

## Earth calling Rio: Let's fix the system!

It's 20 years since the ground-breaking Rio 'Earth Summit'. In June, world leaders are meeting at the Rio+20 Conference for Sustainable Development to once again try to shape a more positive future for the world. Rio's wake-up call in 1992 launched a global sustainability movement, but we need more political will to take the challenge seriously and change the way we use energy, food and natural resources.



### The problem?

Twenty years on, despite huge progress in food production and distribution, nearly 900 million people still face hunger – how can this be acceptable? Unsustainable food production and lifestyles mean that years of slow progress on hunger risk being reversed as demand for food outstrips supply, depleting natural resources hit food production, demand for fertile land and water rises, and farming feels the impacts of climate change.

### The solutions

A different world is possible! Poverty eradication and an end to hunger could be achieved for every person alive today with few additional resources. Did you know that providing the additional calories needed by the 13% of the world's population facing hunger would require just 1% of the current global food supply?

Oxfam's GROW campaign is all about fixing the unfair food system: campaigning on land rights, pushing for crops to be grown for food not fuel, and championing increased investment for small scale agriculture – run by communities, not big business.

The Rio+20 conference is a perfect opportunity for us to bring these issues to the leaders' table and demand that they act. We are particularly focusing on championing small-scale farmers, most of whom are women, and who produce food for around 1 in 3 people in the world. Helping small-scale farmers to grow more is the best way to make sure everyone has enough to eat. With the right tools, training and investment for small farmers, the sky's the limit.



*In Vietnam between 1998 and 2010, its government stepped up investment in farmers. The result was far more food to go around – and **half** as many hungry people in the country.*

### What campaigners can do

The UN 'Rio+20' conference (20-22 June) may not change the system overnight, but it is a chance to create a robust plan to move to a sustainable food production system. You can get involved by:

- Asking the UK Government to champion the needs of small scale farming. Our new action cards will be handed to Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister, and Caroline Spelman, Environment Minister, at the end of May, before they go to the conference. You can also task people to take the action online at [www.oxfam.org.uk/rio20](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/rio20)
- Taking part in the Stop Climate Chaos "Rio Connection" (16-22 June) - a local lobby of MPs around the country to ask them to push the UK Government to champion increased investment in small-scale farming. Find out if there's an event near you at <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/rio-connection>, or organise your own! Why not link up with a local food group or farmer's market to run an event?
- How about asking local food sellers to hand out special receipts or bookmarks to customers (see example right)? Or sell some of your own home-made produce!

### The action certainly doesn't stop at the end of May.

We will be:

- Helping you to link up with local food movements to promote sustainable food production, making the link between local and global.
- Campaigning on land grabs and the impact of biofuels on sustainable food production.
- Put GROW Week (16-25 October) in your diary- the week of World Food Day and World Environment Day.

Just bought local?  
Now think global!



Small scale farmers feed nearly a third of the world's population. Helping them grow more is the best way to ensure everyone has enough to eat.

**Tonight, nearly a billion people go to bed hungry.**

Join us in asking the UK Government to champion increased investment in small-scale farmers at Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012.

[www.oxfam.org.uk/20](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/20)



**GROW**  
FOOD. LIFE. PLANET.



### Free Food!

Some Oxfam groups have already linked up with surplus food networks to organise events using free food to provide a meal. Food-Cycle and The People's Kitchen are examples of networks which may be active in your area and are a great resource to complement an event about the food system

**the rio connection:**  
**our earth, our future**



To find your nearest Oxfam staff contact, visit [www.oxfam.org.uk/activist](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/activist), email [active@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:active@oxfam.org.uk), or call 01865 473123.

**GROW**



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