**Forum:** General Assembly 2

**Issue:** Enhancing Food Security and Agricultural Resilience in Regions Affected by Natural Disasters

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**Introduction**

Food security and agricultural resilience are critical issues facing many regions around the world, particularly those prone to natural disasters. Climate change is exacerbating the frequency and severity of extreme weather events like hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires, putting unprecedented pressure on global food systems.

According to recent estimates, over the past 30 years, disasters have caused an average annual loss of about 5% of annual agricultural GDP. This represents a massive economic burden on vulnerable communities already struggling with poverty.

The impacts fall heaviest on small-scale farmers, rural populations, and developing countries. Disasters can destroy crops, livestock, infrastructure, and livelihoods in a single event, pushing people into hunger and poverty.

However, there are many ways we can enhance food security and agricultural resilience through improved policies, technologies, practices, and international cooperation. This report will explore key strategies to build more resilient food systems that can withstand natural disasters and other shocks while improving productivity and sustainability.

**Definition of Key Terms**

**Term 1**

* **Food Security**: When all people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times.
* **Agricultural Resilience:** The ability of farming systems to absorb and recover from disturbances such as climate variability and extreme weather events.
* **Natural Disasters**: Serious disruptions to the functioning of a community or society caused by natural hazards.
* **Climate Change**: Long-term alterations in temperature, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions on Earth, primarily driven by human activities such as greenhouse gas emissions.
* **Sustainability**: The ability to maintain or improve the health of ecosystems and human societies over the long term, without depleting resources or causing irreversible environmental damage.
* **Food Security Crisis**: A situation in which a population experiences widespread food insecurity due to factors like conflict, economic instability, or environmental disasters.
* **Food Shock**: A sudden disruption to food production or supply, often due to natural disasters, economic crises, or conflict, leading to reduced food availability or increased prices.
* **Disaster Risk Reduction**: Strategies and actions aimed at preventing or reducing the impact of natural hazards, including preparedness, mitigation, and response efforts.

**Background Information**

##### **Pre-WW2 Background Information Basic info**

##### Colonial Agriculture Practices:

##### Colonial powers prioritized cash crops (e.g., cotton, rubber, tea) over food crops, destabilizing local food systems.

##### Soil degradation and overuse of land reduced resilience to natural disasters.

##### Global Depression Impact:

##### The Great Depression disrupted agricultural exports and led to widespread food insecurity in vulnerable regions.

##### Climate-Related Historical Events:

##### Severe droughts, such as the Dust Bowl in the U.S. (1930s), highlighted the need for agricultural adaptation.

##### Famines in colonized regions like Bengal (1943) revealed systemic issues in food distribution and resilience planning.

##### Early Scientific Efforts:

##### Pre-WWII saw the rise of early soil science and crop rotation as methods to improve agricultural sustainability.

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##### **Post-WWII Era (1945-1970):**

* The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was established in 1943.
* Many developed countries implemented policies to support and reinforce agricultural sectors after WWII.
* The concept of "marriage between health and agriculture" emerged, linking food security with economic development.

##### **Modern Food Security Era (1970s-Present):**

* In the 1970s, food security began to focus not just on availability but also on access.
* The 1980s saw recognition of the importance of food utilization and stability.
* Recent decades have incorporated human rights dimensions and sustainable development goals into the food security framework.

#### **Key Statistics on Global Food Insecurity**

Recent statistics highlight the ongoing challenges in achieving global food security:

* As of 2022, approximately 850 million people worldwide were undernourished.
* The number of acutely food insecure increased from 135 million in 2019 to 345 million by June 2022.
* Climate change is driving more frequent heat waves, heavy rainfall, and droughts that affect agricultural productivity.
* 735 million people worldwide faced hunger in 2023, up from 613 million in 2019 due to climate change and conflict.
* Natural disasters cost the agricultural sector over $280 billion globally from 2008 to 2018.
* Smallholders produce 35% of global food supply but are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters.
* 75% of crop diversity has been lost since the 1900s, reducing adaptability to disasters
* Approximately 30% of food is wasted annually, equating to 1.3 billion tons, which could feed 2 billion people.

**Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

**World Food Programme (WFP)**

**World Trade Organization (WTO)**

**United States**

**France**

**Germany**

**United Kingdom**

**Japan**

**Italy**

**Canada**

**India**

**Bangladesh**

**Pakistan**

**Philipines**

**Vietnam**

**Ethiopia**

**Kenya**

**Somalia**

**Mozambique**

**Zimbabwe**

**Malawi**

**Fiji**

**Puerto Rico**

**Haiti**

**Honduras**

**Timeline of Events**

**Early Years (1940s-1970s):**

* 1943: UN Conference on Food and Agriculture
  + Held from 18 May to 3 June in Hot Springs, Virginia, USA
  + Participated by 44 governments
  + Convened by US President Roosevelt
  + Decided on the establishment of a permanent organization in the field of food and agriculture
* 1945: Establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
  + First session of the FAO Conference met in Quebec City, Canada
  + Established as a specialized agency of the United Nations
* Post-WWII era (1945-1970):
  + Many developed countries implemented policies to support agricultural sectors

**1970s-1980s:**

* 1974: First World Food Conference
  + Held in Rome on 5-16 November
  + Governments examined the global problem of food production and consumption
* 1979: Plan of Action on World Food Security
  + Adopted by the FAO Committee on World Food Security at its 4th session in Rome (5-11 April)
* 1981: Establishment of World Food Day
  + UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/35/70 adopted on 25 October
  + Welcomes the observance of World Food Day annually on 16 October

**Recent Decades (1990s-Present):**

* 1992: First International Conference on Nutrition
  + Organized by FAO and WHO in December in Rome, Italy
  + Adopted World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition
* 1996: World Food Summit
  + Held in Rome in November
  + Adopted Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action
* 2000: UN Millennium Declaration
  + Goal 1 included commitment to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015
* 2002: World Food Summit +5
  + Held on 10-13 June
  + Reaffirmed pledges to end hunger
  + Outcome document: Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later
* 2008: Establishment of UN Secretary General High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security (HLTF)
  + Chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
  + FAO Director-General as Vice-Chair
* 2009: Rome Declaration on World Food Security
  + Adopted during the World Summit on Food Security
  + Unanimously pledged renewed commitment to eradicate hunger
* 2012: RIO+20 - Zero Hunger Challenge
  + Initiative by UN Secretary-General
  + Invites all countries to work for a future where every individual has access to adequate nutrition and resilient food systems
* 2012: Adoption of Food Assistance Convention
  + International treaty adopted on 25 April in London
  + Aims to address the food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable populations
* 2014: Second International Conference on Nutrition
  + Held in Rome, Italy in November
  + Adopted Rome Declaration on Nutrition
* 2015: Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States
  + Addressed food security and nutrition from multiple angles
  + Emphasized sustainable approaches to agriculture and fisheries
  + Highlighted building resilience to climate change and disasters
* 2015: United Nations Sustainable Development Summit
  + Goal 2 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030

