Zero loss or waste of food to reach food security**.

Home Economists are professionally active mainly in four areas: academic, education and training, everyday life and advocacy. There they contribute to avoid the further impact of human-made climate change and support changes in the food chain.

To strengthen “**Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition**” the IFHE and Home Economists are committed to the following aims:

- sustainable intensification of production as well as of nutrition-promoting farming system,
- nutrient-preservation, processing, packaging, transport and storage, reduced waste and increased technical and economic efficiency,
- food safety, sustainable lifestyle in families by strengthening efficient farm and household resource management strategies and conscientious consumption patterns.

For aims achievement Home Economics research is pointing out sustainable options for action. Nutrition education and training as well as counselling and information are the essential measures sensitising individuals, households and families in fostering responsible behaviour reflecting the ecological, social and economic dimensions of all areas of civil life.

The IFHE Statements to the UN Sustainable Development Goals “**Good Health and Well-Being**” (3), “**Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation For All**” (6), and “**Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns**” (12) demonstrate the various Home Economics contribution to reduce air pollution and food waste to achieve food security for all.