

Specialized Agencies of the United Nations



Food and Agriculture Organization

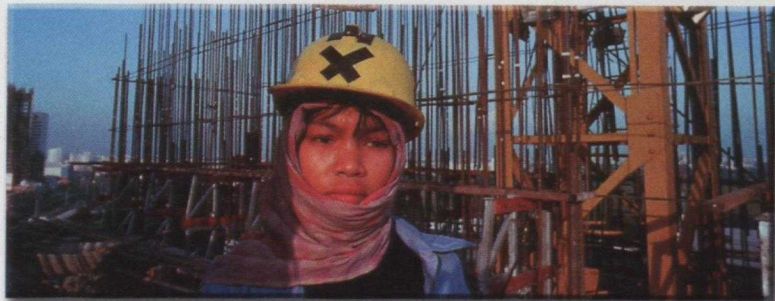
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel.: (39-6) 570-51
Fax: (39-6) 570-53152
Telex: 625852 FAO 1
E-mail: gii-registry@fao.org
Web site: www.fao.org
Director-General: Jacques Diouf
(Senegal)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) came into existence in October 1945 in Québec City—the first specialized agency within the UN. Its mandate is to enhance nutrition levels, living standards, agricultural productivity and rural living conditions.

Since its inception, FAO, which has 175 member states, has fought world hunger and poverty by promoting

agricultural development, nutritional quality and food security. It seeks to give people everywhere access at all times to the food they need to lead active, healthy lives. The Organization provides direct support for development; it gathers, analyses and disseminates information; it offers governments policy and planning advice; and it serves as a global forum for discussing agricultural and food issues.

FAO emphasizes sustainable rural development and agriculture. It is active on a number of fronts: land and water development, crop and animal production, forests, fisheries, economic and social policy, investment, nutrition, food standards, commodities, and trade. Last, FAO plays an active role in dealing with agricultural and food crises.



CIDA photo: Peter Bennett