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## Global Perspectives Studies (GPS)

### Why build long-term scenarios for food and agriculture?

FAO work on Global Perspective Studies (GPS) investigates how food and agriculture may develop in the long term within the broader economy-wide and social development context. It is a corporate endeavour, involving many FAO units under the technical guidance of the FAO GPS team. It aims at informing debates and decision-making processes to achieve permanent and universal food and nutrition security and sustainable development.

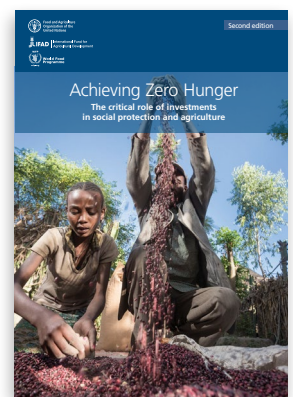
**Permanent and universal food and nutrition security.** The achievement of permanent and universal food and nutrition security in the future relies on the availability of adequate, safe and nutritious food and the possibility for all to access and utilize it. This requires implementing long-term, inclusive socio-economic systems that ensure adequate earning opportunities for all, within which sustainable food systems can develop.

**Anticipated evidence for decision-making.** The realization of inclusive and sustainable food systems that ensure permanent and universal food and nutrition security requires appropriate strategies, policies and programmes. Building and analysing long-term scenarios for food and agriculture provides anticipated evidence for decision-makers and other stakeholders on alternative options for achieving these desired developmental objectives.

**Development challenges ahead.** The analysis of long-term, forward-looking scenarios is particularly important in view of the challenges we face today. Population growth and shifts to more protein-rich diets and bioenergy push up global agricultural demand, while human-induced climate change puts further stress on already constrained land and water resources, jeopardizing production potential. In addition, rising income inequalities may hamper earning opportunities and access to food. Long-term scenarios help to assess and address these challenges to ensure permanent and universal food and nutrition security.

### How FAO works on long-term scenarios for food and agriculture

**FAO findings in Global Perspective Studies.** FAO has carried out long-term analyses of global food production and consumption since the early 1960s. Popular publications include the series *World Agriculture: towards 20XX*, updated to 2030/2050. Recently, corporate reports on key issues have also been prepared, such as the report on *Achieving Zero Hunger: The critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture*, which presents FAO position on how to achieve permanent and universal food and nutrition security by 2030 and *The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges*, which analyses the main trends affecting food and agriculture and the challenges that will need to be addressed if we are to succeed in eradicating hunger and malnutrition.



**Methodology.** Since 2013, the GPS has included scenario analysis as part of its methodology. Combined qualitative and quantitative assessments of alternative scenario storylines highlight possible future implications for sustainable rural development and food and nutrition security. For this purpose, the GPS uses both global economy-wide general equilibrium and sector-specific quantitative models, such as the FAO Global Agriculture Perspectives System, a model covering 182 countries and 35 agricultural goods built on the FAOSTAT database, used to derive global long-term projections of food demand and supply.

## How Global Perspectives Studies contribute to the FAO Strategic Framework

GPS work is impact-oriented, aimed at influencing decision-making processes at all levels towards the achievement of the FAO Strategic Programmes (SPs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It enhances the technical quality and knowledge of the organization and the whole development community, and also supports FAO priority areas, for example in the following ways:

- Long-term projections on food consumption provide insights on the expected prevalence of undernourishment and changes in food consumption, thus informing SP1: *Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*.
- Long-term projections of land, water and input use under alternative technological choices provide information on the sustainability of agriculture, thus supporting SP2: *Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable*.
- The corporate report *Achieving Zero Hunger: The critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture* highlights how to eliminate extreme poverty and undernourishment, thus contributing to both SP1 and SP3: *Reduce rural poverty*.
- Prospects for the agricultural markets presented in recent publications and the ongoing work on *Food and Agriculture Towards 2050/2080 (FAT2080)* highlight, *inter alia*, the functioning of food supply chains and trade flows under alternative scenarios, thus contributing to SP4: *Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems*.



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### FURTHER INFORMATION

Global Perspectives Studies is part of the work stream on *Global dimensions of food security and nutrition*. Find out more:

- Website - [www.fao.org/global-perspectives-studies](http://www.fao.org/global-perspectives-studies)

#### Agricultural Development Economics Division

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations