



World Food Programme

Biography

James Harvey
Chief of Staff

James Harvey was appointed Chief of Staff of the World Food Programme in June 2012. The post was upgraded to Assistant Secretary General in June 2015. He has nearly four decades of experience as an agricultural scientist, programme manager, senior manager and senior adviser. Prior to joining WFP Jim was the United Kingdom Ambassador to the UN food and agriculture agencies in Rome (June 2007 to June 2012). In this role he was UK Governor of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP Executive Board member. He was President of the WFP Executive Board in 2011.

Before moving to Rome Jim was Deputy Director and Head of Profession at the UK Department for International Development (DFID), leading DFID's cadres of livelihoods and environment advisers. He joined DFID in 1990 as natural resources adviser, then senior natural resources adviser, advising on and managing DFID's programmes in Africa and Latin America. From 1993 to 1998 he was based in DFID's regional office in Nairobi.

In his earlier career he worked in long-term rural development and agricultural research for small-scale farmer livelihoods in Botswana (1972-74), Sudan (Darfur 1975-77 and 1981-84), Syria (ICARDA, Aleppo, 1977 -81) and Yemen (Central Highlands 1988-90). He has undertaken many shorter assignments in Africa, Asia and Latin America. As well as DFID Jim has worked for major consulting firms and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Jim is a British citizen and holds an honours degree in Agriculture.