

CAMDEN CONFERENCE DISCUSSION SERIES

The Coming Food Crisis: How to Feed the World in 2050

Jim Nelson and Karolyn Snyder, Facilitators

Reading List

Essential Articles and Videos

*Note: The Lester Brown video in the optional list below is not required but only because of its length (54 minutes). It is **highly recommended**.*

1. [The coming famine: risks and solutions for global food security](#). (2010) Article in Science Alert by Julian Cribb, 16 pages.

This article and the video (below) provide a vivid portrait of impending global famine due to global food shortages by mid-century. "It is time that humanity as a whole, and governments in general awoke to this challenge."

Note: To print out this article, click on the small printer icon that appears just below the title and to the right.

Note: The Julian Cribb article above and video below cover the same material. Choose one or the other.

[The Coming Famine](#). (2011) Video on Vimeo by Julian Cribb, 69 minutes.

Speaking at a public seminar held by the CSIRO Alumni, guest presenter, Professor Julian Cribb talks about his latest book, The Coming Famine, which predicts a global food shortage that threatens to hit by mid-century.

2. [Agroecology and the Right to Food](#). (2011) A report from the United Nations Human Rights Council, 21 pages.

The question today is HOW to provide food to feed the global population. This document identifies Agroecology as a mode of agriculture preferred for global sustainability. Agroecology is the application of ecological science to the study, design and management of sustainable agroecosystems, which is rooted both in science and practice.

Note: To print out this report, simply print the page using your computer's print command.

3. [Michael Pollan: A plant's-eye view](#). (2008) A TEDTalk (video) from TED, 17 minutes.

The last 6 minutes of this video (minutes 11-17) are a good companion to the agroecology article from the United Nations. Mr. Pollan describes a farm in Virginia, which is a vivid example of agroecology.

Note: This resource is a video with an accompanying transcript. If you'd like to print out the transcript, click the "Show transcript" drop down tab and select "English." The full

transcript will appear. Copy the transcript to your computer's clipboard and paste it into any word processor for printing.

4. [Can Organic Food Feed the World? New Study Sheds Light on Debate Over Organic vs. Conventional Agriculture](#) (2012) An article from ScienceDaily, 2 pages.

Will a large scale shift to organic farming increase the world's food supply?

Note: To print out this article, click on the small printer icon that appears at the top far right of the Web page along with other options to save, email, and share the article.

Optional Readings and Videos

1. [Perspectives on Limits to Growth: World on the Edge](#). (2012) YouTube video by Lester Brown. 54 minutes.

The world is facing issues of near overwhelming complexity, which requires that we think systemically and fashion policies accordingly.

Note: This video is on the optional list but only because of its length (54 minutes). This video captures most issues about the food crisis and is highly recommended.

2. [This Terrifying Chart Shows We're Not Growing Enough Food to Feed the World](#). (2013) by Brad Plumer in the Washington Post, 3 pages.

Charts show how food production has increased over the decades, but not enough to feed the world's rapidly growing population.

Note: To print out this article, click on the small printer icon that appears just above the title of the article.

3. [Can Organic Farming Feed Us All?](#) (2013) by Karen Charman, published by the Worldwatch Institute, 3 pages.

Will a large scale shift to organic farming increase the world's food supply?

Note: To print out this article, simply print the page using your computer's print command.

4. [Will Organic Food Fail to Feed the World?](#) (2012) Article in Scientific American by David Biello, 2 pages.

This report is a meta-analysis of studies comparing conventional and organic methods across 34 crop species. An argument is built for taking a hybrid approach to producing enough food for humans while preserving the environment.

Note: To print out this article, click on the small printer icon that appears just above the title of the article.

5. [Technology to Feed the World](#). (2005) a paper published by the National Academy of Sciences, 3 pages.

This paper argues that biotechnology can help feed the world without damaging the environment.

Note: To print out this article, simply print the page using your computer's print command.

6. [How to Feed the World in 2050](#). (2009) a Report published by the United Nations, read pages 4-8 out of 35, October 12, 2009.

This document, which has been referenced by many authors, focuses on how the changing socio-economic environment effects food production around the world.

Note: This is a 35-page article. Pages 4-8 are most important and can stand alone.

To print out this article, simply print the page using your computer's print command.