

GENERVISION CAPE



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10 FEB – WORLD PULSES DAY

CONSUME MORE PULSES FOR A WORLD WITH FOOD AND CLIMATE SECURITY

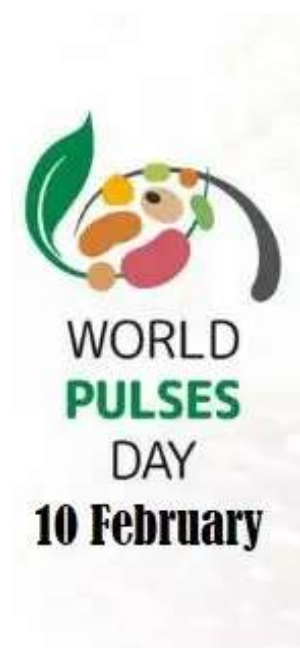
The 10th of February is designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the World Pulses Day.

How eating more pulses help the world to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Pulses are inexpensive and have a high protein content. They are also low in fat and rich in soluble fibre, which can lower cholesterol and help in the control of blood sugar. The world will witness fewer cases of malnutrition, obesity and coronary cancer if more pulses are consumed.

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Farmers could both consume and sell pulses as an important crop, which in turn helps maintain their household food security and creates economic stability.

SDG 13 (Climate Action): Pulses improve soil fertility with their nitrogen-fixing properties, and this reduces the usage of synthetic fertilisers that contain nitrogen, which in turn reduces the amount of greenhouse gases released to the environment.



"We will eventually cross those huge and high hurdles"

On February 15, the World Trade Organization experienced a significant moment: the Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was elected as WTO Director-General. After taking office on March 1, she will become the first female Director-General of the WTO and the first Director-General from the African continent. The WTO said on Twitter that "History is made".

This is undoubtedly encouraging news. Although female leaders are still a minority in the world (according to data from the Global Parliamentary Union in 2018, only 10 of the 153 elected heads of government in the world are women. At the same time, the number of women members of parliament in the world is only a quarter), we can indeed see the trend of more and more outstanding female leaders taking up important decision-making positions.

Many existing facts and studies have proved that whether in the government or in the enterprise, a more gender-balanced high-level team can generate more ideal decision-making outcomes. Since it embodies both views of men and women, the decisions made will be related to all levels of society, rather than just representing certain levels. Women account for half of the world's population. In the high-level decision-making process, including women's perspective can ensure that the rights and interests of half of the population are respected and protected.

In some areas, women are more sensitive and are able to see the potential struggles for women, thus bringing in more inclusive policies and measures such as setting up breastfeeding rooms, and launching programs combating "period poverty". Yesterday, the Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Arden has announced that all schools in New Zealand will provide students with free sanitary products. This aims to solve the problem of some female students are skipping classes because they cannot afford sanitary products. Many male leaders may not have thought about these issues, and therefore have no relevant policies or actions implemented. It's not that they deliberately refrain from doing it.

The perspective of female leaders is different from that of male leaders when facing crises and difficult situations. Female leaders tend to focus on broader and longer-term impacts, and with more "family system thinking", which allows them to plan ahead and prepare better. Take the ongoing pandemic as an example. From New Zealand to Germany and Norway, these places where women are the leaders have relatively low COVID-19 mortality rates. Melinda Gates revealed in a podcast that she had a call with the Prime Minister of New Zealand when New Zealand successfully stopped the outbreak, and what Jacinda Arden was thinking was that although New Zealand has done a good job, they still need to protect and help the vulnerable island nations around them. New Zealand will only be safe if its surroundings are safe. Melinda also revealed that many global leaders only think about having vaccines for their own countries, while the European Commission Chairwoman Ursula von der Lein has been concerned about countries in Africa and how to help them to also get the vaccines and facilities needed. The world has long been closely connected, and only when all countries are free from the COVID-19 virus is their real safety.



The progress of mankind is carried out by constantly breaking the boundaries. Whether it is science or the value put on different kinds of human rights. In the past few decades, women's rights and interests have seen tremendous progress in terms of labour participation, elections, education, and marriage protection. However, there is still a long way ahead before achieving gender equality. But the editor is still optimistic about this, as Emma Watson said in the video "Hurdles": "There are many huge and high hurdles left to jump. The race is still on every day of every year of our lives. But we will cross the finishing line, no one can stop us."

