

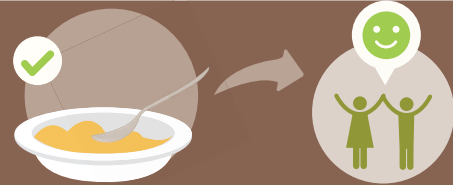


PULSES CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY



UNDERSTANDING FOOD SECURITY

Food security is defined as: "a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".



THERE ARE MANY THREATS TO FOOD SECURITY



Population growth



The world's population is growing rapidly and agricultural production must adapt accordingly, but in a sustainable way.



Widespread malnutrition

There are many countries where malnutrition is a particularly important issue and large regions of these countries could be used to produce pulses.



In many countries meat, dairy and fish are an expensive source of protein and thus economically inaccessible for many.



Food loss and waste



In developing countries, most losses occur during production or transportation.



In developed countries a large proportion of food is wasted at the consumption stage.



of the food produced for human consumption worldwide is lost or wasted.



HOW PULSES CONTRIBUTE TO FOOD SECURITY



Suitable for marginal environments



Drought-resistant and deep rooting species of pulses can supply groundwater to companion crops when planted in intercropping systems.



People living in dry environments, where food security represents a huge challenge, can enhance their production systems in a sustainable manner using locally adapted pulses.



Affordable source of protein and minerals



Smallholder farmers can cultivate pulses as:



— cash crops, meaning they are sold in markets



— food for the smallholder farming community as an important source of accessible protein.

The protein obtained from pulses is significantly less expensive compared to animal foods.



Low food wastage footprint



Pulses can be stored for long periods without losing their nutritional value and minimising loss.

The proportion of food waste from pulses due to spoilage is very low.