

OPENING THE 2016 YEAR OF PULSES

Under the slogan *nutritious seeds for a sustainable future*, the 68th United Nations Assembly launched the [2016 International Year of Pulses](#). The International year has been launched by the [United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon](#).

The campaign, managed by the [Food and Agriculture Organization](#), will raise awareness about the protein power and health benefits of all kinds of dried beans and peas, boost their production and trade, and encourage new and smarter uses throughout the food chain.

Oilseeds and pulses are staple foods for millions of people in developing countries, and are these days developing an even more important role as cash crops.

The most important crops in these categories are oil palm, beans (soybean, cowpeas, broad beans, red beans) and groundnuts. Further can be mentioned cashew, sesame, sunflower, coconut and olives. Oilseeds and pulses add important nutritional value to the diet by high quality protein and/or vegetable oil, together with oil soluble vitamins like vitamin A.

In addition, pulses are leguminous plants that have nitrogen-fixing properties which can contribute to increasing soil fertility and have a positive impact on the environment.

The Year will create a unique opportunity to encourage connections throughout the food chain that would better utilize pulse-based proteins, further global production of pulses, better utilize crop rotations and address the challenges in the trade of pulses.

On the IYP portal managed by FAO, information about objectives and lines of action of the initiative is available. The Portal also includes useful materials to promote the initiative in the interested countries.



To know more

[UN News Center](#)

[International Year of Pulses](#)

[IYP toolkit](#)

