

**Emerging Issues
and Policy Implications
(November 30 Session)**

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FOOD CRISIS

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To view a map showing the 2007-2008 impact of projected food price increases on trade balances,
go to page 6 of
“Energy Security, Biofuels, and Food Supply”
by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

www.unescap.org/esd/Energy-Security-and-Water-Resources/energy/theme/documents/FS7-EnergSecurity&FoodSupply.pdf

FOOD CRISIS

According to the South Centre (2008), the current food crisis (rising prices as well as reduced stocks) has differential impacts on different countries and different groups within countries. What are the differences between the following:

1. Developed countries v.s. developing countries (in terms of capacity in state support and services, the ability to adjust to market changes, and terms of trade)
2. Food-importing countries v.s. food-exporting countries
3. Food producers v.s. food consumers
4. Multinational food corporations v.s. small farmers (in terms of who retains the benefits from rising food prices)

POLICY RESPONSES TO FOOD CRISIS

The South Centre has a distinct view opposing current trade and investment liberalization. How does it think that trade liberalization has contributed to the current food crisis? How can international trade be changed to be pro-poor and pro-developing countries?

What is the South Centre's view on biofuel production, in terms of being an alternative to fossil fuel, its environmental impact, and its effect in cost saving of energy production? Do you agree?

What does the South Centre suggest in order to rethink the agricultural policies in response to the food crisis?

IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH

What is the projection of population growth by 2050 and the situation of hunger in the world? (See Mueller in UN 2008, p. 165) What implications does this trend have for energy consumption?

IMPACT ON THE POOR

With the rising prices of crops, the value of farmland has also increased. What is the impact of that on poor people's access on land? What are some mitigating measures? (See Vermeulen in UN 2008, pp. 168-170)

IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Why does Hunt (UN 2008, pp. 175-176) think that the agricultural sector should be considered problematic for the climate system?

BIOFUEL

What is Jatropha and what are the advantages of it as a raw material to produce biofuel? If the use of non-crop materials like Jatropha can be augmented, to what extent would the current food crisis be mitigated? (See Lopez in UN 2008, pp. 172-174)

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