

# REDUCE HUNGER

## Pope Francis' Call for New Approaches

FONDAZIONE CENTESIMUS ANNUS - PRO PONTIFICE

*hosted by*  
CAPP-USA & FORDHAM UNIVERSITY



*This report summarizes the discussions and conclusions reached during the  
Fondazione Centesimus Annus - Pro Pontifice on September 2018.*

*It aims to fulfill the intention of the conference to move beyond where we find  
ourselves today. We see the good that has been accomplished but the focus of the  
conference pushed beyond that to address the continuing issues of hunger, especially  
undernourishment and vitamin-deficiency that affect millions across the globe.*



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# Introduction

*In September 2018, the Centesimus Annus - Pro Pontifice foundation (FCAPP), in collaboration with the International Political Economy and Development (IPEd) Program at Fordham University, brought together Church prelates, international specialists, business professionals, academics, practitioners and scholars to analyze global food security challenges and to propose new approaches to reducing the number of those going hungry. The conference was informed by the wisdom of the social teaching of the Church and conducted in the spirit of FCAPP's initiatives to study and spread the knowledge and application of Catholic social doctrine in today's society.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"Reduce Hunger". In those two words we see both a right and a responsibility. It starts with the right to food for human flourishing. Hunger is a direct affront to that right.

And looking at statistics of the falling number of people living in extreme poverty and the decline in global hunger and food insecurity we find that much progress has been made -- there is much to celebrate.

But obstacles and challenges remain: hunger, especially undernourishment and vitamin-deficiency, continue to affect millions across the globe. While caloric intake has risen dramatically, far greater advances are needed in access to vitamins and minerals to meet nutritional needs. It is not enough to settle for the advances made as the need remains great. We must not grow complacent!

Meeting the global food security challenges of the 21st century will require collaboration and innovation. Attention must be given to the four pillars of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability.

Climate change, conflict and poverty traps present obstacles to food access and availability. Innovations, like

The conference focused on this key goal identified by Pope Francis and focused on the fact that:

*"The initiatives being implemented...are not enough" and, "it is urgent...to confront hunger and structural poverty in a more effective and promising way".*

Specifically, the gathering was challenged to identify:

***"[C]oncrete actions" to "reduce the number of those going hungry"***

GMOs and mobile technology, can harness the power of science and create a multiplier effect in their impact while social protection, safety nets for the poorest and most vulnerable and peace-keeping efforts will continue to be needed to create stable systems that reduce hunger.

Our approaches need to target systems and structures, and we need to look to successful programs at the national level (like the US' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and those of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for examples of how to do it right.



***Jesus taught his disciples to pray by asking the Heavenly Father not for 'my' but for 'our' daily bread. Thus, he desired every person to feel co-responsible for his brothers so that no one would want for what he needs in order to live. The earth's produce forms a gift which God has destined for the entire human family."***



# The Call

*"It is urgent to continue to initiate efforts and to finance programmes to confront hunger and structural poverty in a more effective and promising way." POPE FRANCIS*

Inspired by this call, participants in the conference advanced this project through their presentations and dialogue.

The problem of hunger continues to be a fundamental concern in the world today. There has been good news (based in part on the efforts of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)), as we have witnessed a measurable downturn of people going hungry since the year 2000. Similarly, between 1991-2017 there has been a decline in the gross number of people undernourished (Barrett). However, the 2017 report on food insecurity prepared by U.N. agencies illustrates the daunting challenge that remains to achieve the goal of ending hunger by 2030. Achieving this goal would require bringing an average of roughly 200,000 people out of hunger per day (Auza) and research from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) shows that 85 million people joined the global total of those suffering from chronic hunger, which is now estimated at 815 million. Likewise, there are high and growing levels of undernutrition: 1.6 billion people suffer iron or B12 deficiency anemia; 33% of pre-school age children are at risk of vitamin A deficiency; there is a 40-70% of prevalence of zinc deficiency in low-income areas of Africa and Asia (FAO et al. 2017; WHO 2008, 2009). In 2017, 151 million children under age 5 suffered from stunting (low height for their age), 51 million suffered from wasting (low weight for height), and 38 million were overweight (Report of the Secretary-General, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018). Great advances have been made, but enormous challenges remain.

