



CONTEMPORARY AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD, SERBIA
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
SAVREMENA POLJOPRIVREDA

CONTEMPORARY AGRICULTURE SAVREMENA POLJOPRIVREDA

The Serbian Journal of Agricultural Sciences
Srpski časopis za poljoprivredne nauke

Vol. 64, No. 3 - 4, Pp. 254 - 260, 2015.

www.contagri.info

ISSN: 0350-1205 UDC: 63(497.1)(051)-"540.2"



UNIVERSITAS STUDIORUM
NOVI SAD
NEOPLANTENSIS

University of Novi Sad,
Serbia

Published by
Faculty of Agriculture,
Novi Sad

Review paper

UDC: 111.62

FOOD SECURITY AS A GOAL OF GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AFTER 2015

Katarina ĐURIĆ¹

Summary: Attaining food security is a priority which has had a place in global development agendas for some time and will also feature in the future ones. Reduction of rural poverty, advancing agriculture and strengthening the human capital are the most significant mechanisms of improving the food situation in the world. The aim of this paper is primarily to give an appraisal of the results which have been achieved so far in the field of reducing hunger and poverty. Also, the research aims to determine the place and role of agriculture in planning global sustainable development for the period after 2015.

Key words: poverty, food security, sustainable development, millennium goals of development, agriculture

INTRODUCTION

Food security is a problem which can be solved on the global level through multisectoral approach. In international development strategies of the past ten years agriculture and food security are two issues which have been gaining significance. The world economic crisis and the surge of prices of agricultural food products caused a slump in the dynamics of the reduction of hunger and poverty. Unfavourable position of the poor rural population is additionally burdened by the growing crisis. As a response to such trends, there has been a global increase in investments whose purpose is boosting production and productivity in agriculture. Funds intended for economic strengthening of small agricultural households in the most vulnerable regions of the world predominate in the structure of these investments.

In the conditions of the global economy and the development of sophisticated technology there are possibilities for the elimination of chronic poverty and the radical differences in the level of development between certain regions. Hunger is caused by growth of population in planet, insufficient production of food in developing countries, and with low level of purchasing power of inhabitants in these countries (Tomić et al, 2010). All the relevant subjects, which feature as the creators of a new development strategy, consider the year of 2015 to be a turning point of sorts and the year in which new priorities in development are to be determined. Poverty in rural areas, inequality, unemployment, discrimination and diseases are some of the biggest problems that humanity is faced with today. These problems are being solved, if partially, through millennium development goals, defined in 2000. As the end of 2015 has been designated as the final point of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the plan for the

¹Katarina Đurić, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Trg Dositeja Obradovića 8, 21000 Novi Sad, Srbija

*Corresponding author: e-mail: katarina.djuric@polj.uns.ac.rs, Tel. 021 485 3232

sustainable global development for the period after 2015 will have a key role in solving the growing problems and attaining prosperity.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Taking into account the object and the aim of the research presented in this paper, descriptive analysis is a method that is generally used and it is based on the study of the current foreign literature on the issue of global development. Literature sources have provided **AN** insight into the research conducted so far and into the gained experience related to decreasing poverty and attaining food security all over the world. The goal of the research presented in this paper is to determine the position that the issues of the reduction of hunger and poverty have on the list of priorities of the global sustainable development after 2015. In relation to this, the place and the role of agriculture in eliminating rural poverty and improving the food situation in the world is determined in this paper.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE REDUCTION OF POVERTY

At the 8th plenary session of the United Nations, on 8th September 2000, 191 member states have agreed upon the goals of global development. The Millennium Declaration was adopted and it defined eight principal goals of development which were to be reached by the end of 2015. The millennium goals of development are:

1. ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER;
2. INTRODUCING UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION;
3. PROMOTING EQUALITY OF THE SEXES;
4. REDUCING MORTALITY OF CHILDREN;
5. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN WITH CHILDREN;
6. FIGHTING HIV, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES;
7. SECURING ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND
8. CREATING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The millennium development goal number 1 is eradicating poverty and hunger. This millennium development goal comprises three sub goals:

1. IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015 THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITH A CONSUMPTION OF 1 USD PER DAY NEED TO BE HALVED,
2. PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO ALL EMPLOYABLE POPULATION, ESPECIALLY TO WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, AND
3. REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM UNDERNOURISHMENT BY HALF IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015.

