

Food Security Assessment. Shahla Shapouri and Stacey Rosen, coordinators.
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Abstract

Based on all the indicators developed by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), the aggregate food security situation for the 67 low-income countries monitored in this report deteriorated in 2001 relative to estimates in 2000. The main reason is the impact of food production shortfalls in many countries, coinciding with the global economic slowdown that intensified foreign exchange constraints in these countries and limited their ability to import food.

Food access remains a common problem among the lower income populations in almost all countries. In 51 of the 67 study countries, consumption levels for 20 percent or more of the population were estimated to be below nutritional requirements in 2001. This number is projected to decline to 47 by 2011. For these countries, there is an urgent need to reduce inequality in purchasing power and incomes. Increases in food supplies also would reduce food prices and increase the real purchasing power of lower income people in the nonagricultural sector.

Preface

This report continues the series of food assessments begun in the late 1970s. Global Food Assessments were done from 1990 to 1992, hence the GFA series. In 1993, the title was changed to Food Aid Needs Assessment to more accurately reflect the contents of the report, which focuses on selected developing countries with past or continuing food deficits. In 1997, we widened our analysis beyond the assessment of aggregate food availability to include more aspects of food security. We therefore changed the title to Food Security Assessment.

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