

## Abstract

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**Gordillo de Anda, Gustavo & Jiménez C, Francisco. 2004. "The New Axle of Food Security". 25 pages.** Over time, the concept of food security has evolved and at the same time become more precise. From an initial concern over national or world supply, attention is now focused on access to food. Hunger and food insecurity are both a result and a cause of poverty and, therefore, eliminating hunger is not only a moral and social imperative but is also a good investment towards economic growth, especially for the poorer countries. In combating hunger and food insecurity it is indispensable that, on the one hand, the undernourished achieve economic access to food which, in turn, demands their having the opportunity of obtaining adequate income; on the other, the material availability of food supply deriving from national production, imports, or both, must be assured.

Therefore, the problem of world food security is not only a problem of food supply, although it is evidently necessary to focus public and private attention towards ensuring access of poor peasants to production means to satisfy their food needs. The problem of food security is above all a problem of effective demand. That is to say, it is a problem of lack of purchasing power of the neediest groups in rural as well as urban areas.

To set this statement in context, we first proceed to indicate some of the most recent trends in what we have called "the new agriculture". From there, we go on to examples, with data and trends from the Latin American region.

Two subjects require particular attention: the relationship between food security and international trade, and the relationship between food security and biotechnology. As to the first of these, in the light of the trade liberalization and of multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations we define it as a problem of reducing the barriers to the access of agricultural products from developing countries. The second subject, of similar importance in our view, is defined as the attainment of access to knowledge since clearly in the future most of the economic activities will be knowledge-based.

We finalize this essay with a proposal of support to family agriculture, posing the argument that, to a great extent, the success or lack of success of the objectives of the World Food Summit and the Millenium Objectives will be accomplished through this particular segment of the rural population.

***Key concepts:*** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), food security, agricultural trade, agricultural biotechnology, family agriculture, partnerships, new agriculture.

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