Reducing poverty in rural areas is directly connected with the possibilities of the growth of the world agricultural production. The dynamics and the scope of the growth of agricultural production are determined by a few key factors. In the first place, these are the tendencies of the growth of the world population, and also, climate changes, the use of agricultural products in order to produce biofuels, as well as the relations in the world food market (Marković, 2008.).

Keeping in mind what kind of role agriculture plays in eliminating poverty, it needs to be pointed out that economic growth, structural economic changes, as well as active involvement of the developing countries in the international economic trends, have largely contributed to reaching the millennium goal number 1 in the period so far. The period of dynamic economic growth, which preceded the period of global economic crisis, helped the developing countries to reduce the percentage of population who live in the poverty zone. In the period between 1998 and 2006 the growth of GDP in developed countries was 2.4% per year on average, while in the developing countries, in the same period, the economic growth rate was twice as high, amounting to 4.8% per year (Renwick, 2011). Thus expressed economic growth, along with adequate changes in the economic structure, brought about a significant decrease in the poverty rate in a large number of developing countries.

However, the period of the world economic crisis prevented further reduction of poverty and keeping up the initial encouraging dynamics in reaching the millennium goal number 1. High prices of food in the world market resulted in the fact that in 2009 the number of people who live in the zone of hunger and extreme poverty reached its highest level in the world and, according to the data provided by FAO, amounted to 1.02 billion. In other words, a

sixth of the world population in 2009 lived on less than 1 USD per day. According to the report “The State of Food Insecurity in the World” and the interpretation by the World Bank, global economic crisis has contributed to the fact that the number of people in the zone of poverty and people who suffer from hunger grew by around 100 million during 2009. The same sources state that two thirds of this population live in Asia and in the Pacific region. Countries that suffer the most from problems of hunger and poverty are India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia. Around 65% of the undernourished world population live in these seven countries (McMichael and Schneider, 2011). Such pessimistic view of the world food situation was caused by the world economic crisis in the first place, which caused an increase in unemployment, and consequently a decrease in the income of a significant part of the world population. Besides the high prices of food, growing poverty and undernourishment have also been caused by climate changes. According to the conclusions of the International panel on this subject, climate changes may increase the number of undernourished people in the world by 40 to 170 million in the next decade (Evans, 2009).

In spite of unfavourable climate and economic conditions, some developed countries have made significant progress in the realization of the first millennium goal. Sub goal 1 is related to the fall in the number of people who live in the zone of extreme poverty (with the income/consumption of less than 1 USD per day) by half. This sub goal was reached in 2010. The number of people who spend 1 USD per day fell in 2010 to less than half of the initial number. The number of people who live in extreme poverty in 2010 decreased by 700 million compared to 1990. However, in the whole world 1.2 billion people still live in the poverty zone. Sub goal 2 aims at providing employment to all the employable population, especially to women and young people. In 2011 384 million workers in the world still earn less than 1 USD per day, which is 298 million people less than in 2001. Sub goal 3 entails the reduction of undernourished population by half in relation to 1990. This goal has not been achieved yet in 2015. Namely, the number of people who do not meet their nutritional needs is 842 million now in 2015. At the same time, the most vulnerable group – more than 99 million of the undernourished world population are children younger than 5 (United Nation, 2014).

Albeit insufficient and uneven, the progress made in the first two decades after the establishment of the millennium development goals may be seen as outstanding. Only twenty years ago, almost 40% of the developing countries were in the zone of extreme poverty, and its eradication was unthinkable. However, judging by the results achieved, we can say today that extreme poverty on global level might be eradicated as early as in the lifespan of the next generation.

THE ROLE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION IN ATTAINING FOOD SECURITY

The activities of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) directed towards the reduction of hunger and poverty are carried out in three directions. The key tasks of FAO are:

1. ADVANCING PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME IN AGRICULTURE;
2. PROMOTING BETTER DIETARY PATTERNS ON ALL LEVELS, AND
3. PROVIDING THE POOREST WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO FOOD.

