

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS SESSION XIX



Food and Agriculture Organization BACKGROUND GUIDE

CHAIR: ALYSSA SANDERSON

**ASSISTANT CHAIRS: REBECCA SULLIVAN, EMILY DOUPOUNCE,
CAROLINE BURDICK**

Table of Contents

Letter to Delegates..... 3

Topic A: Sustainability and Food Production..... 4

 Introduction 4

 History 4

 Current Issues 5

 Current Positions 9

 Conclusion..... 10

 Questions to Consider 10

 Works Cited..... 11

Topic B: Provide Adequate Nutrition for All..... 12

 Introduction 12

 History 12

 Current Issues 13

 Current Positions 15

 Conclusion..... 16

 Questions to Consider 17

 Works Cited..... 18

Topic C: Migration and Food 19

 Introduction 19

 History 19

 Current Issues 20

 Current Positions 21

 Conclusion..... 22

 Questions to Consider 22

 Works Cited..... 23

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Letter to Delegates

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Established in the late 1940s, FAO is a specialized committee within the UN with a primary goal of ending hunger and ensuring proper management of the world's agricultural, fishery and forestry resources. For the purpose of this committee meeting, FAO will be focusing on three topics: Sustainability and Food Production, Ensuring Proper Nutrition for All, and Migration and Food.

This committee will take place in the present time, and any research or issues up until the present day will be considered. Delegates are expected to research their countries' positions on the topics being discussed in committee in order to foster debate and generate realistic and dynamic solutions. During committee, FAO will use MSUMUN committee rules. The FAO committee will be chaired by four MSU students, who are listed below:

Alyssa Sanderson, FAO Chair

Hello everyone! My name is Alyssa, and I am a junior at Michigan State. Currently, I am an Environmental Engineering major with a Sociology minor. This is my third year in MSUMUN and I could not be more excited! Previously, I was an Assistant Chair for UNEP and the Chair for WHO. I'm thoroughly looking forward to meeting you all this year and making MSUMUN XIX the best MSUMUN yet!!

Rebecca Sullivan, Assistant FAO Chair

I am majoring in the James Madison College but I am undecided so far with the major I will choose within the college. I am a freshman at Michigan State this year. I have been a part of Model United Nations for two years. My first year being the initial year my high school had a MUN club. I hope to graduate Michigan State and go to law school to work toward my dream of being a criminal law attorney.

Emily Doupounce, Assistant FAO Chair

I'm a freshman majoring in Political Science/Pre-law. This is my first year being a part of MSUMUN (and MUN in general) and I'm very excited to get to participate in this event with everyone! I hope to graduate from Michigan State to later attend law school and work towards becoming an attorney.

Caroline Burdick, Assistant FAO Chair

I am a sophomore at MSU, studying International Relations, Environmental Engineering, and Spanish. I am excited to be a part of the conference this year! I am the International Co-Lead for Engineers Without Borders, and I am highly interested in environmental policy. I am a member of the International Relations Organization, MSU's competitive MUN team. I look forward to staffing this conference; I am interested to see how the debate develops in this committee and to see what ideas you all have to contribute.

If you have any question while preparing for MSUMUN, please do not hesitate to contact us at gal@msumun.org. We are all so excited to meet everyone in March, and cannot wait to start discussing food with everyone. Good luck and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Alyssa Sanderson, Caroline Burdick, Emily Doupounce, and Rebecca Sullivan
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), MSUMUN XIX
gal@msumun.org

Topic A: Sustainability and Food Production

Introduction

By 2050, the world's population is expected to exceed 9.7 billion people (World Population). While many problems will come with trying to support almost 10 billion people, one of the most pressing will focus on a relatively simple concept: how do we feed all these people? This is an especially relevant issue when considering that the ways in which we currently produce the food we eat is done in an unsustainable manner. Without change, our current food production system will not be able to support us. Thus, a focus on sustainability and proper resource management must be adopted, for the safety of our planet and the well-being of the people living on it.

When discussing sustainable food production, many different approaches can be taken. From land management to considerations of economics, agriculture and food production span many different areas. For the purpose of this committee, we will define “sustainable food production” as “mak[ing] agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and more sustainable”, in accordance with FAO’s Strategic Objective Two (Background). Within this definition, this committee will specifically be focusing on the issues of water scarcity, land management, pollution prevention, and food waste. While the issue of sustainable food production is much larger than these four issues, focusing on these will allow for comprehensive, globally focused solutions. Ultimately, the aim of this committee is to ensure the protection of both the planet and the agricultural resources on it.

