Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger: towards a coherent policy agenda

Prabhu Pingali
Director
Agricultural and Development Economics Division
FAO, Rome, Italy
852 million people are chronically undernourished

Countries in transition
28

Sub-Saharan Africa
204

Near East and North Africa
39

Latin America and the Caribbean
53

Developed market economies
9

Asia and the Pacific
519
Prevalence of undernourished varies among regions

Percentage of population undernourished, by region, 2000-2002

Developing Countries | Asia and the Pacific | Latin America and the Caribbean | Near East and North Africa | Sub-Saharan Africa | Countries in Transition

%
Per caput food production has increased steadily

Per caput food production
Index (1970 = 100)
MDG hunger goal does appear to be within reach

Prevalence of undernourishment (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>N.East and N. Africa</th>
<th>S. Asia</th>
<th>E. Asia</th>
<th>Lat. Amer. and Carib.</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1990-92</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-02</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
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Progress towards the WFS target is too slow

Number of undernourished (millions)

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<td>168</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>275</td>
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<td>2000-02</td>
<td>204</td>
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<td>301</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>WFS</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 1: Agricultural growth plays a critical role in enhancing food security and reducing poverty

% undernourished

- Developing
- 34% or more
- 20 to 34%
- 5 to 19%
- 2.5 to 4%
- less than 2.5%
Lesson 2: Hunger reduction is a prerequisite for fast development and poverty reduction.

Poverty and undernourishment

- % of the population living with < 1 US$/day (1995-2000)

- % of the population undernourished

Poverty and undernourishment: trends

- % in extreme poverty

- % undernourished
Lesson 3: Technology can make a difference but under the right conditions

*World rice production and price (constant US$2002), 1961-2003*

Source: FAO/IRRI
Lesson 4: Trade can lead to substantial reductions in hunger and poverty

Integration in agricultural trade and undernourishment

Agricultural imports and exports as a share of agricultural GDP (%)
Lesson 5: Public investment fails to reflect the importance of agriculture

% population undernourished

- Less than 2.5%
- 2.5 to 4%
- 5 to 19%
- 20 to 34%
- 35% or more

Agricultural orientation index

- 1990-92 average
- 1996-98 (or most recent period for which data are available)
Lesson 6: Development assistance does not target the neediest countries

External assistance to agriculture per ag. worker (1998–2000)

% undernourished

- 35% or more
- 20 to 34%
- 5 to 19%
- less than 5%

US$/worker
Lesson 7: Peace and stability are sine qua non conditions for growth and poverty reduction

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Civil strife or recent civil strife
Governance and Food Security

Governance indicators, food security and hunger reduction in the 1990s

Indicator average for country group

- Political stability
- Government effectiveness
- Rule of law
- Control of corruption

Source: World Bank; FAO
The changing world and persistent policy challenges

- Urbanization and the transformation of food markets
- Changing patterns of trade in food
- Resource use and resource degradation
- Harnessing science and technology for development
Designing a coherent agenda for hunger and poverty reduction

- Focus on the hotspots
- Focus on the long term while responding to immediate needs
- Enhance productivity of smallholder agriculture
- Seek complementarities between trade and domestic policy
- Increase effectiveness of Official Development Assistance
Designing a coherent agenda for hunger and poverty reduction

- Ensure complementarities of public resources, domestic and international
- Create an environment conductive to private investment
- Make PRSPs more inclusive in addressing food security and rural development
- Combine poverty reduction with increased provision of global public goods
Why Hunger not in the political agenda?

• associate hunger with emergencies, conflict and natural calamities
• ample global availability of food, combined with declining food prices
• economic model emphasizing growth and poverty reduction
• health and education services as the pillars of anti-poverty programmes
Why Hunger not high in the political agenda?

- poor record of past agricultural and integrated rural development programmes
- weak scientific evidence to be used for advocacy
- weak political voice of hungry (rural populations in general)
- decentralization creates institutional vacuum on responsibilities.
- PRSPs hijacked by central ministries