

2011 GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE



2011

FOOD POLICY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

New and ongoing risks:

- High and volatile food prices
- Extreme weather
- Horn of Africa food crisis
- Civil unrest

New opportunities:

- Increased funding to agriculture from donors
- Greater attention to food policy from international community, such as G20

FOOD POLICY ACTIONS & EVENTS IN 2011

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON AGRICULTURE

A “New Vision for Agriculture” is presented at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, promoting market-based solutions to accelerate sustainable agricultural growth.

January 28

CHINA NO.1 DOCUMENT

China's No. 1 Document focuses for the eighth consecutive year on water conservation and water infrastructure, due to the previous year's droughts and floods.

January 29

IFPRI NUTRITION/HEALTH CONFERENCE

More than 1,000 people attend the IFPRI-organized conference, “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health,” in New Delhi, India.

February 10–12

G20 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

The first-ever meeting of the G20 agriculture ministers, in Paris, yields a proposal to tackle food price volatility and strengthen food security.

June 2

AFRICA/INDIA FORUM SUMMIT

At the second Africa–India Forum Summit in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, “Enhancing Partnership, Shared Vision,” leaders release a framework to reinforce cooperation between African countries and India.

May 24–25

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

Food Prices RIDING THE ROLLERCOASTER

- Food prices were high and volatile; some domestic policies (trade, subsidies, etc.) worsened food price spikes
- Emerging economies increased their investments in agriculture
- G20 proposed actions: market information system, biofuels, grain reserves, export bans, and financial speculation
- ASEAN countries established emergency rice reserve



Disasters

DÉJÀ VU IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

- 13 million people needed food assistance in the Horn of Africa
- How to improve the region's resilience? Invest in education, economic diversification, health and nutrition, and better markets for pastoralists
- Regional emergency grain reserves are needed
- Looking ahead, the Sahel faces risk of food crisis



Climate Change and Agriculture

MODEST ADVANCES, STARK NEW EVIDENCE

- Climate change has already significantly slowed yield growth for maize and wheat in a few countries
- Agriculture is now part of UN climate talks, but these negotiations move slowly
- Some countries (China, India, and Kenya) are initiating climate change responses on their own



Biofuels, Environment, and Food

THE STORY GETS MORE COMPLICATED

- Europe: Merits of first-generation biofuels—from soybeans, sugarcane, maize—are under intense debate
- US: Debate continued on the federal biofuel tax credit; some states have set up their own biofuel policies
- Brazil: Ethanol exports went down as some plants shifted to sugar production
- China: Concerns about domestic grain markets reduced expansion of biofuel production



Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health

CONNECTING THE DOTS

- Recognition grew that agriculture can do more to improve nutrition and health
- This “nexus” approach came to prominence in 2011 (IFPRI 2020 conference, new programs from development agencies, new CGIAR research program)
- Nexus approach is spilling over to more sectors



Land Degradation

LAND UNDER PRESSURE

- 24% of global land area has been affected by land degradation
- In 2011 UN called for pursuing a goal of zero land degradation
- Meeting future food needs will require increasing agricultural productivity sustainably (integrated soil fertility management, agricultural research, improved markets and rural services)
- Land investments must be socially accountable



New Players

STEPPING INTO THE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM

- Brazil, China, and India are becoming major players in trade, aid, and R&D
- Private sector is engaging in more agricultural research, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability activities
- Philanthropic organizations are playing large roles in global agricultural development



Regional and Country Developments

MAJOR FOOD POLICIES TAKING SHAPE

- Arab Awakening highlighted not only political issues, but also socioeconomic issues, including food security
- The number of African countries that have signed CAADP compacts reached 29
- China put food security and water management at the top of its policy priorities in 2011
- India introduced a National Food Security Act in 2011



FOOD POLICY TOOLS AND INDICATORS

- African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium
- Food Security Portal
- Food Security CASE Maps
- HarvestChoice Portal
- Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
- Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators
- Agricultural Total Factor Productivity
- Food Policy Capacity Indicators
- Global Hunger Index
- Statistics on Public Expenditure for Economic Development

Facing the Risks and Opportunities

WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING IN 2012?

1. G20 should take further steps to cut food price volatility
2. G8 and partners should strengthen global and regional agricultural growth strategies
3. Rio+20 participants should seek to increase environmental sustainability in ways that improve the well-being of the poor
4. Sectors should work together to improve agriculture, nutrition, and health while protecting nature resources

