



Climate change responsive food production needed

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This 2016 World Food Day theme undoubtedly addresses one of the biggest threats facing South African Agriculture. Climate change affects food security.

Many farmers are severely affected by climate change related droughts. The ordinary people are being hit hardest by higher temperatures and increasing food prices due to climate change influenced weather patterns.

The global population is growing and the current weather conditions make it difficult for countries to meet their population needs.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), argues that in order to meet these challenges, agriculture and food systems will need to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and become more resilient, productive and sustainable.

Growing food in a sustainable way means adopting practices that produce more with less in the same area of land and use natural resources wisely. It also means reducing food losses before the final product or retail stage through a number of initiatives including better harvesting, storage, packing, transport, infrastructure, market mechanisms, as well as institutional and legal frameworks.

This is why this year's global message for World Food Day 2016 is "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too."

The climate change-linked theme for the 2016 World Food Day prepares the world to starting thinking seriously about the impact of climate change on agriculture before

the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP 22, from 7-18 November 2016 to be held in Marrakech, Morocco.

Meanwhile, the FAO is calling on countries to address food and agriculture in their climate action plans and invest more in rural development.

Source: The UN Food and Agriculture organization