

NOURISH SOUTH ASIA

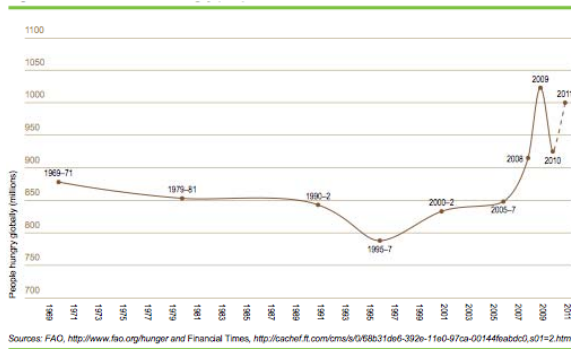
GROW A BETTER FUTURE
FOR REGIONAL FOOD JUSTICE



THE BROKEN FOOD SYSTEM AND THE AGE OF CRISIS



HUNGER IS ON THE RISE AGAIN



Sources: FAO, <http://www.fao.org/hunger> and Financial Times, http://easheft.ft.com/cms/s/0/95831d66-392e-11e0-977a-00144feabdc0_011-2.html

- After decades of grindingly slow progress in the fight to eradicate hunger, it has begun to rise again. Dramatically.
- Had the trend continued, 413 million fewer people would be hungry today.
- Hunger is a bellwether for a deeper malaise driving shocks and fragility:
 - Depletion of resource base
 - Gathering climate change
 - Dysfunctional markets
 - Dysfunctional finance
 - Capture of policymaking
 - Looming energy crisis



WE ARE ON COURSE FOR DISASTER

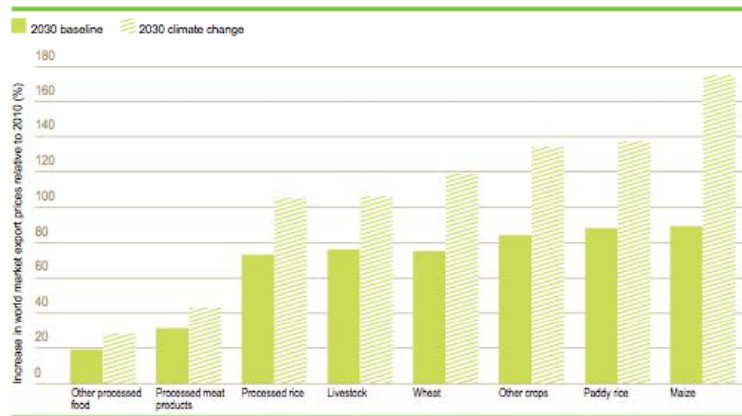
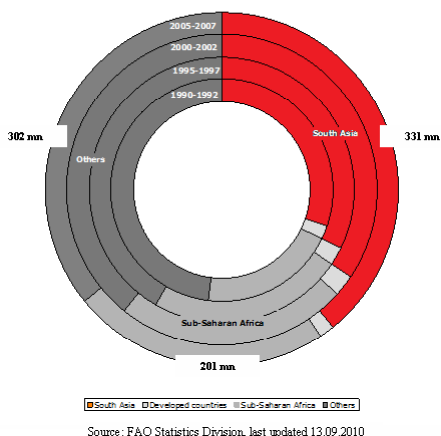


Figure 1: South Asia has the world's largest number of undernourished people, 1990 - 2007



REPORT OUTLINE

1. **INTRODUCTION**
 - WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY AND SEEDS OF CHANGE
2. **THE AGE OF CRISIS**
 - THE EQUITY CHALLENGE
 - THE PRODUCTION CHALLENGE
 - THE RESILIENCE CHALLENGE
4. **THE AGE OF PROSPERITY - SOLUTIONS**
5. **CONCLUSION - FOOD JUSTICE IN SOUTH ASIA**



THE EQUITY CHALLENGE

- FOOD IN THE HANDS OF A FEW
- LAND IN THE HANDS OF A FEW
- POWER IN THE HANDS OF A FEW



In the hands of Few..

Food in the hands of Few

- Food prices are perched in higher threshold
- Marginalized communities remain last on the breadline
- Women and Children get crumbs

Land in the hands of Few

- Landholding are acutely skewed
- Three fourths of all farmers in SA cultivate less that five acres. Land GINI coefficient 0.54
- More women toil on the fields but few own land
- Substantial increase in women labor force – but still they are often recognized and continued to earn less than men

Power in the hands of Few

- Power imbalances
- Corruption consumes food security – failed governance
- Middlemen eat the cake – Recent food crisis and the role of traders and middlemen

