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"The target is food for all: what's new in agriculture? A pacific army of farmers"

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> > Coolabah nr.9, pp.132-143

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However, future demand for agricultural products is expected to slow further—to 1.6 percent a year for the period 1997-99 to 2015 and to 1.4 percent for 2015 to 2030. In developing countries the slowdown will be more dramatic, from 3.7 percent for the past 30 years to an average 2 percent for the next 30 due to the less rapid growth of population.

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| Country | Population | | Consumption Growth 2009/05 % p.a. | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------|---------|-------|------|-------|
| | Millions | Annual Growth % | Beef | Pork | Chicken | Wheat | Rice | Maize |
| China | 1338.6 | 0.66 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 6.6 | 0.1 | -0.2 | 3.0 |
| India | 1166.1 | 1.55 | 3.9 | n.a. | 7.8 | -0.7 | 2.7 | 3.2 |
| Japan | 127.1 | -0.19 | 0.1 | -0.3 | 0.6 | n.a. | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| EU-27 | 491.6 | 0.11 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.7 | n.a. | -0.5 |
| United States | 307.2 | 0.98 | -0.3 | -0.2 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 3.3 |
| Brazil | 198.7 | 1.20 | 1.7 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 1.6 | -0.6 | 2.9 |
| World | 6790.1 | 1.17 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 3.5 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2.5 |
| | | | | | | | | |



























2005

2025





Yields reach the limits of growth in some crops. The Green Revolution of the 60s and 70s, based on increases in land productivity, is obsolete.

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Small import-dependent countries, <u>especially in Africa</u>, were deeply affected by the food and economic crises. Some large countries were able to insulate themselves from the crisis through restrictive trade policies and functioning safety nets, but trade restrictions increased prices and volatility on international markets.

High and volatile food prices are likely to continue. Demand from consumers in rapidly growing economies will increase, <u>population</u> will continue to grow, and further growt in <u>biot-uels</u> will place additional demands on the food system. On the supply side, there are challenges due to increasingly scarce natural resources in some regions, as well as declining rates of yield growth for some commodities. Food price volatility may increase due to stronger linkages between agricultural and energy markets, as well as an increased grequency of weather shocks.

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<u>Price volatility</u> makes both smallholder farmers and poor consumers increasingly vulnerable to poverty.</u> Because food represents a large share of farmer income and the <u>budget of poor</u> consumers, large price changes have large effects on real incomes. Thus, even short episodes of high prices for consumers or low prices for farmers can cause productive assets – land and livestock, for example – to be sold at low prices, leading to potential poverty traps. In addition, smallholder farmers are less likely to invest in measures to raise productivy when price changes are unpredictable.

development. Changes in income due to price swings <u>can reduce children's</u> <u>consumption of key nutrients during the first 1 000 days of life from conception</u>, leading to a permanent reduction of their future earning capacity, increasing the likelihood of future poverty and thus slowing the economic development process.

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High food prices worsen food insecurity in the short term. The benefits go primarily to farmers with access to sufficient land and other resources, while the poorest of the poor buy more food than they produce. In addition to harming the urban poor, high food prices also hurt many of the rural poor, who are typically net food buyers. The diversity of impacts within countries also points to a need for improved data and policy analysis.

High food prices present incentives for increased long-term investment in the agriculture sector, which can contribute to improved food security in the longer term. Domestic food prices increased substantially in most countries during the 2006–08 world food crisis at both retail and farmgate levels. Despite higher fertilizer prices, this led to a strong supply response in many countries. It is essential to build upon this short-term supply response with increased investment in agriculture, including initiatives that target smallholder farmers and help them to access markets, such as Purchase for Progress (P4P).

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Safety nets are crucial for alleviating food insecurity in the short term, as well as for providing a foundation for long-term development. In order to be effective at reducing the negative consequences of price volatility, targeted safety-net mechanisms must be designed in advance and in consultation with the most vulnerable people. <u>Safety nets redistribute income to the</u> poorest and most vulnerable, with an immediate impact on poverty and inequality A food-security strategy that relies on a combination of increased

productivity in agriculture, greater policy predictability and general openness to trade will be more effective than other

strategies. Restrictive trade policies can protect domestic prices from world market volatility, but these policies can also result in increased domestic price volatility as a result of domestic supply shocks, especially if government policies are unpredictable and erratic. Government policies that are more predictable and that promote participation by the private sector in trade will generally decrease price volatility.

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New design of direct payments Direct payments contribute to keeping farming in place throughout the EU territory by supporting and stabilizing farmers' income, thereby ensuring the longer term economic viability of farms and making them less vulnerable to The new CAP aims to move away from systems of the Single Payments Scheme based on historical references, or a payment per hectare or combination of the A new "Basic Payment Scheme" will apply after 2013. This will be subject to "cross compliance" (respecting certain environmental, animal welfare & other

All Member States will be obliged to move towards a uniform payment per hectare at national or regional level by the start of 2019. (until now it has been a diffrence between the EU-12 and the rest of the countries in the EU-27)

fluctuations in prices.

rules like crops diversification)

two

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New concept of agriculture and the farmer

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Summary

A pacific army of farmers is working hard to permanently produce the food we need to cover the requirements of humanity.

Keeping the attractiveness of the rural life is a critical factor to produce food in the future.

A combination of new technologies, investment in agriculture, fair trade and control of price volatility can assure the production of food for all. Conlabe 32-143