Today's challenges are increasingly complex. The old approach to attacking global hunger was to increase global caloric intake through the mass production and distribution of cheap grains. Today's challenges call us to dimensions that have been overlooked, especially addressing issues of

undernourishment and vitamin deficiencies.

Twenty years ago, 500 million people lived in absolute poverty, with a quarter of those living in Africa. Today, only 50 million live in absolute poverty, but the quantity in Africa has actually grown, showing the spatial concentration of poverty and hunger (Barrett). Complex humanitarian emergencies, like famines or near-famines, arising from a combination of conflict, poverty, and natural disasters lead to increasingly challenging conditions. The changing physical world, including the effects of climate change, soil nutrient constraints, and the expanding range of pests and pathogens (Barrett) complicates this reality. Thus, the United Nations adopted Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 which expands the MDGs to 17 goals with 169 targets with the second goal being to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote agricultural reform. Achieving this by 2030 is extremely ambitious and will require new approaches and innovations, along with the collaboration of many actors on the local, national, and global level.

Despite the challenges, the objective is clear. December 10, 2018 was the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 25 stipulates the universal right to food: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food." There are at least 815 million people today who are denied that right and likely many more who are undernourished and vitamin deficient. For real progress to be made and for ambitious goals to be achieved, creative responses and new approaches will be essential. Aware of this global reality, Pope Francis adds his call, which we, as faithful of the Church, must hear and respond to.

# 1 POPE FRANCIS' PERSPECTIVE ON FOOD INSECURITY

*Calling For New Approaches*

The story of Genesis speaks of the abundance of creation that provides all that we need. It speaks to the reality that the earth itself can provide. Yet in our world today, millions are suffering from chronic hunger, which should not be possible with the abundance of nature. The cause of global hunger must be elsewhere. If it is not the earth itself failing to provide, the cause lies in the manmade production and distribution of these abundant resources. Two thirds of developing countries produce enough food yet the ability to purchase within those countries (whether due to distribution or 'cash' availability) is unequal and leaves millions without sufficient access (Auza). A variety of natural and manmade phenomena thus shape the production and distribution inefficiencies and inequalities that result in our current situation of global hunger.

## **POPE FRANCIS IDENTIFIES TEN PRIMARY CAUSES THAT DRIVE CHRONIC HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY:**

### **1. Conflict and wars.**

From 2005 to 2015, there was a rise in open conflicts from 13 to 39, along with another 13 others close to breaking out. Between 41 and 43 million people are affected by conflict today, and those who suffer most are typically minorities (religious, ethnic or otherwise) who are driven out, oppressed, and often face famine and situations of acute food insecurity (Auza).

### **2. Environmental catastrophes and climate change heighten vulnerabilities.**

These catastrophes include floods, droughts, and advancing deserts (Auza).

### **3. A culture of waste or "throw-away" culture that uses and discards things and people.**

"Let us remember well, however, that whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the

poor, from the hungry!" This should cause us to reflect on our current practices and how they may exacerbate the problems of global hunger.

### **4. Corruption.**

Too often aid never gets to its recipients. Instead ends up in the pockets of those charged with its distribution. While more prevalent in the public sector, the private sector is not free from corruption either. There are mixed feelings in general with the governance of development aid, which, even when it is not managed corruptly, can result in gross inefficiencies with significant expenditures along the chain resulting in comparatively little aid reaching the intended projects (Auza).

### **5. Consumerism and utilitarianism which lead people to selfishness.**

Our current system creates needs that are unnecessary for life and human flourishing and these artificial needs require more resources to fulfill them (Auza). We must consider: What basic resources of life are denied to those who fundamentally need them so that artificial needs can be met elsewhere?

### **6. Reduction of agricultural production by subsidies can exacerbate the issue.**

While this approach has worthwhile motivations and results, it can overlook the reality of millions lacking food to eat. This illustrates the logistical problems in food distribution: we should have ways to get that food to those in acute need rather than paying farmers not to produce it (Auza).





## **7. Commodification of food.**

While, generally, commodification has always occurred and, in the main, leads to better outcomes than if some other pricing mechanism were used, we should always be on the lookout for local aberrations. In the meantime, while food aid continues it does not adequately respond to global needs, as evidenced by the hundreds of millions suffering from hunger (Auza).

