

Food Security and Sustainability

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The challenges of peri-urban farmland in developed and developing countries for food security: The new realities of climate change and variability

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Food security deals with issues of food quality, sustainable agricultural practices and accessibility to impoverished populations. In many developed countries, many large cities are surrounded by high quality farmland resources in temperate climates (e.g., in North America and Western Europe). A rapidly emerging reality is the differential impact of Climate Change and Variability (CCV) on farming in different areas and the need for appropriate agricultural adaptation to CCV and the need for appropriate agricultural adaptation to CCV. In many developed countries, appropriate adaptation can maintain food production levels even though crop composition may change. However, in many developing countries (e.g., in North and West Africa) existing climate conditions and CCV can reduce peri-urban areas' ability to contribute to national and local food security. Two challenges are: (1) Short of reversing CCV, many developing countries will become more dependent upon food imports from developed countries and so we need to ask what does this imply for developed countries? (2) And this increases the need to conserve farmland resources in developed countries, a real challenge given the continuing urban development pressures. How can agricultural management and development planning in such areas integrate food security both locally and internationally and conserve their farmland resources? This is illustrated using a number of pertinent examples from different countries.

Biography

Christopher Bryant has almost 50 years of research experience in peri-urban agriculture (France, Canada and other countries) and 26 years research experience in adaptation of agriculture to climate change and variability as well as 30 years' experience in community development. He was a Professor in Geography, University of Waterloo for 20 years and Professor in Géographie, Université de Montréal for 24 years. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph, Canada.

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