

# 2014-2015

# GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT



IFPRI

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE







# Strong Advances and Stubborn Setbacks

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**SUMMARY** The year 2014 saw mixed results for food and nutrition security: some countries made headway on policies to cut hunger, while in other countries conflict and health crises took a heavy human toll. Much of the year's discourse focused on potential priorities for the future global development agenda.

**F**OR THOSE OF US WORKING TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO hunger and poverty, 2014 was a year of progress, vulnerabilities, and hope.

In many ways, human well-being continued to improve in 2014. The share of the world's people who are hungry and poor kept falling. The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving global poverty has been achieved: the number of people living in extreme poverty fell by 700 million between 1990 and 2010—five years ahead of the 2015 target date.<sup>1</sup> The goal of cutting the share of hungry people by half seems nearly attainable, having been met by 64 developing countries since 1990. Global undernourishment has fallen drastically during the past two decades, from 19 percent to 11 percent.<sup>2</sup>

Yet events also reminded us of our serious and continued vulnerability to shocks, both natural and human caused, and other risks, including the Ebola epidemic, droughts and floods, conflicts, and the ticking time bomb of overweight and obesity. We have often not found effective ways of preventing, responding to, and overcoming risks and shocks that cross national borders and that do not fit neatly into the scope of existing institutions.

To cope not only with the existing challenges of poverty and hunger but also with additional challenges that are sure to come, policymakers from countries rich and poor, as well as development agencies and other actors, must recognize the need to bolster our systems and institutions. The global dialogue on how to meet these challenges continued on many fronts in 2014, and important global and national commitments were made on nutrition, trade, and climate. In a year of extensive activity related to nutrition, another hopeful sign was the increased recognition of the severity of not only micronutrient malnutrition (or “hidden hunger”) but also overweight and obesity, as well as a greater understanding of



the role of water, sanitation, and hygiene in nutrition. The year was also critical in setting the future development agenda at the global and national levels.

## THERE WAS MUCH TO CELEBRATE IN 2014

Poor and middle income countries showed strong economic and agricultural growth in 2014. As of October 2014, annual growth of gross domestic product (GDP) in emerging market and developing countries averaged 4.4 percent—in contrast with just 1.8 percent in the advanced economies—according to the International Monetary Fund.<sup>3</sup> To combat hunger and poverty, it will be important for this economic growth to raise the incomes and improve the well-being of the poorest people; we do not yet know whether this happened in 2014.

Food-importing developing countries also received a boon in the form of lower food prices. World food prices fell in 2014 to their lowest level



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since 2010, according to the Food Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). One contributor to lower food prices was the decline in the price of oil, which is an important component in global food production. Between June and December 2014, the price of oil fell by nearly half. By contributing to lower food prices, falling oil prices are likely to be, by and large, good for global food security and nutrition.

More important, much progress has been made at the country level. Countries in South Asia took a number of steps to combat poverty and hunger,

including various social protection measures. India's 2013 National Food Security Act, which calls for providing highly subsidized food grains to two-thirds of the country's population, was fully implemented by 5 of India's 29 states and partly implemented by 6 other states.<sup>4</sup> The question remains how to manage the program better and target it more closely to the neediest people in order to reduce the overall cost and ensure that it promotes good nutrition. India also adopted a scheme to help the country's poor open 75 million bank accounts; although the accounts would start with a zero balance, they represent a first step in increasing poor people's participation in the financial system. Similarly, Pakistan aimed to bring the poor into the financial system by partly guaranteeing credit for smallholder farmers. Because such schemes have had mixed success in other South Asian countries, their effectiveness and long-term financial viability will need to be carefully monitored. Nepal adopted a new 20-year Agricultural Development Strategy designed to reduce poverty through agriculture-led growth. And despite the fact that genetically modified crops still generate much debate in the region, Bangladesh approved the commercial cultivation of genetically modified *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) eggplant under government supervision. In 2014, 20 small eggplant farmers were given Bt seedlings for cultivation; the government plans to increase Bt eggplant cultivation in the next five years.<sup>5</sup>

