THAIMUN XII - Chair Report

United Nations Economic and Social Council

1. Addressing the role of philanthrocapitalism and billionaire-backed charitable foundations in solving global issues
2. The question ensuring sustainable agricultural practices amidst the global food crisis

Position	Name
Head Chair	Satabhorn (Prim) Ruktae-ngan
Deputy Chair	Apinnporn (Aim) Xanthavanij

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Chair Introductions:

Satabhorn (Prim) Ruktae-ngan - Head Chair

Hello everyone! My name is Satabhorn Ruktae-ngan, but you can call me Prim! For this conference, I will serve as your head chair. As of now, I am a junior at Triam Udom Suksa school and this is my fourth time chairing as well as my ninth or tenth conference. MUN has been a big part of my high school life so far and it gave me so many new experiences that I am very fond of. From writing and reading to building connections and learning more new things, it has been a really fun journey so far! Outside of MUN, I enjoy drawing, writing, and learning about marine creatures a lot (I really like whales, sharks, and mollusks). I am very grateful for this opportunity, and I promise to stay well and stable from pre-conference to during the conference. I hope and look forward to meeting everyone and for a very great time throughout the committee!

If there are any concerns, feel free to reach out through email: misjipata@gmail.com or instagram: @Prim_sata!

Apinnporn (Aim) Xanthavanij - Deputy Chair

Welcome to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) ! My name is Aim, your deputy chair for this conference. I am currently in grade 10 at KIS International School. I've been a part of MUN since the end of 8th grade. I enjoy engaging in thought-provoking debates and the community that it fosters, which is why I have actively participated since. This is my fourth time chairing and it marks my 14th conference in Model United Nations. Outside of mun, I am interested in reading and debate along with sports and music. You can find me participating in musical performances, golf matches or spending time with my friends. MUN has taught me to be a better leader, negotiator and a critical thinker. Besides all the immense skills I have gained, mun is a fun and enjoyable experience for me. My hope is that as delegates, you too will find MUN both fun and transformative, forming good memories and joyful experiences. I look forward to meeting you at the conference!!

If you have any questions please do feel free to contact me via email (apinnpornaim@gmail.com) or Instagram (@aim_xtn)

Committee Overview

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the main branches of the United Nations, established in 1945 to tackle global economic, social, and developmental challenges. It was founded by Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar and consists of 54 member countries, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. ECOSOC is a platform where countries come together to discuss and coordinate solutions to major global issues such as poverty, education, and climate change. It has played a critical role in initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Under the UN charter, ECOSOC is responsible for promoting standards of living, overlooking economic or social progress, and fostering innovation or solutions to international problems. Coordinating and providing guidance for regional commissions, commissions that facilitate intergovernmental discussions, specialized agencies, and expert bodies are also a part of ECOSOC's duties alongside programmes and funding management alongside the other organs of the UN. ECOSOC has had reforms made with resolutions from the general assembly, which strengthened ECOSOC's role in identifying challenges and achieving the balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development (Economic, Social and Environmental).

ECOSOC in THAIMUN XII will follow the standard THAIMUN Rules of Procedure (RoP).

TOPIC 1: Addressing the role of philanthrocapitalism and billionaire-backed charitable foundations in solving global issues

Topic Introduction:

As global issues such as food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and many more humanitarian crises continue in many countries, philanthropic institutions begin to emerge with the purpose to assist in ensuring the welfare of people domestically or internationally. However, in providing food, and finding the cure to diseases or vaccines, an adequate amount of funding is required. Hence why donors play an important part in supporting organizations for the sake of solving global issues. Billionaires are also part of the funding or backing up foundations. Introduced in 2006 in The Economist, Philanthrocapitalism refers to committing charitable acts while having business aims. With philanthrocapitalism popularized, it creates an image of philanthropy that is more financially profitable.

Despite the higher amounts of donations, charity foundations, and awareness of global issues, philanthrocapitalism does have its concerns on accountability and transparency. Rooted within similar problems as philanthropy, philanthrocapitalism has an anti-democratic or paternalistic nature which comes from the actions of wealthy individuals without the inputs of society or the public sector. It is to mention that some charities can take the form of private companies or foundations that are tax-exempt and bypass laws. There can also be issues of money being siphoned into personal accounts or tax-evaded without going to an actual charity.

Hence with these concerns, the question of the role of philanthrocapitalism and billionaire-backed charities appear. The problems, the amount of impact on global issues, and its consequences from the works of such charity becomes a crucial matter to discuss amongst the international community.

