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**Summary:**

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The autonomy of the producer of food has been invaded by irresistible forces of globalization which are not easy to grasp due to its unpredictability and high speed. The problem with globalization is that it is a hidden enemy; no one can point the finger on it. Globalization has undermined the importance of land; this has to be prevented by a reevaluation of the role of food in the life of millions of people. It's time to stop measuring well being with luxury cars or vacations in Dubai, when in fact around one billion people barely can feed their children.

**Essay:**

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Your question is very interesting since you assume that we have a good understanding of what is going on in the global economy and that we are well informed and are able to grasp the nature of the problem. Once we understand what is really going on, we surely can act in the proper way and can produce the necessary policies that will serve all. However, what can we do to increase our well being when in fact we are all enmeshed in a strange economic crisis which is mostly felt in two important sectors, that of food and energy. There is a diversity of explanations regarding the crisis, diversity is good and should be promoted, but what rests behind our different points of views is something I would like to call the incapacity to fully understand the forces that have come to shape our lives. I think that we have to change the way we make sense of the increasingly globalised era, and this strategy should be inclusive. It should incorporate the large number of citizens that are neither financial experts nor international bankers. We should be prepared to the globalization process that increasingly is shaping the way we live and produce. Food and energy crisis just happen under the umbrella of globalization, they cannot escape its influence.

Once, people relied on the community ties and farming as a source of well being, now, food producers have to predict the prices, the performance of economy, have to learn economics and

be able to draw supply and demand curves. Where is the freedom that the producer of food must enjoy? What are governments in the developing countries doing to motivate people to irrigate the land and what facilities or incentives are promoted? The producer is not only the one in the Netherlands who uses high-tech machines to increase production, but also the small producer in Africa who has to sacrifice a lot of hard working to crop the seeds and harvest them. How can small and medium scale producers compete with the companies that use sophisticated tools to boost production?

Surely, the well being of the wealthy classes is immune of food and energy crisis; instead the biggest share of burden has fallen in the shoulders of the low and middle income classes everywhere in the planet. The wealthy know how to minimize the negative repercussions of crisis and sustain well being. What about the rest of the citizens ?

Is it globalization to blame? Is it a huge beast that is outside the reach of our control? Or, is it a tool in the hands of the strong and educated to control the weak? The dispute still continues, but let me relate the uncertainty and ambiguity that globalization has caused to our wellbeing and to how we produce the means of our subsistence. I come from a region that relies mostly on agriculture and my country is claimed to be little globalized. For years, the well being of peoples was related to agriculture and there was a steady production of agricultural goods. It was not heaven but people were happy. Yet, as the economy of the country opens itself to globalization, small and medium scale producers are confronted with uncertainties that are related with fluctuating prices, the harsh competition from outside products, the unpredictable falls and sharp rises in oil prices, and consequently the lack of motivation to produce. In the end, the producer of food is face to face with the farmer dilemma. To crop or not to crop, that is the problem. In my country they favor a third alternative – immigration- leaving behind bizarre land. It is not a matter of protection of domestic food production, or subsidized oil for farmers, what lacks is the autonomy, security and motivation

of the producer. Globalization has surely been unfair with respect to food. Food has always symbolized wellbeing and love, because love stems from the stomach. But, look how far we have gone! Food industry is subject to harsh forces of competition. A global potato is surely a hot potato! The system is out of control. Am I being a dark horse? Yes, but, who is responsible as to why prices are so unstable and how does it happen that the price of such a valuable energy source as oil could cost two hundred dollars but it could also cost fifty dollars! Think about farmers in the developing countries which could barely afford to crop given stable prices, markets and costs; can they take the risk to produce given unstable energy prices? My view is not an attempt to attack globalization, but to control those mechanisms that make it a means of exploitation of the poor. In some senses it produces good results as the economies become more competitive and information becomes available to producers. But, on the other hand, we are face to face with abstract, intelligible forces that discourage hard working farmers to crop. Globalization is a means not an end in itself, so it should not destroy some vital domains of our well being, such as food. Food is sacred; food is the symbol of well being in most of the world, still. Some may disagree, but have a look at Africa`s cry for food. What may be sweeter than food for poor children in Africa?

To conclude, I want to stress the need to tame globalization, to make it eligible and concrete, to assign clear domains where it can operate. It starts with the creation of institutions or mechanisms that would reflect security and support for the producers. This has to start with a common, global movement that would mobilize us, as the people of the planet that share common interest and wish to take control of our own well being, for a better future.