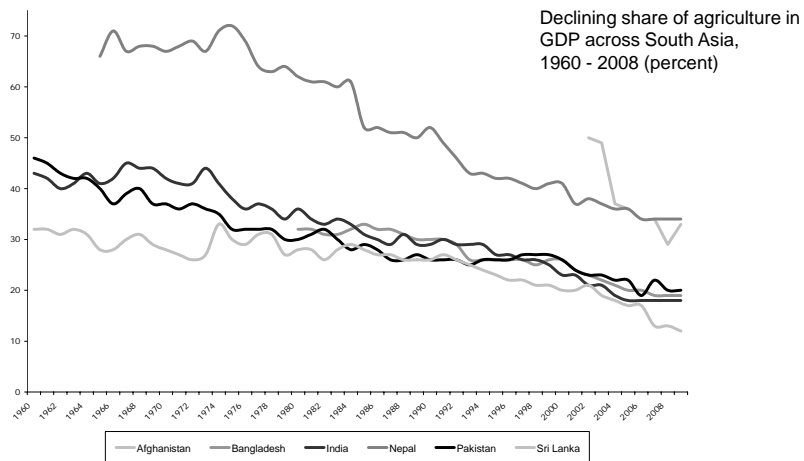


THE PRODUCTION CHALLENGE

- INCREASE IN DEMAND
- SUPPLY CONSTRAINT
- SMALL HOLDER FARMERS ARE SIDELINED



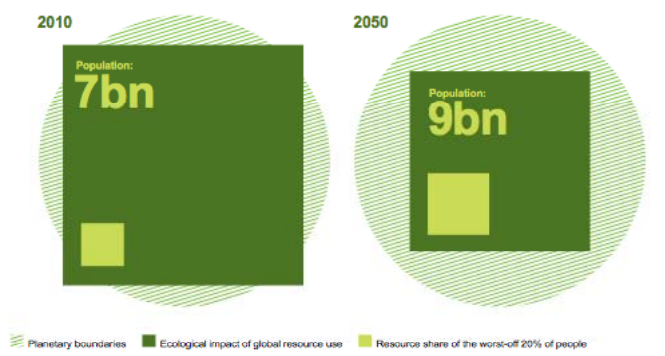
SOUTH ASIA AGRICULTURE IN CRISIS



Source: World Development Indicators



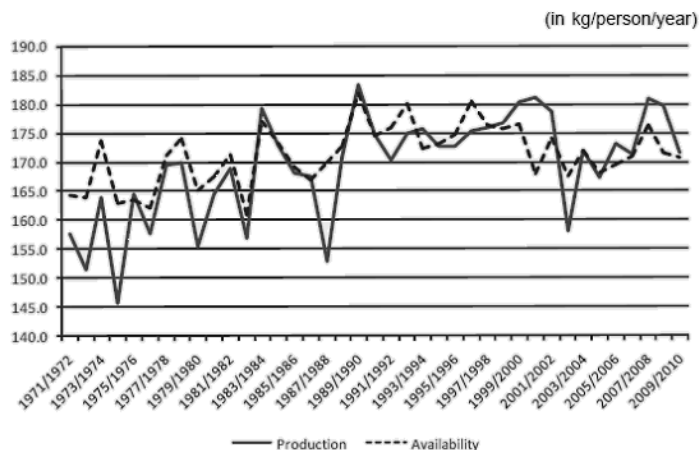
DEMAND WILL INCREASE



- Population growth and urbanization
- Income will increase and food habits will change



SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS WILL INCREASE



Source: Titumur and Basak (2010) *Agriculture and Food Security in South Asia: A Historical Analysis and a Long Run Perspective*, Unnayan Onneshan



SMALL HOLDER FARMERS WILL BE SIDELINED



- Small holders are being sidelined by corporations
- Fertile land is being diverted
- Feeding frenzy for fertile land
- Biofuels- displacing food crops



THE RESILIENCE CHALLENGE

- CLIMATE FRAGILITY
- FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY



CLIMATE FRAGILITY

1. Climate disasters will increase

Two thirds of the disasters faced by SA related weather

2. Agriculture yields will be hit hard

Average yields may decline by 50% for wheat, 17% for rice , 6% for maize from their 2000 level.



3. Disasters will trigger rise in food prices.

4. Interconnectedness will create regional ripples



FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY

1. **Import dependence is increasing** – Bangladesh ,the leading recipients of food aid and one of the top ten importers of food grain

2. **Export bans are distancing neighbours** – To this day, Afghanistan remains highly dependent on Pakistan for imports of its staple wheat. But, Pakistan has imposed an export tax for all Afghan bound commercial goods, including wheat.



BUILDING A NEW AGRICULTURAL FUTURE

THE AGE OF PROSPERITY



GUARANTEE THE UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO FOOD

- **Enact legislative guarantees**
Signatories to FAO's Voluntary guidelines – India has taken step
- **Improve delivery of social entitlements**
Weed out corruption – make it effective – Universalisation
- **Index all social transfers to inflation**
Due to food inflation –real value being depleted
- **Focus on women and children**



SUPPORT SMALL HOLDER AGRICULTURE

- Protect land and forest rights
- End forced 'land grabs' and 'acquisitions'
- Increase agro-ecologically sustainable investment in smallholders
- Ensure that small holders are prioritized in the food retail value chains



PROTECT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

- Support inclusive climate change adaptation
- Advocate for mitigation of the climate debt
- Eliminate targets and subsidies for biofuel production



EXTEND REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Operationalise the South Asian food bank
- End regressive export bans



CONCLUSION

FOOD JUSTICE IN SOUTH ASIA



- **Time** is ticking....
- **More than 300 million** go to bed hungry...
- **Iceberg of hunger** as a result of failed food system has been exposed...
- **Governments, Donors, CSO** and others must seize the momentum and turn the tide.

