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# Farming overhaul vital for food, water security: UN

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The world's population is forecast to rise to over 9 billion by 2050 from its current 6.9 billion, putting more strain on resources.

"We need to double food production if population goes up by a third, because people eat more meat and vegetables. And if we don't change water practices, we need to find 70 percent more water," Molden said.

To achieve both food and environmental security, governments need to provide incentives to farmers to adopt more sustainable agricultural practices, he added.

Farmers need to think about their business as more than just food production, while consumers need to demand good agricultural methods.

There are many opportunities to use trees on dry-land farms to intensify the amount of food produced per hectare of land while improving the local ecosystem, the report found.

By integrating trees and hedgerows, farmers can prevent runoff and soil erosion and preserve more water for feeding their crops.

Last month, a separate U.N. report said a sharp move away from large-scale, intensive systems of agriculture was essential if growing environmental and land degradation was to be halted.

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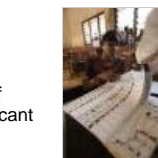
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