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Conclusion on the food security conference

Looking back at what we have learnt and discussed about during the Academia Engelberg we are ready to begin understanding the global food security issue. We should remember that we want diverse perspectives on the issue, as well as a local and global expertise. Furthermore, we have to bear in mind what affects some of us now may affect all of us tomorrow. For this reason global cooperation is necessary to improve food security. By improving agriculture, business, health and nutrition education, and the environment we help to improve food security.

At a national perspective, governments should consider managing local farmers markets or food banks. Also they must assist people who make their living in agriculture by offering them guidance as well as necessary funds. At a global perspective, food security provides a useful goal towards which the world should strive. It can also be useful for monitoring an important aspect of the well-being of households worldwide and for the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs and projects food present in a region to feed everyone.

Admittedly, many factors will determine the world's ability to feed its people now and in the future. There is plenty of land available. Though not all of it is appropriate for cultivation only a small fraction of that which is arable is under cultivation. Because of low agricultural productivity for both food and cash crops and population pressure in a few areas; farmers are now moving onto more marginal lands to increase the area under cultivation, and in the process are clearing forests and sometimes threatening wildlife. Thus there is an urgent need to improve agricultural productivity if sustained productive agriculture and food security is to be developed and sustained. Improved agriculture will also



strengthen the economic base and thus improve economic accessibility to food. Until this is achieved, even in the presence of enough arable land, the rapidly growing population will continue to place added pressure on the ability of people around the world to be well fed.