History

The story of agriculture is as old as the story of human civilization itself. It was around 23,000 years ago that humans started to farm and cultivate plants (First Evidence of Farming, 2015). Since then, humans have relied on agriculture and farmed products to provide them with their daily nutrients. For much of human history, the ways in which we farmed remained fairly stagnant. It was not until the technological expansion of the 20th century that farming truly began to change. Around the 1940s, the introduction of pesticides and large-scale mechanization of farming started to become commonplace (A Brief History of Farming). While these innovations

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

allowed for greater volumes of food production, they also changed the way on which people, agriculture, and the environment interacted. In previous centuries, environmental concerns were less commonplace, but, in present times, the way we farm has proven to be unsustainable. A new shift is the history of agriculture and food production must occur to ensure the longevity of the food systems we have spent millennia creating.

Current Issues

Sub-topic A.1: Water Scarcity

Water is one of the most important resources in agriculture. The production of food is in a unique position when it comes to water scarcity, as it is both a cause of water scarcity and suffers from water scarcity. Growing crops relies on having water as a resource to use, but, especially in recent times, water scarcity has resulted in loss of productivity from crops. Currently, 80 countries suffer from water shortages that threaten health and economies (Halim, 2010). Often, a choice must be made between watering crops or providing adequate water resources to citizens. This is due in part to the rapidly expanding global population. The map below shows the regions of the world that are the most water stressed. In these water stressed regions, food security becomes a huge issue, suggesting the sustainability of the current food system is unstable. To emphasize this, it is estimated that “with the current water management practices, by 2050 the global agricultural sector will need to double the amount of water used to feed the world” (Halim, 2010).

Besides agriculture simply becoming bigger as it aims to feed more people, shifting diets are also contributing to increased bouts of water scarcity. Current global attitudes are shifting towards consuming more meat and other water heavy crops. To give an example of why this is problematic, take the fact that it requires about 3,500 liters of water to produce one kilo of rice, but 15,000 liters of water to produce one kilo of beef. It is this dietary shift that had the greatest to impact on water consumption over the past 30 years (Decade, Water for Life, 2015). Diet will also need to be considered when looking at food sustainability as it relates to water scarcity.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

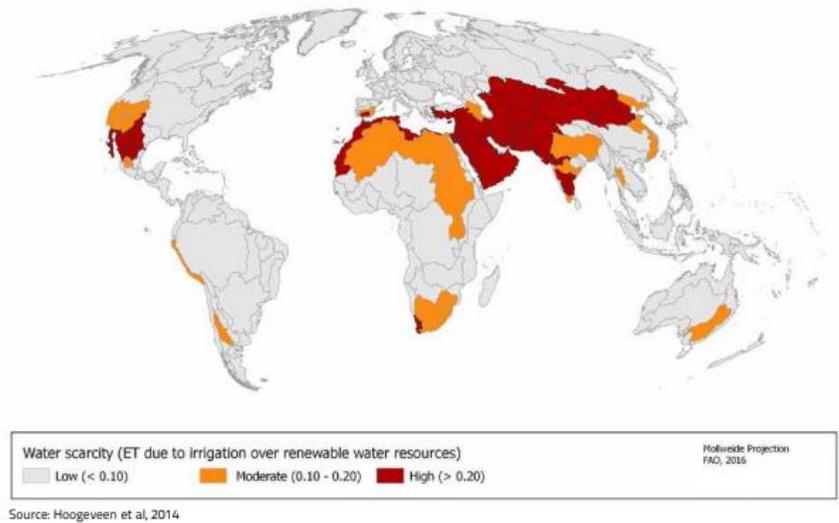
Sub-topic A.2: Land Management

Water is not the only vital resource being used up by food production; land is also at risk of being consumed. Like water, land is a resource that agriculture and food production heavily rely on, and yet this same system is depleting these resources faster than they can

regenerate, leading to an unsustainable system. In its current state, agriculture negatively impacts land in two main ways: through deforestation and through depletion of soil. Deforestation is the most visual of the two and is very evident as a worldwide problem. Agriculture is the biggest driver of deforestation (Deforestation, 2017). While it may seem that, at first, deforestation is necessary to grow enough food, the slash and burn techniques used to clear plots of land are more harmful long term than one may imagine. Deforestation leads to a loss of habitat for many animals and, most importantly, drives climate change, which has been proven to make food production more difficult.

In conjunction with deforestation, current methods of food production damage the health of the soil, leading to a dangerously unsustainable system that will not be able to support itself. In order to drive up production, many fertilizers and pesticides are regularly used in today's agricultural soils. With this heavy use, though, comes the poisoning of the delicate ecosystem present in topsoil, leading to the death of healthy soil (Why It's Time to Stop Punishing Our Soils). Without this healthy soil, the amount of food that soil can produce becomes extremely limited. In fact, it is estimated that we only have 60 years left before the topsoil is no longer viable enough to produce food (Arsenault). Obviously, this is a huge problem if the goal is the longevity of global food systems. Thus, the way in which we interact with the soil used to grow food and support animals must be reexamined.

