



ONE IN SEVEN PEOPLE GO TO BED HUNGRY EVERY DAY – GROW WITH US AND CHANGE THIS!

**JOIN “EAT LOCAL FEED GLOBAL” BETWEEN 14–21 OCTOBER
LET’S GROW A FUTURE WHERE EVERYONE HAS ENOUGH TO EAT.**

The facts about small-scale food production



Many people don't realise that 80% of the world's hungry are directly involved in food production. This includes fisher-folk and small-scale farmers tending livestock or cropping small plots of land. But while they are surrounded by the means to produce and collect food, they still go to bed hungry.

Small-scale farmers have the potential to feed themselves and their communities, but all too often they lack the necessary support.

In recent years overseas aid to small-scale food producers has declined by 77%¹. Small-scale producers also face intense competition for access to their resources. More than 83.2 million hectares of land — and area half the size of Western Europe — has been bought or leased in developing countries. This land was often used by small-scale farmers to grow food. And all of this is against a backdrop of increasing food shortages, such as the droughts in East and West Africa over the last two years.

What can be done? Evidence overwhelmingly shows that investing in small-scale producers — particularly women — increases food production and reduces hunger. It's worked in Brazil, it's worked in Vietnam and it's worked in China. All these countries have seen dramatic reductions in hunger following investment in small-scale food producers. Feeding everyone means making small-scale producers, especially women, a priority. In this, governments and companies have a significant role to play. They need to ensure small-scale producers have secure access to land and water so they can grow food for themselves and their communities. Small-scale farmers need better access to seeds, organic fertilisers and agricultural training, as well as support to improve irrigation. They also need access to storage facilities to reduce crop losses and improved access to transport to get their produce to market. Together we can make this happen.

¹ Between 1996 and 2011

Photo: Matthew Willman/OxfamAUS