Key Terms:

Term	Definition
Philanthrocapitalism	Philanthrocapitalism is the tendency for donors of philanthropic institutions to conflate both business aims and charitable acts. Thus creates a more-cost effective, impact oriented, and financially profitable idea of philanthropy.
Philanthropy	Active efforts to promote human welfare or an act done for humanitarian purposes. (Merriam-Webster, 2019)
Capitalism	An economic system that focuses on private or corporate businesses of capital goods. The investments are determined by prices, decisions, and production with goods distribution mainly determined by the competition in the free market. (Merriam-Webster, 2018)
Limited Liability Company (LLC)	A US-Specific form of a private company. Formed by individuals or groups, LLCs are pass-through entities and provide limited liability to the members. LLCs are not required to be purely charitable or to disclose information, and are not tax-exempted.
Private Foundation	Private Foundations are tax-exempted foundations funded by a single family, or corporation. These foundations are purely charitable, and most are required to distribute 5% of their prior net investment assets annually.
Operating Foundation	A private operating foundation is any private foundation that spends at least 85% of its adjusted net income or minimum investment returns for charitable activities.
Altruism	Unselfish regard for the welfare of others. (Merriam-Webster, 2019)
Donor-Advised Fund	A donor account established at a public donation, These accounts allow donors to make contributions and receive tax deductions alongside recommending grants from the funds.
Impact Investments	Investments that are made with the intention to gain positive, measurable social and environmental impact with financial returns.
Privatization	The act of making something, normally public, to be under private control or ownership. (Merriam-Webster)

Topic History:

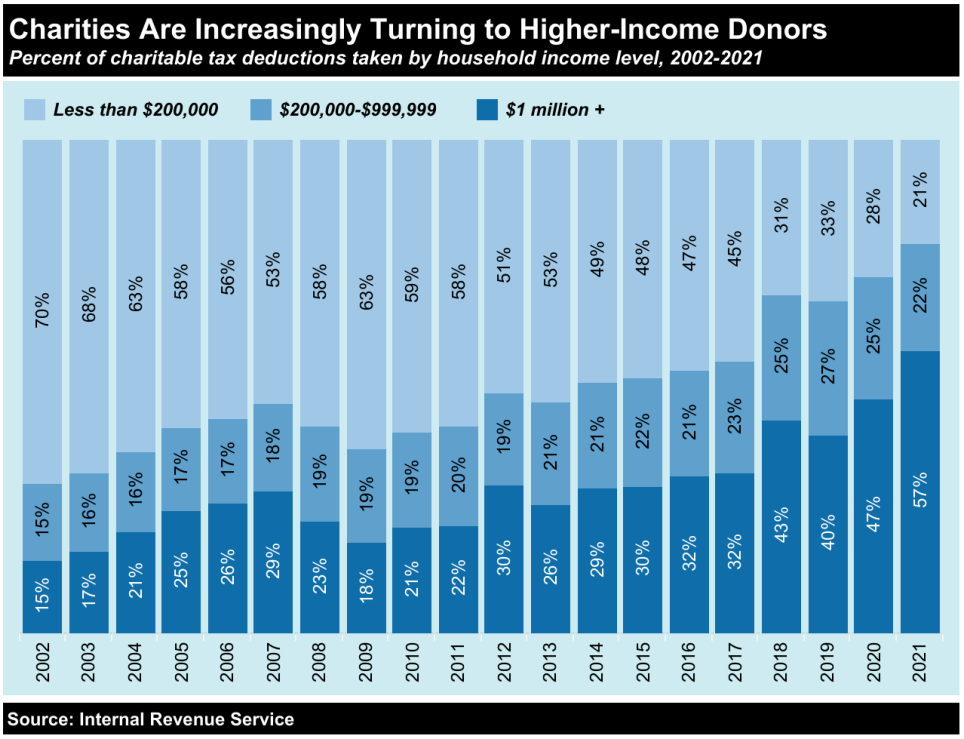
The history of the word “Philanthrocapitalism” may have only been coined in 2006, but the concept of philanthropy has always been around with its meaning changing throughout time. Despite philanthropy meaning the actions done for humanitarian purposes or welfare, over time, the association of the word with wealthy donors began to appear within the media. Some prominent examples are with the Melinda and Bill Gates foundation and their contributions towards global health. Billionaires have played a rather large part in philanthropy and acting for a global cause. Charity foundations or philanthropy in general has been moving towards the private sector as more wealthy individuals and corporations begin to take part in being donors or charitable acts. Households’ donations begin to decrease as private foundations become more prominent in philanthropy. The rapid increase of the involvement of billionaire philanthropists and foundations alongside the creation of a more capitalistic idea of philanthropy urges international communities and governments to act to address its roles and concerns in resolving global issues.