FAO helps reaching the first millennium development goal in several ways. Activities of this organisation, which functions under the shield of the United Nations, are carried out through technical support to developing countries with an aim of advancing their agrarian sector, promoting sustainable management of natural resources, attaining security in supplying the population with food, promoting investments in agriculture and rural development. Also, a significant part of the aid FAO grants is given through the assistance provided to the governments of developing countries in order to devise adequate national programmes of food security for the most vulnerable categories of agricultural producers. Cooperation between FAO experts in the field of the crop and cattle production proved to be irreplaceable in the developing countries which are trying to advance their agriculture and thus to reduce extreme poverty, which, as a rule, mostly concerns the rural population. During 2008 FAO carried out a total of 755 projects in 114 different countries and/or regions (FAO, 2010).

FAO programmes contribute to all dimensions of food security in developing countries. These programmes secure availability, which means secured access to food, as well as stability and continuity in food supplies. Besides, FAO guarantees health security for the food distributed to the most vulnerable categories of the population. The areas of activity of FAO towards the eradication of poverty and hunger are related to (FAO, 2015):

- CONTROLLING THE PLANT AND ANIMAL DISEASES;
- EDUCATING LOCAL POPULATION ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES OF SOUND AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE;
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT;
- AID IN DEVISING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS WITH WHICH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR REGIONS APPLY FOR FUNDS FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

One of the important FAO projects directed towards the reduction of poverty which has been implemented since 1995 in 106 countries is “The Special Programme for Food Security”. The funds for the implementation of this programme are provided by the countries in question and sponsors. Following the positive experience of “The Special Programme for Food Security”, FAO offered technical support to the countries in need in order to devise their national and/or regional food health security programmes. These programmes, as it was proved in practice, are an important step towards reaching the first millennium development goal – eradication of hunger and poverty on the global, national and regional level.

In the conditions of rapid changes in the domain of the world food security, there is a growing need for relevant, accurate and timely information on the trends of production, prices, demand and other aspects of agricultural production. In order to supplement the national statistical database, FAO periodically publishes reports on the state of the food security in the world and thus meets the needs for the additional information. Similarly, in order to help countries access the much needed information, within FAO there is a Global Information and Early Warning System² under whose auspices information is periodically published in a few significant publications: Food Outlook, Crop Prospects and Food Situation, as well as separate reports by countries.

Besides international organisations and institutions, the developed countries of the world take part in overcoming the instability in food supplies in the world. Among the positive examples of such involvement is the programme of the United States of America called “Feed the Future”, started in 2009 with the aim to aid the most vulnerable countries in overcoming the food crisis. Within this programme during 2013 aid was given to seven million farmers around the world in the form of new technologies and new methods of farm management. The nineteen countries participating in the programme were selected on the basis of several criteria, the most important ones being: the level of need for food supplies, possibilities for cooperation, potential for agricultural production growth and available resources. Through the programme “Feed the Future” investments have been made in the field of providing employment for women, quality of population nourishment, and also in infrastructure for the storage of agricultural food products. Goals within the programme are reached by equal partners – civil society, private sector and research sector.

PLAN FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 2015

After recapitulating what had been achieved by 2015, the world leaders initiated the creation of an ambitious long-term plan, whose implementation is supposed to improve people’s lives all over the world and to protect the environment for the sake of the future generations. At the same time, the term “sustainable development” denotes a process of development which, in the long run, excludes a decrease in the benefits from the development, no matter whether they are economic or social effects, or the ones that have positive influence on the environment. (Anand and Sen, 2000). It is expected that the plan for the global sustainable development for the period after 2015 comprises many important issues, from eradication of hunger and poverty, via advancing health service and educational system and tackling climate changes, to ocean and forest conservation.

The significance of setting new development goals for the period after 2015 is stressed in numerous works written on this issue, on two sites which are completely focused on these issues³, as well as in the international debates which have been held or have been planned for the near future (Haddad, 2013). Governments of the UN member states are at the core of the talks. Also, civil societies, young people and their organisations, business systems, and other relevant subjects contribute to the creation of a development agenda through their participation in the talks. World leaders expect to fully outline an agenda at a Special summit for sustainable development which is to be held in New York in September 2015. United Nations actively cooperate with governments, civil societies and other stakeholders in order to accelerate the implementation of the agenda for sustainable development. Leading the upcoming Summit on sustainable development, the United Nations Secretariat will support the member states in their efforts to adjust the global plan to their national, or regional developmental needs. According to the outline of the global plan for sustainable development, a complete elimination of poverty will be possible by 2030.

