In this issue of food security—August 2021

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The questions of food security and its elements of hunger, malnutrition, improper diet never have been as acute as they are today. These have consequences on the development of infants, on the education and psychological growth of children and teenagers, on injustice, including injustice towards the weak ones: women, the elderly, the jobless, the poor.

This downturn is the combined result of conflicts (Haiti, Yemen, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Afghanistan), of climate change (with its terrible impacts, especially in West Asia, in the Horn of Africa, and also in the Andes), of poor governance (in many sub-Saharan countries, but many others), of the economic downturn, which puts at risk farmers of the Global South, and also pushes into poverty scores of workers in the Global North.

There are reasons to believe that the unfolding crisis will be dramatic, that it will affect the upcoming generation. Food Security is a modest scientific journal. It will, and does, its best to alter the course of the current trends in publishing the works of some the best brains of the moment. We form the wish that these efforts are not in vain.

Yes: the Impact Factor of Food Security has tremendously increased from about 2 to some 3.3. We could praise ourselves, and auto-congratulate. Such self-satisfaction, we feel, would come at a wrong time. In view of the current circumstances, it only for us is a sign that we might be on the right track, that we might reach a broader audience, and, critically (because that is the only reason why a journal such as Food Security exists), that what is published in Food Security hopefully finds its way to policy-makers.

Announcements

The following two announcements concern two individuals who have accepted to help (or continue helping) Food Security to grow. These persons are precious. They represent a young

generation of talented, open-minded, extremely skilled scientists. We are very proud and grateful that they would accept a (further) role in Food Security. All what they did and do in Food Security is volunteered, overtime and additional work. Thank you, Derrill and Andy.

Pr. Andy Nelson agrees to join the Advisory Board of Food Security

Andy Nelson is a Geographer with a PhD in Geography from the University of Leeds, UK. He is currently a professor in Spatial Agriculture and Food Security at the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the University of Twente, the Netherlands and is also head of the Natural Resources Department in ITC.

He began his career in 1997 in Colombia at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and since then has worked in several continents for international research and policy institutes such as the World Bank in Washington DC, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission in Italy, and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines. He has also worked as a consultant for FAO and UNEP.

His academic work uses Earth observation and spatial information for improved food security and quantifying the associated use of natural and human resources. His contributions to work on accessibility and crop health have featured in The Economist, New Scientist, Nature, and Science.

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He is a member of the Steering Group for the 4TU Centre for Resilience Engineering (4TU RE) in the Netherlands, co-chair for Capacity Development in the Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM), and coordinator for the Erasmus + MSc in geo-information science and earth observation for environmental modelling and management (GEM).

His home page at ITC, University of Twente is [<https://research.utwente.nl/en/persons/andy-nelson>].

Pr. Derrill Watson steps down from his role as Senior Editor (Economy), but agrees to join the Advisory Board of Food Security

Dr. Derrill D. Watson II received his PhD in Economics from Cornell University, studying the political economy of food policy under World Food Prize laureate Per Pinstrup-Andersen. Together with Per, he wrote a widely-used textbook on Food Policy for Developing Countries. Dr. Watson is currently an associate professor of economics and department head for the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics at Tarleton State University, a founding member of the Texas A&M System. His research focuses on the political economy of food policy, development economics, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. He has taught economics, food policy, and improved teaching methodologies in more than ten countries on three continents. He has been a consultant to the Eurasian Food Security Center, the Greens/EFA of the European Parliament through Development International e.V., and the World Bank Group. He joined the Food Security editorial board in 2017 and has had the pleasure of serving as a senior editor under Richard Strange and Serge Savary as editors in chief. He has appreciated their insight, their vision for the journal, and their mentoring. He is grateful for and looks forward to the opportunity to continue supporting Food Security in this new capacity.

The articles published in this August 2021 Issue cover a wide range of topics from very different parts of the world. In particular, this August 2021 Issue of Food Security includes articles from two new Series, which we launch with this issue, and a set of additional articles

Series 1: Food System Transformations for Sustainable Health, Livelihoods and Environments

This Series is co-ordinated by four Guest Associate Editors: R. Ruben, P. Winters, E. Smaling, and R. Cavatassi. It is launched to coincide with the upcoming World Food Summit which is due to take place in New York this summer. Two of the first articles of this series (articles 1 and 2) are published in the present issue, and many more will follow in the October and December issues of Food Security.

The Series on Food System Transformations for Sustainable Health, Livelihoods and Environments is represented by two articles.

Series 2: Stories of Change in Nutrition: Lessons from Africa and South Asia

This Series is co-ordinated by Dr. Jody Harris, Senior Editor (Nutrition) at Food Security. This series looks at the progress achieved by the implementation of the concept of Food System in an array of environment of the Global South, notable South-East Asia and Sub-saharan Africa.

The Series on these Stories of Change in Nutrition: Lessons from Africa and South Asia is represented by the next two articles.

Series 1: Food System Transformations for Sustainable Health, Livelihoods and Environments

- **Article 1** (Leeuwis et al.) argues that changing the emergent properties of food systems is a socio-political challenge influenced by competing views on both system boundaries and purposes, leading to limited possibilities for central steering. They argue that food systems are best looked at as complex multi-dimensional systems, where accounting for inherent social tensions in the process of change is required. A multi-level perspective on system transformation is, for these reasons, useful.

- **Articles 2** (de Bruin et al.) considers the consequences of urbanisation in its global effects on food systems, with emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Series 2: Stories of Change in Nutrition: Lessons from Africa and South Asia

- **Article 3** (Gillespie et al.) provide an introduction to the Series and is followed by
- **Article 4** (Harris et al.) is a rare, careful, analysis of the heterogeneity in access to food and quality of nutrition in Viet Nam, where careful attention is paid to ethnic minorities.

Other articles

- **Article 5** (Vogliano et al.) addresses the agricultural biodiversity in relation with nutrition in the Solomon islands.
- **Article 6** (Lares-Michel et al.) is a detailed analysis of the water footprint of the Mexican diet, accounting for water used for washing and cooking.
- **Article 7** (Amfo et al.) analyses the coping strategies of cocoa farmers in Ghana.

- **Article 8** (Teklewold) analyses the the evolution of factor productivity of Ethiopia farms in response to policies.
- **Article 9** (ul Haq et al.) considers the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices in Pakistan, and their nutritional outcomes.
- **Article 10** (Madsen et al.) explores the link between agro-ecological farm practices and the transition towards food security in Malawi.
- **Article 11** (Najmuddin et al.) analyses the compound constraints of water, labour, and crop preferences on wheat self-sufficiency in Afghanistan.
- **Article 12** (Noromalala Andriamparany et al.) considers the food security status of, and options for of vanilla farmers in Madagascar.
- **Article 13** (Muange et al.) addresses the role of ICT in nutrition, including overnutrition, in Kenya.
- **Article 14** (Al Dirani et al.) considers the Beqaa valley of Lebanon, where small family farms must adapt to changing climate.
- The last article of the Issue, **Article 15** (Chaudhuri et al.), is a rare and carefully documented Review on the causes, nature, and consequences of food insecurity among women and children. The article offers a novel, and we believe, extremely useful, concept – Time Poverty – which acts as a dramatic reducer for the poor to address food security.