



UN General Assembly Passes World Pulses Day Declaration

By Huseyin Arslan, President of the Global Pulse Confederation

Dear Colleagues,

We have wonderful news to share with you: It is with great pleasure that we announce the United Nations General Assembly has **unanimously approved World Pulses Day** on Thursday December 20, 2018. **World Pulses Day will take place every February 10, starting in 2019.**

The Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) would like to thank and congratulate H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso. His vision for the prosperity of farmers has been instrumental in making World Pulses Day a reality. We are also very grateful for the long-lasting support and commitment from H.E. Mrs. Sika Bella Kaboré, First Lady of Burkina Faso; H.E. Mr. Paul Kaba Thieba, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso; H.E. Mr. Alpha Barry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, and H.E. Mr. Yemdaogo Eric Tiare, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations.



This official announcement is a recognition of the decisive role that pulses can play in achieving the comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative goals and targets of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a plan of action that seeks to strengthen universal peace.

On its resolution, the UN highlights the extraordinary properties of pulses noting they are "one of the sources of plant-based proteins and amino acids for a healthy diet for people around the globe" and recognizing their "nitrogen-fixing properties which can contribute to increasing soil fertility and have a positive impact on the environment."

In the resolution United Nations also recognizes that "in many countries women have the primary responsibility for the cultivation of pulses" and encourages "the importance of empowering the women who grow them."

As members of this industry, we are already familiar with the exceptional benefits of pulses. Pulse crops have a lower carbon footprint than most foods because they require a small amount of fertilizer to grow. They also have a low water footprint as they are adapted to semi-arid conditions and can tolerate drought stress. But it's not just the sustainability factor: Pulses are inexpensive, easy to store, highly-nutritious, and their ability to enhance the soil microbiome has been key in improving farming techniques in low-income rural areas.

In short, **the world's growing population could be fed more sustainably with pulses.**

This message has resonated all over the world during International Year of Pulses 2016. Now **World Pulses Day gives as a unique opportunity to up the ante in raising awareness about the benefits of pulses for people and for the planet** and continue with the gains made during IYP reaching a wider audience than ever before.

Moving Forward to the First-Ever World Pulse Day 2019

Our biggest challenge is the first-ever World Pulse Day is less than 8 weeks ahead. So, if you haven't started planning your World Pulse Day events, the time is now. Register your event at <https://pulses.org/register-world-pulse-day> and if you have any questions make sure you read the guidelines to host a successful World Pulse Day event at <https://pulses.org/world-pulse-day-2019>

Our Communications Department is also working on a toolbox that includes exclusive videos and images focusing on our main themes: Awareness; Food Security, Nutrition and Innovation; Market Access and Stability; Productivity and Environmental Sustainability. This content will be available at <https://pulses.org/world-pulse-day-downloads> after January 1, and can be translated to other languages upon request of our National Associations.