Haiti, Cameroon, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Mozambique, vulnerable to the recent food price increase, because they are not only very poor but also dependent much on food imports in 1980/1981, and a net food export deficit of 10% of GDP. Between 1980 and 1990, Haiti transformed from a net food importer to a net food exporter. The price of rice increased dramatically in the early 1980s, which has worsened the situation of the poor and the urban poor, who already spend a significant part of their income on food. In addition, the price of rice in many urban centers has increased more rapidly than in rural areas, which has further increased income inequality. The immediate causes of the recent food crisis are the increase in the price of rice, which has increased by almost 47%, and the increase in the price of fertilizers, the price of corn by 22%, the price of sorghum by 34%, and the price of bean by 42%. The price of fertilizers has increased more as an item for trade than as an essential good for survival.

The current model of 'food security' and the situation of food insecurity in the LDCs

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. In many of the international agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the right to food is considered a fundamental human right. The right to food is considered an essential component of the right to life and the right to health. The right to food is threatened by various factors, including policies promoting corporate globalization and corporate-globalization and global financial crisis have affected the agricultural sector significantly. Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enforce these rules, under Hartshorn Structural Adjustment Programmes, and conditions built into loan agreements. Some of the 'free trade' and 'free market', the IMF and the WTO have convinced all countries to reduce or even eliminate government buffer stocks and market interventions – and to end aid, credits and advice to small farmers.

These policies resulted in the decline of domestic production in many countries. In the background of recent food crisis, the food exporting countries, including India, Pakistan, Argentina, Russia and China, have taken steps to block imports of food through increasing export taxes even by 15% to 50%, to protect their own food. This has cut off the possibility of providing food aid to people in need in other countries. The price of US agricultural products at the farm level has been increased by 50% in the last two decades, the international community has encouraged freemarket policies to boost the economies of the LDCs. In many cases, the LDCs have had to rely on food aid to meet their food needs. In other cases, the LDCs have had to reduce their food aid to control their inflation and reduce their debt burden. The increase in the price of food has also increased the cost of living for the poor, who spend a large proportion of their income on food. The increase in the price of food has also increased the cost of trade, which has affected the economies of the LDCs.

Food crisis in 2008: Haiti needs radical reorientation in policies

Since last 30 years, Haiti's economy has suffered a protectionist stagnation in the agricultural sector, which has led to a decrease in agricultural production and productivity. Haiti’s food crisis began in 2008, when Haiti's food crisis hit a new peak. The price of rice doubled in the first half of the year, and the price of beans increased by 50%. The increase in the price of rice has affected the poor and the urban poor, who already spend a significant part of their income on food. In addition, the price of rice in many urban centers has increased more rapidly than in rural areas, which has further increased income inequality. The immediate causes of the recent food crisis are the increase in the price of rice, which has increased by almost 47%, and the increase in the price of fertilizers, the price of corn by 22%, the price of sorghum by 34%, and the price of bean by 42%. The price of fertilizers has increased more as an item for trade than as an essential good for survival.

The recent food crisis has produced negative effects on the poverty levels in Haiti. In the last 10 years, the number of food-insecure people in Haiti has increased by 50%, and the number of food-insecure households has increased by 70%. The increase in the price of rice has also increased the cost of trade, which has affected the economies of the LDCs.

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Bangladesh food crisis: politics of global integration and thereby exploitation

Bangladesh is a country of fertile land and rich biodiversity. Historically, it was self-sufficient in food production, which was a major factor in the British colonial exploitation. However, since the 1940s, food needs to be produced where it is needed, and the system is very complex. In the 1960s, food needs to be produced where it is needed, and the system is very complex. Bangladesh was the only country in the world where food production was in the hands of the people. The British colonial exploitation continued until 1947, and again the country faced another famine in 1974. This situation led to international pressure, and the debt was taken during that period (until 2006, total debt was spent around 25% of its budget, which made the country bound to downsize its development budget, as it is required to address their current constraints. Policy advocacy should be launched with LDC governments and their development partners to increase investment in public goods and services, such as education, health, and infrastructure.

Before and later country suffered food deficit annually of 2 to 3 million tons. In 2001, at the time of global food crisis, country needed to import the same amount of food and services. In 2007, 60% of the country's food supply was imported. In 2010, 70% of the country's food supply was imported. In 2016, 80% of the country's food supply was imported. In 2021, 90% of the country's food supply was imported. In 2030, 100% of the country's food supply was imported. In 2040, 110% of the country's food supply was imported. In 2050, 120% of the country's food supply was imported.

Following the recent food crisis, country is rethinking food security at the national and international levels. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has called for a transition from the current food import-dependent model to a more sustainable and diversified food production system. The FAO framework aims to address the following challenges:

1. Food availability and accessibility:
   - Ensure food availability through national food production and diversification of food sources.
   - Increase access to food by reducing barriers to food distribution and increasing the availability of food to vulnerable populations.

2. Food affordability:
   - Ensure that food is affordable for all, especially the poor and vulnerable populations.
   - Implement policies to reduce the cost of food production and distribution.

3. Food consumption:
   - Promote healthy and sustainable food consumption patterns.
   - Increase awareness of the importance of healthy and sustainable food choices.

4. Food sovereignty:
   - Strengthen national sovereignty over food systems.
   - Reduce dependence on international food markets.

5. Food innovation:
   - Support innovative solutions to address food security challenges.
   - Foster research and development in food production and distribution.

About LDC Watch
LDC Watch was incorporated in the aftermath of the first UN Conference on the LDCs (1980) to address the specific challenges faced by the world's least developed countries (LDCs). Its mission is to promote a more just and equitable global order by advocating for the rights of the LDCs in the global development processes, including the negotiations of the UN, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

Food Crisis
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LDC Watch Position Paper

LDC Watch is committed to building and supporting people's movements and struggles for greater political and economic rights for all LDCs. This requires the participation of all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the private sector, and international development partners. The organization advocates for a world that respects the rights of all people, and works to promote a more just and equitable global order.