## **8. Structures of poverty and exclusion cause systemic injustice and inequality.**

Poverty, injustice and hunger are closely tied together. Those who are excluded from the economic system or marginalized through the structures of society are the ones who go hungry (Auza).

## **9. Land grabbing.**

To the extent land is removed from farming (for whatever reason) the impact on small-farmers and overall food availability must be evaluated and, when necessary, ameliorated. (Auza).

## **10. Underdevelopment,**

which is a generally agreed upon blanket cause of food insecurity, malnutrition and famine. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of those suffering from chronic hunger live in underdeveloped countries (Auza).

## **IN LIGHT OF THESE CAUSES, POPE FRANCIS PROVIDES US WITH A SERIES OF PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR APPROACH TO FOOD INSECURITY:**

**1. We must acknowledge that this is a scandal in our world today: there is an abundance of food yet so many people go hungry (Auza).**

As the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights identified, human

beings have a right to food and necessary nutrition. Any right such as this corresponds to responsibilities. Thus, the right to have enough to eat imposes the obligation on others, including ourselves, to ensure that everyone does have enough food (Auza).

## **2. When trying to fulfill this obligation to eliminate hunger, we should not eliminate the hungry.**

That is to say, there is a temptation to advocate for population control as a means of solving problems of global poverty and hunger. This approach diminishes the guests at the table rather than multiplying and adjusting the ways the bread gets passed around the table. Pushing for population control, including abortion, becomes an ideological colonization that does not adequately embrace the human dignity of those who suffer from chronic hunger (Auza).

## **3. Pope Francis observes that the current crisis needs more than a “technological” solution: it requires a moral and integral one.**

Technology has helped in food production but we must ensure the technological lens does not miss the object of our concern: the human person. Technological progress unaccompanied by moral reflection on human dignity and integral development – the “end” of progress – may end up, ultimately, not helping but, rather, hurting the human person (Auza).

## **4. A longer view is also needed: we cannot just be focused on emergency humanitarian aid in times of crisis.**

Governments need to develop long-term plans to prevent hunger in their respective countries, and we too are called to contribute to that plan and enter into debates of how those plans should be organized and who should participate (Auza).

## **5. Leadership cannot be expected only from governments.**

The private sector also needs to partner and collaborate. Countries that produce the most food often have the largest influence from the private sector, whereas countries that have production in the hands of the public sector often have more inadequate distribution (Auza).



***The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone” - Pope Francis***

The response to the problem of hunger requires conversion: conversion of individuals, communities, political groups, those who work the land and seas (Auza). As Pope Francis writes, “The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone”. Conversion calls for changes in our lifestyle to live healthier, while using less resources and producing less waste, in a way that benefits our own lives and the environment. Such conversion should be oriented toward love, for it is love that changes our behaviors (Auza). We cannot resign ourselves to saying that someone else will address hunger, whether that is another country, another government, or the United Nations. Pope Francis calls us all to take responsibility, change our habits and practices, and become agents for responsibly acting to help end hunger. Our own actions can extend to our families, which is the most fundamental unit of society. The family, after all, is the primary educator of children and the first safety net when someone is hungry. The family should be a central focus of our approaches to address such issues (Auza).

These various principles of Pope Francis are not an exhaustive list, nor an explicit guideline to finding solutions, but rather they present a mindset that needs to frame our new approaches and creative ideas for reducing hunger.

## 2

### **MEETING THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

*Availability, Access, Utilization, Stability*

Food security is essential to human flourishing. Successes in food distribution and production during the 1940s-1980s enabled dramatic poverty reduction and improved standards of living. Public and private agricultural research and development and policy reforms led

productivity growth to outpace demand growth. Increased land and water efficiency use and steadily lowering real food prices contributed to lifting hundreds of millions from poverty and hunger. Vast supply expansion helped lower prices to make food more affordable and accessible (Barret).

But, these dramatic successes induced a dangerous complacency, which led to underinvestment in agricultural research and development in the 1990s and 2000s. Food supply slowed relative to demand growth, which brought higher food prices. Despite real gains over the decades, our complacency kept people locked in unsustainable situations on the brink of disaster should a crisis strike. Today’s poor are often left spending 75-80% of their budgets to feed their families (Barrett). This proportion remains dangerously high and leaves families in situations of acute food insecurity.

