



# **Local and International Public Goods: What role is there for Regional Cooperation at this current Food crisis**

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# Outline

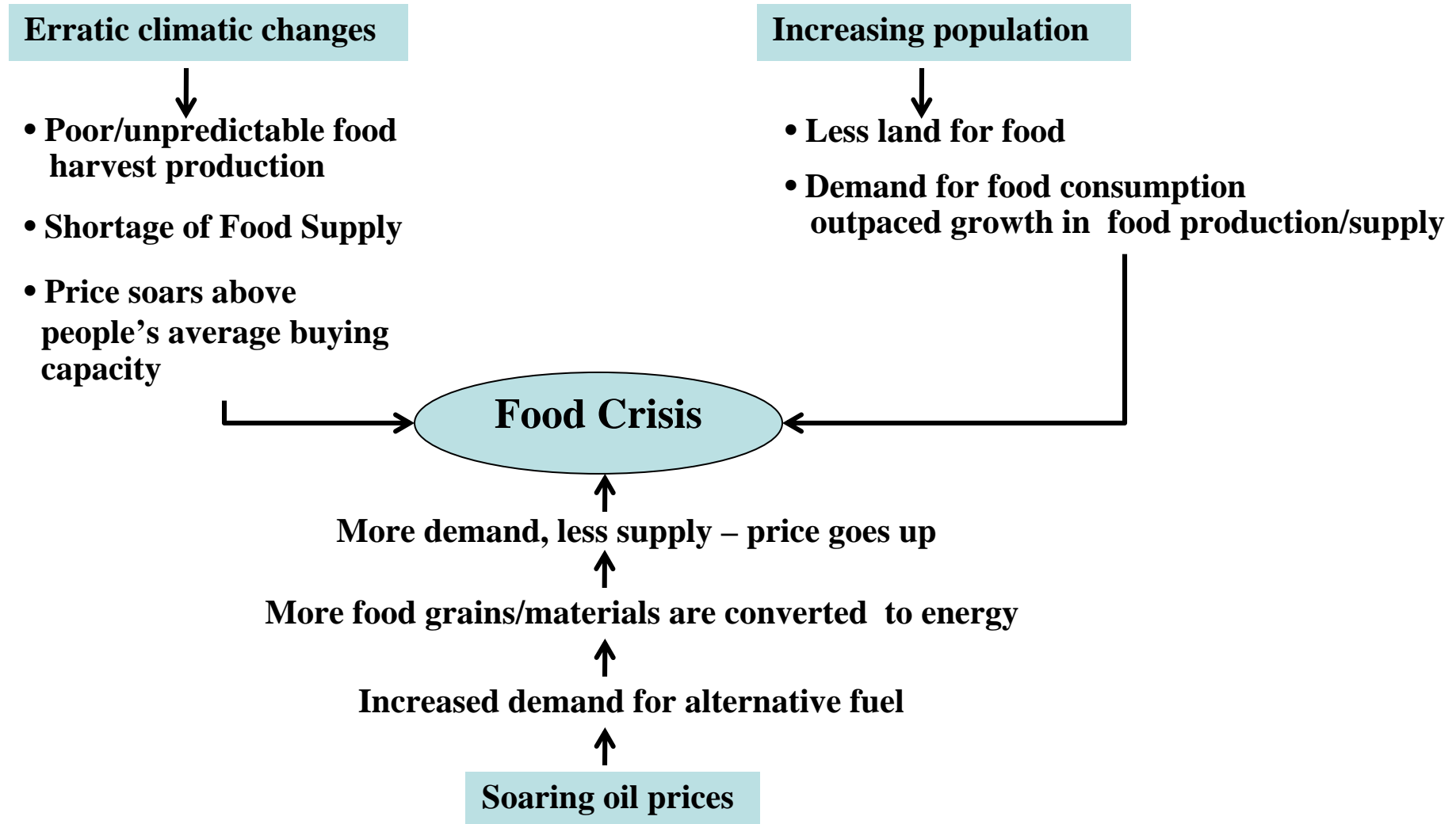
- **Introduction**
- **Current Food Crisis**
- **Rationale for Improving Food Access**
- **Role for Regional Cooperation on Food Crisis**
- **Proposed Strategies**
- **Conclusions**

