



Together we grow



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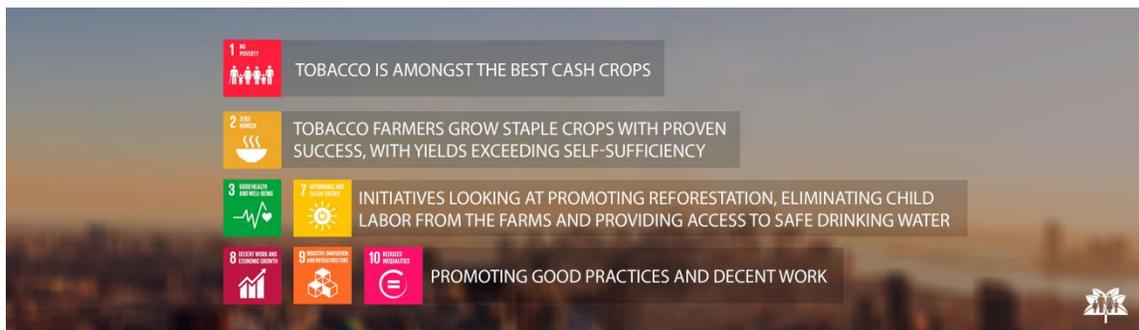
FAO: Agriculture /business editors

World Tobacco Growers' Day celebrates the good news about Tobacco Growers' Contribution to their communities and economies
#togetherwegrow

October 28th, 2019

Since 2012 ITGA's Members have embraced the celebration of Tobacco Growers' Day (WTGD) around the world in October 28th. This celebration has become more meaningful year after year as the need for tobacco growers' to pass their message have increased due to the rise of attacks against the sector and the lack of knowledge about the sector's realities and challenges.

This years celebration's theme #togetherwegrow, wants to highlight the many examples where tobacco growers are in line with the Development Goals (SDGs)



The sector is rapidly changing and tobacco growers are the most affected link of the supply chain. Small farms, with less than 10 hectares, and family farms are responsible for the production of over 70% of the world's food. This takes an even more important role in nations in which economies are highly dependent on the agricultural sector. The international drive towards a new sustainable agricultural revolution can only occur if the voices of these farmers are considered. These individuals whose daily struggle helps to earn income that provides their children with the opportunity to go to school which will ensure a better future. It is their hard work that forms the backbone of the economy of many

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developing countries. A recent report by COMESA made clear what we already knew: smallholder farmers are the basis of the tobacco growing sector. As various agricultural products like tobacco are exported, they provide the countries with an important influx of foreign exchange revenue that can be used to import other necessary products that the country does not produce like machinery, other raw materials and invest in infrastructure to further develop their economy.

As so many developing nations depend on agriculture thus providing the necessary tools to the farmers is key to ensure the sustainable development of the developing world.

NOTE TO EDITORS

In the context of celebrations of WTGD 2019:

- ⇒ Number of tobacco growers and farmers around the world: around 60 millions
- ⇒ Malawi 70% of foreign currency comes from tobacco
- ⇒ Zimbabwe: Tobacco represents 5% of total gross domestic product
- ⇒ Colombia: Growers 9,656, Export value US\$ 36 million
- ⇒ Brazil: Export value US\$ 2 Billion, total employed 2.1 million
- ⇒ Indonesia: Growers 527,000, total employed in the value chain 10 million
- ⇒ India: Production value US\$ 1.8 billion, Export value US\$ 612 million, largest world producer and exporter
- ⇒ Bulgaria: Export value US\$ 144 million, Growers 4,830
- ⇒ North Macedonia: Growers: 28,500; Export Value US\$ 142 Million
- ⇒ Greece: Export Value , US\$ 211 Million, Growers: 15,680

The ITGA is a non-profit organization that works to advance the cause of millions of tobacco farmers to the world. It strives to provide a strong collective voice on an international and national scale in order to ensure the long-term security of tobacco communities