

Food Versus Fuel? (November 28 Session)

Professor Karen R. Polenske

RISING FOOD PRICES

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To view graphs illustrating rising food prices, and price rises by food type, go to page 4 of
“Energy Security, Biofuels, and Food Supply”
by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

www.unescap.org/esd/Energy-Security-and-Water-Resources/energy/theme/documents/FS7-EnergSecurity&FoodSupply.pdf

REASONS BEHIND RISING FOOD PRICES

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To view, go to page 5 of
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DIFFERENCES AROUND THE WORLD

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To view an illustration showing the top 10 wheat importers and exporters for 2007,
go to page 6 of
“Energy Security, Biofuels, and Food Supply”
by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

www.unescap.org/esd/Energy-Security-and-Water-Resources/energy/theme/documents/FS7-EnergSecurity&FoodSupply.pdf

BIOFUELS

- What drives the increasing production and use of biofuel? What do you think will be the future trend?
- With the current technology, what raw materials do the production of two main types of biofuel, ***ethanol***, and ***biodiesel*** use? What countries or regions are leading such production?

FOOD SECURITY

- What is “food security”?
- How is the production of biofuel linked with the food security issue? Consider the following factors:
 - prices and stocks of the raw materials used for biofuel
 - land use for competing crops
 - price of substituting crops
 - any other factors?

BIOFUEL AND FOOD SECURITY

- Do you agree with Mitchell's (2008) argument that the rising food prices should be primarily attributed to the large increase in biofuel productions in the United States and the European Union? If this argument is true, what would be the impact of biofuel production on people in developing countries?
- What can be done to mitigate the impact on food security by biofuel production? Think of the following factors
 - technology
 - policy
 - public-private partnership
- How can we make biofuel production an opportunity for rural development?

BIOFUEL IN PERSPECTIVE

- Take a step back.
- Why are countries enthusiastic about biofuel?
- Do we understand the environmental and social impacts of its use?

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