**Recent Developments (2016-Present):**

* 2016: High-level side event on pathways to Zero Hunger
  + Held during the 71st UN General Assembly
* 2016-2025: United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition
  + Adopted by the General Assembly resolution 70/259
  + Calls upon FAO and WHO to lead the implementation
  + Collaborates with WFP, IFAD, and UNICEF
* 2017: Launch of U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy 2017-2022
  + Integrated whole-of-government approach to end global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition through Feed the Future initiative
* 2018: Continued implementation of Global Food Security Strategy 2017-2022
* 2021: Launch of updated U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy 2022-2026
  + Builds from the previous five-year strategy
  + Focuses on inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth
  + Emphasizes strengthened resilience among people and systems
  + Highlights well-nourished population, especially among women and children
* 2022: World Bank Group and G7 Presidency co-convened Global Alliance for Food Security
  + May 2022
* 2022: FAO launched rapid response plan for Ukraine
  + June 2022
* 2022: IMF approved temporary Food Shock Window under Rapid Financing Instrument and Rapid Credit Facility
  + July 2022
* 2022: First disbursements made under Food Shock Window
  + August 2022
* 2022: IMF Board approved permanent Food Shock Window
  + September 2022
* 2022: First program approved under permanent Food Shock Window
  + October 2022
* 2023: Heads of FAO, IMF, World Bank Group, WFP, and WTO released Third Joint Statement on food and nutrition security crisis
  + February 8, 2023

**Relevant UN Treaties and Events**

* [UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/239 - "Agriculture development, food security, and nutrition" (2017)](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n17/468/04/pdf/n1746804.pdf)
* [UN Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018) - "Conflict and hunger"](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n18/159/35/pdf/n1815935.pdf)
* [UN Economic and Social Council Resolution E/RES/2020/14 - "Building resilience for food security and nutrition"](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n20/192/44/pdf/n2019244.pdf)
* [UNGA Resolution A/RES/67/228 (2012) - "International Year of Cooperatives"](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n12/492/28/pdf/n1249228.pdf)

**Previous Attempts to solve the Issue**

**The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030)**

* **Overview**: Adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sendai Framework focuses on reducing disaster risks and enhancing resilience.
* **Actions**:
  + Encouraging disaster-resilient agricultural practices.
  + Promoting early warning systems for natural disasters to protect crops and livelihoods.
  + Strengthening the capacities of farming communities through training and technology.

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Programs**

**Key Programs**:

* **The Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation (SFERA)**:
  + Provides rapid assistance to disaster-affected regions.
  + Funds recovery efforts to rebuild agricultural systems.
* **The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)**:
  + Focuses on water management for agriculture in drought-prone areas.
* **Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)**:
  + Integrates climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into farming.

### **World Food Programme (WFP) Initiatives**

* **Emergency Food Aid**:
  + Immediate food distribution in disaster-affected regions.
  + Mobile storage units and supply chain systems to ensure efficient food delivery.
* **Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRROs)**:
  + Combines relief efforts with long-term food security measures, such as training on disaster-resistant farming methods.

### **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

* **Ecosystem-based Approaches**:
  + Restoring degraded landscapes and wetlands to mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts.
  + Enhancing soil quality through natural and sustainable methods.

### **Case Studies of Regional Successes**

* **Africa**: The African Union (AU), with support from the FAO and WFP, initiated the African Risk Capacity (ARC), providing financial tools for climate disaster responses.
* **Asia-Pacific**: Post-tsunami agricultural recovery projects in Indonesia and Sri Lanka (2004), supported by FAO and WFP.
* **Latin America**: Climate-resilient coffee farming in Central America, supported by UNEP and IFAD.

**Possible Solutions**

* Building of trust between nations to come together and rebuild infrastructure of affected countries
* Stable donation system to affected countries being established
* Employment of new infrastructure to decrease scale of damage for possible future instances
* Battling climate change to for example lower risk of tides being high or even happening at all

**Guiding Questions**

1. How is your nation able to co-operate with the aid of other affected countries?
2. What are the necessary steps to ensure that the next time this country is affected it won’t be as disastrous?
3. What is your nations’ history with natural disasters?
4. What has your nation already done to aid others suffering from natural disasters?
5. How can you get your nation to get aid from other nations?

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**Appendix or Appendices**

Please include any materials that you may wish to Appendix in this section. Also, Roman numerals must be used in labeling the different appendices. It is highly recommended that any useful links be placed in this section.

For Example:

1. <http://media.transparency.org/imaps/cpi2009/> (Transparency International’s annual CPI)

*Why this website is useful…………*