

# Notes

- 1 Further discussion on major driving forces behind soaring food prices in 2007–08 can be found in FAO's *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2008* (forthcoming) and *The State of Food and Agriculture 2008*.
- 2 OECD-FAO. 2008. *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2008–2017*. Paris, OECD Publishing.
- 3 International Energy Agency. 2006. *World Energy Outlook 2006*. Paris. OECD Publishing.
- 4 Op. cit., see note 2.
- 5 Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Université Catholique de Louvain. 2008. Disaster Data: A Balanced Perspective. *CRED Crunch*, 11: 1–2 [available at [www.emdat.be/Documents/CredCrunch/Cred%20Crunch%2011.pdf](http://www.emdat.be/Documents/CredCrunch/Cred%20Crunch%2011.pdf)].
- 6 An LIFDC is characterized by a low per capita income making it eligible for financing from international development associations under World Bank rules, a structural (over three years) net import position for basic foodstuffs and consistency in LIFDC status, or "persistence of position" over time. Most LIFDCs are in Africa (37) and Asia (21).
- 7 For more on LIFDCs that import petroleum products and foodgrains, see FAO. 2008. *Soaring food prices: facts, perspectives, impacts and actions required*. Information document for the High-Level Conference on World Food Security, Rome, 3–5 June 2008 [available at [www.fao.org/foodclimate/conference/doclist/en/?no\\_cache=1](http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/conference/doclist/en/?no_cache=1)].
- 8 The full list of countries severely affected by high fuel and food prices is available on the FAO/GIEWS Web site: [www.fao.org/GIEWS/ENGLISH/HOTSPOTS/INDEX\\_M.HTM](http://www.fao.org/GIEWS/ENGLISH/HOTSPOTS/INDEX_M.HTM).
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- 13 FAO. 2008. *Climate change adaptation and mitigation: challenges and opportunities for food security*. Information document prepared for the High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, Rome, 3–5 June 2008 [available at [ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/013/k2545e.pdf](http://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/013/k2545e.pdf)].
- 14 For more detail on enhancing agricultural productivity, see FAO. (forthcoming). *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2008*. Rome.
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- 16 P.B.R. Hazell, C. Poulton, S. Wiggins and A. Dorward. 2007. *The future of small farms for poverty reduction and growth*. 2020 Discussion Paper 42. Washington, DC, IFPRI.
- 17 World Bank. 2007. *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development*. Washington, DC.
- 18 For examples of input credit schemes, see: J. Govereh, J. Nyoro and T.S. Jayne. 1999. *Smallholder commercialization, interlinked markets and food crop productivity: cross-country evidence in eastern and southern Africa*. Michigan, USA, Department of Agricultural Economics and Department of Economics, Michigan State University. J. Tefft. (forthcoming). White "gold": cotton in Francophone West Africa. In S. Haggblade and P. Hazell, eds. *Successes in African agriculture: lessons for the future*. Washington, DC, IFPRI. C. Poulton, J. Kydd and A. Dorward. 2006. Overcoming market constraints on pro-poor agricultural growth in sub-Saharan Africa. *Development Policy Review*, 24(3): 243–277.
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# The State of Food Insecurity in the World

As commodity prices soared in 2007–08, fears of a world food crisis threatening the livelihoods of millions of people and causing widespread hunger and poverty triggered high-level meetings to decide on immediate measures to mitigate the impacts of high prices on the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations.

*The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008* presents the latest statistics on global undernourishment. It reviews the impact of high food prices and concludes that chronic hunger in the world has increased rapidly, now affecting well over 900 million people, and placing tremendous pressure on achieving hunger reduction targets set for 2015 by the 1996 World Food Summit and as agreed under the first Millennium Development Goal.

This report finds that high food prices hit the poorest, landless and female-headed households hardest, affecting real incomes and raising the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition among the poor by reducing the quantity and quality of food consumed. Governments worldwide have adopted measures to contain the negative impacts of high food prices. However, these have had limited effect, with some proving detrimental to world price levels and stability.

This report also examines how high food prices present an opportunity to relaunch smallholder agriculture in the developing world. With appropriate incentives, farming households could see immediate gains, while other rural households could benefit in the longer run. The report advocates FAO's comprehensive twin-track approach to address the adverse impacts of high food prices on world hunger. The strategy should include measures to enable the agriculture sector, especially smallholders in developing countries, to respond to high food prices, while also implementing targeted safety nets and social protection programmes for the most food-insecure and vulnerable.



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