FIGURE 1. GLOBAL MAP OF PHYSICAL WATER SCARCITY BY MAJOR RIVER BASIN



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Sub-topic A.3: Pollution Prevention

The issue of pollution as a result of unsustainable food production extends beyond soil health. If excess nitrogen and phosphorus does not end up directly poisoning the soil, much of this runs off into waterways, causing significant amounts of water pollution. According to the FAO, “nitrate from agriculture is now the most common chemical contaminant in the world’s groundwater aquifers” (Agriculture: Cause and Victim). These excess nutrients can negatively impact water ecosystems, often leading to eutrophication, which is a condition bodies of water experience when too many nutrients accumulate. This ends up killing many aquatic organisms, including fish. The FAO estimates that “415 coastal areas have been identified experiencing eutrophication” (Agriculture: Cause and Victim). On its own, this amount of pollution and environmental impact would be problematic, but the real problem is that water pollution ends up causing a lower amount of food production. Like soil resources, current agricultural methods end up harming the water resources they rely on to both grow food and obtain food. More fish dying of eutrophication results in less fish for people to eat. The UNECE notes that “up to 20 percent of human protein consumption comes from aquatic animals and fisheries are a major source of income and jobs for many communities around the world”, showing that current unsustainable methods of agriculture could lead to more hungry people if not remedied (Air Pollution and Food Production).

It is not only water that is at risk from agricultural pollutants; air pollution as a result of agricultural practices is also a troubling issue. Agricultural air pollution comes from “both farm equipment and farming itself” (Ask A Scientist, 2018). Part of this overall agricultural air pollution are greenhouse gases. Agricultural production contributed to 9% of the total greenhouse gas emission in the United States in 2016, for example (Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2018). Greenhouse gasses directly contribute to global warming and climate change, which negatively impacts food production as areas become too hot, dry, or climatically unstable to support food production. Air pollutants can also directly affect plant health. The UNECE states the following: “Ozone precursor emissions (nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds) are of particular concern for global food security as these compounds react to form ground-level ozone. This, in turn, penetrates into the plant

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

structure and impairs its ability to develop. At a European level, a study in 2000 of the economic losses due to the impact of ozone on 23 crops amounted to 6.7 billion Euros” (Air Pollution and Food Production). This loss in agricultural production is detrimental from a food security and sustainability perspective. In addition to plant health, the air pollution created by agricultural practices also negatively impacts human health (Managing Air Quality, 2018). Farmers and agricultural workers are some of the most at risk to experience health issues related to air pollution from their farms. Livestock are also susceptible to low air quality conditions. If people have a difficult time farming, and the animals being farmed are unhealthy, this will lead to an unstable future for farming. For many reasons, pollution as a result of agriculture must be dealt with to protect future agricultural endeavors.

Sub-topic A.4: Food Waste

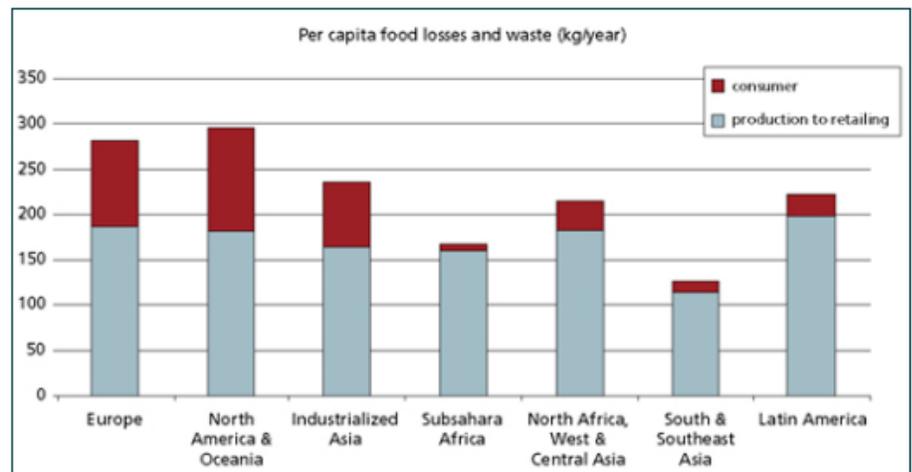
While the management practices surrounding water and land reveal issues with the way our food is produced, the sustainability of the global food system stretches far beyond mere production. One of the biggest problems with today’s agricultural system is that food is not properly managed, even after it has left the farm. The global phenomenon of food waste shows the failures in sustainability of the current system. According to the New York Times, “globally, we throw out about 1.3 billion tons of food a year, or a third of all the food that we grow” (Sengupta, 2017). If the goal is to feed everyone and ensure sustainable food production, throwing away a significant portion of food is not the way to achieve this. Additionally, those in Western countries are far more likely to throw away food than in other countries. According to the FAO, per capita waste by consumers is between 95-115 kg a year in Europe and North America, while consumers in sub-Saharan Africa, south and south-eastern Asia, each throw away only 6-11 kg a year (Key Facts on Food Loss). The graph below further illustrates, by region, where food waste occurs and when in the food production process, it occurs. Clearly, to increase productivity and sustainability, food waste must be addressed.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Current Positions

