Food Scarcity: An inefficient food system may not provide for ten billion people

Description: Introduction

According to the World Bank the world needs to produce at least 50% more food by 2050, in order to feed a global population which will be boosted to 9 billion people. But climate change could cut crop yields by more than 25%. Unless we change how food is produced and manage our resources, food security will be at risk especially for the world's poorest.

Features and benefits

- Learn how the world food pricing system works and what factors are causing it to fluctuate so wildly.
- Agriculture and biotech firms make big promises about how to increase yields and feed the world, access how likely these are to be correct.
- Looks at how much land we devote to farming currently and how much will be needed to feed a population of 10 billion people.
- Examines whether there are any places in the world where agricultural systems could be developed to help alleviate the pressure.
- Learn which of the world’s staple foodstuff are most at risk.

Highlights

In some places in the world access to nourishing food is rather limited, it is plausible to suggest that the world population is too high for the planet’s resources. But when we factor in the growth the world population is due to make within the next forty years, it becomes very difficult to see how agriculture systems will provide enough food.

Climate change is becoming reality, whatever the root cause. Rising sea levels and temperature increases are having an effect on our crop production. This is an exacerbating factor in the overall picture of how to secure and produce more food in worsening environmental conditions.

Already close to one billion people, or one in seven people on the planet, lack access to safe drinking water. With some areas of the world affected much more than others a rapid population rise could cause enormous problems for crop irrigation and securing clean drinking water.

Your key questions answered

- Why is food scarcity such a major concern for the next few decades?
- Why are food prices so unstable and why is so much food wasted when some countries are malnourished?
- What affect do food shortages have on a populace and who suffers most?
- Is climate change having an affect on crop yields, or is this still just theory?
- What major technological areas will need development in order to try to protect the world’s food supply?

Contents:

OVERVIEW
Catalyst
Summary
FEEDING THE PLANET WITH TEN BILLION PEOPLE
- Is it plausible to feed the world with the available resources?
- We already devote a large percentage of land to agriculture
- Changing usable food into less efficient sources
CLIMATE CHANGE AS A CONTRIBUTING PROBLEM
- Moving from theory to reality in climate change
- Coastal flooding and land loss
- Environmental disruption damages farming directly
WATER SECURITY IS A BIG PROBLEM NOW
- A great deal of the world does not have adequate supplies
- Water problems affect development in some specific ways
UNCONTROLLABLE FOOD PRICES
   Industrializing food production has allowed us to eat cheaply
   High food prices really cause problems in the poorest places
   Protectionism is trying to help but it causes other issues

Protectionism can be very wasteful
   Recent months have finally seen a drop in prices

Governments increasingly rise and fall on food politics
   Turning food into transport energy damages price stability
WHAT ARE THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
   GMO crops and their promises are likely to be examined
   Oil shortages could mean alternative energy is needed.
CONCLUSIONS
   Perfect storm of problems could be approaching
APPENDIX
   Sources
   Further Reading
   Ask the analyst
   About
   Disclaimer


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