Many impacts that were made by philanthrocapitalism or its increase with more privatized charity, different perceptions of global issues, and more impact investments. There are also impacts made by donations or collaborations with international organizations or governments that are positive, benefit the progress in solving global issues, and spread more awareness. Meanwhile another part in defining the roles of philanthrocapitalism is the media with popularizing philanthropic acts and shaping public views on them. Hence the roles or trust of billionaire philanthropy or philanthrocapitalism have high tendencies to vary in the perspective of the public.

However, while there is public trust or admiration, there are also criticisms and concerns regarding the concept of philanthrocapitalism. The key issues of this topic often stem from the lack of accountability and transparency. According to an Issue Brief series on Philanthropy by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released in 2016, there was reluctance in disclosing details and no global standards for reports in private charity foundations. On the other hand, the legal definitions or regulations of private foundations varied in different countries which makes them more difficult to identify. Some foundations that are not registered have limited obligations on financial disclosure. Therefore the process of data collection and verifying its accuracy becomes a big challenge.

Connected to the lack of transparency, there is also the issue of the abuse of charity or philanthropy. The abuse of philanthropy can affect many sectors of society. Not to mention, the perception of philanthropy begins to distort from human welfare acts to self-serving projects. With the lack of obligations to disclose information, some organizations act without the input from the public sector. Which creates a tension between philanthropy and democracy. These foundations have freedom to choose to allocate funds and resources. Some of the donations from charity organizations do not actually contribute to solving global issues, but go to places such as museums and universities. The money that goes to alleviating crises or fixing problems can be much lower than the genuine number that is the original donation. On the other hand, in philanthrocapitalism, there are also profits that go back to the donor with little going to actual charity. With lacking transparency between private foundations and the public sector, the actual roles of philanthrocapitalism in global issues become extremely complicated.

In another aspect, private foundations and philanthrocapitalism can slowly begin to blur the duties of the government or states. With the billionaires portraying themselves as the providers, the privatized organization begins to take responsibilities that are similar to those of the governments’. For example, improving education, healthcare, and alleviating poverty have been causes for many billionaire philanthropists. Some billionaires have also used their wealth to take part in politics whether they are associated with charity or not. However, such charity foundations still lack accountability. It is to be reminded that business figures aren’t politicians, and that no matter their wealth, they should not replace democratically elected officials.



Percent of Charitable Tax Deductions Taken by Household Income Level, 2001-2021
(Inequality.org, n.d.)

One of the most evident effects from billionaire philanthropy or donations is the tax cuts for taxpayers. After each donation, there are corporate or personal charitable deductions. In some countries, tax exemptions are mainly given to wealthy individuals or corporations who make donations with the purpose of reducing economic differences. As a result, regular taxpayers have to subsidize the loss of tax revenue. Households would be required to pay more taxes, and with higher taxes, some households may not be in the position to give to charity. Hence the increase of wealthy donors taking place in the giving. As an example, in 2022, the United States of America lost 73.34 billion dollars in tax revenue from personal or corporate charitable deductions.

Overall the roles of philanthrocapitalism and billionaire-backed charity often vary with different sectors. The increase of charities from the wealthy increases with benefits and issues. The main key issues of this topic are rather focused on the problems of Philanthrocapitalism such as transparency or accountability, the effectiveness of such charity in global issues, and the effects of these charities on many parts of society.

Timeline:

Date	Event
2000	The William H. Gates Foundation is combined with the Gates Learning Foundation to form the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
2006	Philanthrocapitalism appeared as a term in The Economist Article; The Birth of Philanthrocapitalism.
2008	Philanthrocapitalism becomes popularized after being used in Philanthrocapitalism: How Giving Can Save the World by Matthew Bishop and Michael Green.
2010	Created by Warren Buffet, Melinda French Gates, and Bill Gates, The Giving Pledge was an open invitation for wealthy people to publicly commit the majority of their wealth to philanthropy during their lifetimes or their wills.
2019-2020	The Covid-19 Pandemic heavily affected the global field of philanthropy. The focus of foundations shifts towards healthcare and medical research. There began to be more fundings towards medium-term solutions that is about mitigating Covid-19's effect on the economy and healthcare.

Key Stances:

