



THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
20250-0100

Az/food surplus

6/10/16

Dear Melanne -

Attached is a memo to
Mr. Clinton regarding food
rescue and food recovery, a top
priority issue at USDA.

Did like to sit down and
talk to be about this great issue.
Could you arrange it? Please
call Martha Phipps at 720-3631.
Thanks Melanne. My best -

Jan



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Memorandum to: Hillary Rodham Clinton

From: Secretary Dan Glickman

Re: USDA Initiative on Food Rescue and Gleaning

Date: June 6, 1996

USDA has begun a national initiative to help Americans "rescue" food, mostly prepared in restaurants, hotels, cafeterias and other institutional settings, which would otherwise be thrown away at the end of the meal. It is estimated that 27.6 billion pounds of food end up in landfills every year -- the equivalent of 130 pounds for every American. The fact that we are relegating to the garbage millions of pieces of chicken, hundreds of thousands of pounds of cooked vegetables, tons and tons of fresh fruits and vegetables - all because they are not eaten at the next meal - is inexcusable. Our effort is geared at facilitating efforts by the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to expose the problem, remove the logistical impediments to food rescue, and be a catalyst for getting perfectly nutritious food to hungry people. While there are dozens of well-intentioned and effective organizations that are already actively involved in this effort - Second Harvest, Food Chain, Billy Shore's Share Our Strength, to name a few - we have only begun to scratch the surface of the problem.

USDA, through school lunches, summer feeding programs, food stamps and WIC, helps feed millions of people every day. Food rescue and gleaning efforts are not meant to take the place of these critical government anti-hunger efforts, but it is intolerable that we allow millions of pounds of food to be thrown away every day which could be used to supplement more traditional measures.

In the past few months I have spoken about this issue at every opportunity and to a wide variety of audiences including Second Harvest, Food Chain, the Travel and Tourism Association, the National Restaurant Association, the National Hotel-Motel Association, the Food Marketing Institute, the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the United Parcel Service, the Commissioner of the National Basketball Association, and many state, city and county government officials. I have discovered a genuine desire to do more, much more, to rescue food for the needy and hungry. In fact, I have discovered many "angels" throughout America who on their own have made a powerful, and often unheralded, impact on saving food.

Our USDA efforts so far have been geared toward publicizing the issue, providing information to interested groups and individuals, and facilitating linkages between government, nonprofit and industry representatives.

We have established a toll-free line (1-800-GLEAN IT) for those who want information about food rescue. We are about to publish a resource book to help guide food rescue efforts, and are building a national data base of food rescue programs and resources. USDA AmeriCorps is running a "Summer of Gleaning" program, with field gleaning and food rescue projects in 17 states. We have been in touch with the Atlanta Host Olympic Committee (they will feed more than 100,000 athletes and participants every day) and will be in touch with both political parties in advance of the national conventions this summer.

Later this month - starting in Detroit on June 17 - we will kick off a series of regional food rescue "summits" which are patterned after a national roundtable I held here in Washington last December. These summits are designed to bring together representatives from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to generate ideas, identify new resources, and promote community partnerships. Following the summit in Detroit, we will host meetings in Miami, Boston, New Orleans, Denver, Sacramento and Pittsburgh.

But we need your help. This is a big project which has a great upside but needs the larger strategic and tactical advantages that your involvement and the President's can offer. The effort does not involve any major new government programs nor new regulations from Washington; it is geared toward building a partnership to help people share what they have with others, reduce the disgraceful amount of food waste in our society, and help the hungry and the needy in the process. It seems that this project could be a part of the Administration's focus on community and partnership.

I would like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss this initiative. I will call Melanne to arrange a time. **Thanks!**

P.S. I have attached a few clips from various national newspapers to illustrate the interest that's out there, as well as a listing of our AmeriCorps "Summer of Gleaning" projects.

3/3/96

More Groups Are Feeding the Hungry With What

By The New York Times

MUIR BEACH, Calif. — Gleaning, the ancient practice of providing leftover food to needy people, is spreading in the United States, from the larger farms where it first cropped up years ago to small organic farms, supermarkets and cafeterias.

In some cases, gleaning remains closer to its biblical origins, with volunteers sweating in a field to save fresh produce, passed up during the harvest, from being plowed under.

In other cases, the gleaners salvage prepared foods from caterers and bakeries.

At the Green Gulch Farm and Zen

Center in this coastal town north of San Francisco, about 20 high school students recently trudged the muddy fields, gathering organic kale that was yellowing with age, pale cabbage and Swiss chard that bugs had chomped.

Rather than leaving these unmarketable vegetables to rot, Green Gulch Farm — suppliers to Greens, a trendy San Francisco vegetarian restaurant — called in the gleaners.

Although not much goes to waste on the 115-acre coastal farm, the students picked 804 pounds of produce for the Marin Community Food Bank.

"This is one of the few chances the homeless get to eat organic produce," said Christa Morse, 15, a student at the San Domenico School near here. "It's a good thing for the farmer, too, because we're cleaning up his fields."