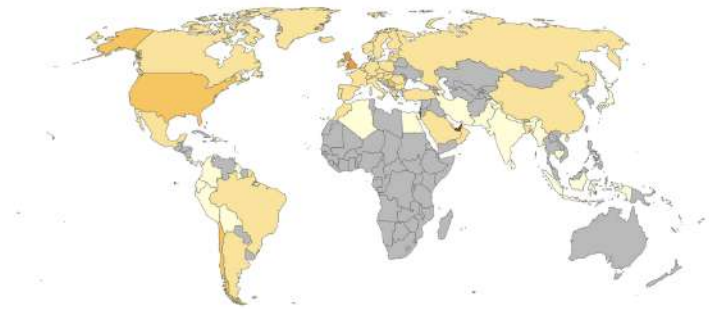
Inequality in Vaccine Distribution

While the Macau government has reserved an abundant supply of the vaccine for our citizens, with three options for voluntary selection, the world is struggling to address the inequality of vaccine distribution.

Recently, French President Emmanuel Macron has urged Europe and the US to urgently allocate up to 5 per cent of vaccines to developing countries in Africa. At the same time, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health Organization, has also warned that the world is facing a "catastrophic moral failure" because of unequal Covid-19 vaccine policies.

Where is the vaccine being given?

Total reported vaccine doses administered per 100 people



Note: Total vaccinations refers to the number of doses given, not necessarily the number of people vaccinated

Source: OWID, gov.uk dashboard, ONS, updated 1100 GMT on 19 Feb



Photo: ©BBC

Since the vaccines were produced in the UK, US, Europe, Russia and China, they are already being widely used, having been bought up and approved in countries around the world. However, doses are not shared equally between countries and this is particularly evident in poor countries.

It is stated that more than half of the world's supply has been reserved for just 15% of its population. High-income countries currently hold a confirmed 4.2 billion doses, while low-middle income nations hold only 670 million. Another figure shows that only 10 countries have administered 75% of all vaccines; yet, more than 130 countries have not received a single dose.

Therefore, in order to eliminate the inequality and guarantee fair access to Covid-19 vaccines, a global initiative COVAX led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Global Vaccine Alliance and World Health Organization was launched.

Up to now, more than 180 countries have signed up for the COVAX initiative. The main mission of COVAX is searching for an effective vaccine for all countries, supporting the building of manufacturing capabilities and buying supply, so that 2 billion doses can be fairly distributed by the end of 2021.

The whole world will only be safe when everyone is safe.

France Reinforces Circular Economy Through Policy

On January 1, 2021, a new legislation went into effect in France by requiring manufacturers of smartphones, laptops, TVs, washing machines and lawnmowers to display a repairability index in their products that discloses how repairable they are. The higher the score the easier it is for users to repair the product.

The first of its kind national legislation is a big step forward to repel planned obsolescence requiring producers to integrate circular economy into decision-making. The French government hopes to expand the scheme to other consumer goods eventually, and transition the index to a “durability index” that also discloses the product’s robustness by 2040.

Global e-waste continues to grow as consumption of electronic products grows by 2.5 million tons each year. In 2019, 53.6 million tons of e-waste was recorded worldwide, a 21% growth in just five years. And less than 18% of those were recycled. At this rate, global e-waste will reach 74 million tons by 2030.



Photo: ©Ministère de la Transition écologique

Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

Nzambi Matee saw the plastic bags filling the streets of Nairobi, and she visualized a new life for the waste plastic to be turned into a solution. So she quit her job and began experimenting with the creation of a new kind of brick, one that combines discarded plastic and sands.

To date, her business, Gjenge Makers Ltd, has salvaged more than 20 tons of plastic waste and turned them into affordable and durable pavers. At the same time generated more than 100 job opportunities for local garbage collectors, women and young people. Nzambi, named the Young Champion of the Earth by UNEP in 2020, wants to encourage young people to solve the environmental challenge at a local level: “It’s up to us to make this reality better. Start with whatever local solution you can find and be consistent with it. The results will be amazing.”