Africa as a region showed solid economic growth and has slowly pushed down rates of poverty and hunger. Foreign direct investment in the region has been increasing in recent years, contributing to economic growth and development, and Africa's share of global trade and trade in agricultural products has been on the rise. At the African Union Summit in June, African heads of state and government adopted the Malabo Declaration, committing themselves to agriculture-led growth as laid out in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), launched in 2003. Also in the Malabo Declaration, these leaders committed to ending hunger and halving poverty by 2025 (see Chapter 9), tripling intra-African trade in agricultural commodities, and building agriculture's resilience to climate variability and shocks. Indeed, trade within Africa is already on the upswing, though from an admittedly

low baseline, and African markets account for 34 percent of African agricultural exports.<sup>6</sup>

Although conflicts still plague parts of the Middle East and North Africa, some countries, such as Egypt and Tunisia, experienced more stability, attracting domestic and foreign investment. Many countries in the region—including Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, and Yemen—cut fuel subsidies, saving money that could be reinvested in development. Some of these same countries supported increased production of staple grains (such as wheat) and built up their strategic grain reserves, potentially bolstering their resilience in the face of future price, trade, or production shocks.

East Asia grew rapidly in 2014, at 5.7 percent,<sup>7</sup> and countries in the region took actions to strengthen food security and agricultural development. China's 2014 *Number 1 Central Document* signaled a shift away from the country's traditional emphasis on food self-sufficiency and toward heavier reliance on international trade to achieve food security aims, and also strengthened farmers' property rights. Indonesia reformed its rice safety-net program to reduce inefficiencies and waste, and the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam have also implemented extensive agricultural policy reforms. In September the region's food and agriculture ministers adopted the Beijing Declaration on APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Food Security, reaffirming the region's commitment to cooperating on food security and food safety.

Latin America and the Caribbean, the world's largest net food-exporting region, remained a food production powerhouse in 2014. Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay play large roles in global wheat, maize, and soybean markets. Still, although agricultural productivity has grown rapidly in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru, productivity growth across the region overall has lagged behind that in the United States. At the same time, several countries in Latin America have excelled in implementing policies to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition. Examples include Brazil's Zero Hunger and *Bolsa Família* programs and Mexico's *Oportunidades*. These successes have led to opportunities for South–South learning initiatives, such as United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Zero Hunger Challenge.

Rich countries also unveiled initiatives and funding commitments in 2014 designed to help cut hunger and undernutrition. For example, the government of Germany, announced plans to spend €1 billion a year on food security and rural development through its new initiative titled One World, No Hun-

The EU has pledged to help reduce stunting in 7 million children under five years of age by 2025 and to mobilize €3.5 billion between 2014 and 2020 to contribute to this goal.

ger.<sup>8</sup> The government of the Netherlands committed to develop initiatives on global food security, specifically eradicating hunger and malnutrition, promoting inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth, and achieving ecologically sustainable food systems.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, the European Union (EU) has made food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture top priorities for development cooperation in the coming years. For instance, it has pledged to help reduce stunting in 7 million children under five years of age by 2025 and to mobilize €3.5 billion between 2014 and 2020 to contribute to this goal.<sup>10</sup>

As part of a major overhaul to its development cooperation system, the Italian parliament authorized the formation of a development agency and financing facility.<sup>11</sup> US funding for global health programs reached unprecedented levels, with US\$9.1 billion—an increase of more than \$400 million<sup>12</sup>—allocated for fiscal year 2014. And at the first-ever US–Africa Leaders' Summit held in Washington, DC, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a \$100 million Global Resilience Partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation to help vulnerable people withstand shocks and crises.<sup>13</sup>

Progress was also made in reforming global trade rules, which can have large impacts on agriculture and farmers worldwide. World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations in Bali in December 2013

# 2014

# FOOD POLICY TIMELINE: ISSUES, ACTIONS & EVENTS

## January

### UN FOCUSES ON FAMILY FARMERS

United Nations designates 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming.

## February

### DISTORTED FARM SUPPORT CONTINUES IN THE US & EU

US passes Farm Bill, allocating up to US\$30 billion in annual support to US farmers, while the European Union implements its Common Agricultural Policy, distributing €40 billion per year to its farmers.



## March

### EBOLA HITS WEST AFRICA HARD

Outbreaks of Ebola occur in several West Africa countries, with subsequent grave impacts on agricultural production, trade, and household food and nutrition security.

