



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
CRIS

Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies

GR:REEN

Global Re-ordering:  
Evolution through European Networks

## Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

### Title of the report

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**Looking ahead in world food and agriculture; Perspectives to 2050**

### Area

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Energy & Environment

### Reporter

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FAO

### Type of the Reporter

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International Organisation

### Periodically updated?

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No

### First issued year

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2011

### Latest update

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2011

### Official website

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<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2280e/i2280e00.htm>

### Language available

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English

### Short summary

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"In 2009, FAO's Economic and Social Development Department organized a Forum and a High-Level Expert Meeting on How to Feed The World in 2050. This volume follows up on that initiative, by gathering updated versions of technical materials prepared for the occasion, along with further work. The book seeks to sustain the debate on the future of the global agricultural and food economy."

"It identifies areas in which more information and analytical work are required and, last but not least, it provides insights into the strategies and policies to be enacted in support of global agriculture in the 2050 perspective."

### Key trends

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- "Projection exercise to 2050 indicates that agricultural and food demand is expected to slow over the next decades, following slowing population growth and rising incomes";
- "Population will still grow considerably in the coming decades, and require world agricultural production to increase substantially by 2050";

- “The macroeconomic outlook indicates that economic growth may bring significant reductions in poverty in the 2050 horizon, but climate change may impose additional constraints, particularly through increased pressures on land and water resources;”
- “Biofuel development may be another source of stress for markets, depending on the ability of technology to reduce the overlap between energy feedstock and food products”;
- “Regarding natural resources, the amounts of land and water available at the global level are most probably sufficient to support the projected production increases”;
- “By 2050, some net expansion of arable land, all in developing Countries will take place. However, the bulk of production increase will need to be generated through increased yields.”

## Suggestions

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## Methodology

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Research from primary and secondary sources and modelling

## Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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- FAO, World agriculture towards 2015/2030: An FAO perspective. Rome, 2003.
- FAO, World agriculture towards 2030/2050: Interim report. Rome, 2006.