

# Biography

**Addeke Hendrik  
Boerma**

Executive Director

May 1962 -

December 1967

**World Food  
Programme**

**Addeke Hendrik Boerma**, WFP's first Executive Director, from May 1962 to December 1967.

Boerma was born in the Netherlands in 1912, graduating in horticulture and agricultural economics from the Agricultural University at Wageningen in 1934.

By 1938, he was a government officer in charge of planning food supplies in the event of war. During World War II, Boerma was smuggled out of enemy-occupied Holland by British agents and flown to London to help plan food relief supplies for the Netherlands; he became one of the commissioners responsible for overseeing the reconstruction of the Dutch agricultural economy after the war.

By 1945, he was Acting Director-General for food for the Netherlands, government commissioner for Foreign Agricultural Relations and Netherlands representative on the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He joined the staff of FAO in 1948 and, until 1951, was Regional Representative for Europe based in Rome.

In 1951, when the headquarters of FAO was moved to Rome from Washington, DC, Boerma became Director of its Economics Division. In 1958, he was made Head of FAO's Program and Budget Service and in 1960 was promoted to Assistant Director-General. He was elected as FAO's Director-General in 1967.

For his services during and after the war, Boerma was made a Knight in the Order of the Dutch Lion, the highest civil order in the Netherlands, a Commander in the Order of Leopold II of Belgium and Officer du Merit Agricole of France.

*Source: The UN World Food Programme and the Development of Food Aid by D. John Shaw (2001)*

