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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## **Analysis gives us food for thought**

THE newly published report of Ireland's Hunger Task Force (HTF) has to be commended for its comprehensive and thoughtful analysis, and contribution to the national debate on the issue of global hunger.

Its recommendation that agricultural productivity must be a top priority in any future strategies to tackle poverty in Africa is particularly welcomed at 'Self Help Africa', which believes that agriculture must be the key driver of future economic and social empowerment for the continent's poor.

The HTF report, which was presented to Government last week sets out what we must do both at home and internationally, if the present estimate of 860 million people enduring hunger is not pushed above the one billion figure.

The authors' recommendations that the Government's Irish Aid programme should focus its resources on promoting the intensification of small-holder agriculture and their call to support agriculture interventions which encourage diversification are important.

The eradication of global hunger is a challenge that requires a response from not just one quarter or agency, but from all in Irish society.

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