

Sustainable Development Goal 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture



What is Goal 2?

Ending hunger and improving the quality of food for those with limited access to recommended nutrients is seen as a key requirement within human development. Out of the current 7.3 billion people on the planet about 795 million are suffering from chronic undernourishment, with 780 million of those people living in developing countries. Despite the current depletion of natural resources that could provide access to food to those starving across the world, we are predicting that the world will need to feed about 9 billion people by the year 2050. This great challenge will require new methods of sustainable agriculture, creating food security for those in need while keeping planetary limitations in mind.

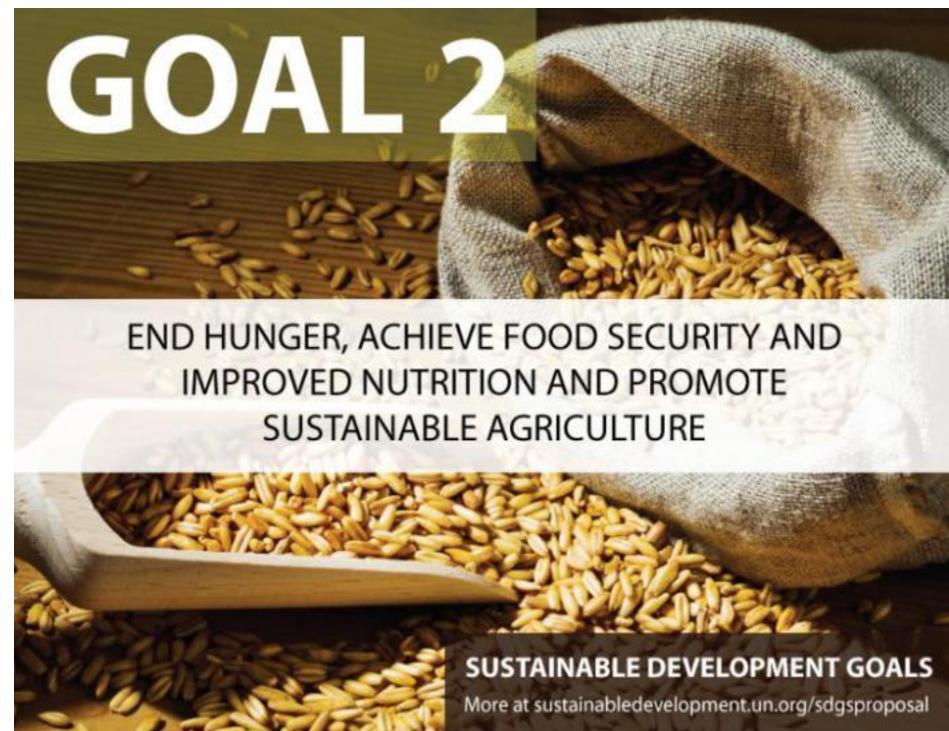
Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals attempts to not only end hunger worldwide by the year 2030, but also strives to achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture. But what does this mean? Food security is defined as when a person has access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times in order to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. It also means that a person is able to afford the cost of the food that is physically accessible and knows what she or he should be eating to ensure nutrients required for sufficient human development. Sustainable agriculture requires the production of food using farming techniques that are environmentally conscious and that do not harm human health, ecosystems or species. The three aspects of Goal 2 are extremely complex. The goal requires scientific research focusing on better farming and distribution techniques, along with social and economic processes to ensure those in need, especially those who do not know where their next meal is coming from, receive the benefits Goal 2 strides to provide.

What are the Targets?

- By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

Means of Implementation

- Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular LDCs
- Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
- Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility



Is This Possible?

The implementation of Goal 2 will depend on several factors to ensure that all persons throughout the world receive access to sufficient nutritious food, which in some areas means access to sustainable techniques for growing their own food and in others means a better distribution of food to all and ending food waste. We need to develop farming techniques that are conscious of not overusing our planet's natural resources that soon will be exhausted if we are not more mindful. Legislative goodwill will need to focus on vulnerable small food producers that often do not have access to new technologies that could better our planet. Governments and organizations will also need to develop practices to ensure that the outcomes of producing food sustainably will go to those who need it the most, often those who are left behind due to their remote location, social or physical vulnerabilities, gender, age, or lack of mobility. This will also mean that states will need to hold each other accountable, as will be required for the implementation of every sustainable development goal to ensure that promises made become plans and actions for a better future for all.

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