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# Food Crisis

- **As a result of:**
  - **High oil prices**
  - **Changing diets**
  - **Urbanization**
  - **Expanding populations**
  - **Flawed trade policies**
  - **Extreme weather**
  - **Growth in bio-fuels production**
  - **Speculation**

# Major contributors to Food crisis



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# **What Contributes to the Rising Fuel Prices?**

- **Increasing fuel consumption of the developing countries such as China and India**
- **War in Iraq**
- **Global economic slowdown**
- **OPEC's decision to control the release of oil supply**

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# Current Food Situation

- **36 countries in food security crisis**
- **854 million people to starvation**
- **862 million are undernourished people**
- **2 billion living on less than one dollar a day and 1.6 billion people living on between one to 2 dollars a day**
- **More families are spending up to 80% of their budget on foods alone**

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# Current Food Situation (Cont.)

- **Poor access to food and poor nutrition contributes to 1 out of 2 deaths associated with disease in children aged under 5**
- **1 out of 4 pre-school children suffers from under-nutrition**
- **Inappropriate feeding of infants and children are responsible for one third of the cases of malnutrition**

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# Current Food Situation (Cont.)

- **Under and over nutrition problems and diet-related chronic diseases accounts for more than half of the world's diseases and hundreds of millions of dollars in public expenditures**
- **High food prices further threaten to increase current hunger and malnutrition**
- **With climate changes, extreme weather condition could further impact on food security and nutrition state of the people**



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# **How should we respond?**

**... Integrated and Holistic Approach**

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# Rationale for Improving Food Access

**... to develop policies to improve people's access to food and benefits derived from food, it should be remembered that population within an area is not homogenous. Their capacity to access to food varies according to their geographical location and existing infrastructures; their financial capability and their personal knowledge and capacity to select and prepare the right kinds of foods, maximizing nutritional benefits derived**

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# **What Could be the role for Regional Cooperation at this time of food crisis?**

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# Proposed strategies

## *Short term strategies:*

- **National and international organizations should cooperate in providing the immediate needs of the affected countries**
- **Subsidies in terms of farm inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and loans should be provided to put back farmers to and step up food production**

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# Proposed strategies

## *Long term strategies:*

- **Cooperation should also be sought in Research and Technology Development and in pursuing scientific work to support risk-based evidence that are relevant to food regulatory standard development**
- **To maximize the benefits derived from food, development should not only focus at increasing the quantity but also the quality of the food produced**

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# Proposed strategies

## *Long term strategies:*

- **To facilitate fast and easy movement of foods within the region, we should also aspire at harmonizing our food standards using our risk-based research undertakings.**
- **Information and human resource sharing should also be promoted**

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# Proposed strategies

## *Long term strategies:*

- **To embark on value-adding research and technology development to transform our raw food commodities into more stable form to not only prolong their shelf life but also to add values by preserving its nutritional values and by improving its aesthetic value through packaging**

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# Proposed strategies

## *Long term strategies:*

- **To embark on collaborative by product or food waste utilization to maximize the value derived from agricultural food produce while at the same time, minimizing industrial food wastes and environmental pollution**
- **To embark on food fortification and enrichment studies to address special nutritional needs of certain population groups or areas**



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# Proposed strategies

## *Long term strategies:*

- **To enhance capacity building to understand other market regulatory requirements, improve existing production technologies, share and exchange relevant info and knowledge and to explore/ expand market opportunities**

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# Conclusion Remarks

**... the role for regional cooperation would be to embark on public goods such as collaborative research and development programs to maximize farm productivity, improve nutritional quality of foods, minimize industrial food wastes and their impacts on environment, utilize food by-products and to harmonize risk-based food standards and market requirements through sharing of information, knowledge and expertise that likewise would not only promote greater access to food but also open wider market opportunities and development**