All countries are either directly or indirectly affected by the notion of sustainable agriculture. Typically, there is a divide between developed and developing nations. Developing nations, especially those with a large portion of the population involved in farming, should primarily be focused on the issues associated with production, such as water scarcity, pollution prevention, and land management. It is these countries that face a lack of resources due to their agricultural endeavors. Specifically, countries with a large area of rainforests or are already considered water stressed should focus on those respective issues. Developed countries, on the other hand, who have less of a proportion of their

Per capita food losses and waste, at consumption and pre-consumptions stages, in different regions



population farming, should focus on limiting waste of food and lessening pollution where they can. While developed nations should be focused on all issues, as they are indirectly affected by food production, their immediate concerns should be with promoting sustainability at a national level by influencing the habits of their citizens.

Currently, many UN agencies are already involved in combating the unsustainable nature of the global food system. FAO, UNEP, and WHO have all made strides in addressing aspects of sustainable food production. Currently, FAO has many partnerships with nations to ensure that agricultural resources are properly managed and maintained, with a focus on Africa. They also have an active campaign combating food waste. UNEP is also engaged in discussion of resource management, but their primary concern is to protect the environment, not ensure optimal productivity. WHO has focused on water issues in the past, but mostly from a public health and sanitation perspective.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Conclusion

Ultimately, the delegates present in the FAO committee will be tasked with coming up with or expanding on current solutions to sustainability issues within food productions. Delegates are expected to address one or more of the sustainability subtopics. When coming up with solutions, a focus should be placed on proper resource management that will allow for the productivity and longevity of the global food system. It is not only our goal to preserve the environment, but to preserve the environment so we may feed the world.

Questions to Consider

- How does my country currently manage its agricultural resources?
- Is my country already partnered with FAO? If so, how?
- What are some of the failures of current FAO initiatives? How can these be improved?
- Is education needed in specific regions? What kind of programs would be helpful?
- What role does food production play in my country? Is my country self-reliant, or dependent on exports and imports?
- How could NGOs help when coming up with solutions?

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Works Cited

- A Brief History of Farming. Accessed November 20, 2018. <http://www.localhistories.org/farming.html>.
- "Agriculture: Cause and Victim of Water Pollution, but Change Is Possible." International Rice Commission Newsletter Vol. 48. Accessed December 02, 2018. <http://www.fao.org/landwater/news-archive/news-detail/en/c/1032702/>.
- "Air Pollution and Food Production." UNECE Homepage. Accessed December 02, 2018. <https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlirtapwelcome/cross-sector-linkages/air-pollution-and-food-production.html>.
- Arsenault, Chris. "Only 60 Years of Farming Left If Soil Degradation Continues." Scientific American. Accessed November 20, 2018. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/only-60-years-of-farming-left-if-soil-degradation-continues/>.
- "Ask A Scientist - June 2018." Union of Concerned Scientists. Accessed December 02, 2018. <https://www.ucsusa.org/our-work/ucs-publications/animal-agriculture#.XAP5XttKjIU>.
- "Background." International Rice Commission Newsletter Vol. 48. Accessed November 20, 2018. <http://www.fao.org/sustainability/background/en/>.
- "Decade, Water for Life, 2015, UN-Water, United Nations, MDG, Water, Sanitation, Financing, Gender, IWRM, Human Right, Transboundary, Cities, Quality, Food Security, FAO, BKM, World Water Day." United Nations. Accessed November 20, 2018. http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/food_security.shtml.
- "Deforestation and Its Effect on the Planet." National Geographic. July 25, 2017. Accessed November 20, 2018. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation/>.
- "First Evidence of Farming in Mideast 23,000 Years Ago." ScienceDaily. July 22, 2015. Accessed November 20, 2018. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/07/150722144709.htm>.
- Halim, Nadia S. "Agriculture-Meeting the Water Challenge." Agriculture-Meeting the Water Challenge | Water Institute. 2010. Accessed November 20, 2018. <http://water.jhu.edu/index.php/magazine/agriculturemeeting-the-water-challenge>.
- "Key Facts on Food Loss and Waste You Should Know!" International Rice Commission Newsletter Vol. 48. Accessed November 20, 2018. <http://www.fao.org/save-food/resources/keyfindings/en/>.
- "Managing Air Quality - Human Health, Environmental and Economic Assessments." EPA. August 15, 2018. Accessed December 02, 2018. <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-management-process/managing-air-quality-human-health-environmental-and-economic>
- Sengupta, Somini. "How Much Food Do We Waste? Probably More Than You Think." The New York Times. December 12, 2017. Accessed November 20, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/12/climate/food-waste-emissions.html>.
- "Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions." EPA. October 09, 2018. Accessed December 06, 2018. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>.
- "Why It's Time to Stop Punishing Our Soils with Fertilizers." Yale E360. Accessed November 20, 2018. <https://e360.yale.edu/features/why-its-time-to-stop-punishing-our-soils-with-fertilizers-and-chemicals>.
- "World Population Projected to Reach 9.7 Billion by 2050 | UN DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs." United Nations. Accessed November 19, 2018. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/2015-report.html>.