New responses to increasing investments in research and development are following old patterns and need updating. Attention needs to be given to all four pillars of food security (Availability; Access; Utilization, and; Stability) so that they will shape our policies and approaches to reducing hunger.

Since the 1940s focus has been concentrated on these pillars but, too often, the focus has remained on just one at a time. And, as the global community has learned, when we focus on just one pillar, we do so at our own peril. Each of the four pillars is essential (Barrett). Let us consider the importance of each, in turn, along with advances made and current threats that need to be addressed.

### *Availability*

At the most basic level, to achieve food security, food must be available in sufficient quantities. This is a supply-side, necessary condition and requires us to consider production flows and carryover stocks available from production, trade, or aid. At the global level, we have seen great progress in raising calorie availability. Over the past 50-60 years, all regions of the world have shown a rise in calorie availability, and every region has exited the

danger zone of minimum dietary energy requirements. Distribution and waste problems remain, but the calories are available (Barrett).

Regarding protein, there is likewise no longer an issue in availability, as every region has now exited the danger zone of daily protein requirements. The issues that remain with protein result from its production. Tremendous resources are consumed in the process of producing protein, like the amount of grains and water spent on raising cattle. When we think about protein availability, we have to consider how we produce it and the costs of spending other valuable resources in its production (Barrett).

The most significant challenge for availability today is the supply of vitamins and mineral-rich foods, which has not increased fast enough for dietary transition. The relative price of more nutritious foods increases faster than less nutritious foods. Additionally, the loss and waste rates of vegetables are 50% higher than grains due to perishability and vitamin loss (Barrett).

Looking forward, human population and income growth will continue to increase food demand while the limits on input expansion remain or grow. (The quantity of arable land is essentially fixed - assuming no major, and ecologically risky, conversion of forest, wetlands or drylands). At the same time, there is already increasing competition for land from urban expansion and protected areas, plus problems with social nutrient depletion in some arable areas. Agriculture accounts for roughly 70% of human water use, and climate change will likely aggravate water shortages in critical regions, especially in the tropics where there is the fastest demand growth (Barrett). The limited availability of arable land and the increasing threat of water shortages indicate that we must rely mainly on technological advances to boost agricultural productivity going forward.

Technological advance requires investment, and governments and philanthropies are essential, but insufficient. The private sector will need to play a significant role. Agricultural heterogeneity creates site specificity (what works in one region will not work in another), so catch-all



solutions are rarely effective. Innovation is most needed in Africa and Asia, where demand growth is occurring, but agricultural research and development capacities are the most limited in those regions (Barrett). These gaps in funding in regions of the highest need have to be met in order to confront the ongoing challenges of food, vitamin, and mineral availability.

### *Access*

“Starvation is the characteristic of some people not having enough food to eat. It is not the characteristic of there being not enough food to eat”. How does the food we have get to the people who need it? People need to be able to regularly acquire adequate quantities of food.

Access is a demand-side necessary condition that considers purchasing power, home production, and safety nets. While population has grown enormously since 1950, the number of people in extreme poverty has fallen (Barrett). This is a sign of hope for food security, since poverty is the key driver of food insecurity and undernutrition. However, while we increasingly have enough food, periodic shocks can create moments of crisis. Thus, safety nets are important for emergency situations, and the growth of safety nets, especially in cash and in-kind transfer programs, have dramatically expanded access for the poor. But while safety nets are in place, they are not always properly funded or organized, which leaves room for focused improvements (Barrett).

Another concern are poverty traps, which arise when self-reinforcing feedback from poor initial conditions leads to suboptimal behaviors that perpetuate poverty. For example, malnutrition in an adult can cause him or her to

work less, thus contributing to lower income levels, which itself leads to further malnutrition. While global poverty rates have fallen, countries concentrated in remote and dangerous places continue to get caught in these poverty traps. To break out of these traps, the poor need increased access to new technologies, finance, markets (especially labor markets), safety nets, and early childhood health, nutrition and education. Policies and practices need to empower the poor to invest human (and other) capital and thereby realize their full potential and flourish (Barrett). Addressing poverty traps is critical to solving access issues to food and nutrients in food insecure regions.