## April

### EYES ON THE OCEANS

At the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth, held in The Hague, governments, business leaders, and NGOs from 80 countries agree to take "unorthodox" steps to address overfishing, climate change, and ocean pollution.



## May

### SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS WORSENS

By this month, an estimated 3.2 million Syrian refugees face food and nutrition insecurity in neighboring Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.



## June

### AU COMMITS TO END HUNGER BY 2025

The 23rd African Union Summit culminates in the Malabo Declaration, recommitting African member states to devote 10% of their budgets to agricultural development, reduce stunting to 10%, and end hunger and halve poverty by 2025.

**Sources:** JANUARY: UN News Centre, "UN launches international year to spotlight role of family farms in reducing hunger, poverty," November, 22, 2013, accessed December 22, 2014, [www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=4656&Cr=VIBRA&Cr2=](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=4656&Cr=VIBRA&Cr2=). FEBRUARY: C. Zulauf and D. Orden, *US Agricultural Act of 2014: Overview and Analysis*, IFPRI Discussion Paper 03193 (Washington, DC: IFPRI 2014); World Bank. MARCH: *The Economic Impact of the 2014 Ebola Epidemic: Short and Medium Term Estimates for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone* (Washington, DC: 2014); and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), *Grave Food Security Concerns following Ebola Outbreak in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea*, Special Alert 333 (Rome, Italy: 2014). APRIL: <http://www.globaleceansactionsummit.com/>, accessed on January 23, 2015. MAY: United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, *Syria Regional Refugee Response, Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal*, <http://data.unhcr.org/syria/refugees/syria/region/ahp/>, accessed December 22, 2014. JUNE: African Union, *Decisions, Declarations, and Resolutions, 2014*, [www.africanunion.org/Default.aspx?tabid=114](http://www.africanunion.org/Default.aspx?tabid=114); and CNN, "China's tainted meat scandal explained," July 30, 2014, [www.cnn.com/2014/07/29/world/asia/explainer-china-meat-scandal/](http://www.cnn.com/2014/07/29/world/asia/explainer-china-meat-scandal/). SEPTEMBER: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "General Assembly Adopts Resolution on SDGs Report," September 17, 2014, [www.un.org/en/development/dcaul/news/sustainable/sdgs-post2015.html](http://www.un.org/en/development/dcaul/news/sustainable/sdgs-post2015.html); and FAO, "The Global alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture," [www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/35725/en/](http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/35725/en/), accessed December 23, 2014. OCTOBER: "Health Minister Quits over Lard Scandal," *Taipei Times*, October 4, 2014. NOVEMBER: World Health Organization, "Countries Vow to Combat Malnutrition through Firm Policies and Actions," <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2014/ncn2-nutrition/en/>, accessed on December 23, 2014. DECEMBER: Bloomberg, "Oil Drops to 4-year Low as OPEC Decision Hits Oil Stocks," November 27, 2014, [www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-26/dollar-holds-loses-after-crude-extends-slump-before-opes.html](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-26/dollar-holds-loses-after-crude-extends-slump-before-opes.html); White House, "US-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change," November 11, 2014, [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/11/us-china-joint-announcement-climate-change](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/11/us-china-joint-announcement-climate-change); and BBC, "India and US Reach WTO Breakthrough over Food," November 13, 2014, [www.bbc.com/news/business-30631130](http://www.bbc.com/news/business-30631130).

**July**

## FOOD SCARE IN ASIA

China is rocked by tainted meat scandal in fast food chains, which then spreads to Hong Kong and Japan.



**October**

## WASTE OIL SCANDAL IN TAIWAN

Taiwan health minister resigns after hundreds of tons of "gutter oil"—recycled waste oil—is found in food products.

**December**

## WORLD OIL PRICES HIT LOWEST POINT SINCE 2009

Oil prices declined sharply, falling by more than 40 percent since June 2014.



**November**

## HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION

Delegates at the Second International Conference on Nutrition endorse the Rome declaration and framework for action for fighting global malnutrition.

**September**

## FROM MDGs TO SDGs

With the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals imminent, the UN General Assembly adopts resolution to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into the post-2015 agenda.

## CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE BY 2030

Climate talks move ahead with the UN Climate Summit and the launch of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture.



