

The Art of Creating Scarcity From Plenty

- Worldwide, **three-fourths of all agricultural land**, including pasture, goes to produce animal products. And from all this, what do we get? Just **17 percent** of our calories.
- Of calories in the feed that cattle eat, humans get **only 3 percent in the beef we eat.**
- About **half the world's calories from crops don't go to people directly** but primarily to feed livestock—which consume a third of the world's grain and 85 percent of soy—and into agrofuel and other industrial uses.

Given this mind-boggling inefficiency, U.S. agriculture—viewed by many as the pinnacle of efficiency— **actually feeds fewer people per acre** than either Chinese or Indian.

Why Industrial Ag, Focused on Livestock, Is a Dead End (Literally)



- Producing a pound of lamb or beef averages from about **20 to almost 50 times** greater climate impact compared to high-protein plant foods.
- Irrigation claims nearly 70 percent of freshwater that humans use. Producing a pound of **beef uses almost 50 times more water than a pound of vegetables**, and about 9 times more than grain.

Scarcity? Hardly...

Since 1970, worldwide production of food has grown **40% per person**. For each of us every day the world produces:

- **2870 calories**
(most Americans need 2,100 calories)
- **80 grams of protein**
(Almost 60% more than USDA recommends for adults)



Does the U.S. Really Feed The Hungry World?

- U.S. exports don't feed the hungry world: China, Mexico, and Japan **comprise over 50%** of the U.S. agriculture export market. Most of the rest goes to middle income countries.
- The U.S. imports 80% as much as it exports.
- Small farmers produce **80 percent of what's consumed** in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.



And Yes, Agroecology Is Proving Itself Worldwide



- Globally, organically farmed land more than doubled in the decade before 2011, and in India it **grew almost eightfold**.
- In Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Indian state government supports a network of “village activists” that teach ecological farming, reducing pesticide use on **about 2 million farms**.
- Pesticide use in Andhra Pradesh **dropped by half in four years**.
- In 2010, the state of Kerala officially declared **the goal of becoming 100% organic** within ten years.

Hunger Is Not Caused By Scarcity of Food But Scarcity of Democracy

- Economic inequality is increasing throughout most of the world: Today **the top 1% of the global population controls over half of global wealth** – at the same time, **the poorer half controls less than 1% of the wealth.**
- **Tightly held private wealth defeats democracy**, as it shapes public choices to favor the few.
- So policies steer agriculture toward producing animal food that only the better-off can afford and **help to ensure farmers' dependency upon purchased seeds and chemical inputs**, contributing to rural poverty and hunger.