The practice has its roots in the Book of Leviticus, with God's command to Moses to leave the gleanings of the harvest "for the poor and stranger."

Janet Brown, a co-founder of the Marin County gleaning project, said that in years past, "the gleaners used to run in there and take it before it went into crop rotation, and we're

ONAL SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1996

Others Leave

still doing that."

The lush farms of the West Coast are logical places for gleaners.

California, the nation's leading supplier of fresh vegetables, is particularly well-suited. With its year-round season, there is always produce that is welcomed in soup kitchens.

Gleaners have also found wider acceptance at the increasing number of organic farms that are meeting the growing national demand for organic food.

"They have a certain commitment to charity," Holly Heinzmann, the project's other founder, said of the

organic farmers.

Some gleaners have branched out from the fields.

In Oregon, the Clackamas County Gleaners salvage crops, like strawberries, from farms, but also get not-quite-fresh produce and bread from supermarkets. The group serves 7,200 people every week.

The United States Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, convened a gleaning round table in December and has established a toll-free gleaning hot line.

Mr. Glickman said that salvaging prepared food was far more effective than gleaning from a field.

"Anywhere from 10 to 20 percent of the food prepared in this country — in restaurants, cafeterias and

homes — is not eaten," he said. "A lot of that food could be served healthfully, but it requires a lot of grass-roots management in terms of logistics."

"The big potential for gleaning is in prepared foods," Mr. Glickman added. "That's where you'll have your massive impact."

One group, Marion and Polk Gleaners of Salem, Ore., started by working with farmers who saw gleaning as a way to keep produce from going to waste and to get a tax benefit, said Pat Reece, the group's president.

But the farm work is labor intensive, and, Ms. Reece said, "We glean from stores now because they have so much to offer."

INSIGHT: Feeding the hungry**Keeping good food from going to waste**

The U.S. agriculture secretary joins efforts to solicit companies' donations for charitable meals

By James Walsh
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Watching the line wind up the stairway and into the cramped dining room, it seemed like just another night at the 410 Shelter in downtown Minneapolis. Another day, another 1,000 meals served to adults and children without a home.

But this dinner — featuring a processed turkey product donated by Hormel, cookies contributed by bakeries, mashed potatoes via the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman serving stuffing — had a decidedly charitable flavor.

If it weren't for donated food, center officials say, a lot more people would go hungry. And more restaurants, bakeries, hotels and food services need to provide, Glickman said.

"We've got to get more people thinking about donating their perishable food," he said. "And not to throw the food away."

It's not a new idea. The 410 Shelter and programs such as Twelve Baskets, sponsored by the Second Harvest St. Paul Food Bank, for years have diverted prepared and perishable food from being thrown into the dumpster. But the need is growing.

Becky Worner, executive director of People Serving People, which runs the 410 Shelter, said 15 percent to 20 percent of the food served there is donated. Twelve Baskets, which gives food to the shelter and other programs, collects 13,000 to 15,000 pounds of prepared food each month, officials said.

But a lot of food — from restaurants, hotels and food service companies — is still getting away. The General Accounting Office has estimated that one-fifth of all food produced in the United States is wasted.

In 1992, groups trying to res-



Star Tribune Photo by Mike Zerty
U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, second from right, serves food at the 410 Shelter in downtown Minneapolis. He announced plans Friday to help food reclamation efforts nationwide in order to end waste and feed the poor.

cue that food formed Foodchain, a national network of programs. Last year alone Foodchain distributed 100 million pounds of food to 7,000 programs, said Christina Martin, Foodchain's executive director.

"And yet we know that even more food's out there. But we need to create the programs to meet the needs," she said.

That's why Glickman is in town. He spoke Friday at Foodchain's annual conference in Minneapolis, announcing Agriculture Department plans to help additional food rescue efforts.

This summer, volunteers in the federal Americorps program will conduct a "summer of gleaning," he said. Volunteers will collect bread that bakeries would otherwise toss into the dumpster and fruits and vegetables from the fields. In addition, the department is writing a food rescue handbook to help organize food reclamation efforts across the

country. Foodchain has a toll-free number for those who want to find out more: (800) 845-3008.

Perception is a problem. Many states, including Minnesota, have "Good Samaritan" laws protecting organizations that donate food. Despite that, shelter officials said, many potential donors are scared off by liability worries.

Mike Seiler, coordinator of the food program at the 410 Shelter, said that the donated food might not be something shoppers would buy at their neighborhood grocery — frozen meats kept past their recommended dates or produce that's a little bruised — it is inspected and safely handled.

And it stretches the shelter's food dollar, Worner said. The 410 Shelter spends about \$1.49 per meal, officials said, about 40 cents less than if it had to buy everything.

A few hotels and the Minneapolis Convention Center have been major donors, Seiler said.

"There are times when we go over there two or three times a week and I don't have to buy anything," he said.

For some, however, donated food doesn't mean high-quality food.

As a 32-year-old woman led her 4-year-old son to a table in the shelter dining room, the boy shouted, "Mommy, do I have to eat this?" While he picked at an apple and sipped his milk, she said they go to McDonald's for most of their meals.