Country	Stance
The United States of America 	The United States has many philanthropists, and charity foundations. With over millions donated to help solve global issues, the philanthropy from the United States has been much beneficial to the world. Not to mention, systems such as Donor-advised-funds (DAF) or Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) are specific to the United States.
The People's Republic of China 	Throughout the years, China has taken part in philanthropy with higher numbers of private foundations compared to public foundations. Since its growth in popularity during the 2010's, many laws and legislations have been passed to support the acts of philanthropy. The Chinese philanthropy sector has been growing, yet the issues still remain of trust and transparency.
The Federative Republic of Brazil 	Brazil's philanthropic sector has been developing to combat the economic and healthcare crisis along with education gaps. In terms of philanthropic funds, Brazil has different mechanisms such as endowments, thematic funds, territorial funds, and emergency funds. Brazil also utilized match funding strategies, capital market mechanisms, and encouraged donors to not be restricted to the traditional methods.
the Federal Republic of Germany 	With a long history of philanthropy in Germany, high-net-worth individuals are a big part in supporting charitable causes with focuses on climate protection and biodiversity causes. German philanthropists have a preference for discreet contributions rather than public philanthropy culture. Germany's philanthropy sector is estimated to increase due to growing numbers of wealthy individuals and willingness to contribute to charity.
The Republic of Indonesia 	According to Indonesia's philanthropy outlook 2022, the sectors that are focused upon the most are education, economic empowerment, climate and environment, advocacy, and health. Indonesia has had high giving indexes with religion strongly influencing the idea of philanthropy. Corporate foundations act as a separate part of a company and play a role in managing philanthropic funds.

The Commonwealth of Australia 	Australia's private philanthropic sector plays a big role in contributing to solving issues or supporting communities. Donations to registered charities of varying sizes can be considered as tax-deductible. The not-for-profit sector often consists of approximately 30% charity which a majority are tax-exempt entities and a minority of taxable not-for-profit. Donors in Australia often favored charities that support children, poverty alleviation, and medical research.
The Argentine Republic 	Argentina has three types of not-for-profit organizations; Civil Association, Foundations, and Mutual Entities. Only Civil Association and Foundation are public benefit organizations, but all three types are eligible for tax benefits under certain circumstances and have to apply to receive any exemption. Argentina's not-for-profits are often focused on lowering the inequality in the many sectors such as education and healthcare alongside combating poverty.

Previous Solutions:

The United Nations has been supporting the private sector for many periods of time. There have been issue briefs of philanthropy, collaboration and encouragement with private foundations. However the role of philanthrocapitalism and billionaire-backed charities has yet to be addressed by the United Nations and ECOSOC.

Possible Solutions:

1. **Global Reporting Standards**

With transparency and accountability being the key factors in lowering the issues with philanthrocapitalism, having global standards for reporting becomes essential in creating an environment where foundations can be held accountable and share financial data. Global reporting standards will also be important in collecting information regarding charity or organizations, creating databases of different philanthropic sectors in many countries that will be consistent and not limited towards a certain nation.

It is to be reminded that although many philanthropic organizations already possess data standards, these standards are not binding towards the general philanthropic sector nor can it be widely adopted with every nation.

2. **Charity Reform**

As the philanthropic sector continues to grow more privatized, charities begin to rely more on larger donations from a smaller number of donors. Billionaire charity becomes more of a provider compared to the government even when the lack of transparency and accountability is still an issue. Hence charity reform can be a solution towards addressing both problems in philanthrocapitalism and already-existing issues in philanthropy. The implementation of policies to diversify the sector, allow a wider donor base, or change the annual foundation payout requirements helps make charity become reliant on billionaires and less exploited.

3. **Charitable Tax Incentives Reform**

To encourage charitable acts, many countries offer different types of tax incentives for donors. However the issues that follow are low government tax revenue, taxpayers getting tax cuts, and cases of the deductions being used as a way to evade taxes. Which is why a reform in tax incentives can be a possible solution. With policies such as fiscal caps and eligibility requirements for incentives, not only will incentives be able to combat the issues with tax incentives, but also encourage transparency. The reform of tax incentives will require an assessment on international restrictions for charity and the role of cross-border philanthropy.

4. **Charity Oversight**

Improving oversight for the philanthropic sector is a key method of maintaining transparency and accountability. Such policies can help keep public trust, limit loopholes, and ensure that there will be no abuse or weaponization of philanthropy. Providing publicly available registers can help in cross-referencing information or combatting fraudulent entities. Supervising the sector while maintaining an updated database can be a solution towards a better philanthropic sector.

Recommended Resources:

1. YouTube Playlist
2. Taxation and Philanthropy - Policy Brief
3. Philanthrocapitalism in Global Health
4. A Critical Analysis of Philanthrocapitalism
5. How Billionaire Philanthropy Shapes Global Poverty Solutions

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TOPIC 2: The question ensuring sustainable agricultural practices amidst the global food crisis

Topic Introduction:

The global food crisis, produced by a combination of climate change, geopolitical conflict, and economic instability, has become one of the first priorities among pressing challenges of our time. More than 2.33 billion people worldwide, were faced with moderate to severe food insecurity with risk of extreme hunger and malnutrition. It Has affected not only the economy and the livelihood of citizens, but extends beyond to various aspects of development, one of them being sustainable agriculture: the conception of farming practices methodologies that bolster productivity, preserving the environment while promoting long-term resilience.