### *Utilization*

Is the available and accessible food having a positive impact on diet, health and nutrition? Consumed food should obviously have a positive nutritional impact. Thus, calorie growth alone is insufficient and needs to correspond to adequate access to vitamins and minerals. The concept of utilization is concerned with methods of cooking, storage and hygiene practices, water and sanitation, nutrient composition and disease status. These concerns are often very locally based, since food consumption itself is highly local: 75-80% of food is consumed within the country where it is grown (Barrett). Thus, food system performance improvements must occur in countries of Africa and Asia, where most demand growth will occur this century.

Food safety is another concern, as it is also not always well regulated and handled, especially in regard to fresh fruits and vegetables. Improvements in food quality and food safety are needed not just for the expansion of food production, but also to address changing human dietary needs and demands (Barrett).

The old approach of increasing access and availability to calories is not enough; utilization pushes our attention to the types of food consumed, including the increased need for access to vitamins and minerals, while also focusing more broadly on food quality and food safety along the entire food processing chain from production to consumption.

### *Stability*

What happens when the system suffers a shock? Stability demands resilience: maintaining access and utilization to food over time, through lean seasons, natural disasters, price spikes, etc. Here, trade flows in food play a significant role: when one region suffers a shock, it needs to be balanced by production elsewhere.

While trade wars disrupt this balanced system (Barrett), stability is most challenged by conflict. Over the past twenty years, conflict-affected countries' share of stunted children grew from 46% to 79% (FAO et al. 2017). At the same time, climate change and conflict have significant interplay, often engaging in a vicious, self-perpetuating cycle, as evidenced by the strong relationship between droughts and conflicts. Thus when we address stability concerns, peace-keeping plays a crucial role in reducing hunger in conflict regions (Barrett). This needs to be combined with efforts to maintain health trade flow, while also addressing the prevention of shocks to begin with, such as global efforts to confront climate change.

*“The findings of science must be put to use in order to ensure a high productivity of land in such a way that the local population can secure food and sustenance without destroying nature” - Pope St. John Paul II*

In summation, meeting the global food security challenges of the 21st century requires attention to accessibility, access, utilization and stability. More investment is needed in growing the supply of vitamins and minerals from vegetables, fruits, and animal source foods. We need to focus on accelerating adaptation to climate change, issues of water scarcity, and improving the soil nutrient cycle. Greater attention should also be given to food value chain enhancements, like adding nutrients to food staples. An increased focus should be placed on social protection and safety nets for the poorest, along with

methods to break up poverty traps. Better forms of monitoring and measurement will aid efforts to improve the management and evaluation of projects. Peace-keeping and other complementary efforts to reduce conflict also must be given central importance (Barrett).

The combination of these efforts, through creative new approaches and collaboration from actors at various levels, is needed to confront the global issue of hunger.

### 3 NEW APPROACHES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF THOSE GOING HUNGRY

Entirely new approaches are not always necessary: many innovative approaches exist today, but are hampered by misguided resistance. “The findings of science must be put to use in order to ensure a high productivity of land in such a way that the local population can secure food and sustenance without destroying nature”.

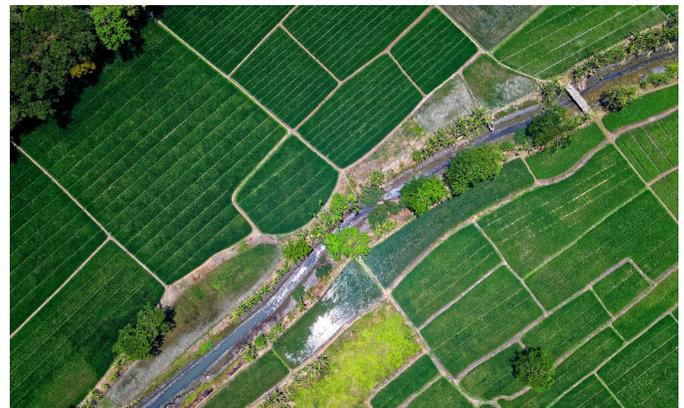
A prime example of this is with **genetically modified organisms (GMOs)**. On the ground studies illustrate how GMOs can lead to a greater yield, less loss, less pesticide use, along with less money and effort spent in the growing process (Davidson Evanega). Despite these results, anti-progress groups, who come primarily from high-income countries, pose a serious obstacle to widespread growth of the use of GMOs. One argument they make is that the use of GMOs would create market volatility. Yet we have already had markets injected with GMO products in the United States, for example, and have not encountered serious price changes attributable to this, which indicates that such market volatility is unlikely (Barrett). This misguided resistance to GMOs overlooks the urgency for the use of this technology, especially given the impact of climate change that is felt intimately by farmers around the world (Davidson Evanega). There are many striking examples of the impact of GMOs, like water-efficient maize and pest-resistant crops, and even more innovations are in the development pipeline.

