

## **Faced with a food and energy crisis, how can society improve its well-being? (Essay)**

The outlooks of the future indubitably grow gloomier with every day passing. The two main problems which brook no delay in their solving are the food crisis and the energy one. The constantly increasing population of the Earth is putting a great strain on the exploited resources thus depleting them too fast. In this essay I shall propose ways for coping with both of these causes for worries and anxiety.

Firstly, I shall turn my attention towards the food crisis. Obviously there is plenty of land which cannot be used for growing plants or breeding cattle due to climatic factors, insufficient water supply, inappropriate relief, etc. Therefore, the food supply is restricted because of natural factors. On the other hand, at least in my opinion, food prices are rising all the time which in itself means that many people are incapable of guaranteeing a wholesome diet to their families and to themselves, not to mention that there are people so poor that they are forced into starving by their circumstances. What can be done to meliorate the situation? To my way of thinking, the only solution is an all-government policy for complete utilization of the land resources. This means that there will be no single piece of land (capable of producing vegetation, of course) in any country in the world left uncultivated. Thus the crops-planted areas will increase and this will undoubtedly lead to more food being produced. In Bulgaria, for instance, there are vast expanses of land not being utilized due to people's unwillingness to take up farming; too many heirs of small pieces of land, who are not interested in using them in any way, considering their land unprofitable; insufficient governmental support for farmers (inspiring a lot of strikes recently). Governmental subsidies for farmers willing to form cooperative farms – uniting their lands to form a bigger piece of land, which enables mechanization of the labor, large-scale fertilization, etc. – will certainly bring about a change in the attitude towards the land. Besides the foods produced by farmers should have prices defined by the government so that speculations and corruption will be minimized. Another thing to be considered are the crops themselves. More money should be invested in researches on heightening the productivity of crops. Besides, irrigation should be made more effective. An example that springs to mind is a Japanese irrigation system which releases drops of water near the stem of the plant which means that no water is lost and all the plants are watered. Crop rotation should not be neglected either. Should all the governments in the world apply these simple measures, I think the food crisis will be virtually non-existent.

Secondly, the energy crisis can be solved by switching to renewable energy resources. The solar energy being available almost everywhere in the world this makes it one of the most preferable sources of energy of this kind. Solar panels convert solar energy into electricity and it is later used for the needs of the society. Such panels should be installed on the roofs of buildings because thus they will not occupy any land area which can be used either for building or for raising crops. Besides, this will lead to better conditions of the roofs themselves for the panels will be something like protection. Other energy sources are the windmills which are generally built away from populated areas due to their being too noisy, the energy of running water obtained in the hydro-electric power stations and the nuclear energy. All of the aforementioned energy sources produce clean energy, that is to say energy which is obtained without causing any detriment to the environment and whose initial resources cannot be exhausted (save for the last type). By introducing these new ways of energy production on a large scale the energy crisis will be out of the question as well.

Lastly, I would like to lay the stress on the agent to do all these changes. This should be an assembled body of all the heads of government from all the countries in the world. Where projects for solving these problems as proposed are hampered by national boundaries

this assembly will have to think on a global and international level for as long as there is no menace for the national safety boundaries have only a marking or defining role. For example, should neighboring farmers from different countries be willing to collaborate, borders should not impede them. With more food available and sufficient energy produced (both at lower prices presumably) people's well-being is certainly going to become ubiquitous. In order to achieve this, however, everyone should start thinking about the common good and not only about their own welfare. This is the key to success - cooperation.

To conclude with, I would like to say that should these measures be adopted, I strongly believe that in future people's well-being all over the world will reach dimensions we have not yet witnessed.