Sustainable agriculture is a system that supports the next generation of farmers. Through "agroecology", the science of managing farms as ecosystems, farms can avoid damaging environmental impacts without sacrificing productivity or profitability. These practices involve the utilization of technology and innovative methods, with the primary aim of building healthy soil, managing water wisely, minimizing pollution, promoting biodiversity while increasing resilience in extreme weather. Through the implementation of these practices, farms can maximize output while keeping input requirements low. For instance, the Netherlands, world's second largest food exporter, has successfully incorporated greenhouse technology, enhancing its food production capacity by more than twenty times while using four times less water. This remarkable success was attributed to close collaboration between the government, various science organizations and the industry itself.

Although the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices would strengthen food security, enhance climate resilience and improve efficiency which are all factors that drive the crisis. The barriers preventing the transition remain high in all aspects whether social which is farmers' fears and judgment, financial which includes the high cost and lack of incentives, or policy whereas crop insurance programs incentivize a more risky approach to farming. The existing support and incentives are inadequate to drive transformative change required for a sustainable agricultural shift.

Despite the devastating effects of the global food crisis, the transition to sustainable agriculture has never been more challenging. The urgency of food supply has intensified pressure in the food industry, with a strong emphasis on immediate maximization of production at the expense of environmental preservation, often leading to overexploitation of resources to meet the demand. While funds are diverted in resolving the crisis, the priorities shifted, driving attention away from a more effective, long-term solution.

This transition towards a greener growth requires huge investment efforts, knowledge sharing, and incentivizing innovation; it calls for long-term solutions to be pursued more than immediate, short-term fixes. Despite the vulnerability of the crisis, nations must manage its effects, balancing the need for urgency in short-term solutions with the need for long-term sustainability-making sure neither overshadows the other.

Key Terms:

Term	Definition
Sustainable Agriculture	Sustainable agriculture refers to the process of farming in which its three pillars: ecological sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability are prioritized. The ecological aspects include the emphasis on soil health and resource extraction, while the economic angle focuses on cost reduction and market resilience. Whereas social sustainability revolves around supporting rural livelihoods and enhancing well-being.
Global Food Crisis	A situation of food insecurity where rates of hunger and malnutrition rise sharply at global levels, contributing to rise in food prices, economic instability and social unrest.
Agroecology	Agroecology is a term that describes an academic discipline that studies ecological processes applied to agricultural production systems.
Food insecurity	The condition of not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet one's basic needs, significantly affecting both individuals and communities worldwide.
Climate resilience	Climate resilience is the ability to prepare for, respond to, and anticipate climate-related events, trends, or disturbances. In the context of sustainable agriculture, it plays a crucial role in addressing one of the primary drivers of the global food crisis.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variation among living organisms from different sources including terrestrial, marine and desert ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. [BYJU]
Economic Instability	A period where an economy is out of balance, causing fluctuations in growth, inflation, employment, and financial health.
Geopolitical conflict	Geopolitical conflict refers to political instability or war that disrupts the global supply chain and threatens economic resilience worldwide, often leading to shortages and rising prices of goods.

Topic History:

Agriculture has always been a significant part of human history, allowing us to settle, build cities while shaping economies and fuel population growth. Understanding its evolution requires us to date back in the Neolithic period, around 10,000 years ago when humans transitioned from a nomadic lifestyle to farming and domesticating animals.

Early humans were hunters and gatherers, they hunted wild animals and gathered edible plants to survive, leading to a nomadic, constantly moving life-style. A significant change occurred when humans began to adopt the idea of 'farming', with each region cultivating different crops by the year 10,000 BCE. For instance, the Middle East planted wheat, barley, lentils, and chickpeas while the South America region focuses on potatoes and quinoa. This shift led to formation of villages and the rise of civilizations that allowed for population growth. The transformation marks the beginning of continuous evolution in agricultural practices as humans sought for more efficient ways to cultivate crops, to support the rapid growth of population. Between the time frame 3000 BCE up until the 18th century known as the first agricultural revolution, farmers developed various useful techniques such as irrigation, plowing and selective breeding which significantly enhanced yield. By this time, agriculture had become one of the biggest drivers of economic growth and international trade.

This development set up the second agricultural revolution from the 17th to the 19th century during the revolution of industrialization. It revolves around increasing the production capacity, with some progress such as the migration of small farmers and replenishing of soil nutrients in privatized common lands along with increasing food supply, facilitating industrialization and urbanization. On the other hand, the most important revolution in agricultural history is marked as "The Green Revolution", extending from the 1950s-1960s, an era with the wide use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and hybrid seeds. While it increased productivity, it has resulted in immense soil degradation and water shortages due to excessive utilization of fertilizers and over-irrigation. Some of the major agricultural concerns in the modern day include changes in climate, soil depletion, water scarcity, and the need for sustainable farming practices that balance productivity with environmental preservation.