At another table, another 32-year-old mother said she wishes the center would serve more vegetables and fresh fruit.

"Some of the time the food's OK," she said. "But it gives the kids diarrhea."

Seiler agrees the menu needs variety. But, he said, there isn't much he can do — yet. "There's just so much more in this market to tap," he said. "We've got to find a way to get it."

Living



INSIDE

Precursor to 'GWTW'

A researcher says people will find many parallels between Margaret Mitchell's famous Civil War saga and "Lost Laysen," the author's long-lost novella that will be published in 1997. See article, F3

● CLASSIFIEDS, F8

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"And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

"And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger."

— Leviticus 19:9-10



"The Gleaners" by Jean-François Millet. Courtesy of Musée d'Orsay.

Harvesting Hope

A hands-on movement to help the hungry is taking root as groups cultivate volunteers to glean food from gardens

By Paula Schwed
STAFF WRITER

Breathless and still giggling from a game of tag, 8-year-old Kemp Muhl declared her reason for spending sunny Saturdays digging in the dirt with her friends.

"We're just growing free food for hungry people. We want to help the hungry," Kemp said. "They don't have as much stuff as we do." She and a dozen Brownies from the Decatur/Avondale Girl Scout Troop 3547 are working to prepare the land donated by the United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur. The beans, tomatoes and cabbage they will go to the Atlanta Community Food Bank, said troop leader Susan Hagood.

The Brownies are joining a growing movement known as "gleaning" that is sprouting up across the country. It dates to biblical times, when virtuous people left behind some of their produce to be vested by the poor. Modern gleaning



Photos by CHARLOTTE B. TEAGLE / Staff

A seed is planted: Brownies from Decatur/Avondale Girl Scout Troop 3547 lay down plastic to kill grass and make way for vegetables.

takes many forms, from salvaging foods prepared by restaurants to harvesting less-than-perfect produce rejected by commercial growers.

"Interest in gleaning is growing because it's not abstract. It's a hands-on way of helping the hungry," said Nancy Tew of the Society of St. Andrew, which last year recruited 7,000 volunteers in Virginia and North Carolina to harvest more than 1 million pounds of vegetables that otherwise would have rotted in the fields.

"You see the food, you hold it in your hands, and we encourage people to go to soup kitchens and cook it and serve it, too."

Home gardeners are joining the cause with a project by the Garden Writers Association of America called Plant a Row for the Hungry. So far it's mostly in the planning stages, a good idea that hasn't taken root — but support for it is spreading.

The Atlanta Community Food Bank is promising free seeds to Plant a Row participants and is working with churches, shelters and soup kitchens to establish drop-off points for produce. Joining them is the Hard Rock Cafe, which will distribute free seeds to customers who pledge to grow food for the hungry.

Hunger activists gathered in Washington in December to coordinate their gleaning efforts with Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, who's making the issue a national priority. Glickman has started a hotline for gleaners and has ordered his agency's cafeteria to donate extra food to a soup kitchen. Glickman said he plans to rally members of Food-chain, an Atlanta-based national network of food rescue programs, to help get out the word.

"I think it will be like recycling," said Kathy Henderson, who will promote Plant a Row on her Saturday

How to pitch in

■ The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Plant a Row for the Hungry '96 campaign is part of a



national project. Its purpose: Generating food for the hungry by asking gardeners to plant extra.

Throughout the growing season, Home & Garden will keep you updated on the campaign. Look to upcoming Saturday sections for Lee May's column on Plant a Row participants, a list of drop-off locations, tips on giving and a regular tally of pounds donated.

■ Two companies are donating free seeds to Plant a Row participants. Call the Ferry-Morse Gardener's Helpline, 800-283-3400, to request a packet of vegetable seeds or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Plant a Row for the Hungry, Shepherd's Garden Seeds, 6116 Highway 9, Felton, Calif. 95018.

■ To make your pledge to plant a row, call us at 404-222-8689, or fax Plant a Row/Home & Garden with your name, address, daytime phone number and pledge at 404-526-5509. If you have access to the Internet, find out more at <http://www.hygexpo.com/gwaa/plant-a-row/>

morning gardening program on WQXI-AM (790). "The first time I sorted my garbage, I thought, 'This is for the birds.' Now I wouldn't think of putting a tin can in the trash."

Gardeners at the Atlanta Botanical Garden joined the fledgling Plant a Row project last year and donated the proceeds to three shelters.

"It's a great way to do something for the community," said Laura Anne Middlesteadt, public relations manager for the botanical garden. "For home gardeners, there's always at least one vegetable you have too much of — your family doesn't want to eat it anymore, the neighbors are sick of it. ... Why give it away?" The garden's newsletter will carry tips for home gardeners who want to participate in the project, and wooden markers will let visitors know which rows of this year's vegetable garden will be donated to the hungry.

Sacks brimming with vegetables from the botanical garden went to the Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House year, said executive director Carolyn Clark. She recalls some "lovely salads" and "beautiful squash casseroles." "It's a real treat for these folks to be able to get nice, fresh produce."

