

Section 1: Background Information

The term “food security” refers to the availability and adequate access to a sufficient supply of safe and nutritious food, in order to maintain a healthy, active, and a sustainable life. Food security is not just a national concern anymore, but rather a global concern that affects each and every individual, which has become an imperative issue to resolve. As society continues to evolve and industrialize, innovative ways have been produced to increase the rapid production of food supplies, such as GMOs, steroids, hormones, etc. The reasonable perception of food security is that the vast majority of countries are getting the adequate supply of food they need, due to the rapid production of food and distribution, although this is not the case. Additionally, the prioritization of supplying sufficient food to the world’s population makes it a challenge, which can not only affect those in need of food, but can be detrimental towards economies and society.

When economies take into the issues affecting food security and how to resolve it, they have to incorporate money and reasonability. Knowingly, as there is alternate ways to supply populations with food, it can be fairly costly and can be destructive to the economy. Instead of looking for alternate ways that do not resolve the major issue of food security, first fix the minor problems contributing to the problem of food security. Economies have to consider concrete solutions that resolve the issue and not just slow it down.

Section 2: Origins of Food Security

The concept of food security first began in 1945, after the Second World War. Industrialized countries were able to convert their economies to normal and not pivot their attention toward the war anymore. Moreover, developing nations had more management with their agricultural practices after gaining their independence.

It became apparent that developing countries were in dire need of basic necessities, and although it slowly became a challenge globally, these developing nations were looking grim. During the United Nations General Assembly on October 27th 1960, a resolution was passed on “the provision of Food Surpluses to Food-Deficit people through the United Nations Systems” (UN, 1961). This essentially created the World Food Programme (WFP), a humanitarian organization who helps assist with 80 million people in about 80 countries per year and promotes food security.

Section 3: Key Players and Potential Efforts to Improve Food Security

As food security continues to be a major concern today, not just in developing nations but rather on a global scale, the outcome to the issue is having drastic effects on people on a day-to-day basis. The lack of a sufficient supply of safe and nutritious food for those who cannot afford it or for those who are underprivileged can result in malnutrition, starvation, digestive problems, increasing risk of cancer, increases blood pressure, increasing the risk of depression, and the like.

The World Food Programme (WFP) often collaborates with other UN Agencies relying on their technical advice and non-food resources. For example, WFP seeks technical assistance from UN Agencies including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). ILO would provide technical assistance to WFP in Food for Work projects. WHO works with WFP in a variety of projects and offers technical assistance in areas including nutrition and provides guide for Mother and Child Health (MCH). UNESCO provides technical assistance in appraisal missions and in initiatives such as school feeding. Other additional organizations that WFP collaborates with for world food security includes The World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF).

As the World Food Programme (WFP) continues to establish a safe base for the issue regarding food security, we as global citizens can contribute a fair share of our time, money, and resources to help resolve the concern of global food security. We can do this by using fertilizer more efficiently, raising low water productivity, target food for direct consumption, and reduce food waste. By these actions, global food insecurity could potentially see a drastic decrease.

Section 4: The Ongoing Threat of Food Security and the Issues Affecting it

One may ask, why is food security such a major global challenge? The obvious answer to that question is that everyone needs and requires food. Although, the complexity of delivering a adequate supply of food to an entire national or global population demonstrates why food security is imperative to both a developing or developed nation. In essence, food security deems to be a global challenge because it's not just about the food and distribution to feed people, but also about the economy and society.

There are a numerous of factors that cause food security to be a global concern. Such factors include population growth, changing diets, climate change, and water scarcity. Population growth varies drastically across countries. In the developing world, populations are becoming increasingly urbanized, with about 2.5 billion additional residents projected in continents, such as Africa and Asia. (World Economic Forum). As the global population continues to increase, so does the diet of individuals begin to change. As people become busier and have less time on their hands, they result to eating more processed foods, such as meats and dairy. Processed foods may

be cheaper and efficient to produce, but they result in an unhealthy diet. As global climates continue to change and become warmer in many areas of the world, the 40% of the world's landmass that's arid will soon become unsuitable for agriculture. (World Economic Forum). At current rates, only half of the food we grow today will feed only half of the global population by 2050. (World Economic Forum). Water scarcity is another imminent problem. As different foods require different amount of water, some more than others, we'll need twice as much water by 2050. (World Economic Forum). For example, "it takes roughly 1,500 liters of water to produce a kilogram of wheat, and about 16,000 liters to produce a kilogram of beef." (World Economic Forum).

As the global society, economy, and population continues to increase and evolve, the demand for cheaper and greater amounts of food beings to increase, resulting in the problem of food security to have been increased overtime and will continue to increase if the issues affecting it is not resolved or lessened.

Section 5: The Importance of Food Security

Food security ensures that every nation has a reliable access to an adequate amount of nutritious food and is vital toward human civilization. Statistics show that 9 billion people will need to be fed by 2050 worldwide. (World Economic Forum). Therefore, the demand for food will greatly increase by 60% greater than present day. Humans rely and depend on food for survival and there lies the significance of food security. Not only does it support human existence but it carries on other impactful benefits. Poverty rates will reduce and the health of individuals would improve, due to the sufficient supply of access to nutritious food that would be made available.

Economic growth is another benefit that can be attributed to food security. Food security helps to attain sustainable economic growth. Furthermore, it creates new opportunities for paid employment and opens up to trade opportunities. Food security is vital and significant to every nation in the world and helps to provide sustainable development within a nation.

Organizations, such as Monsanto, majorly contributes to the solution for the issue regarding food security. Knowingly, Monsanto is a global modern agriculture company that develops products and tools to assist farmers around the world to grow crops while using energy, water, and land more efficiently. As many developing nations around the world suffer from the lack of safe and nutritious food, organizations like Monsanto, bring forth alternative ways to produce food more efficiently, that will help those nations that suffer from the issue of food security. Furthermore, insects have been increasingly becoming a problem as well. Knowingly, insects feed on crops that are produced in open fields. For example, a commonly known insect called the western corn rootworm are pests that feed strictly on corn. Insects contribute to the issue of food security, as they feed on cops, which, in turn, reduces the amount of that particular crop is produced. This

can potentially affect nations as less food is being produced. Due to this, problems such as insects are what needed to be prevented in order to resolve the issue regarding food security.

Questions to consider:

1. What other alternative ways can organizations, such as the World Food Programme (WFP) do to lessen the concern over food security and make it imperative for all nations?
2. How can we prevent problems, such as climate change from drastically affecting the sufficient supply of safe and nutritious food?
3. Is food security a national or global concern and how does it influence the lives of those who are affected by it?
4. How can we protect our agricultural lands, which is the basis to our food supply from urban spread and development?

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