Sustainable Agriculture began to gain interest from leaders worldwide and was seen as the way to "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Advanced inventions and innovative methods were introduced, however, were directly impacted by the rise of the food crisis — shifting the focus to immediate maximization of production to meet the demands, although it means sacrificing the environment. As for the food crisis, it was mainly driven by conflicts, economic shocks and weather extremes caused by climate change. These factors led to food insecurity, leaving more than 10% of the world's population hungry while pushing millions into poverty and straining the global food systems — a pressing issue known as "The Global Food Crisis." . To talk about the root causes and potential solutions, we must examine its origin.

The Global Food Crisis started in the 1970s due to the oil embargo in 1973, increasing prices of food production and transportation while the droughts experienced by Africa and Asia reduced harvest. These two factors resulted in a significant price increase and made food unaffordable to many citizens. Another similar incident happened in 2007-2008 where food prices doubled, causing many countries to ban exports, further weakening the global supply chain. However, this time was mainly driven by the 'Biofuel policy' which diverted crops to ethanol production and poor harvest in many nations from extreme climate events.

While these past crises had devastating impacts, the world is facing yet another food crisis, driven by a mix of ongoing conflicts, economic disruptions, and worsening climate conditions. In recent years, global food prices have surged once again to the highest level ever recorded, leaving over 345 million with severe hunger. The 2022 Global Food Crisis is very different from the others; it is driven by a set of interlinked events, each feeding into the crisis one after another. First to consider is the Russo-Ukrainian War, which has badly disrupted food production, especially in Ukraine, a key exporter of wheat, corn,and sunflower oil.

Many nations heavily rely on these imports, and the conflict has triggered shortages and price spikes. The second, third and fourth factors were common issues faced in every food crisis: rise in prices of key components in agriculture (e.g. oil and fertilizers), extreme weather exacerbated by climate change and ban of exports throughout the globe. Of these many food crises, the latest one is unique, for this last one included Covid-19, causing shutdowns, besides disrupting the entire production process, which shoved many into unemployment and poverty. Besides, a dive in incomes merged with sky-high prices for key commodities have dramatically raised the food items that a lot of millions can afford; therefore, being unable to make their nutritional ends meet.

In the present, after the global food crisis has subsided, the concept of "sustainable agriculture" has once again risen to global attention, with countries such as the Netherlands and Israel leading the way with advanced technological innovations in precision farming, while Denmark and Sweden excel in implementing eco-friendly farming practices and climate smart agriculture. At the same time, international organizations also expressed their support through multiple initiatives and ambitious goals, such as 'The Global Soil Partnership' run by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the establishment of SDG goals number 2 which aims towards zero hunger and number 12 addressing sustainable agriculture.

With the support from governments, the concept of sustainable agriculture has become more well known to small scale farmers and locals alike. Regenerative methods such as cover crops and composting were more commonly used by farmers to restore soil health, increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Vertical farming with indoor controlled environments along with precision agriculture that features the use of AI and drones were both proven to be effective in enhancing production efficiency.

Overall, the rise of sustainable agriculture varies across regions, driven by different technologies and practices. Even though sustainable agriculture offers promising solutions and a bright future, challenges remain. The key to successful adoption of the practices requires a balance of productivity with environmental impact while ensuring the tools' accessibility to farmers of all scales. Therefore, addressing the long-term sustainability of these methods on a global scale.

Timeline:

Date	Event
1943	The term "food security" was introduced at the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Conference in Hot Springs, Virginia, emphasizing the need to ensure an adequate supply of food during and after World War II.
1960s–1970s	The Green Revolution begins, a period of significant increase in agricultural productivity worldwide achieved through enhanced irrigation systems and widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
1987	The Brundtland report highlights sustainability as a global priority, stating that it is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This report recommended the adoption of three pillars of sustainability: economy, environment and social equity.
2007–2008	The global food crisis emerges from rising oil prices, poor harvests from extreme weather events and growing demand. It has doubled prices of wheat and rice and has pushed over 100 million citizens into extreme poverty.
2015	The United Nations adopts the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Goal 2 focusing on ending hunger, achieving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture.
2020	The covid 19 pandemic disrupts the global supply chain leading to food insecurity due to locksdowns, labour shortages and restrictions in various conditions. It has exacerbated the crisis and hinders the transition towards sustainable agriculture.
2022	The Russian invasion of Ukraine had severely disrupted income sources and hindered food access, leading to price spikes and food shortages. The halt of Ukraine’s grain exports, blocked critical Black Sea trade routes, and drove up prices for wheat, fertilizer, and energy, worsening food insecurity worldwide.