An important step towards the definition of the goals of global sustainable development is a document entitled “Road to Dignity by 2030” which was launched in July 2013. This document promotes:

²Global Information and Early Warning System – GIEWS

³www.beyond2015.org
www.post2015.org

1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS,

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

This document of the United Nations recognizes five priorities of development in the period to come, and these are:

- ELIMINATION OF EXTREME POVERTY;
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS THE CORE GOAL;
- TRANSFORMATION OF ECONOMY IN TERMS OF PROVIDING POSSIBILITIES FOR FINDING EMPLOYMENT AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT;
- ESTABLISHING PEACE AND HIGHER LEVEL OF TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES, AND
- FORMING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

As it is stressed in the document "Road to Dignity by 2030", a plan for sustainable development after 2015 ought to be in accordance with international law and regulations. Also, this plan should meet the challenges related to specificities of each country, especially the ones which do not have a sufficiently efficient system of institutions. Financial framework and means for the implementation of the plan are to be agreed upon at the United Nations conferences in Addis Ababa, which will be held in July, and Paris, which is scheduled for December 2015.

Eradicating poverty by 2030 is one of the general goals of sustainable development. Although we live in the world of plenty and the time when science holds a lot of promise, to a large number of people in the world these are still the times of extreme poverty. Due to this fact, one of the crucial challenges is bridging the gap between opting for providing dignified life to the whole world population and the reality of the existing growing inequality between rich and poor countries. To solve this problem there is need for international exchange of agricultural products, effects on reduction of world malnutrition and at the same time warns of difficult reduction of the number of hungry people in the world because of a high population rate (Lovre et al, 2011). Besides poverty there is also the inequality epitomized in the marginalization of certain segments of the population. Women, children, young people, old people, people with disabilities, refugees, migrants, minorities and other marginalized groups also need to be involved in all spheres of social life if reduction of inequality is set as a global goal.

Despite the fact that the number of people working in agriculture is falling, it is the agricultural households in developing countries that are most seriously struck by poverty. The presence of poverty in households which are tied to agriculture by their sources of income is much more present compared to the so-called non-agricultural households. Reduction of rural poverty demands a complex approach, and comprises the following measures:

- PROVIDING MACROECONOMIC STABILITY;
- GROWTH OF PRODUCTIVITY IN AGRICULTURE, ESPECIALLY IN REGIONS WITH UNFAVOURABLE NATURAL CONDITIONS;
- PROVIDING OWNERSHIP OVER LAND RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY TO WOMEN AND OTHER MARGINALIZED CATEGORIES OF RURAL POPULATION;
- DIVERSIFICATION OF RURAL ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE NON-FARMING SECTOR;
- PROVIDING AN EASIER APPROACH TO THE MARKET, AND ALSO
- PROVIDING LOANS AND OTHER WAYS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE CATEGORIES OF POPULATION WHICH ARE STRUCK BY POVERTY (GAIHA ET ALL, 2006)

The success of the plan for global development after 2015 depends on a large number of factors. In the first place, the plan needs to be designed in such a way that it has power to inspire and activate all the relevant agents, from international institutions to citizens. In order to achieve this, the plan would have to be based on two key pillars: the experience gained so far and the developmental needs of the population. Such an approach in its creation would make the development plan comprehensible, and also attainable. Also, the plan for global development after 2015 needs to be flexible enough to be efficiently integrated into national and regional plans for sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

Current data provided by relevant international institutions leads us to the conclusion that the achieved reduction of hunger and poverty is satisfactory. In spite of the achieved decrease in the poverty rate, the same data points to the fact that the problem of undernourishment of certain parts of the population still exists in a large number of developing countries, especially in rural areas. This fact leaves no space for doubt about the need for the inclusion of the question of food security into the plan for global development after 2015. Eliminating poverty in all its forms, eliminating hunger and attaining food security are the priorities of sustainable global development.