## AN AMBITIOUS CLIMATE PLAN

US and China reach historic bilateral climate deal, committing to reduce emissions after 2030.

## A NEW GLOBAL TRADE PACT

US and India break WTO negotiations impasse, agreeing to move forward on Trade Facilitation Agreement.

resulted in a trade deal, but India blocked it out of concern that WTO limits on agricultural subsidies and food grain reserves would hamper its food security program. In November 2014 the United States and India reached a breakthrough to move the deal forward. The United States agreed not to challenge India's food security program until the dispute was formally resolved in the WTO.

Finally, thanks to an increasing understanding of the importance of nutrition and tireless work by nutrition advocates to increase attention to the issue, nutrition shot up to the top of the global development agenda in 2014. It has become clear that the factors that influence people's nutrition go well beyond food and agriculture to include drinking water and sanitation, the role of women, the quality of caregiving, and others. Malnutrition is now understood to include not just hunger and micronu-



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trient malnutrition but also overnutrition that manifests itself in overweight and obesity—conditions that pose increasing challenges not just in rich countries, but also in developing countries.

In a sign of the current high interest in nutrition, more than 2,200 people gathered at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome in November—22 years after the first such conference. At the conference, government representatives and high-level officials endorsed 60 far-reaching actions designed to help combat all forms of malnutrition. Following the event, FAO created the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to mobilize funds for nutrition interventions and help countries set up mechanisms to monitor their progress toward the

ICN2 nutrition targets. In addition, membership in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, which brings together countries seeking to improve nutrition and share experiences, had climbed to 54 countries by the end of 2014.

## CRISES AND CHRONIC VULNERABILITY WERE SEVERE IN MANY HOT SPOTS

National, regional, and global food systems are still subject to a wide variety of shocks, and 2014 provided ample evidence of this vulnerability.

The civil war in Syria, now in its fourth year of conflict, has sent shock waves through the region. Syria's economy contracted by more than 40 percent in 2011–2013,<sup>14</sup> and an estimated 4.9 million people are now in moderate need of food assistance.<sup>15</sup> Syria's neighbors are affected too. As of December 2014, Lebanon and Turkey each hosted more than 1 million Syrian refugees, and Jordan was home to more than 600,000. Because of a funding crisis, the World Food Programme (WFP) was briefly forced to halt assistance to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries in late 2014. An emergency appeal restored assistance, but funding remains a constant concern. In January 2015, Lebanon announced new visa requirements for Syrians. Although one cannot dismiss the historical, socioeconomic, and political factors associated with this conflict, it also appears that Syria's civil war stems partly from the government's failure to respond adequately to widespread droughts in 2006–2010 that destroyed the livelihoods of 50 percent of farmers and herders and pushed up bread prices (see Chapter 7). Elsewhere in the region, conflict also plagued Iraq, Libya, and Yemen, with serious implications for food security.

In West Africa, a food crisis emerged from a different kind of shock: the largest-ever outbreak of Ebola, which likely began with the consumption of bat meat (see Chapter 6). In 2014, the virus infected more than 20,000 people, of whom more than 8,000 died, mainly in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Besides destroying lives, the epidemic wreaked havoc on food systems, disrupting agricultural production, harvesting, transport, and markets and contributing to a rise in food prices. Price increases of up to 30 percent for rice and up to 150 percent for



cassava were estimated in some areas, though the data are still preliminary.<sup>16</sup> The disease outbreak has unleashed broader risks in West Africa. As experience with HIV/AIDS has shown, poor health, malnutrition, and economic vulnerability can interact in a negative feedback loop. Malnutrition may make an illness more severe and exacerbate its socioeconomic impacts. Illness may also reduce people's work capacity and productivity, imperiling the food security of entire households.<sup>17</sup>

Episodes of extreme weather and climate change also struck in 2014. Large movements of refugees fleeing violence in the Central African Republic, Mali, and northern Nigeria were made worse by low rainfall in Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo and by drought in Chad and Senegal. Lack of rain threatened the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of both hosting communities and refugees. Moreover, the co-occurrence of weather shocks and conflicts may not be coincidental: recent research by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has found that abnormally high temperatures in Sudan and South Sudan, which were embroiled in civil war in 2014, strongly raise the risk of conflict.<sup>18</sup>