Key Stances:

Country	Stance
United States 	The United States stated: "Sustainable agricultural productivity growth is a foundational element in building more sustainable agricultural and food systems. Without it, our ability to meet current and future food needs, conserve natural resources, and support the long-term viability of agriculture is endangered." [USDA] America's stance on the topic remains strong, making significant advancements in sustainable agricultural practices such as precision agriculture, crop rotation, and soil conservation techniques. The government drives these changes through innovative policies, international partnerships and investments. Furthermore, as the world's largest food exporter globally, the US is also committed towards addressing food insecurity, having spent over 14 billion dollars to combat the crisis since the Russo-Ukrainian war —- emphasizing its strong leadership in promoting global food security and resilience. Recommended Reading: - Response To Global Food Security Crisis - Stance on Sustainable Agriculture
Netherlands 	The Netherlands stands as a global leader in sustainable agriculture, with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emission and water use. It has pioneered vertical farming, precision farming, and circular agricultural models which have successfully enhanced efficiency. The country directed its economic support towards small to medium farms and uses its tech-expertise in developing sustainable solutions. In the food insecurity aspects, the Netherlands have ensured 15.3 million people with greater nutrient intake and continues to set ambitious goals for 2030, such as ending malnutrition for 32 million people particularly children while doubling productivity and income of 8 million small scale producers. Furthermore, the country has increased its support for training farmers globally in mitigating the crisis' impact, whereas its contribution is greatly beneficial and far-reaching Recommended Reading: - Netherlands' Strategy - Netherlands' contribution towards food insecurity
India	As the world's second largest wheat and grain producer, India produces sufficient food for its population, however, despite the poor infrastructure, the country has

	experienced over 40 percent post-production losses, contributing to its food insecurity. In the past years, India has directed its efforts towards scaling up climate smart agriculture to cope with water security, soil degradation and rising temperature. Hindered by the agricultural inefficiencies rooted from outdated practices, environmental stress and large scale monoculture —- India faces significant challenges and struggles to modernize its agricultural system. Recommended Reading: - Food Crisis in India - Stance on Sustainable Agriculture
Somalia 	Ranked as the number one hungriest country in the world where half of the population are undernourished, Somalia faces severe food insecurity from various factors: ongoing conflict, drought, poor infrastructure and extreme climate conditions. Sustainable agriculture, although challenging, could contribute in stabilizing local food systems and improving food security. Through the enhancements of climate resilience and preservation of the environment and vital resources — sustainable agriculture offers a path towards long-term food security. Recommended Reading: - Overview of Somalia's situation - The crisis in Somalia
Ukraine 	Ukraine is also another major exporter of food, where its exports are highly critical for global food security particularly in wheat, corn and sunflower oil. Its ongoing conflict with Russia has disrupted its agricultural production and exacerbated the food crisis worldwide, worsening food insecurity for over 36 countries dependent on Ukraine's grain import. These countries were severely affected and faced shortages, rising food prices, and an increase in hunger. As for sustainability, the country has expressed its efforts to modernize agriculture using lang management strategy, however, was disrupted by the war and no progress was seen regarding it. Recommended Reading: - Ukraine's Agriculture Resilience Strategy - How Ukraine contributed to severe food crisis
China	China, with the responsibility of feeding around 20 percent of the world's population, experienced rapid growth in agriculture which has lifted over 700 million people out of poverty for the past 30 years. The country plans to implement smart farming

	technology such as the "Green Development Plan", which emphasizes the reduction of agricultural pollution and the conservation of natural resources. Despite having a large population and vast demand for food, China is heavily reliant on synthetic fertilizers, shifting its strategy towards the sustainable agricultural practices that balances productivity with environmental restoration. Recommended Reading: - China's Green Growth Transformation - China's Food Security
Ethiopia 	Agriculture plays a crucial role in Ethiopia's economy, employing over 70% of the population and contributing to 38% of the GDP. Although the country has embraced climate smart agriculture, utilizing organic fertilizers and soil conservation techniques, its high vulnerability to climate change continues to present major challenges. To tackle this issue, there have been efforts to strengthen agricultural production, especially through the seed sector. While progress has been made in increasing agricultural output, external support and infrastructure development remain essential for effective implementation. Recommended Reading: - Sustainable Agriculture in Ethiopia - Food Crisis Situation in Ethiopia
Brazil 	Brazil is a major producer of soybeans, coffee, beef and sugar, committed to increasing sustainable agriculture despite facing political and economic pressures. The country has improved its food sector through the "zero hunger program" and pledges to restore the degraded lands while reducing carbon emissions from agriculture by 2030. Even though some areas already adopted sustainable agriculture, large scale of deforestation in Amazon poses significant challenges. Overall, Brazil strives to balance agriculture productivity and environmental sustainability Recommended Reading: - Approaches to Sustainability - Zero Hunger Initiative