Jim Wilson, co-host of PBS' "Victory Garden" and a promoter of the project, said the soggy spring that delayed planting promises hope for the hungry — because there's still time for the idea to catch on.

"Right now it's too early to tell what will happen," Wilson said, "but we expect it could really snowball this year."



Digging In: The young volunteers fill up their egg cartons with soil to use in germination.

AmeriCorps Summer Gleaning Projects

California (Rural Development) will use six Members in the City of Watsonville and King County to provide fresh produce to over 5,500 people.

Connecticut and Rhode Island (Rural Development/FSA) will conduct jointly-administered projects using seven Members that will serve at least 125 needy families and enhance the relationship between local farmers and community food banks. The Connecticut project will focus on the Hartford and New Haven areas, and Rhode Island's efforts are centered primarily around Providence.

District of Columbia/Northern Virginia (Food and Consumer Service), under the leadership of the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), will implement a gleaning and perishable food rescue program in Washington, D.C. and the Northern Virginia area to provide meals and fresh produce to residents of the District (through the D.C. Central Kitchen) and Arlington (through the Arlington Food Assistance Center). This project will utilize three Members, who will work as an adjunct to the District of Columbia's existing USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team.

Georgia (Rural Development) will provide 2 Members to work closely with the Atlanta Community Food Bank in accomplishing the first-ever food rescue project associated with the Olympic Games. This project anticipates providing approximately 25,000 meals to city distribution centers every day during the event.

Illinois (FSA) will, with the addition of only two new AmeriCorps Members, expand its gleaning project in Mason County to include most of Southern Illinois, resulting in a program that will provide the local soup kitchens and food banks, which serve a total of more than 8,500 people daily, with an additional 5 tons of produce.

Indiana (Rural Development) will focus on providing nutritious foods to 10 new "Kids' Cafes", spearheaded by the efforts of six AmeriCorps Members who will coordinate both food rescue and farm gleaning efforts in rural and urban areas. Terre Haute and Indianapolis are the main focus areas for the Indiana project.

Iowa (FSA) will use six Members in the Model City area of Des Moines (A HUD Enterprise Community) to establish a gleaning and food rescue program that will also emphasize nutrition education and neighborhood gardens.

Kentucky (Rural Development) will focus on the Kentucky Highlands Empowerment Zone in Eastern Kentucky, where six Members will glean and distribute excess crops to at least 100 local families, who will also be provided with training to improve the nutritional value of their meals through the addition of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Maryland (FSA) will use four Members, in partnership with the 3,000-volunteer Washington Area Gleaning Network, to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to needy families in the Baltimore area.

Michigan (FSA) will use six Members, two of whom will be stationed in Detroit to coordinate an urban perishable food rescue effort as well as distribute some fresh produce to local food banks. Another four Members will work in the East Lansing area to recover fresh fruits and vegetables from farms after the mechanical harvesting is completed, provide these foods to the local food distribution center (run by the Red Cross), and take an active part in educating the recipients about the proper preparation and storage of the foods they receive.

Mississippi (Rural Development) will, through the joint efforts of four new AmeriCorps Members and the newest USDA AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Project, work to provide fresh foods, poultry, and nutrition education to 425 families in the Mississippi Delta Empowerment Zone and nearby counties.

Missouri (FSA) will sponsor a 5-Member farm gleaning project near Kansas City, MO, that will serve nearly 400 poor, primarily elderly individuals this summer.

New Jersey (Extension Service) will use five Members, in partnership with the Bonner Foundation and many other partners, to provide fresh produce to the southern New Jersey food bank network (Atlantic, Cumberland, Burlington, and Camden Counties) and over 100 families, with a secondary goal of effectively reducing crop waste.

New Mexico (Rural Development and FSA) will actually operate two separate projects, one in the Albuquerque area and one in the Four Corners area of the state, with four Members each, and will serve a total of more than 200 soup kitchens, 800 individuals, and over 75 Native American families on the Navajo reservation.

New York (FSA) will use four Members in a five-county area around the state capital of Albany, in partnership with the Albany Service Corps, to provide fresh produce to 20,000 low-income individuals per month in the targeted Capital Region. Activities include maintenance of a large community garden, rescuing produce from local farmers and farmers' markets, and training the staff, volunteers and clients of local food pantries and soup kitchens on the preparation and use of the fresh foods obtained through this project.

Oregon (Rural Development) will, with six new Members, build on existing efforts by the Oregon Food Bank (Portland/Eugene area) to develop linkages between rural and urban populations, and to serve an additional 100 needy families during the summer.

Pennsylvania (Rural Development) will use five Members to organize volunteers to serve 200 needy people per day, through the local food bank serving Uniontown/Fayette County, using perishable foods that are rescued from area restaurants and cafeterias.

Texas (Rural Development) will use five Members to help provide fresh food to 100 families living in the Colonias area inside and near the Rio Grande Empowerment Zone.

