

Global Food Security in Facts and Figures



<p>The 2050 Challenge</p>	<p>By 2050 the world’s farmers will need to roughly double production in order to feed an additional 2 billion people. Most of this population growth will occur in countries that are already food insecure. (Up 126% in Sub-Saharan Africa, 56% in N. Africa and W. Asia, & 34% in South Central Asia.ⁱ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today 793 million people are unable to afford 1,800 calories per day – not enough to support even a medium level of activity.ⁱⁱ • 2 billion people are not getting sufficient nutrients. Malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life can result in permanent stunting, making those afflicted less successful in school, more susceptible to health problems, and less productive as adults. Undernutrition is a significant contributor to child mortality.ⁱⁱⁱ • More people die each year from starvation and other nutritional deficiencies than from HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB combined.^{iv} • More than 900 million people earn less than \$1.90 per day. Most are in South Asia (323 million) and Sub-Saharan Africa (407 million).^v
<p>Complicating Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2050, 66% of the world’s population will live in cities^{vi} – fewer farmers; yet higher demand for food. • Low income countries have ½ less cultivated land area per person than high income countries; yet this land is less suitable for agriculture.^{vii} • Farming accounts for 70% of the world’s fresh water use.^{viii} • 1/3 of food production is lost between farm and table.^{ix} • Climate change will cause all agricultural zones to shift and will change the mix of which and where commodities are produced.^x This dynamic will increase everyone’s reliance on international trade.
<p>U.S. Goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nations should work together to close the yield gap between rich and poor countries through the adoption of productive agriculture systems, to ensure that all people have access to affordable safe and nutritious foods from both domestic and international sources. • Farmers should have access to technologies that best fit their ecological, economic, and cultural contexts and that improve yield while still protecting environmental resources, preventing deforestation, and promoting biodiversity.
<p>Americans benefit from supporting the world’s farmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food price spikes have sparked violence and instability in sensitive regions of the world in which large populations of unemployed and disenfranchised youth are susceptible to radicalization.^{xi} • Agricultural investment is more effective in promoting economic growth than other sectors.^{xii} • 11 of our top 15 trading partners were aid recipients.^{xiii} As economies develop, they become customers for U.S. commodities, products, and services. In the last 10 years, U.S. farm exports to Africa have increased by more than 200% as its economies have grown.^{xiv}
<p>The Solution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen U.S. leadership in global agricultural development, an area in which the United States has comparative advantage. • Unleash the power of technology to raise productivity while conserving natural resources – improved seeds (drought resistant; nutritionally fortified); better water & soil use; agroforestry; reduce post-harvest loss. • Invest in women. If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry people could be reduced by up to 150 million.^{xv}

- ⁱ Population Reference Bureau: 2014 World Population Data Sheet.
- ⁱⁱ Food and Agriculture Organization, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, 2015. <http://www.fao.org/hunger/key-messages/en/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ International Food Policy Research Institute, Global Hunger Index, 2014. <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi14.pdf>
- ^{iv} World Food Program, Hunger Statistics. <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>
- ^v The World Bank: Poverty Overview 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/poverty>
- ^{vi} United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Highlights/WUP2014-Highlights.pdf>
- ^{vii} Food and Agriculture Organization, *The State of the World's Land & Water Resources for Food & Agriculture*, 2011. http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/SOLAW_EX_SUMM_WEB_EN.pdf
- ^{viii} Ibid.
- ^{ix} Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research, Postharvest Loss Reduction – A significant Focus of CGIAR Research, 2013. <http://www.cgiar.org/consortium-news/postharvest-loss-reduction-a-significant-focus-of-cgiar-research/>
- ^x European Commission, Science for Environment Policy: Climate Change to Shift Global Spread & Quality of Agriculture Land, 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/climate_change_to_shift_global_spread_quality_agricultural_land_403na1_en.pdf
- ^{xi} The Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Food Security & Sociopolitical Stability, 2013. <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/food-security-and-sociopolitical-stability>. Emmy Simmons, *Harvesting Peace: Food Security, Conflict & Cooperation*, 2013. <http://wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/HarvestingPeace.pdf>. Dr. Cullen Hendrix, *When Hunger Strikes: How Much Food Security Abroad Matters for National Security at Home*, 2016. <https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/publication/when-hunger-strikes-how-food-security-abroad-matters-national-security-home>
- ^{xii} The World Bank, World Development Report 2008, Agriculture for Development Policy Brief: Agriculture & Poverty Reduction. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOUTHASIAEXT/Resources/223546-1171488994713/3455847-1192738003272/Brief_AgPovRedctn_web.pdf
- ^{xiii} USAID Frontlines, March/April 2015. <http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/frontlines/foreign-aid-impact/insights-ricardo-michel>
- ^{xiv} USDA, “New USDA Trade Initiative Aims to Expand Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa,” 9/13/2013, <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2013/09/0179.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>
- ^{xv} World Food Program, Hunger Statistics. <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>