

Food Security in Brazil – Challenges and Possible Solutions

Introduction

Despite the fact that the food availability is one third more per capita than the nutritional requirements, more than 30 % of Brazil's population suffers from macro- or micronutrient malnutrition (A. Peduto, W.A. Neves do Amaral, *Food Security - The Brazilian case*, 2010). Brazil will face the same threats as other countries like climate change and population growth. However, in the following we will elaborate on five major and crucial challenges Brazil is facing.

- Food price fluctuations
- Infrastructure
- Corruption
- Urbanization
- Micronutrient availability



CHALLENGES

Availability

- Lack of proper **infrastructure**, mainly port- and inland road transportation does contribute negatively to food security in Brazil.
- **Corruption** enforces deforestation and concerns mainly natural resources.
- **Urbanization** has contributed negatively to food security in Brazil. People are moving from rural to urban areas and thereby reducing the cropland. Furthermore, urbanization will give rise to an increased energy demand. This means that energy crops will compete with food crops. Lastly, dietary patterns are also likely to change as people moving into the cities.

Accessibility

- **Food prices** have increased at a faster rate than the household income has risen. This has resulted in that people are unable to afford the same amount of food as previously.

Consumption

- Limited **micronutrient availability** especially Iron and vitamin A deficiencies are prevalent.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- Increase transparency and revise the legal framework with regard to public funds for the exploitation of natural resources and investments in public infrastructure (roads and ports).
- Promote efficiency and enrichment in production in order to meet the challenges of urbanization. Encourage more sustainable eating habits.



- Implement food fortification in order to reduce the number of people suffering from micronutritional malnutrition.

