

Causes of Food (In)Security

1. pests and disease
2. urbanization onto farmland
3. flash floods vs. water shortages (worsened by climate change)
4. rising prices: crop prices are constantly rising (*Nigerian families spend 3/4 of their income on food*)
5. increased population* = increased demand

*increase in population

By 2030, 5 billion of the predicted 8.6 population will be middle-class (50%+). Increased affluence = dietary change: *India's demand for animal protein will double by 2030 from '03. China's demand is also increasing.*

Food Waste

1/3 of all food produced worldwide (and 30% of total agriculture land) for human consumption is lost/wasted. *Americans alone waste 40% of their food supply.*

food loss: at a production level

food waste: at a consumer level

Whilst losses are, on average, equal for all countries, the rates of waste are much higher in MEDCs than LEDCs.

Exemplar: the Sahel

number of people at risk: 18.4 million

causes: erratic rain
poor climate
increased food prices

number of rural households in **Mauritania** that are food-insecure: 25% = 700K people

The Current Situation

• Food shortages kill more people each year than AIDs, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

• Currently, 1/10 (800 million) people are currently undernourished; **81% of this undernourishment occurs in LEDCs**, which means that those countries have the highest rates of food instability. *E.g. India, China, Bangladesh, Congo.*

• The two largest areas for undernourishment are SE Asia and the Sahel.



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