#### The primary benefits of increased use of GMOs include:

1. Reduces the negative footprint on the environment;
2. Increasing yields and reducing expenses, thereby contributing to raising income for those in extreme poverty;
3. Providing a method for packing more nutrients into food through bio-fortification, which contributes to improved nutrition (Davidson Evanega);
4. Reducing volatility of food prices (Gundersen);
5. Lowering food prices (Gundersen), and;
6. They incorporate new, productive traits to the food supply (Gundersen).

The impact of these benefits extends to families as well, allowing, for example, access to education for children to help break the cycle of poverty. The impact naturally extends from families throughout the whole community, as yields increase, incomes rise, and the community develops. Given widespread scientific research in regard to both the benefits and the overall safety of genetically modified crops, we need to promote this evidence in defense of GMOs to dispel misguided activism that limits expanded use and to help farmers have accurate information and increased access (Davidson Evanega).

*“Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity.”*  
- Pope Francis



Developing new approaches to address issues as broad in scope and scale as global hunger or climate change requires **an integrated approach**. We cannot separate the issue of hunger from climate change, which directly impacts food production and distribution, especially in the most vulnerable parts of the world. The realities of climate change are impossible to ignore by anyone who lives by growing food, because they see the effects in crop yield, rainy seasons (in terms of timing and quantity), floods, droughts, and more severe hurricanes. “Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity”. We need integrated approaches that combat climate change and promote proper care of the environment while also contributing to reduce hunger.

Integrated projects targeting global issues like climate change and hunger require widespread collaboration and a broad vision. Merely incremental project outcomes have proven to be insufficient - often implementing a series of discrete projects with narrow outcomes having a limited, often temporary, impact.

Concern must also be given to the systemic errors and barriers that prevent growth and development. New approaches need to be systems-wide with set targets for achieving living income, sustainable landscapes, and resilient communities (O’Keefe).



Catholic Relief Services has developed integrated approaches, like its “Pathway to Prosperity,” which focuses on the most vulnerable at all three layers of its model. The first layer is “recovery mode,” for communities in crisis with land issues, conflicts, or emergency situations. The second layer is “build mode,” for communities that have skills and resources and want to build their assets and influence. The last layer is “grow mode,” when communities are trying to gain access to new markets to spur growth in production and raise income (O’Keefe).

At the systemic level, the existing global food system is not completely broken or in need of wholesale replacement. Issues of poverty and injustice which cause the current crisis of hunger and malnutrition should not be confused with problems in the food system as is (O’Keefe). The diverse availability of food from around the world in cities across the United States gives evidence that the system is functioning (Gundersen). Nonetheless, elements of the global system, from intellectual property rights impeding application of new technologies to the cost of regulatory hurdles (Gundersen), could be improved.

Greater attention also needs to be given to environmental externalities, especially given the connections between climate change and hunger issues. And, agriculture itself is a huge emitter of carbon, and carbon taxes here could induce innovation by stimulating “true” pricing by accounting for these externalities (Barrett). These and other reforms can help to mold the global food system in ways to further contribute to addressing issues of hunger.

Catholic Relief Services provides **a few examples of successful programs** that have employed a variety of elements that benefit integrated approaches, including multi-sector collaboration, leveraging use of technology, and impact investing. For example, CRS’s Wellness and Agriculture for Life project in Malawi looked at the farming system as a whole, collaborated with various partners, and resulted in significant improvements in soil health (O’Keefe). CRS’s Soya ni Pesa project in Tanzania uses mobile banking and digital technology through private sector providers, which is more efficient and creates less waste. The project

built sustainable tech support without depending on the local government and is an example of using technology to empower people in a community to create change (O'Keefe).

Building alliances, connecting public and private actors, harnessing mobile technology, and injecting capital through impact investment are all systems-oriented approaches that can make a dramatic impact on entire communities and countries.