Previous Solutions:

Date of Events	Description
1948: UHDR (PASSED)	The UDHR established the right to food as a fundamental human right under Article 25. It laid the groundwork for future resolutions and international frameworks addressing global food security.
1974: WFC (PASSED)	Issues regarding hunger and food insecurity were raised, driving discussions and resulted in the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition. The lack of direct enforcement mechanisms makes it ineffective, although awareness have been raised through the action.
1996: The Rome Declaration on World Food Security (PASSED)	International collaboration gets strengthen as the rights to adequate food was emphasized, with nations aiming to cut hunger by half before 2015. Although uneven progress were made between the countries, this was seen as a pivotal step in fostering collective actions.
2012: SDGs (PASSED)	The United Nations introduced their Sustainable Development Goals with SDG 2: Zero hunger, directly addressing challenges regarding food security and sustainable agriculture. The goals remain highly influential, yet implementations varied through each nation's resources and commitment.
2021: UN Food Systems Summit Declaration (PASSED)	The UN Food Systems Summit Declaration called for the transformation of food systems in order to meet the SDGs by 2030, particularly on no hunger, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience. The declaration emphasized innovative solutions, equal access to resources, and collaboration across sectors. While the issue of food systems were positioned in the global spotlight, concerns regarding the implementation continues to arise despite the disparities in national capacities and political will.

Possible Solutions:

1. Promote Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)
   Idea: Promote the adoption of farming methods that adapt to climate change in order to increase productions and reduce environmental damage. (e.g. drought-tolerant crops, efficient irrigation, agroforestry)
   Potential: It would enhance each nation's resilience in climate shocks in the long run while safeguarding food supply for countries that are prone to extreme and unpredictable weather conditions.
   Things to consider: Although this method would be beneficial, its high initial cost might require a huge amount of support from the government in various aspects such as subsidies and educational programs.

2. Reduce Food Waste Across Supply Chains
   Idea: Enhance storage facilities, transportation routes and logistics throughout the distribution process in order to prevent post-harvest losses, which happens from bad management.
   Potential: Through this method, over 1.3 billion tons of food could be saved annually, which would reduce pressure on the agricultural sector and the entire production chain, improving food security as a whole.
   Things to consider: To turn this into reality, large investments must be made and effective coordination between sectors from farmer, suppliers and to government is needed in ensuring its success.

3. Agricultural Technology
   Idea: Incorporate sustainable Artificial Intelligence (AI) into farming practices to optimize resources and boost yield while ensuring minimal damage to the environment.
   Potential: This would directly lead to increases in efficiency and production capacity that could potentially play a crucial part in solving the global food crisis. Experienced countries like the Netherlands could also implement knowledge-sharing programs so others could follow its successful model.
   Things to consider: Technology like these could greatly benefit farmers and provide them with a very high competitive advantage. However, it must be implemented very carefully to ensure that there are minimal to non accessibility issues between farmers and the risks of inequality between countries remain moderate. Additionally, the system requires local adaptation, farmers need to be cooperative throughout the process as the changes in their approach to farming might take time to learn and require consistent support and training.

4. Strengthening Local Food Systems:
   Idea: Seeing as there are many vulnerabilities in global supply chains – which are fragile to geopolitical conflicts, natural disasters and climate change – reducing dependency on global supply networks could provide the necessary benefits both for sustainability and resilience.
   Potential: Food security has always been very low among countries with disruptive supply chains. Not only would this approach enhance security but will also reduce cost and carbon emissions from transportation while enhancing resilience within the entire communities.
   Things to consider: Although this method might work well in resourceful countries, some with limited resources and overpopulation might still struggle to implement this system. For this to work, governments must be supportive with their policies and subsidies programs for smallholder farmers while balancing global trade opportunities with self-sufficiency.

5. Addressing Natural Resource Depletion:
   Idea: The depletion of land and the diminishing availability of resources have made farming more challenging over time. These valuable resources are key to agriculture and could be preserved through sustainable practices such as crop diversification, reforestation, sustainable irrigation which would play a part in conserving water, regenerating soil and preventing deforestation.

Potential: It provides environmental benefits while boosting long-term agricultural productivity as vital resources are preserved.

Things to consider: Farmers might resist the change, requiring strict government enforcement as cross-sector collaborations continue.

Recommended Resources:

1. Global Report On Food Crises
2. Overview of the Global Food Crisis
3. What causes food insecurity?
4. Understanding Sustainable Agriculture
5. Netherland's Technology in Sustainable Agriculture
6. Agriculture Innovation
7. Youtube playlist

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