

World : Against All Odds, Must Improve its Own Well-Being

The current global food and energy crisis has turned out as one of the major challenges facing the world today. Food and energy crisis has become so preponderant that human existence is even being threatened by day. As the problem becomes more intractable and burgeoning, the world must still find out a dint of survival and escape. Africa seems to be at the center stage of this crisis.

The world population is presently put at 6.6 billion people, with the United States constituting 1 billion, almost sixth of the world population. If it is agreed that the problem is global, it is pertinent then to realize the fact that some parts of the world are more affected than others. In several parts of Europe today, the crisis is minimal compared to what is obtainable in Africa. According to Energy Information Agency [EIA], oil, coal and gas supply 85 per cent of the world's energy supply in 2008. Coal, nuclear and hydro are used primarily to make electricity. Fossil fuel makes up over 85 per cent of the world's energy consumption with petroleum constituting 40 per cent, coal 24 per cent and natural gas slightly less than 23 per cent. As at present, the world consume over 88 million barrels of oil per day while it is expected that it will increase to over 100 million barrel per day in the years to come. With this overwhelming challenge the world must look for an alternative in science. With Saudi Arabia producing 12 million barrel per day by 2009, out of the ten largest oil fields in the world, only two are expected to increase production over the next ten decades, including the Tupis field off the coast of Brazil that requires massive amount of investment to bring it into full production. Presently, most of the major oil companies in the world, despite the gargantuan 60 billion USD capital spending, still find it difficult to increase production. According to Keith Kohl, the greatest decline in oil and gas of 4.5 per cent was experienced by Shell recently. EIA therefore projected that 20 trillion USD needs to be invested over the next 25 years to meet the world's energy demand and to offset reserves of the major oil fields. There is therefore need for the world to opt for a new form of energy devoid of fuel.

According to American Red Cross, close to 30 million people, as at 2006, face hunger and death by starvation in Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa - the societies experienced a prolonged drought and drainage - the situation which resulted in serious dearth of food. This agricultural disaster is also affecting more than 14.6 million people in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. With these gory pictures, one needs not doubt the truism that Africa is really underdeveloped and not developing. Despite all these, there is hope for the world to make food and energy crisis unsustainable. This can only be achieved if there is a sincere commitment from the people of the world, the leaders and organizations. Food should be seen all over the world as the first priority, and a fundamental human right thus making food scarcity

history in the world. The third world needs Special Food Security Plan [SFPC] to forestall the looming recrudescence of famine in its societies through the massive provision of insecticides; also, since food is natural with man, all the citizens of the world of whatever status, excluding the children, could curtail the present food crisis plaguing the universe with little effort – everyone must have a farm each, in the next one year, an average of 4 billion farms would have been in existence, thus providing more than enough for the world's consumption.

The myriads of problems confronting the world in terms of food scarcity can easily be tamed if there is an encouragement on the part of government to make loans available with low interest rates to poor farmers. In Africa, 80 per cent of the population engage in subsistence farming rather than mechanized farming as being practiced in the western world. With this, it is expected that the output may not be commensurate with the population growth as being experienced in the continent today. But the paradox of food crisis even in the United States is that despite the high level of production, the nation's poor are usually still uncertain as to where the next meals come from; this is socio - economically paradoxical taken into critical consideration the status stand of the United States in the world socially, morally, politically and economically.

The only condition therefore available to the world to sustain the present global development is an extra effort toward looking for other sources of energy generation, apart from waste, preferably, sun; and for every individual becoming a farmer.

SUMMARY

The world's population is now put at 6.6 billion. Africa is most affected in food and energy crisis. For the world's societies to survive the challenge, there is need for radical commitment on the part of the world political leaders to consider food as a right and basic to human existence. Since the capital requirement to sustain oil as one of the major means to energy is becoming unbearable, there should therefore be other natural dints of generating electricity, aside waste that could cause another problem, the sun and other natural mean should be considered for human development and survival.