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“SWEET POTATO
WILL GIVE ME A
BETTER INCOME.”



SARLOSA ITLAY SWEET POTATO/WEST PAPUA

Papuans have been growing and eating sweet potato for thousands of years. More recently there has been a shift to the consumption of white rice, but it is a lot more expensive.

Sarlosa Itlay, a farmer and a mother of four living in West Papua’s Central Highlands, is involved in a project to revive sweet potato farming — providing training, seeds and technical support to farmers.

“Being part of this project with Oxfam and [Oxfam partner] YAPUM, I feel I have a better life. I have confidence that the sweet potato crop will give me a better income,” says Sarlosa.



Photo: Tom Greenwood/Oxfam
Pictured: Charles Tsibi/Bougainville



HOW MUCH FOOD IS WASTED
AROUND THE WORLD?
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CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS AND RISING SEA LEVELS ARE MAKING IT HARDER FOR TUVALUANS TO HARVEST TRADITIONAL FOODS LIKE PULAKA.



NIU IOANE PULAKA/TUVALU

Niu Ioane lives in the small Pacific Island nation of Tuvalu. Salt water intrusion is affecting the groundwater, making it hard for Islanders like Niu to grow their traditional subsistence root crop, pulaka.

Livelihoods, traditional foods and water sources that have sustained communities for generations are being threatened by climate change.

“I’m using all my time to make sure I can get something out of my pulaka bed. Many people have abandoned their plots. I’m concerned if it comes to that point for me because I’ll have no way to feed my family,” says Niu.



Photo: Rodney Dekker/OxfamAU



WHY SHOULD WE SUPPORT SMALL-SCALE FARMERS?
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**"FARMERS HERE
CAN THRIVE IF WE
HAVE SUPPORT."**



LEKEA BORNEA **CORN/ETHIOPIA**

Lekea Bornea lives in the Oromia region of Ethiopia. She used to grow peppers, peas and lentils on a small piece of land. "Nobody here grows them anymore. There's not enough rain," says Lekea.

"We used to harvest enough corn to fill 22 sacks. We were self-sufficient — we ate what we needed and sold the rest. But in recent years, we average less than six sacks. It's nowhere near enough."

"Farmers here can thrive if we have support," says Lekea. "We don't want to rely on aid, but we need governments to help us get access to water," she says.



Photo: Aubrey Wade/Oxfam

**OF THOSE THAT GO HUNGRY EACH
DAY, WHAT PERCENTAGE ARE
WOMEN?**

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LAND GRABS BY POWERFUL ELITES ARE INCREASING AS COMPETITION FOR ARABLE LAND AND FRESH WATER INTENSIFIES. TOGETHER WE CAN WORK TO END THIS INJUSTICE.



LAI SA-AT RICE/CAMBODIA

The fertile district of Sambor, along the Mekong River in Cambodia, has been a food bowl for generations; providing residents with fish, rice and other food.

However the building of an enormous hydropower dam on the Mekong River will force about 20,000 villagers — most of them fisherfolk and small-scale farmers — from their homes and livelihoods.

“This village enables me to live,” says farmer/fisherman Lai Sa-at. Relocation by the government would likely be to higher land with no access to fisheries, water or soil suitable for agriculture.

People in Sambor are joining with other communities to discuss their concerns in the hope their homes and lands will be protected.



Photo: Glenn Daniels/Manna Guma

**FAIR TRADE
ENABLES
COMMUNITIES
TO PLAN FOR
THE FUTURE.**



HENRI AME

COFFEE CONNECTIONS/PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Fair trade ensures a fair price is paid to farmers but also means a “premium” is returned to farming communities to enable investment in social, environmental and other developmental projects. “We offer 30–40% more [than the conventional price] depending on the quality of the coffee”, says Henri Ame the manager of Coffee Connections, a local fair trade coffee distributor. By paying just a little more at the checkout, coffee and chocolate lovers can help improve the lives of farmers in developing countries.

The PNG Highlands Organic Agriculture Cooperative has invested the money it has earned from Fairtrade sales to buy desks and textbooks for local schools, provide mattresses for the wooden beds at the community health centre and fix local roads.

By guaranteeing prices and paying the fair trade premium, Fairtrade enables communities to gain the skills and knowledge they need to develop their businesses and develop sustainably.



Photo: Timothy Herbert/OxfamAUS



**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS
OF FAIRTRADE?**
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"I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SOLD ALL MY TOMATOES. I LOOK BACK TO THAT TIME AS BEING MY PROUDEST MOMENT."



LEYLA KAYERE

TOMATOES/MALAWI

Malawi is a small country with many rivers but increasingly erratic rainfall and more frequent drought.