Topic B: Providing Adequate Nutrition for All

Introduction

Trying to determine the best ways of providing adequate nutrition for developing countries arose in the 1930's with the discovery of Vitamin C (History of Nutrition, 2016). The effects of protein, vitamins, and mineral deficiencies are greatly affecting developing countries of the world today. While effects of a proper diet are the largest problem in developed nations. A mild protein deficiency will affect growth, infant development, resistance to infections, and can increase mortality in those just under five years of age. While mild vitamin deficiencies reduce resistance to infections, are a cause of anemia, eye dryness, and in extreme cases, blindness.

It is estimated that only two countries - China and the Republic of Korea - in the world achieve public health thresholds for under-five stunting, overweight adults and anemia in women of reproductive age (Greenslade). Showing that almost every country in the world is struggling with the problem of poor nutrition. Good nutrition is based on healthy eating and staying active. Poor nutrition can be caused by overeating, not consuming enough healthy foods, or eating too many foods that are either low in fiber or protein, or high in sugar. Poor nutrition greatly affects developed countries today. This can contribute to the risk of becoming overweight or obese, tooth decay, high blood pressure or cholesterol, type-2 diabetes, depression, or eating disorders.

History

The 1974 World Food Conference began a decade of nutrition planning and then nutritional surveillance among developing countries. Then in 1985 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) began to push structural adjustment in attempt to fix control on vitamin A deficiency, anaemia and iodine deficiency disorders. The micronutrient wave had not yet ceased, and very large sums of money were being provided by the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and others. This effort is a response to the goals that were set by the 1989 World Summit on Children as well as the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition. In December of 1992, the World Declaration on Nutrition was produced by the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) at the International Conference on Nutrition. The

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

main goal of the declaration made was to eliminate hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition. The nations determined that hunger and malnutrition were unacceptable in a world that has both the knowledge and resources to end this human catastrophe. Protein-energy malnutrition (PEM), vitamin A deficiency, iodine deficiency disorders, and nutritional anemias have been the most common nutritional problems in nearly all of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Near East. For developing countries as a whole, there has been a consistent decline since the 1970s in the number of chronically undernourished people. From 1969-1971 approximately 893 million people were chronically undernourished, while just 809 million from 1990-1992 were undernourished (Latham). Showing the current, achievable challenge is to build and accelerate the progress that has been made.

TABLE 2

Population at risk of and affected by micronutrient malnutrition (millions)

Region ¹	Iodine deficiency disorders		Vitamin A deficiency		Iron deficiency or anaemia
	At risk	Affected (goitre)	At risk ²	Affected (xerophthalmia)	
Africa	181	86	31	1.0	206
Americas	168	63	14	0.1	94
Southeast Asia	486	176	123	1.7	616
Europe	141	97	-	-	27
Eastern Mediterranean	173	93	18	0.2	149
Western Pacific ³	423	141	42	0.1	1 058
Total	1 572	655	228	3.1	2 150

¹ WHO regions.

² Preschool children only.

³ Including China.

The Food & Agriculture Organization has developed a way to assess whether nutritional needs are being efficiently met or not. Information on food intake, dietary patterns, and the nutritional status of citizens are required by countries to determine the formulation of efficient policies and ways to implement intervention programmes if needed. They use this information to create an action plan to attempt to eradicate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Such high-quality food security and nutrition information collected in the country is useful for advocacy, surveillance, monitoring and impact evaluation.

Current Issues

While young children are most vulnerable to facing malnutrition, everyone has a right to adequate food and good nutrition. It's essential for all. However, about 155 million children under the age of five are stunted -

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

prevented from growing or developing properly. Problems of malnutrition exist in all countries, although most prevalent in developing countries. Many of these issues have been attributed to the exponentially increasing world population.

As the number of people on Earth increase, the land and resources do not. There is scarce food and water and other resources available to a growing population. However, the optimal level of population growth is said to have been surpassed. We are now running out of resources faster than we can produce them. As population control activist Garrett Hardin warns, the world faces a tragedy of the commons - a situation in which there are scarce resources that individuals are using to their own benefit and self-interest until the resources have been depleted or spoiled. This has both social and environmental considerations. It will make for winners and losers for those resources, like food. It will also be detrimental to the environment, as land and resources are harmed and over extracted.