Washington (Extension Service) will, with six Members, effectively double the amount of food gleaned from farms in Pierce and Yakima Counties this summer, thus dramatically increasing the number of families that will benefit from these efforts; an innovative partnership with the local cannery will provide job training opportunities for low-income recipients as well as preserved foods that can be distributed during the winter months.

Feeding the World

(continued from page 2)

and thus family nutrition, women need to have their own income-earning activities. "That's the only way to ensure they have access to income over which they have control," Saito said.

Finding Time

A major challenge facing women who need to earn more income could be finding the time for it. Researchers who



have studied the daily workloads of men and women say that in every country studied, women work longer hours than men.

"Women have far less time, relative to men, because they must spend a large portion of their time on domestic

activities, such as child care, fetching fuel and water, and food processing," said Agnes Quisumbing, a research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute. "Reforms are urgently needed that save women's time so that they can spend more time in home-based or outside income-earning activities."

In hard economic times, women take on most of the extra burdens, said Quisumbing. They work longer days and sacrifice their own food to feed their children—even to the detriment of their own health and nutrition.

Environmental degradation exacerbates the problem of time scarcity by adding to women's workload. For example, erosion and deforestation have made firewood more scarce and added to the time that women spend gathering wood. A generation ago, gathering firewood in the Himalayas took no more than two hours a day. Now it takes a full day of trudging further up the mountains to collect a day's supply of fuel.

Beijing Follow-up

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly for endorsement during the body's 50th anniversary this fall. The document covers some areas considered critical for reform by researchers who study the role of women in agriculture, food security, and nutrition. However, the document has not met with universal acclaim.

A UN report on the conference noted that "the treatment of macro-economic issues and their effect on women drew praise from NGOs and developing country delegations—and reservations from developed country delegations." The same report said that environmental issues remained a cause of concern for conference delegates, NGOs, and observers who "complained that environmental issues were given relatively little attention in Beijing."

A consensus has emerged among researchers that these and other critical issues must be addressed by the research community, the development sector, national governments, and civil society if women are to help meet the challenge of feeding the world by 2020.

Photo Credits: Page 1, Larry Klaas, AGCOM International; page 6, Nathan Russell, CIAT

2020
VISION

A 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture, and the Environment is an initiative of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to identify solutions for meeting future world food needs while reducing poverty and protecting the environment. For more information on the 2020 Vision initiative and its publications, including 2020 Vision briefs and 2020 Vision discussion papers, call IFPRI at 1-202-862-5600.

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2020
VISION

A 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture, and the Environment

Feeding the World to 2020: What Role Will Women Play?

Women may hold the key to feeding the world by 2020 and beyond, according to a growing body of evidence showing that women play a vital role in agriculture and food security in developing countries. However, research also shows that severe economic and social inequities prevent women from reaching their full potential as food producers, wage earners, and guardians of household food and nutrition security.

These issues took center stage last month as the eyes of the world turned to Beijing, where 37,000 people gathered for the Fourth World Conference on Women and the associated Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Forum. The resulting Platform for Action addressed many of the obstacles facing women in developing countries, including inequalities in income, education, health, and access to resources and markets. Attendees knowledgeable about the role of women in agriculture held divergent views about the potential for widespread reform.

"Institutions have to change, and that requires substantial resources over the long term," said Mayra Buvinic, president of the International Center for Research on Women in Washington, D.C. "Unfortunately, we are in a time when financial resources are shrinking rather than expanding, and that may be a major hurdle."

Suzanne Kindervatter, director of the Commission for the Advancement of Women at Interaction, believes that follow-up by NGOs will help pressure governments to fulfill the commitments they made at Beijing. Interaction is a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of more than 150 humanitarian aid organizations involved in relief, refugee assistance, and development.

"I have a lot of hope for this Beijing document," Kindervatter said. "The nongovernmental organizations were involved in the process in a more comprehensive way than ever before. There's been much more focus on

implementation and putting these ideas into action, and the NGOs are ready to push and monitor that."

Half of Humanity

Despite varying opinions on the prospects for reform, a consensus is emerging in the international community regarding the importance of women in agriculture. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), women account for more than half of the labor required to produce the food consumed in developing countries, and as much as three-fourths of the labor in Africa.

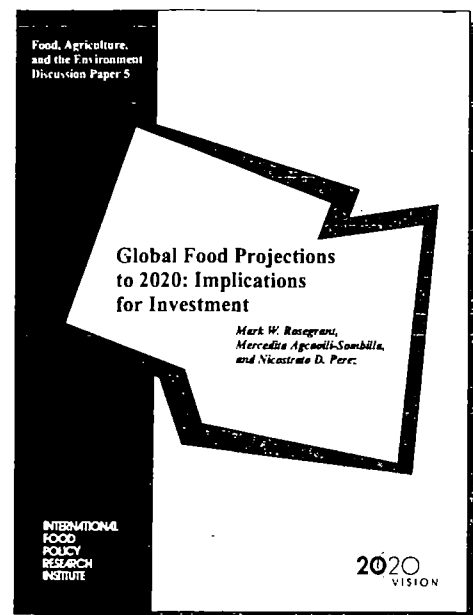


"The entire agricultural revolution must take into account that half of humanity is women," said Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, the vice president of Uganda, in a speech at the Beijing conference. "It is imperative that agricultural and natural resource programs address the gender issue."

