

Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

ID number: 159

Summary:

Finite resources for continues growing demand: a never ending story of human development after the industrial revolution. Does a complicated problem need a complicated solution? Or should we focus the attention on one key aspect directly connected to the majority of critical points of the problem? Which is the line that links the majority of fields involved in the solution to the food and energy crisis? From my point view water protection, in all of its states, is one simple goal with multiple and widespread consequences. Water: from creation to salvation.

Body

How economic growth can be sustained by finite resources is one of the first and most enduring questions in economy.

This matter has been exploited by many publications, articles and books, some of those authors have introduced new concepts theories, suggesting a change of the approach to the problem shifting from a strictly economical point of view to a environmental approach¹, some others have presented general reflections or have described possible solutions: strategic or technical suggestions on how the food and energy crisis could be managed.

The subject has been dealt not only at academic level, but also at real world level. Efforts to gain visibility and concrete activities have been developed by international organizations to face real problems and suggesting for concrete solution. FAO² and the UN³ are highlighting, to greater extent, the problem of food security and availability in current situation of foodstuff price increase and global energy scenario.

From a completely starting point, several Countries in Europe and America are fighting their battle against the energy crisis, promoting and developing alternatives to oil. It seems the biofuels⁴ could be a good alternative to fossil fuels. The well known point of conflicting is the raw material of those fuels: food crops. Trying to solve this difficult problem means dealing with difficult solutions. It means focusing on a single aspect (biofuels), which doesn't resolves the whole problem (food and energy crisis).

We should look for a better key factor, solving that means dealing with most of the critical aspects –direct and indirect- of the problem.

The approach to the problem from this point of view needs to detect an essential, common and known element to manage.

¹ Hawken, Lovins, Lovins, *Natural capitalism, creating the next industrial revolution*

² FAO conferences: Siena, October 2008, *Green energy, climate changing, water and food access*, Madrid January 2009, *Food Security for All*,

³ UN campaign *Millennium Development Goals*, one of the 8 goals is *End Hunger & Extreme Poverty*:

1.Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day.

2. Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

⁴ SUGRE European project promoting alternative fuels, BeST promoting Bioethanol in Transport

Reassured about the fact that many actors are paying much more attention to this natural element⁵, I believe that the way to follow for finding a solution to food and energy crisis, and improving society well being, is the respect of water in all its forms.

The management of water incorporates aspects related to all main environmental burdens. Studying the protection of the water cycle, many aspects connected to the main current world critical problems will be positively influenced. For instance, protection of different status of water pass through the conservation of glaciers, which thawing is strictly connected to climate changing. Ocean water respect means to safeguard marine vegetation, important for its oxygen contribution, and ocean water temperature, which influences the Gulf region climate condition. In the Amazonia forest, for example, climate changing and deforestation are dangerously increasing water scarcity and loss of fertile land and forest dimension.

Respect for water is also connected to its great force, that could be so dangerous, in case of inundation or tempests, but the same force is so useful for green, or even better, blue energy thanks to well know or new technology (hydroelectric or tides energy).

Locally, protection actions should be fitted in relation to the regions, needs and priority.

In richest countries water respect is synonymous of a higher quality of the environment, from fresh water to the safeguard of natural landscape.

In southern European mountains, for instance, reduction of glacier could cause water scarcity during summer for both human and agricultural purpose.

In poorest countries and where the water is scarce, water protection is related to a better management, elimination of loses and an appropriate way of use it, like the choice of suitable crop which needs less water, water conservation and treatments to make it drinkable.

Appropriate and widespread of knowledge about water importance and how to preserve this fundamental element could be a positive step towards an improvement of all human kind.

⁵ FAO conference: *Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change*; Water footprint indicator of water use as communication tool