Malnutrition is currently the single largest cause of child mortality. Over one-third of child deaths are due to malnutrition. The arising issue of malnutrition is affected children by causing those that survive to start school late, make them more likely to drop out, and tend to have lower earnings as adults. This is causing the capital means of developing nations to be robbed of at least 2-3% in economic growth (Nutrition Country Profiles). It is clear that malnutrition has a direct negative effect on the success of individuals, and, consequently, the nations within which they reside.

Emerging challenges facing providing an adequate nutrition are currently climate change, environmental sustainability and rapid technological shifts. These are transforming food systems - system to help fight malnutrition - and raising questions about how to feed a growing world population in effective, sustainable ways. With roughly 85% of countries being developing, this greatly impacts the cost of adequate nutrition. FAO, other organizations, and other countries put nearly 3.5 trillion USD towards malnutrition each year. (FAO Role in Nutrition). One of the major current developments is the production and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). However, there is much controversy on the technology. There is the concern that these GMOs may have

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

a negative effect on the health of individuals; however, at the same time, the technology is an effective solution to the hunger nations face as a result of overpopulation.

At the same time, uneven economic growth, social and economic transformations and other factors are shaping food systems and diets. As a result, the prevalence of overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases are increasing while undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies persist. Roughly 815 million people suffer from chronic hunger in the world while 3.4 million die yearly due to overweight and obesity.

Investing in nutrition can actually be cost-effective. The issue is that very few countries effectively implement these interventions at the proper scale. Two kinds of investments are needed. They are nutrition-specific interventions - breastfeeding promotion, mineral and vitamin supplements, and deworming - and nutrition-sensitive development (Nutrition Country Profiles). This is necessary to ensure that nations fully utilize their potential to contribute to reductions in malnutrition.

Current Positions

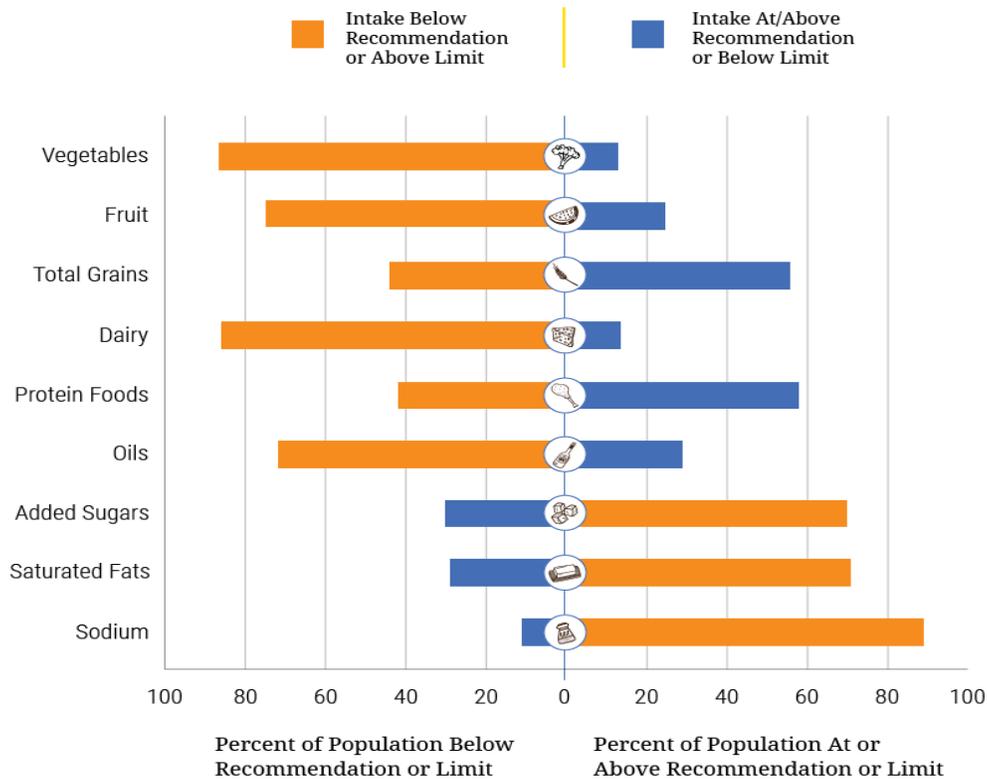
The region most affected by lack of nutrition is Africa while America is most affected by poor diet choices.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest level of food insecurity in the world. Food insecurity is the outcome of the country being too poor to buy and even grow food. But not any food. The FAO defined the food grown needed to be sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. An estimated 220 million people in Africa lack an adequate nutrition (Battersby, 2018).

Most Americans exceed the recommendations for amounts of added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium as well as in calorie intake compared to needs. The high percentage of the population that is overweight or obese suggests that many in the United States over consume calories. About three-fourths of the population has an eating pattern that is too low in dairy, fruits, oils, and vegetables. Where over half the population is either meeting or exceeding total grain and protein foods recommendations (Current Eating Patterns in the United States). The typical eating patterns currently consumed in the United States do not align with the Dietary Guidelines when they are compared to the healthy United States-Style pattern in the figure to the right. While the United States is

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

the most pressing example of malnutrition in a developed nation, many other developed countries are susceptible to issues associated with obesity and improper nutrition.