In Uganda, women produce 80 percent of the food, according to the vice president. They are responsible for 60 percent of planting of all food and non-food crops, 70 percent of weeding, 60 percent of harvesting, and 90 percent of processing and preparation.

(continued on page 2)

Paper Details 2020 Food Projection Model



IFPRI's 2020 Vision discussion paper, *Global Food Projections to 2020: Implications for Investment*, shows that if national and international institutions cut their investments in agricultural research, health, nutrition, and education, the overall global food situation will significantly worsen. Declines in world food prices could reverse, and the number of malnourished children would grow to more than 200 million in 2020.

The paper is authored by IFPRI researchers Mark W. Rosegrant, Mercedes Agcaoili-Sombilla, and Nicostrato D. Perez, and makes use of a model that incorporates 35 individual countries and regions and 17 commodities to estimate supply and demand for food through the year 2020.

The authors show that if governments and the international community maintain recent levels of commitment to agricultural research, extension, irrigation and water development, human capital, and rural infrastructure, there will not be overwhelming pressure on aggregate world food supplies from rising populations and incomes. Nonetheless, many developing countries, particularly in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, will experience virtually no improvement in food security.

Feeding the World (continued from page 1)

"They should, therefore, play their proper role in the determination of food and agricultural policies and be able to earn proceeds from the fruits of their labor, which is not the case in rural communities at the moment," she said.

"Feminization"

The "feminization of agriculture" has developed hand in hand with the "feminization of poverty," according to FAO figures showing that more than 550 million women, or 60 percent of the world's rural population, live below the poverty line in rural areas. This represents a 50 percent increase for women over the past 20 years, compared with a 30 percent increase for men.

"Factors contributing to the feminization of rural poverty include, among others, cutbacks in essential services resulting from restructuring policies, environmental and social degradation, and increasing male outmigration," said Leena M. Kirjavainen, director of the Division of Women and People's Participation in Development within the FAO's Sustainable Development Department.

Despite women's critical roles in rural agriculture and household food security, cultural, political, and economic inequities continue to prevent women from reaching their full potential. Compared with men, women have less land, capital, technology, and education throughout the developing world.

"The issues of insecure land tenure and lack of access to land are probably the most crucial aspects faced by many women farmers," Kirjavainen said. Some religions forbid women from owning or inheriting land. Local custom can also stand in the way, such as in Sub-Saharan Africa, where women must have the consent of a male relative to use land. Since land is a major source of collateral in developing countries, women's lack of land rights also keeps them from obtaining credit, an issue that won a great deal of attention in Beijing.

Among the other obstacles to women's agricultural productivity are a lack of appropriate technology, exclusion from most agricultural extension programs, and fewer educational opportunities than men. The Beijing platform specifically addresses these concerns,

according to Kindervatter. The document targets gender equity in basic and primary education worldwide, urges more women's involvement in scientific and technical fields, and calls for greater women's access to extension services.

Including women in these areas would also improve agricultural research and policymaking, according to researchers familiar with women's participation in agriculture. Women and their views are poorly represented in agricultural research, even though they have firsthand knowledge that could contribute to successful research efforts.

"Women may be a storehouse for a lot of knowledge and indigenous information that we're not tapping into," said Nandini Gunewardena, a member of the Gender and Poverty Team in the World Bank's Asia Technical Human Resources Division.

Women can provide insight on a wide range of topics with implications for research, from cultural practices to local weather conditions. In forestry, for example, women are major users of noncommercial products such as medicines, herbs, foods, and perfumes, Gunewardena said. They know a great deal about extracting forest products without depleting natural resources.

Impact on Nutrition

Improving women's incomes would improve nutrition in developing countries, particularly among children. Across the developing world, nutrition security is almost the exclusive domain of women. Women's incomes have a far greater impact on household food security and child nutrition than men's incomes, according to researchers.

"Women will spend a higher proportion of their income on the family, and especially on feeding the family," said Katrine Anderson Saito of the Agriculture and Environment Division in the World Bank's West Africa Department. "It's important to ensure that women have access to adequate income."

Because women's income tends to come more frequently and in smaller amounts than men's, it may be spent more readily on daily needs. Overall, men have more control over their income than women do, and men tend to spend more of their income on themselves. To improve women's incomes

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The biggest thing UNDP can do is to put . . . the advancement of women at the heart of all our programs.

form of action. We will also make a special effort to engage civil society—most importantly women's groups—in a dialogue with governments on specific issues such as women's empowerment programs. The biggest thing UNDP can do is to put the gender perspective and the advancement of women at the heart of all our programs. The principal goal of UNDP is the elimination of poverty, and therefore our program must focus mainly on women.

NEWS & VIEWS: What role do you see organizations such as the International Food Policy Research Institute playing in achieving the goals of the Beijing conference?