In Leyla's village of Mnembo, an Oxfam-supported irrigation scheme has improved the lives of 400 families by transforming their traditional low-yield crops into year-round, high volume harvests that provide continuous food and a source of income. The community is now self-sustainable.

"We only used to grow cassava and millet — to eat, not to sell. There were occasionally wild tomatoes but we had no method for growing them. I couldn't live without tomatoes now," says Leyla.



Photo: Abbie Trayler-Smith/Oxfam



IS CLIMATE CHANGE TO BLAME FOR RISING FOOD PRICES?
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"OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN MY FAMILY, IN OUR HOME, IT IS FOOD."



GERTRUIDA BAARTMAN WESTERN CAPE REGION/SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa, Oxfam partner organisation, the "Women on Farms Project" (WFP) supports women farm workers to access land, training and tools. It also runs programs to build their skills and confidence as community leaders.

Gertruida Baartman is a single mother of three. She struggled to find regular work to support her family. Now, with the help of WFP, she chairs a women farmers' co-operative in the Western Cape Region. The co-op has access to land and plants its own crops. Gertruida and other co-op members still face many challenges, but their experience shows that with a little investment, women farmers can reduce hunger in their communities.



Photo: Matthew Willman/OxfamAUS

DOES SOUTH AFRICA PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED ITS POPULATION?

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IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, WOMEN
FARM LABOURERS AND
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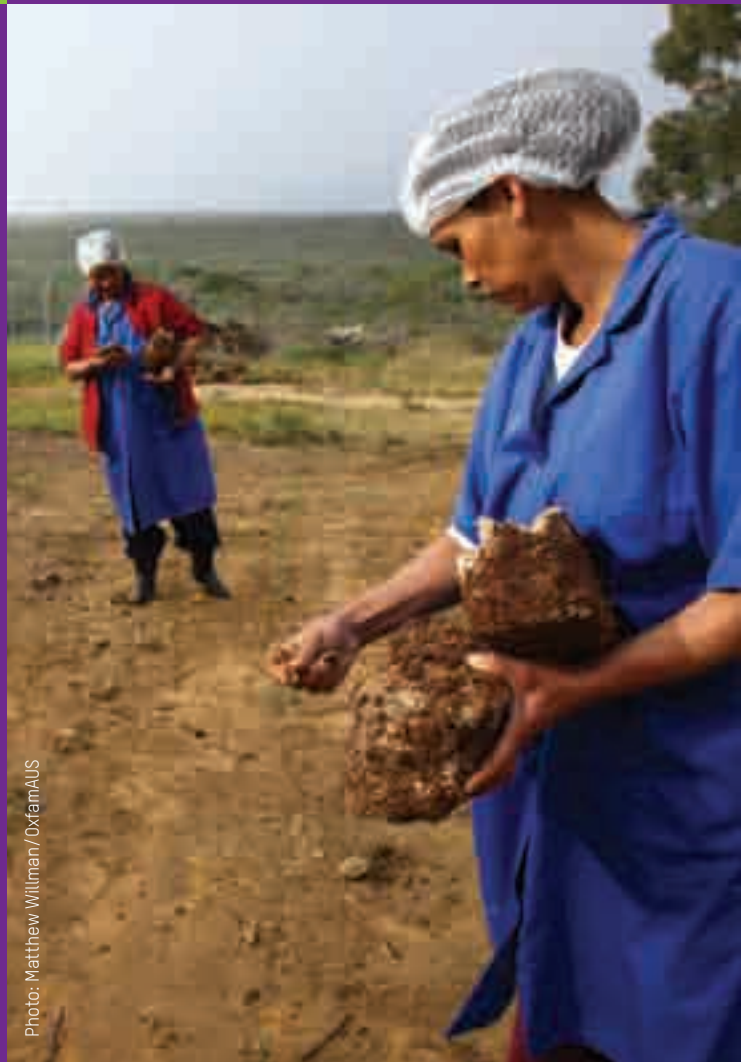
MARGARET PLAAITJIE

SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS/SOUTH AFRICA

"If there is no food my mother will usually not eat. The most important thing is that the children eat. We are not concerned about us if there is no food, as long as the children eat", say Margaret Plaaitjie (21) who lives in South Africa's Western Cape Region. Although not there yet, she is working towards the day when hunger will be a thing of the past for her young family, and her parents who live next door.

Margaret now has an opportunity as a member of the Green Leaves Cooperative. The cooperative — with support from Oxfam partner organisation the "Women on Farms Project" — has gained access to a small plot of land. On this land, cooperative members are now farming shiitake mushrooms that they sell to local markets and restaurants. They have also started a kitchen garden with the hope of supplementing their families' diets with fresh vegetables.

Photo: Matthew Willman/OxfamAUS



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT SMALL-SCALE FARMERS?

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