East Asia faced threats to food and nutrition security from natural disasters, climate change, soil pollution, food safety issues, and zoonotic diseases (see Chapter 9).<sup>19</sup> In the Philippines, Typhoon Hagupit struck in December, about a year after the devastating Typhoon Haiyan. The damage was severe: 3.9 million people were affected, and more than 41,000 homes were destroyed. This time, however, thorough preparation and evacuation of residents helped to drastically reduce the loss of life. In contrast with Typhoon Haiyan, which killed about 7,000 people, Typhoon Hagupit resulted in only about two-dozen fatalities. Also, a tainted meat scandal in China provoked a food scare in fast-food outlets across the country,<sup>20</sup> and Taiwan experienced food safety scandals related to tainted cooking oil and tofu.<sup>21</sup>

Not all countries experienced lower food prices in 2014, and in some countries, the prices of fruits and vegetables rose significantly. In China, as of November 2014, consumer prices for fresh fruits were 18.7 percent higher than one year before,

although vegetable prices were lower.<sup>22</sup> In India, wholesale prices of fruits and vegetables were 23 percent higher in 2013–2014 than in 2012–2013.<sup>23</sup>

Several shocks highlighted the vulnerability of Central America (see Chapter 9). In a region where 1.9 million people rely on coffee as their main source of income, a coffee rust epidemic in 2012 and 2013 led to estimated harvest losses of 20 percent. Demand for labor dropped by 16–32 percent,

Given the barrage of complex shocks in recent years, strengthening resilience was a major theme in the development community in 2014.

wages fell by 14–22 percent, and 160,000 people were faced with food insecurity. Because the disease destroyed so many coffee plants, heavy losses were also estimated for the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 harvests. In addition, as a result of drought in 2014, maize losses were predicted to be 70 percent in both Guatemala and Honduras. Finally, the region experienced a surge in unaccompanied illegal child migrants to the United States. One estimate put the number at 90,000. Although many factors contributed to this migration, preliminary analysis suggests that the children came from the most food-insecure areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

In Central Asia, although undernourishment has declined in most countries, relatively high levels of child stunting persist throughout the region (see Chapter 9). One of the region's major trading partners—Russia—faced economic difficulties owing to falling oil prices and economic sanctions by Western countries. Low global food and energy prices generally helped counter the resulting price inflation in Central Asia, and the region also benefited from opportunities to fill the market void left by the Russian ban on Western agricultural products. At the same time, the negative developments in the region and in Russia may result in fewer remittances from abroad and reduced wages at home, possibly

affecting staple food consumption, lowering dietary quality, and reducing expenditures on health.<sup>24</sup>

Given the barrage of complex shocks in recent years, strengthening resilience was a major theme in the development community in 2014. Nongovernmental organizations implemented large-scale resilience projects in Ethiopia, Haiti, and Tanzania, to name a few.<sup>25</sup> Efforts made to better conceptualize, measure, and apply resilience included major events and publications by the UN, the World Economic Forum, the Resilience Alliance Network, and IFPRI. In May, IFPRI organized an international conference called “Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security.” The conference identified which emerging shocks pose the biggest threats to food and nutrition security, reviewed approaches and tools for building resilience to shocks, and highlighted the areas where research, policy, and programming need to be improved or scaled up to successfully build resilience to food and nutrition insecurity.<sup>26</sup>

Among the people most vulnerable to shocks are those responsible for producing much of the world’s food: small farmers. The UN designated 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming. Family farms—many of which are small—account for nearly



Among the people most vulnerable to shocks are those responsible for producing much of the world’s food: small farmers.

nine out of ten farms worldwide, provide livelihoods for 2.5 billion people, and produce much of the food consumed in Asia and Africa south of the Sahara (see Chapter 4). Yet the productivity and efficiency of small farms vary, and policy approaches to small farms must vary as well. For example, in Africa south of the Sahara—where rural populations are large, agriculture is responsible for a large share of the economy, and growth in other sectors is weak<sup>27</sup>—programs to strengthen small and family farmers are key. In 2014, African leaders recommitted to

the principles of the CAADP, including promoting employment opportunities for women and youth in agricultural value chains and investing in social protection programs.<sup>28</sup> In other countries, such as China and Vietnam, manufacturing and services are beginning to replace agriculture as economic drivers.<sup>29</sup> Here, the task is to make farming profitable for those with commercial potential while helping others move out of agriculture into other productive work.