We must reduce the amount of time that women have to spend on producing food and collecting firewood and water for the household. These are huge drains on the time and energy of women. Organizations like

We must reduce the amount of time women spend on producing food and collecting firewood and water. . .

IFPRI can examine the whole business of technological innovation and new approaches for taking some of these burdens off the shoulders of women so that they can better achieve their educational and other life goals. Organizations like IFPRI can also help to elevate the understanding and recognition of women's skills. If people begin to understand how essential women are to the production of food and the management of natural resources in rural areas, then enhanced landownership and inheritance rights and more equal rights within marriage should follow.

The Changing Global Environment and World Food Security

By Sylvan Wittwer, Director Emeritus, Agricultural Experiment Station, Michigan State University and author of *Food, Climate, and Carbon Dioxide: The Global Environment and World Food Production*

Into the earth's climate system has come what some perceive as a humanly induced environmental hazard to all life systems. Known as global warming or the "greenhouse effect," this phenomenon is related to rising levels of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere.

Several facts about atmospheric carbon dioxide are well established. First, there is a documented increase. Second, the increase is truly global. Third, the amount of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere oscillates annually. Each subsequent year, new heights are reached by midwinter, with the amount increasing by about 0.5 percent each year. Thus, the rising level of atmospheric carbon dioxide is not the stuff of environmentalists' imaginations. However, its impact on food production and world food security, though large, will not necessarily be negative. Some warming of the environment could be tolerated and will likely be beneficial.

Food, climate, and rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are intimately related. The production of food is possible only through photosynthesis, a singularly important biochemical process. An essential raw material for photosynthesis, and one that is almost always in short supply, is atmospheric carbon dioxide. Elevated levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide have a decidedly beneficial effect on all food crops. Plants' ability to photosynthesize is enhanced. Water use efficiency is increased. Growing seasons are lengthened; farmer adaptations encouraged. The introduction of more productive technologies and cultural practices will likely be favored. The result could be crops and food animals that are more resistant to environmental stresses and climatic variations.

Food production is very much a function of climate, which in itself is

unpredictable. From the perspective of food security, climate variability has a greater impact on food productivity—both in its magnitude and stability—than does climate change. Extremes in weather affect agriculture more than do changes in averages, such as increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

There is no evidence that climate variability or hazardous events such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, heat waves, or early and late frosts would be more frequent as atmospheric carbon dioxide increases. Year-by-year variations in climate have always been with us. Hundreds of experiments now show that elevated levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide not only will significantly increase yields of all food crops, but will partially alleviate the harmful effects of many environmental stresses such as adverse temperatures, air pollutants, drought, alkalinity, light deficiencies, and excessive ultraviolet radiation.

World food security and the magnitude and impact of global warming are topics charged with political and scientific controversy. There are those that advocate immediate action to reduce the world's output of carbon dioxide at a cost of billions of dollars. Global initiatives to reduce global warming were promoted at the United Nations Earth Summit in 1992 and at other major international meetings. I maintain that the world's knowledge of global warming does not call for such global initiatives. The impact of an enriched carbon dioxide atmosphere on crop productivity is in large measure positive and leaves little doubt as to the benefits for global food security. The world should avoid mitigating this trend.

Development Programs That Seek to Benefit the Poor Must Target Women, Says UNDP Administrator

Editor's Note: "2020 Views" seeks to generate dialogue and discussion through interviews with participants in the 2020 Vision initiative. For this issue, NEWS & VIEWS interviewed James Gustave Speth, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme. Speth is also a member of the 2020 International Advisory Committee.

NEWS & VIEWS: What do you think was the most significant outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China?

The Beijing conference produced, by far, the strongest declaration in the areas of equality for women and women's access to decisionmaking in economic and political sectors. The 1995 UNDP *Human Development Report* analyzed the huge gap between the capacity of women to participate in political sector decisionmaking and their representation in such decisionmaking. The Beijing declaration is very effective on this subject overall, and the platform for

Many societies need to strive to end discrimination in the law.

action is one of the most "monitorable," so to speak, of all the United Nations agreements since the United Nations World Summit for Children. This platform for action allows us to track the performance of countries and to follow them up closely.

Other important outcomes included language on equal rights to inheritance, the recognition of unpaid work by women, and the condemnation of violence against women, which was front and center. The declaration makes rape a war crime. These were all extremely important outcomes, and, overall, this document came out stronger than anybody thought it would. The document also preserved the agreements set by the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. This was critically important.



James Gustave Speth

NEWS & VIEWS: The 1995 UNDP *Human Development Report* finds that in no society do women enjoy the same opportunities as men—that men and women still live in an unequal world. What needs to be done to ensure equality for the women by the year 2020?

Many societies need to strive to end discrimination in the law. Societies should also consider following the example set by many Nordic countries, which have recognized that certain types of affirmative action are needed, for example, in political appointments.

Countries need to take action to complete the revolution, . . . to improve education and health services for women.

