



‘Feeding a growing population: Food Sustainability and International Economic Law’

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Outline

1. How can we feed a growing population in a sustainable way in the light of climate change?
2. International Economic Law can help, but not if the existing neoliberal ideology remains the underlying objective of the rules. Change is needed, but what?
3. Food security, food sovereignty and the right to food are equally problematic
4. Move towards food sustainability and be more creative in our use of international economic law

1. The problem

- What happens when extreme natural phenomena, 21st century food systems & unfair economic systems collide?
 - Over 1 billion people suffered from malnutrition in 2010 & 256 million lived in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - 765 million people suffer from malnutrition globally in 2015 & 220 million in lived in Sub-Saharan Africa



2. Solutions?

a. Food Security:

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

World Food Summit, Plan of Action, Rome, 13 November 1996

2. Solutions?

b. Food Sovereignty:

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of the food systems and policies rather than markets and corporations...It offers strategies for dismantling the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries determined by local producers and users...It ensures that the rights to use and manage lands, territories, water, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those...who produce food.”

The 2007 Joint Nyéléni Declaration following the Food Sovereignty World Assembly in Mali, West Africa

2. Solutions?

c. The Right to Food:

- The state owes a duty to provide food or the financial means of securing it to its people.
- The state owes a duty to respect, protect and facilitate the right to food
 - the state must not itself take measures that undermine the right to food, nor allow third parties to do so, and it must strengthen people's access and utilisation of resources and means to ensure their livelihoods.

3. A New Paradigm?

- Moving to Food Sustainability
 - Emphasis on food
 - Sustainability: descriptive & normative
 - Aspirational



4. Conclusions & A Research Agenda

- A. Food sustainability is an emerging idea on which international economic law could be based.
- B. More work on 'food' in 'food sustainability' needs be done
- C. Law's contribution to meeting SD Goal 2 could be more fully articulated
- D. Legal pluralism not legal imperialism is the way forward