

AGRICULTURE

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INTRO TO AG COMM STUDENT

From FARM To TABLE

AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY



For producers, feeding the world isn't a slogan – it's their livelihood. Every day, farmers and ranchers work to produce safe, nutritious food but even with their relentless efforts, 870 million people globally still live without access to a sufficient supply of safe food (U.S. Department of Agriculture, n.d.). This reality shows just how vital agriculture is worldwide and raises the question: how does agriculture move forward to meet the growing needs of the world's population?

Food security is a broad topic with many definitions. The World Bank Group defines it as "when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

On average, an American farmer feeds 169 people annually and in 2023, \$174.9 billion worth of American agriculture products were exported around the world (American Farm Bureau Federation, n.d.). Factoring a rising population and increasing income, the demand for food is estimated to rise by one hundred percent by 2050. The work of agricultural productivity growth has helped increase food production to help meet the growing population by reducing the expansion of land and use of resources and instead creating techniques that allow farmers and ranchers to produce more with less materials.

Another development helping to reduce food insecurity and increase the advancement of agriculture, is the placement of US federal programs in developing countries.

A recent decrease in the percent of world hunger can be tied back to the improvement of agriculture practices in the Middle East (FAO). However, the recent increase in food prices, has put extra burden on these households. This increase in price tends to disproportionately impact nutrient-dense foods, leading families to turn to heavily processed, less nourishing foods that ultimately leave them food insecure.

Looking ahead, finding solutions that will help producers meet this growing demand and provide safe, nutritious food may seem impossible, however focusing on long term sustainable strategies as opposed to quick, short-term changes will create stronger economic growth & resilience globally in the agriculture sector.

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