



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) simulates the real UN body responsible for leading international efforts to defeat hunger, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Within AZMUN, the FAO committee provides delegates with the opportunity to debate pressing issues such as food security, climate-resilient farming, sustainable land management, and rural development. It emphasizes collaboration between developed and developing nations to address global agricultural challenges, while encouraging creative solutions that balance economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity. By participating in FAO at AZMUN, delegates not only gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of global food systems.

Topic I: Supporting farmers affected by climate change

Climate-resilient agricultural practices are at the heart of protecting farmers from the devastating impacts of climate change, ensuring that global food systems remain stable even as weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable. These practices include adopting drought and flood-resistant crop varieties, diversifying crops to reduce risk, and promoting sustainable soil management techniques such as crop rotation, agroforestry, and conservation tillage. For smallholder farmers, who are often the most vulnerable, climate-resilient practices can mean the difference between harvest and hunger. However, the successful adoption of these methods requires significant support: access to affordable seeds, education on sustainable farming techniques, and investment in irrigation systems that maximize scarce water resources. International cooperation is also essential, as many of these practices are rooted both in scientific innovation and in traditional knowledge that has allowed farming communities to adapt to environmental stressors for centuries. By scaling up climate-smart agriculture, the international community not only supports farmers but also advances broader goals of food security, poverty reduction, and climate adaptation.

Questions to consider:

- How can countries expand access to drought and flood-resistant crops and sustainable farming techniques for smallholder farmers, especially in developing nations?
- What role should international organizations and developed countries play in financing and sharing climate-smart agricultural technologies?
- How can governments balance modern scientific innovations with traditional and indigenous farming knowledge to build resilience against climate change?

Topic II: Reducing antibiotic use in livestock to prevent “superbugs”

Antibiotics have been used in livestock to maintain crop production throughout the world for decades. However, they introduce the risk that the bugs that disrupt crop production can gain immunity to these antibiotics. As a result, they would become “superbugs” that are immune to antibiotics and cause large problems for farmers worldwide. Countries across the world have multiple incentives driving them to be for or against these reforms. Reducing the use of antibiotics will cause short-term economic issues but prevent long-term economic devastation. In the long term, alternatives to antibiotics can be introduced to maintain food production. The Food and Agriculture Organization promotes a “One Health” approach, recognizing the links between human, animal, and environmental health. Policies like the EU’s ban on antibiotic growth promoters and the UN’s 2016 Political Declaration on AMR highlight global efforts, but countries differ in how strictly they regulate antibiotic use. When researching this topic, students should explore their assigned country’s reliance on livestock production, existing regulations, and stance at the international level.

Questions to consider:

- How can international institutions facilitate a transition from antibiotics to alternatives
- Should developed countries bear a greater share of financial responsibility and support farmers in developing nations?
- What role should national governments and rural cooperatives play in building institutional frameworks that ensure this transition is successful?

Topic III: Expanding access to nutritious foods in low-income regions

Food scarcity is a problem many countries unfortunately know all too well. Access to nutritious food is a key driver of health, development, and economic stability, yet millions of people in low-income regions face chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. This is not just about having enough food, but also ensuring that diets include nutrients. Barriers such as poverty, weak infrastructure, climate change, conflict, and high food prices often limit access to balanced diets, leaving vulnerable populations at risk of permanent, long-term consequences for their health. The Food and Agriculture Organization focuses on improving food distribution, supporting smallholder farmers, and encouraging sustainable agriculture. Policies under discussion often include school feeding programs, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, fortification of staple foods, and investment in local food systems to make healthy options affordable and available. These programs would have numerous benefits for countries across the world, but have various financial and political issues preventing their implementation.

Questions to consider:

- How can international cooperation ensure that countries facing food insecurity get the resources they need?

- How does the international community ensure that the resources given are distributed properly?
- How can governments and international organizations create lasting change through these reforms and permanently resolve issues regarding food insecurity?