## EFFORTS AT AGENDA SETTING AND COOPERATION SHOWED PROMISE

Within the global development community, 2014 was marked by the first steps in the effort to renew the world’s development priorities. In September the UN-appointed Open Working Group, made up of more than 70 countries, put forth a draft set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) designed to identify emerging global priorities while building upon the MDG commitments. The draft goals consisted of 17 SDGs, with 169 specific targets covering a wide range of topics—from poverty, hunger, education, and water and sanitation to infrastructure, energy, and urbanization.<sup>30</sup> While all of these areas directly or indirectly complement agriculture as building blocks of food and nutrition security, it remains to be seen whether so many goals and targets will allow for focused action or whether they will instead dilute efforts to meet the most essential goals. In December, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a report grouping the SDGs into six essential elements: people, planet, partnership, justice, prosperity, and dignity.<sup>31</sup>

As currently conceived, the SDGs differ from the MDGs in some important ways. Heavily focused on poverty, the MDGs applied mainly to developing countries. In contrast, the SDGs are envisioned to be universal, applying to rich and poor countries alike. This approach can help address such issues as inequality, climate change, and governance. It also recognizes that rich countries face serious levels of malnutrition. It will be crucial, however, not to neglect the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people.

The MDGs and SDGs also treat food and nutrition differently. Whereas the MDGs combined food

and nutrition security with poverty in one goal, the SDGs treat each theme separately.<sup>32</sup> Whether this strategy ensures that food and nutrition security receives the attention it deserves will depend on the targets used, funding commitments to food and nutrition, and the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation efforts.<sup>33</sup> At present, the hunger and nutrition targets within the SDGs include the World Health Assembly's target of reducing the number of stunted children under age five by 40 percent by 2025, but there is surely room for more specific and ambitious goals related to food and nutrition security. Many issues will need to be resolved before the UN General Assembly votes on the final form of the SDGs in September 2015.

Although the draft SDGs include several references to climate change, the first real advance in years in terms of international cooperation on climate change took place in November 2014, when China and the United States made a landmark deal to cut greenhouse gas emissions. After years of stalemate between the world's two largest carbon emitters, the agreement specified that China's carbon emissions would peak around the year 2030 and that its share of non-fossil fuel energy would rise to about 20 percent. The United States is committed to cutting carbon pollution by 26–28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

Then, in December, the UN climate conference in Lima, Peru, resulted in a new approach to limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Under the accord, each country has six months to submit plans for curbing greenhouse gas emissions in 2015. This agreement will serve as the basis for further talks in Paris in 2015. Although it is hoped that the agreement will trigger further action to fight climate change, countries' plans for curbing emissions are voluntary, not binding, and are not likely to reduce emissions enough to keep global warming below 2° Centigrade—the level of increase beyond which scientists believe effects will be dangerous.

Efforts to combat climate change took place on other fronts as well, including agriculture. The concept of climate-smart agriculture has gained a foothold; the idea is to increase agricultural productivity sustainably, adapt and build the resilience of agricultural and food-security systems to climate change,

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and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank announced that all of their agricultural investments, valued at about US\$11 billion, would be climate-smart by 2018. During the next decade, CGIAR will allocate \$10.2 billion to climate-smart agricultural research. And the launch of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture in September 2014 underlined the commitment of governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to address climate change.

Finally, in 2014 IFPRI reiterated its Compact 2025, a call to end hunger and malnutrition by 2025. International organizations, such as WFP, IFAD, and FAO, echoed this bold call for action during the year and signaled their readiness to join forces. To end hunger and undernutrition by 2025, progress will need to be fast and substantial. Some of the best evidence that this goal is achievable comes from emerging economies (see Chapter 2 in the 2013 *Global Food Policy Report*). China, for example, employed an agriculture-led strategy to help halve the prevalence of undernourishment and reduce the prevalence of child stunting by more than two-thirds in two to three decades.<sup>34</sup> In Brazil, social protection reforms and targeted nutrition interventions for its most vulnerable citizens helped cut the prevalence of undernourishment from 15 percent to less than 5 percent between 1990 and 2014 and the prevalence of child stunting from about 19 percent to 7 percent between 1989 and 2007.



