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FAO calls for G20 cooperation as hunger targets continue to elude

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The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, today called for greater cooperation within the G20 family of nations as global hunger targets remain worryingly out of reach.

In his opening address to G20 Agriculture Working Group (AWG) Ministerial Meeting in Chapada dos GuimarÃ£es, Brazil, Qu reminded the audience that 733 million people globally continue to face hunger, meaning the world is still far off track from achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger).

While notable progress has been made in the Latin American and Caribbean region, the Director-General noted that hunger is still on the rise in Africa and remains relatively unchanged in Asia. FAO is supporting the Global Alliance by hosting its Support Mechanism in Rome, curating its Policy Basket, and contributing to its three pillars.

Climate change, economic shocks, and conflict are significant drivers of global hunger, and are causing â??food crises of a scale not seen in many years,â?• Qu said.

Family farmers, in particular, play a central role in ensuring global food security, as they account for more than 90 percent of the worldâ??s farms, occupy 70-80% of farmland, and produce more than 80 percent of the worldâ??s food in value terms.

â??To transform our agrifood systems to become more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient, and more sustainable requires a stronger political commitment, social agenda, and overall inputs, which should strengthen the role of family farmers, small producers, gIndigenous Peoples, and traditional communities,â?• he said.

In his address, the Director-General underlined that one of the key values of the G20 is to serve as venue for policy coordination among the largest economies in the world. A great example of this is theÂAgricultural Market Information

SystemÂ (AMIS), hosted at FAO, and now a consolidated pillar of the global agricultural market.

Qu also underlined the progress made in reducing hunger in Latin America, especially in the hosting nation of Brazil, and the G20â??s unanimous support for its proposal to launch a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

â??The world needs more cooperation within the G20. For this reason, I would like to commend the Government of Brazil for bringing food security back to the center of the G20 discussions and for promoting and ensuring support beyond the G20 to end hunger through the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty,â? the Director-General said.