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Food Security for All as a Sustainability Challenge

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Advisors to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

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Food Security Remains a Global Challenge

...all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for a healthy and active life.

(FAO, 1996)

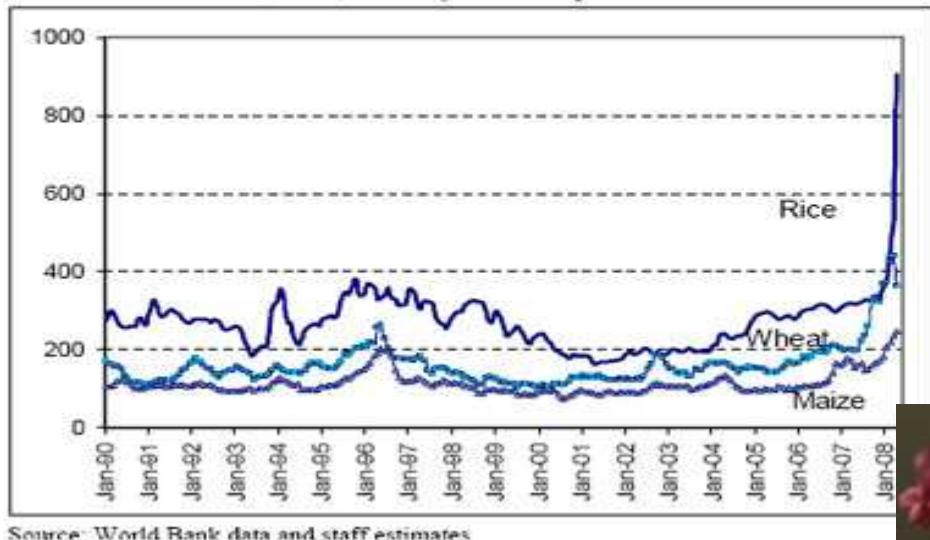
The Malthusian Dilemma: Feeding a growing world population



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In 2008, complacency about global food security was shaken

Figure 1. Grain Prices
\$/Ton: January 1990 - April 2008



Source: World Bank data and staff estimates



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A Sustainability Challenge

Meeting peoples' needs for food – a biological necessity -- while safeguarding the health of the natural resources/ecosystems on which they depend



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Tackling the Complex Challenge

- 1. Getting the numbers right: What are the dimensions of world hunger and food insecurity?**
- 2. What are the risks and opportunities for achieving sustainable food security at a global scale? How do we assess trade-offs?**
- 3. How do we link knowledge and action: Planning for a transition to sustainable food security**

Proposal

- A three- workshop sequence
 - Getting the right participants - -
 - Whether to commission background papers
- Committee-authored reports
 - Following the Academies' rules for Roundtables
- Clearly defining the Roundtable niche in the larger “food security” discussion



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Open for discussion!

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