# 2014–2015 GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT SURVEY

Over 1,000 individuals representing 55 countries responded to an IFPRI survey on perceptions on where food security stands in 2014 and where it is headed in the future.

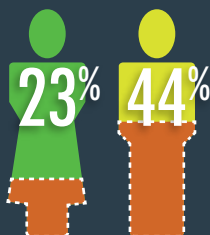
The respondents, the majority of whom work in the NGO, academic, and government/policy sectors, **expressed both gloom and hope**, with large differences in views depending on their sex, age, occupation, and region they represent. The majority of respondents perceived the state of global food and nutrition security and food policies in 2014 as **dissatisfying**.

## GLOBAL FOOD POLICIES

Nearly two-thirds are dissatisfied with both global food policies and the food policies in their own countries.



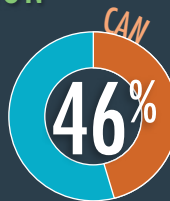
A perception gap exists between men and women.



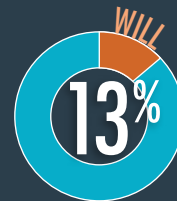
Yes, I'm satisfied with current global food policies.

## HUNGER & MALNUTRITION

Almost half think that while the world has the means to end hunger and malnutrition, this will not necessarily translate into a hunger-free world by 2025.

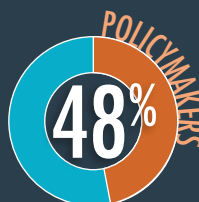


Yes, global hunger CAN be eliminated by 2025.



Yes, global hunger WILL be eliminated by 2025.

Policymakers are more optimistic about the long-term future.



Yes, global hunger and malnutrition will be eliminated by 2025.



## FOOD PRODUCTION

Considering the prospect of increased food production in 2015, the majority of respondents are optimistic.



Yes, world food production will grow in 2015.

Younger people are more pessimistic about ending global hunger.



Yes, global hunger CAN be eliminated by 2025.



## FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

While overall 3 out of 4 respondents are dissatisfied with the current state of global food and nutrition security...



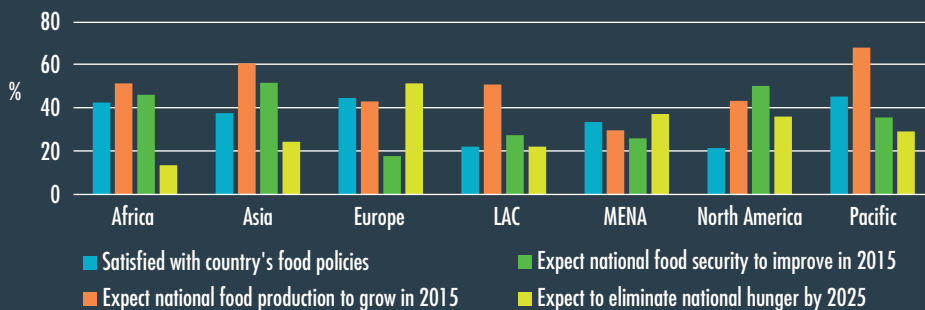
...those in developing countries are optimistic about 2015.



Yes, global food and nutrition security will improve in 2015.

## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Context does matter. Depending on region, satisfaction with and expectations for food policies and food and nutrition security vary dramatically.



Source: The survey occurred online, from January 7–14. IFPRI contacted over 15,000 individuals in over 55 countries, inviting them to participate. The sample of individuals was developed from a variety of mailing lists maintained by IFPRI. Complete survey questions and results are available at [www.ifpri.org/publications/2014-2015](http://www.ifpri.org/publications/2014-2015).

## LOOKING TO 2015

The year 2015 offers a rare chance to reshape the global development agenda through the Sustainable Development Goals. Food and nutrition security garnered much political attention in 2014. If this momentum can be leveraged into a post-2015 plan that includes holistic and comprehensive food and nutrition investments, policies, and programs, the international community may soon have a chance to end hunger and malnutrition once and for all. Of course, setting goals is one thing; achieving them is another. Until countries are committed to improving the well-being of all their citizens—and to developing the capacity to do so—they are not likely to attain the SDGs or any such goals. A conference on financing the post-2015 agenda will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July of 2015, and the final goals are expected to be hammered out at the UN General Assembly in September.