Conclusion

The largest problem for this issue is not only trying to find a way to provide adequate and healthy nutrition for those in developing countries but also finding a way to keep one away from the risks of overeating. The overall goal is to find a way to find healthy, nutritious food for all. The FAO has already begun taking steps towards this with a nutrition assessment and developing funds towards countries with lack of adequate nutrition. However, it is clearly still a worldwide issue.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Questions to Consider

- Does your country have any glaring nutritional issues? If so, are these mainly a result of not having enough food or nutrients, or a result of having enough food, but not providing healthy enough food for your citizens?
- How many calories do the citizens in your country typically consume? Is this under, above, or at what is expected?
- What resources does your country possess that could benefit other countries, if any?
- What systems are there currently in place within your country that allow for the alleviation of hunger? What sort of systems would be needed to provide adequate nutrition for all?
- Is further international intervention necessary when it comes to malnutrition?
- What should FAO's role be? Is direct relief necessary, or would a different approach work better?
- What are ways that FAO can improve the resources they're already providing?
- How can NGOs come into play when developing solutions to nutritional deficiencies?

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Works Cited

- Battersby, Jane. "What's Driving Sub-Saharan Africa's Malnutrition Problem?" The Conversation. 19 Sept. 2018. Accessed December 02, 2018.
<http://theconversation.com/whats-driving-sub-saharan-africas-malnutrition-problem-5559>
- "Current Eating Patterns in the United States." Shifts Needed To Align With Healthy Eating Patterns. Accessed December 02, 2018.
<https://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015/guidelines/chapter-2/current-eating-patterns-in-the-united-states/>
- "FAO's Role in Nutrition." Food and Agriculture Organization. Accessed December 02, 2018.
<http://www.fao.org/nutrition/en/>
- Greenslade, Leith. "Commentary: Poor Nutrition Is a Global Problem." Health Envoy RSS. Accessed December 02, 2018.
<http://www.healthenvoy.org/commentary-poor-nutrition-is-a-global-problem/>
- "History of Nutrition | Nutrition Careers and Evolution." Natural Healers. 21 Oct. 2016. Accessed December 02, 2018.
<https://www.naturalhealers.com/nutrition-history/>
- Latham, Michael. "Food and Nutrition Series." International Rice Commission Newsletter. Accessed December 02, 2018.
http://www.fao.org/docrep/w0073e/w0073e03.htm#P42_6264
- "Nutrition Country Profiles." The World Bank. Accessed December 02, 2018.
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/health/publication/nutrition-country-profiles>

Topic C: Migration and Food

Introduction

Due to many of the internal and external conflicts globally present today, many people are being displaced. Because of these various factors, the number of migrants is continuously increasing. For the purpose of this committee, migration can be defined as the movement of people throughout the world, either internally through a country, or globally between many countries.

One of the reasons people are being forced to migrate is due to a lack of agriculture resources. In many areas of the world the natural disasters people are experiencing are causing them to move away from their homes. Among other reasons, persecution and human right violations force people to move away. Often, these people live in an agriculturally based region. A lack of resources causes large waves of migration in rural countries. In these rural areas, the development of agriculture opportunities helps with non-migration. When there is the mass movement of people the receiving areas can experience a food-strain (Migration and Agriculture).

The displacement of agriculture is one of the root causes in the migration of these people. When there is a lack of agriculture the line between the poor and the rich becomes even finer due to the lack of employment, food security, and having resilient households. (FAO and Migration)

This necessity to migrate is where the problem comes in. The FAO notes that “migration should be a choice not a necessity” (FAO and Migration). The FAO supports organizations in understanding the problems that are being placed. In already rural areas the need for food production is a necessity on its own. The lack of food security hurts the communities. For these people migration is the only option to survive. Many youths in these affected areas choose to move just for the chance to have a better life, but also because they wish to be able to survive (Migration and Agriculture).

History

1930's - During the Great Depression Americans were forced to leave their own communities because of the dust bowl problems happening in the country. This displacement left people unemployed and homeless. Due to the

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

economic difficulties during this time it left many people not knowing where to go. Then with addition of environmental problems the people affected had no resources to live off of (Guttman et al., 2017).

- *1960-2000* - After the Cold War the migration of people was influenced from the lack of resources in the former USSR. People could not move out of that area during this time do to the lack of being able to. There was a large increase of people migrating after the USSR fell.
- *2014* – During this period, 19 Million people were displaced because of natural disasters in their community (FAO and Migration).
- *2016*- This year showed the largest movement of people migrating for economic issues. It had increased since earlier years. The estimate being 65.3 million people in the world displaced because of agriculture reasons (FAO and Migration).