This is why the Nordic countries rank so high on the gender index in the *Human Development Report*. Legal changes would also assist women in gaining access to economic

instruments like land and credit. The last area where countries need to take action is to complete the revolution,

Any program that hopes to have an impact on poverty. . . must place women at the center.

which has been under way for two decades, to improve education, and health services for women.

NEWS & VIEWS: What are the benefits to society of such reforms as better education for women and girls, extension services that do not exclude women, enhanced land-ownership rights for women, and gender equity in the household?

Societies gain from reforms for women because the talents, skills, and energies of half the world's population are unleashed. Unleashing the potential of people is what development is all about. And if development is to benefit the poor, it must benefit women. Women make up 70 percent of the world's poor. So any program that hopes to have an impact on poverty, as UNDP's programs do, must place women at the center.

NEWS & VIEWS: What is your vision of how UNDP can help achieve the goals of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing?

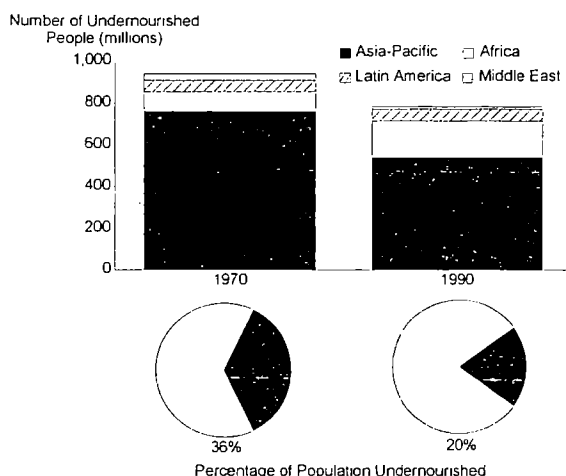
We will provide assistance for countries to design and implement their own follow-up strategies. We will also ensure that the United Nations resident coordinator in each of the 136 countries that signed the declaration plans some

The Geography of Hunger

(Based on 2020 Brief 19, Causes of Hunger, by Marc J. Cohen and Don Reeves)

The persistence of hunger in a world of plenty is the most profound moral contradiction of our age. Twenty percent of the total population in the developing world is chronically undernourished. At least 2 billion suffer from vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Yet since the mid-1970s the world has produced enough food to provide everyone with a minimally adequate diet.

Chronically undernourished population in developing countries by continent, 1970 and 1990



Source: United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination/Sub-Committee on Nutrition.

The Poorly Protected Human Right to Food

(Based on 2020 Brief 22, The Right to Food: Widely Acknowledged and Poorly Protected, by Per Pinstrup-Andersen, David Nygaard, and Annu Ratta)

Since 1920, more than 120 international declarations, conventions, and resolutions have addressed various issues related to the right to food. The following lays out progress in establishing the right to food:

- The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations (Article 25) first formally mentioned the right to food.
- The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 11), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, further formalized the right to food. By 1989, 85 states had signed this covenant.
- The 1974 World Food Conference, held by the United Nations in Rome, produced a Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition that offered a vision of eliminating hunger within a decade.

- The 1989 World Food Council met to review global hunger 15 years after the World Food Conference.
- The 1990 World Summit for Children set a number of malnutrition, hunger, and food-related goals to be achieved by the year 2000.
- The 1992 United Nations International Conference on Nutrition set forth a World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition. Most other major global conventions, even when not directly addressing food and nutrition, have touched on this right.

Since the first declarations, the world has made significant progress in reducing the incidence of malnutrition and increasing global food security. The right to food, however, is still not legally enforceable at the international or country level, and freeing the world from hunger is very much an unrealized dream.

Improving Access to Food Is Not Enough

(Based on 2020 Brief 25, More Than Food Is Needed to Achieve Good Nutrition by 2020, by Lawrence Haddad, Saroj Bhattacharai, Maarten Immink, Shubh Kumar, and Alison Slack)

A primary focus of the IFPRI 2020 Vision initiative is to find ways for people to attain food security—that is, sufficient food to lead healthy and productive lives. But what is “sufficient”? And is providing access to food the primary means of protecting people (particularly women and children) against malnutrition, which now faces millions of people around the world?

An analysis of national trends in food consumption and the nutritional status of people in developing countries over the past two decades suggests that while there has been some improvement in achieving greater household food security, this has not resulted in comparable reductions in child malnutrition. Likewise, IFPRI research at the household level suggests that, as income and food availability increase, hunger may decrease but not necessarily malnutrition.

One reason for persistent malnutrition may lie in the complex interaction between food supply and illness, which is influenced by the overall health environment. This is often called the “leaking bucket effect,” wherein improvements in access to the foods that are important for good nutritional status may be offset by poor access to nonfood inputs, such as high-quality health care facilities and services, education, sanitation, and clean water. Another IFPRI study shows that when the incidence of illness is high and household food security is deteriorating, the cost to nutritional status is great. Clearly, when access to both food and nonfood inputs is poor, the synergistic effects of diet and disease are magnified. These findings suggest that greater emphasis should be placed on improving access to these nonfood inputs in order to achieve the 2020 Vision.