

# Facing the future



## **Farming in a changing world World Food Day with the Anglican Alliance**

Climate change is affecting our food supplies - making life harder for farmers and pushing up food prices. Anglicans around the world are in the forefront of meeting this challenge. Join us on World Food Day as we continue to fight against poverty and injustice.

This resource shows some of the ways that Anglicans already safeguard their livelihoods and adapt to climate change. Our workshops in Bangladesh, Brazil and Solomon Islands will look at the lessons learned. And we provide a Bible study for you to use in your churches and services for World Food Day.

## One billion hungry people

One in eight people go to bed hungry every night. That's almost one billion people.

Food security needs to remain at the top of the global agenda. Anglicans are taking action to support our communities and ensure that voices from the grassroots are heard as global governments make key decisions for the world's future.

This pack sets out some of the challenges facing communities most affected by climate change.

## A global food crisis

By 2050 there will be another two billion people on the planet. Food production will need to increase by 70 per cent to make sure that we are all fed.

But we already face a global food crisis. A 2013 World Bank report, 'Turn Down the Heat', reveals that average crop yields for some of the world's staple foods, including wheat, rice, maize and soy, have steadily fallen due to unpredictable climates and increasing natural disasters.

If climate change continues, even a further two degrees Celsius rise will see crop yields fall by a further 11 per cent.

Efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty will be hopeless, unless we do something now.

## Adapting crops to climate change

Local farmers need access to crop varieties that will survive in their challenging climates. That means making sure subsistence farmers can get access to high quality seeds and advice and support to produce the highest yields.

More research needs to be done to develop resilient crop varieties, and to work with small scale farmers to adapt their farming methods to the changing climate.

And in Mbeere, Kenya, an innovative farming programme is providing small scale farmers with updated weather information by mobile phone. This means they can decide what crops to plant when to have the best chances of a good harvest.

## Anglican action

Anglicans all over the world are educating their communities and helping growers tackle the effects of climate change.



*Above: saline-resistant seedlings are off-loaded at Ontong Java, Solomon Islands*

Churches in the Solomon Islands lead the way, sharing saline-resistant crop varieties (pictured above) as rising sea levels destroy their agriculture.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia, with Episcopal Relief and Development, work with local farmers to plant saline resistant varieties of sweet taro root, a dietary staple on the islands.



*Ox-ploughs increase acres of land for farmers in Pacong, Sudan*

And in Pacong Diocese, in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, farmers are being trained to use ox ploughs to increase the land available to plant crops. This can triple the yield of crops every year.

New agricultural techniques to increase crop production are also shared with the local farmers. This safeguards the farmers livelihoods as they face unpredictable rainfall and potential drought.

## Empowering women farmers

Local women farmers make up the majority of smallholder agricultural labour—60 to 80 per cent in developing countries.

Investing in this significant workforce results not only in greater food security but has also been found to contribute to improvements in children's health and education.

## Access to land and markets

As the providers of up to 80 per cent of food for the developing world, rural women farmers need security for the tenure of the land they are farming, so they can be sure about their crops.

And women need better access to markets - including mobile phone information about market prices and conditions.

## Alliance in the Solomon Islands

Women farmers need more influence in farming decisions so that they can start to make a difference to their family's and their community's food security.

For World Food Day, Alliance facilitator Tagolyn Kabekabe has set up workshops for Anglican rural women farmers in the Pacific Solomon Islands. The workshops will bring the women together to learn from climate change and farming experts, and to share in their own experiences.

Land and legal officers will also attend the workshops to give the women access to key information, and help them to move forward and establish their right to land.



*Anglican women discuss the environment at a forum for human rights*

## Towards the G20

Climate change advocacy is at the top of the Alliance's agenda as we look to the G20, which will be held in Brisbane, Australia in 2014.

Following on from our World Food Day workshops, which will take place in Brazil, Bangladesh, and the Solomon Islands, we will take the Anglican voice on climate change and food security to G20 leaders.

A regional forum will also be held for the Pacific before the G20, to highlight the key areas for change.

The Anglican Alliance have a platform at the Civil Society steering group, which influences G20 agenda and policy. We are working with Churches in Australia and the Pacific to bring your top priorities to key world leaders.

## Take action

A Churches Week of Action on Food will be held by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance from 14-20 October.

This week combines the International Day for Rural Women (October 15), World Food Day (October 16) and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17).

Materials for action have been published by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance at:

<http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/food-week-of-action/>

## Hold a meeting

Gather people together to meet in your church and mark World Food Day this year. You can use this pack to prompt discussions and talk about your local responses to the climate and how your community can adapt and become more resilient.

## Walk of witness

Organise a walk of witness for World Food Day to raise awareness in your community about the importance of food security and how we can adapt to a changing climate.

Let us know what you and your community are doing to mark World Food Day using the contact details on the back of this resource.

## Bible study

Agriculture, farming and the challenges of food security can be seen all the way through the Bible.

The story of Joseph in Egypt shows us how a good response to climate change can safeguard our land and increase food security.

In Genesis 41 Joseph is warned of a severe famine that will affect all the land. He is able to prepare for the famine by storing grain.

After the famine, all of the Egyptians come to Joseph to ask him for seeds that they can plant.

### Genesis 47:13-27

Consider these questions about how Joseph responded to famine, and think about how we can adapt to our changing climate.

- ◆ What was the climate-related challenge that Joseph faced? How is this similar or different to the challenges you face?
- ◆ How do you think crops are affected by the change in climate?
- ◆ What did Joseph do to prepare for this change?

Why do you think Joseph wanted to take responsibility for the land? How did he show the good stewardship of creation?

- ◆ Read Genesis 47:25. What was the outcome of Joseph's wise actions for the people of Egypt?
- ◆ What are the main things we can learn from Joseph's response to drought and famine? Think specifically about how we safeguard our crops, how we can use the right seeds, how we care for God's creation, and how we use our resource to help those in need.

These Bible verses will also help you in your discussions: Gen 1 and 2; Deut28:1-11; Ecclesiastes 11:6; Prov 3:9-10; Matt 6:25-33; Matt 25:14-20; 2 Cor 9:10; Rev 21:1-4.

### Seven days of prayer

Prayer for communities around the world facing food insecurity and climate change can be found on our website at:

<http://anglicanalliance.org/pages/8505>

## Resources

More information on food security can be found at:

<http://anglicanalliance.org/pages/8352>

And Alliance updates on World Food Day will be posted on our website at:

<http://anglicanalliance.org/pages/8505>

You can also see what Anglicans are doing around the world for climate change justice on our interactive map at: [www.anglicanmap.org](http://www.anglicanmap.org)

World Food Day has been set up by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

More information on this years' events can be found at:

<http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/>

FAO's report on Sustainable Food Systems is also available to download at:

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/getinvolved/images/WFD\\_issues\\_paper\\_2013\\_web\\_EN.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/getinvolved/images/WFD_issues_paper_2013_web_EN.pdf)

The UN work to eradicate hunger through the 'Zero Hunger' initiative.

<http://www.un.org/en/zerohunger/challenge.shtml>

## Tell us what you are doing!

Get in touch and tell us what you and your church or community are doing to mark World Food Day.

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