The FAO has already put many programs in places to help stop the widespread migration within rural countries. They have strengthened their ties within these countries which makes it easier to influence decision making. The FAO has supported both migrants and refugees understanding that this is not a choice. They have also been helping displaced communities in their times of need and struggle (Maloney, 2015).

Current Issues

The major issues facing the FAO are that the countries are not necessarily in the best place to help these migrating people. There is not much that can be done for an area that has been hurt by a natural disaster. Over time the land will be able to be farmed again. (Migration and Agriculture)

This topic is important because of how there is an increasing number of people immigrating for the lack of natural resources. In 2016 there was the all-time high of 66 million people immigrating because of the lack of food and resources. In countries like Nigeria and Uganda migration is up to almost 80% of the people living in those countries. (FAO and Migration). The EU predicts that the migration due to climate change and environmental factors within the next forty years could be anywhere from 25 million to one billion (Cattaneo, Cristina, and Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei).

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

As more people leave their homeland there is an even bigger lack of food because then there is no one to harvest and farm the agriculture. In rural countries where most of these problems are occurring agriculture is their major source of food. Without these people there to make the food there cannot be any of the food to make. On the other hand, as there are less people to farm agriculture more traditional food chains have begun to grow and expand (“Migration and Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities for India.”).

Current Positions

The countries most affected by this migration are those in rural areas like Africa and parts of the Middle East.

In parts of India it is becoming too hot for the farmers to be able to plant crops and for the crops to be able to survive. This problem is causing farmers to move out of southern India to a place where they can still do their work. As climate change keeps increasing Southern Asia soon will be too hot to even survive in. Last year, India had its warmest year on record. With this increasing heat means more environmental changes such as increasing drought and water shortages which all causes mass migration in the country (Maloney, 2015).

In central America the lack of food and the lessening of farming jobs is causing people to leave in mass sums. These people in these countries are moving to more urban areas or even the United States to try to be able to survive (Maloney, 2015).

Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa is largely not a choice. It is due to the lack of food, poverty, and the environmental factors. This migration for these Africans is for the will to survive. Many of these people would rather stay in their homes and some end up making it back eventually, if that is an option (Rural Africa in Motion).

In European nations the migration problem has a different effect. Due to people leaving their own countries European nations tend to get a majority of the influx of migrants. The EU sees this as a threat to the security of the continent as a whole. Due to the climate change and environmental factors these people are choosing to migrate into Europe. This also affects Europe’s own food sustainability issues and could cause future issues for Europeans (Cattaneo, Cristina, and Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei).

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

FAO has already started to work on this problem by supporting those migrants that are choosing to leave. They have started to strengthen substantial food resources so people can have food in their area. The FAO has begun to support farm production which helps with the employment opportunities many migrants are trying to find (Migration in Motion).

Conclusion

The problems for this topic include the climate change, lack of employment, and social rights being denied. This committee is focusing on the lack of employment and the climate change resulting in a lack of natural resources for the people that live there. Without these resources, people are forced to move. The FSO committee is thus tasked with both lessening situations in which people will be forced to move, and how best to help those who do not have any choice but to move. The FAO needs to find a viable solution to these problems.

Questions to Consider

- How is your country affected by this migration? Do your citizens depend on agricultural livelihoods, or are any important exports for your country coming from areas where heavy migration is occurring?
- Is your country in a position to help with this issue?
- What should the top priority for these people - finding new places to go or solving the lack of resources in their own lands?
- How could the FAO's response to this be strengthened? What FAO programs should be revamped, and where are new programs necessary?

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Works Cited

- Cattaneo, Cristina, and Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei. "How Does Climate Change Affect Migration?" World Economic Forum, Accessed December 02, 2018. www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/11/how-does-climate-change-affect-migration/.
- "FAO and Migration." International Rice Commission Newsletter Vol. 48, FAO of the UN, Accessed December 02, 2018.
- "Migration and Agriculture." International Rice Commission Newsletter Vol. 48, FAO of the UN, Accessed December 02, 2018. www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/vn/c/1072891/.
- "Migration and Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities for India." Down To Earth, Accessed December 02, 2018. www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/food/migration-and-food-security-challenges-and-opportunities-for-india-58913.
- Maloney, Anastasia. "Hunger Drives Migration in Central America: Study." Reuters, Accessed December 02, 2018.
- Thomson Reuters, 17 Sept. 2015, Accessed December 02, 2018. www.reuters.com/article/us-latam-migration-idUSKCN0RH2KD20150917.
- Guttman et al. "Migration in the 1930's: Beyond the Dust Bowl ." NCBI, 2017. Accessed December 02, 2018. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5673135/>
- "Rural Africa in Motion." FAO, Accessed December 02, 2018. www.fao.org/3/I7951EN/i7951en.pdf.