The experience so far confirms that the contribution of institutions such as FAO, the World Bank and the United Nations, in decreasing poverty is of crucial importance. The contribution of developed countries in the process of decreasing poverty and attaining food security is also seen as very significant. However, in the plan for the development in the period after 2015 the accent is put on both activating the existing and creating new capacities in developing countries in order to raise the level of productivity in agriculture. Besides the growth in productivity in agriculture, an escape from rural poverty ought to be achieved also through the regulation of the ownership over land rights, diversification of rural economies, enabling easier access to the market and loans and education of rural population. Using this as a basis, developing countries would attain their food security thanks to their own efforts instead of the former practice, in which these countries were in a passive position of being food aid beneficiaries. If people abide by the stated principles and priorities of development, and developing countries' governments get actively involved, elimination of poverty on the global level by 2030 ought to be a realistic and reachable goal.

REFERENCES

- ANAND S, SEN A: Human Development and Economic Sustainability, World Development, 28 (12), 2029-2049, 2000.
- EVANS A: The Feeding of the Nine Billion: Global Food Security for the 21st Century, London: Chatham House, page 6, 2009. at <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/694/>
- FAO: The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008: High Food Prices and Food Security-Threats and Opportunities, page 12, 2008, at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i029e00a.htm>
- FAO: How to Feed the World in 2050, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 2010.
- FAO, IFAD and WFP: The State of Food Insecurity in the World, Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress, Rome, FAO, 2015.
- GAIHA R, IMAI K, NANDHI MA: Millennium Development Goal of Halving Poverty in the Asia and the Pacific Region: Progress, Prospects and Priorities, IFAD Occasional Papers 1, Rome, page 7, 2006.
- HADDAD L: How should nutrition be positioned in the post-2015 agenda? Food Policy, Vol. 43, pages 341-352, 2013.
- LOVRE K, GAJIĆ M, KRESOJA M: Globalisation and sustainable agriculture development, Agrarian and rural policy in Serbia – Thematic Proceedings, Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists and Faculty of Economics, University of Novi Sad, Belgrade, Novi Sad, 1-10, 2011.
- RENWICK N: Millennium Development Goal 1: poverty, hunger and decent work in Southeast Asia, Third World Quarterly, 32(1) 65-89, 2011.
- MARKOVIĆ K: Development factors of agriculture and their influence upon the world food situation, Agroekonomika, 51-52 (51-52) 49-58, 2011.
- MCMICHAEL P, SCHNEIDER M: Food Security Politics and the Millennium Development Goals, Third World Quarterly, 32 (1), 119-139, 2011.
- POKU N, WHITMAN J: The Millennium Development Goals and Development after 2015, Third World Quarterly, 32 (1) 181-198, 2011.
- RENWICK N: Millennium Development Goal 1: poverty, hunger and decent work in Southeast Asia, Third World Quarterly, 32(1) 65-89, 2011.
- TOMIĆ D, ŠEVARLIĆ M, NIKOLIĆ M: State and Perspectives of Food Security in World and Serbia, Agrarian and rural policy in Serbia (3) – Sustainability of Agrarian Economy, Cooperatives and Rural Areas, Thematic Proceedings, Serbian Association of Agricultural Economists and Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, 39-60, 2010.
- UNITED NATIONS: The road to Dignity by 2030 – Ending poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet, Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General On the Post-2015 Agenda, New York, 2014.
- UNITED NATIONS: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014, New York, 2014. At <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>
- US Governments Global Hunger and Food Security Initiatives : Feed the Future, report, 2014. At www.feedthefuture.gov

**PREHRAMBENA SIGURNOST KAO CILJ GLOBALNOG ODRŽIVOG RAZVOJA
POSLE 2015. GODINE**

Katarina ĐURIĆ

Izvod: Ostvarivanje prehrambene sigurnosti predstavlja prioritet koji svoje mesto ima kako u dosadašnjim, tako i u budućim globalnim razvojnim agendama. Redukcija ruralnog siromaštva, unapređenje poljoprivrede i jačanje humanog kapitala najznačajniji su mehanizmi za poboljšanje svetske prehrambene situacije. Cilj ovog rada je da, pre svega, oceni rezultate koji su na polju smanjenja gladi i siromašta do sada ostvareni. Takođe, istraživanje ima za cilj sagledavanje mesta i uloge koje ima poljoprivreda u planu globalnog održivog razvoja za period posle 2015. godine.

Ključne reči: siromaštvo, prehrambena sigurnost, održivi razvoj, milenijumski ciljevi razvoja, poljoprivreda

Received / Primljen: 08.07.2015.

Accepted / Prihvaćen: .01.12.2015.