The outcome of global climate change talks in Paris in 2015 will also have critical implications for future food and nutrition security, and indeed for human well-being. Any climate change agenda must place people—particularly poor people—as the top priority and must be woven into the SDGs, rather than standing alone as an entirely separate commitment.

The Group of Seven (G7) countries will continue to play a large role as collective donors. Under Germany's leadership, the G7 countries must maintain the momentum created by Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States to accelerate progress in reducing hunger and undernutrition. Yet the role of the G7 goes beyond aid. North–South and South–South knowledge sharing, learning, and cooperation provide even greater opportunities for progress.

The year is also certain to bring challenges. Natural and human-caused shocks will strike, especially with the continuation of climate change. Oil prices remain a wild card dependent on the decisions of major oil producers. While lower oil prices

can boost the purchasing power of oil-importing countries and free up resources for other uses, they can conversely reduce government revenues in countries that depend on oil exports. Indeed, oil-producing countries in Africa and elsewhere have already felt the pinch of declining oil prices. If these governments respond to budget pressures by reducing or eliminating food subsidies, poor people in these countries will likely face greater hardship. If oil prices are volatile in 2015, they are likely to lead to more volatile food prices and thereby harm poor developing country producers and consumers, who have limited capacity to adjust to rapid price changes.

More broadly, evidence and experience make clear the need for policy changes. We need to produce more food, but our food production must be linked to better nutrition and must be accomplished sustainably. Only innovations in technology, institutions, and policies will make this feasible. We need more and better-targeted investments in social protection. Safety nets prevent 150 million people from falling below the \$1.25 poverty line every year, but 73 percent of the world's population still has no access to comprehensive social protection programs.<sup>35</sup> At the same time, it is important to curtail wasteful and poorly targeted agricultural and food subsidy programs in order to release national budget resources for more effective programs and investments. We need to better manage strategic food reserves so they are available to help buffer the impacts of food shocks. And it is abundantly clear that we must strengthen safeguards against the spread of zoonotic diseases.

We face a double imperative: we must end hunger and malnutrition, and we must do so sustainably. Our progress in improving global food security is fragile and in many ways environmentally unsustainable. Meeting both imperatives is doable, but it will demand more strategic use of resources, stronger responsibility and accountability, and more creativity from all of us. ■

# NOTES

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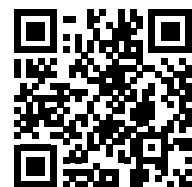
# 2014–2015 GLOBAL FOOD POLICY REPORT

**I**FPRI'S FLAGSHIP REPORT PUTS INTO PERSPECTIVE THE MAJOR FOOD POLICY ISSUES, DEVELOPMENTS, AND DECISIONS IN 2014 and highlights challenges and opportunities for 2015. Drawing on rigorous research, IFPRI researchers and other distinguished food policy experts consider a wide range of crucial questions:

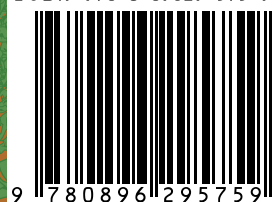
- ▶ How can middle income countries, which despite becoming more affluent are still home to the majority of the world's hungry people, address their food and nutrition security challenges?
- ▶ What is the role of improved sanitation in shaping key nutrition outcomes, especially for children?
- ▶ How can we support smallholder farmers in "moving up" in agriculture or "moving out" of the sector altogether?
- ▶ What social protection measures help shield vulnerable people effectively and efficiently against an increasing number of shocks?
- ▶ How can we best build and regulate the capacity of actors along the food chain to tackle food safety and health risks?
- ▶ How should we address food and nutrition security of people living in conflict zones?
- ▶ What policies can support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector as the global demand for fish skyrockets?
- ▶ What have been the major developments in regions and countries where poor and hungry people reside?

The *2014–2015 Global Food Policy Report* also presents data for several key food policy indicators, including country-level data on hunger, agricultural research spending, and capacity for food policy research. In addition to illustrative figures, tables, and a timeline of food policy events during the past year, the report also presents the results of a global opinion poll on the current state of food policy.

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