

The Center for International Studies Summer Teacher Institute

FEEDING THE WORLD

Challenges to Achieving Food Security



DAY I

Global Hunger



DAY II

The Right to Food &
Modern Agriculture



DAY III

National & Local
Needs for Nutrition

June 25 - 27, 2012

Swift Hall, 3rd Floor 1025 East 58th Street

<http://cis.uchicago.edu/feedingtheworld>

 #CISFoodSecurity



Food Security

World Food Summit 1996 Definition:

“When all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”

Using Food as a Lens

The Complexity of Food Security

- Food as a Lens to teach: Health, Environment, Sustainable Development, History, Trade, Anthropology, Economic Development, Social Movements
- Is there enough food to feed every person?
- Who determines distribution patterns?
- Can future food needs be met by current levels of production?
- Global trade and rights of the individual farmer/consumer

The World's Hungry

- Of the 1 billion people suffering from chronic hunger, an estimated 80% of the world's hungry live in rural areas
- Most of the world's hungry depend on food production to support themselves and their families
- What happens when smallholder farmers lose the right to produce their own food?
- Are small-scale food producers receiving foreign aid directly? Direct investments would result in a reduction in poverty and increased food security

Food Sovereignty

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances. It includes the true right to food and to produce food, which means that all people have the right to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and to food-producing resources, and the ability to sustain themselves and their societies. Food sovereignty means prioritizing people’s and community’s rights to food and food production, over trade concerns.”

Food Sovereignty

- Prioritizing local agricultural production in order to feed the people
- Access of peasants and landless people to land, water, seeds, and credit.
- The right of farmers to produce food and the right of consumers to be able to decide what they consume, and how and by whom it is produced.
- The right of Countries to protect themselves from too low priced agricultural and food imports.
- Local populations taking part in agricultural policy choices.
- Recognition of women farmers' rights, who play a major role in agricultural production and in food.

Food Sovereignty

- **La Via Campesina** is the international movement which brings together millions of peasants, small and medium-size farmers, landless people, women farmers, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers from around the world.
- It defends small-scale sustainable agriculture as a way to promote social justice and dignity. It strongly opposes corporate driven agriculture and transnational companies that are destroying people and nature.
- La Via Campesina comprises about **150 local and national organizations** in **70 countries** from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Altogether, it represents about 200 million farmers.

Day 1 -- Global Hunger

The difficult questions...

- Why does Global Hunger exist?
 - Unlike natural disasters, food price increases take time to develop
 - If we can predict the food crises, why don't we take preventative action
- Hundreds of millions of people have died from hunger and millions more have faced malnourishment. An estimated 15 million people are vulnerable in 2012.
What can we do to help?

Day 1 -- Global Hunger

The difficult questions...

- What type(s) of food aid programs work?
 - Who benefits from food aid programs?
 - What inefficiencies exist in the current U.S. food aid program?
 - How is assistance delivered?
 - Pros/Cons of GMOs
- How are changes in the environment complicating these issues?
- Can Smallholder Farmers Feed the World?

Day 2 -- The Right to Food

The difficult questions...

- Is having access to food a human right?
 - Why are there approximately one billion people hungry when there *is* enough food on the planet to feed every person?
 - How is access to resources controlled?
- How is global food distribution determined? Who are the winners and who are the individuals that are starving?
- How can food aid programs be more efficient?

Day 2 -- The Right to Food and Modern Agriculture

Global Perspectives

- Food Security in India
 - Has distribution of food and other resources changed?
 - Historically, have farmers had access to sufficient amounts of food?
 - Has the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in India been successful in ensuring transparent and accountable distribution of food for the poor.
- Rural Land Conflict in Brazil
 - Who determines access to land, and therefore access to food?

Day 3 – National and Local Needs for Nutrition

Questions to consider...

- What is the history of food production, allocation, and support for big agriculture in the U.S.?
- Which policies affect food production and distribution?
- How does nutritious food fit into food security?
- On a local level, how is power, control, and inequality related to healthy food access?
- Not just – ‘What is a food desert?’ But, *why* are there food deserts?
- *What* is the ‘food gap’, and *why* is there a food gap?

Day 3 – National and Local Needs for Nutrition

More questions to consider...

- Is there a clear definition of organic? Local?
- Which policies directly affect what foods are served in schools? Why is it so important to have nutritious food served in schools?
- Why does nutrition matter to you, to your students, to their families, to their community?
- How do you teach children the value of healthy eating?
- Why does healthy eating actually cost more, when our local officials are publicizing their efforts to push healthy eating?

Day 3 – National and Local Needs for Nutrition

Even more questions to consider...

- Why do we need food banks?
- Why are they more necessary today, than ever before?
- Is it sustainable for our government to continue to rely on food banks, faith-based organizations, and philanthropic organizations to provide for the hungry?
- Are there alternatives?

Teaching about nutrition *is* relevant to your students...

- Make the topic relevant to engage them more deeply
 - Have your students research why nutrition is important
 - Surveys in the school (in the cafeteria), in the neighborhood, with their families
- Do they know where their food comes from?
- Why should they have nutritious food served in school?
 - How might they get their parents to advocate for necessary changes?
 - How do you, as a team, get your school to change practice?

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