Editor's Pick

<How to Avoid A Climate Disaster>

Bill Gates has been concerned about climate issues. He has seen exciting progress in the more than 15 years that he has been learning about energy and climate change. The cost of renewable energy from the sun and wind has dropped dramatically. There's more public support for taking big steps to avoid a climate disaster than ever before. And governments and companies around the world are setting ambitious goals for reducing emissions.

He believes we're at a crucial moment. What we need now is a plan that turns all this momentum into practical steps to achieve our big goals; and that is exactly the purpose of this book, to explain in detail what needs to be done to achieve this very important goal.

In this book, Bill Gates explains why the climate issue is so important to us, analyses why we need to aim for zero carbon emissions with all our effort and proposes practical plans and solutions, which requires community mobilisation to take joint responsibility.

Climate action is the responsibility of every human being. The solution requires the participation of governments, businesses, me and you!

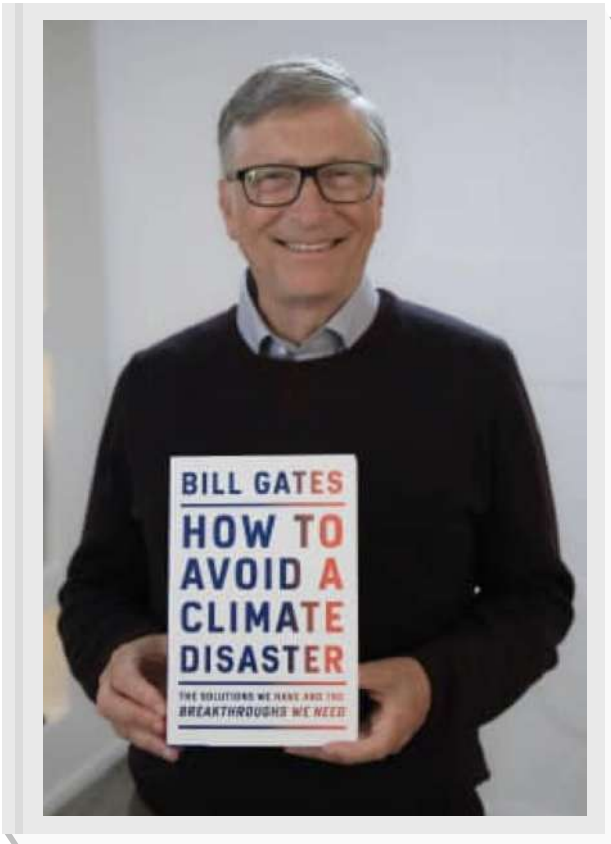


Photo: ©GatesNote

Knowledge Hub

According to World Resources Institute, in this picture, you can find these agricultural commodities accounted for 26% of global tree cover loss from deforestation from 2001 to 2015 - which was equivalent to an area of land more than twice the size of Germany.

These 7 agricultural commodities are cattle, oil palm, soy, cocoa, plantation rubber, coffee and plantation wood fibre.

A majority of such tree cover loss takes place in the tropics, which is a concerning issue for the environment as the trees in the tropics store 50% of the world's carbon.

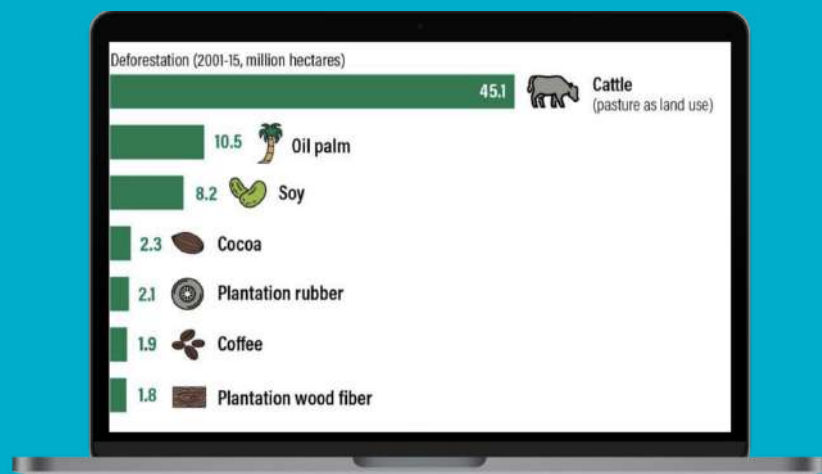


Photo: ©World Resources Institute