



Crop diversification to “Save and Grow”

To feed a growing world population, we have no option but to intensify crop production. But farmers face unprecedented constraints. In order to grow, agriculture must learn to save

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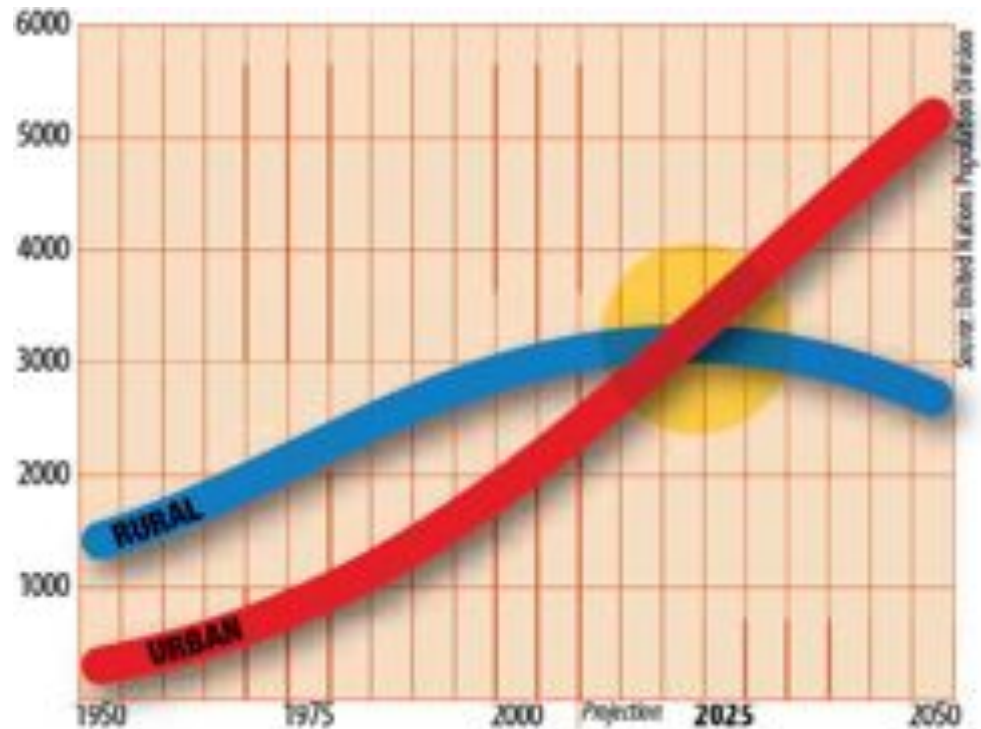
FAO-Rome



The challenge

- Population growth
- Climate change
- Rapid urbanisation
- Changes in diet

Farmers must produce more from the same area of land while conserving resources, reducing negative impacts on the environment and enhancing natural capital and the flow of ecosystem services.





Technical principles

- Agricultural productivity 
- Natural capital and ecosystems services 

Simultaneously!

- Enhanced input-use efficiency
- Use of biodiversity – natural and managed –
to build farming system resilience



The concept of diversification

- A shift in crops or cropping systems
- Better use of resources
- More profitable, sustainable crops and systems

Concurrently!

- Increased resilience and economic benefits
- Improved crop varieties





Crop diversification

- Builds upon FAO's work on staple and horticultural crops;
- Targets smallholders in low-income countries;
- Revitalizes FAO's leadership in horticulture and good farming practices;
- Includes strategies for sustainable diets and high-value nutritionally diverse crops

Vision for the Programme!

- Promotes a shift from subsistence to income-generating agriculture;
- Adds value to produce to achieve higher returns to producers;
- Catalyzes public-private sector linkages and connects producers to marketing chains.



What we do

- **Assist developing countries in designing strategies and policies for the diversification**
- **Provide policy makers with access to the best knowledge, decision support tools, practices and schemes**
- **Facilitate strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange and promote good farming practice**



How we do it

- Enhance awareness of decision makers
- Strengthen technical capacities
- Promote GAPs, produce quality and safety
- Improve the efficiency of the supply chain and reduce the post-harvest losses
- Promote a healthy and diversified diet



canola

mallee

wheat