Evaluating the SNAP in the United States, we can extrapolate key elements that contribute to well-designed and successful programs. At the most basic level, programs need to reach those most in need, and a helpful way to do so is to utilize eligibility criterion that are realistic to the needs of the population and non-penalizing. Benefit levels for a successful project need to offer a real impact on those who participate or enroll in a program, which encourages participation and drives success.

Programs need effective mechanisms to limit opportunities for corruption, which exacerbates issues of poverty and hunger, as Pope Francis has identified. Underfunded programs will always struggle to meet their objectives. Ultimately, the best programs will ensure the fundamental dignity and autonomy of recipients (Gundersen).

Going beyond discrete projects towards systems-based change, we can look at successful national programs that have contributed to reducing hunger. The Green Revolution in India and production improvements in China are the biggest cases of growth in agriculture that resulted in a remarkable reduction of food insecurity, cutting hunger in half (Gustafson).

In Brazil the government made reducing hunger a central platform and adopted corollary policies which helped to approach it from a wide-reaching systemic level, including cash transfers to get kids into school and vaccination campaigns to promote good health. Brazil's national program was all built around pro-poor, hunger eradication with strong engagement with civil society (Gustafson).

Bangladesh and Nepal used to be the South Asian enigma: countries with high levels of growth but low indicators of poverty. But new policies focusing on women's empowerment, breast feeding, laws banning open defecation, along with increasing remittances helping the economy have all combined to achieve remarkably fast progress (Gustafson).

Other examples can be found in Vietnam, Ethiopia, Mexico, Peru and India. Successful national programs like these offer old lessons that need to be learned and re-integrated. We should be implementing programs that are proven to be successful. In many cases, such programs just have not been put into place, or they are not being properly implemented.



***Building alliances, connecting public and private actors, harnessing mobile technology, and injecting capital through impact investment are all systems-oriented approaches that can make a dramatic impact on entire communities and countries."***

A few other principles from national programs are helpful to keep in mind as new approaches are developed: First, the rural poor are a good investment, and we have to keep pastoral communities and cultures alive. Second, humanitarian aid and development are all part of the same thing; they are not sequential. Well-designed, integrated programs will tackle humanitarian issues like hunger in conjunction with (and not before or after) addressing development issues related to poverty or climate change. Lastly, investment from the private sector needs to get to the right place. Large amounts of capital are out there and available, but too often do not end up in the places where the need is greatest (Gustafson).

CRS, SNAP, and national programs offer examples that give us guidance on the effective ways to develop new approaches that can successfully reduce hunger, while keeping in mind that approaches need to be integrated and systemically-oriented.

# In Memoriam



*Rev. Richard Ryscavage, S.J., PhD -- d. 26 April 2019*

Father Ryscavage was one of CAPP-USA's founding Ecclesiastical Counselors (in 2003) and remained a good friend and guide to CAPP. He also taught regularly at Fordham University's International Diploma Program in Humanitarian Assistance. Father was an internationally recognized authority on migration. Though soft-spoken in demeanor, he carried a strong, authoritative voice, especially on the subject of migration.

Most recently, Fr. Ryscavage was an Affiliated Scholar at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Institute for the Study of International Migration. Previously, he was Professor of Sociology and the International Studies Director at Fairfield University as well as Director of their Center for Faith and Public Life.

Father served as National Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, a non-governmental organization operating in 50 countries. He set up the first program to provide religious coordinators for the immigration detention facilities of the US Department of Homeland Security. He chaired the humanitarian section of InterAction, the largest coalition of American agencies working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation and ensure dignity for all people.

For several years he was selected to represent US non-governmental organizations on official US government delegations to the United Nations. He also testified before the US Congress and provided 'private counsel' to various members.

In 2006 Fr. Ryscavage was appointed official advisor to the delegation of the Holy See to the United Nations 61st General Assembly where he participated in the "High Level Dialogue on Migration" convened by the UN Secretary General.

Fr. Ryscavage was also Executive Director of Migration and Refugee Services for the US Catholic bishops where he ran the largest refugee resettlement agency in the US. He was also President of a legal services corporation set up by the bishops to help new immigrants with legal issues.

From 1994-97 Fr. Ryscavage was a tutor and researcher at the Refugee Studies Centre of Oxford University. He represented Oxford at numerous human rights and refugee meetings. At Oxford he convened a major international conference on "Military and Non-Governmental Humanitarian Organizations".

He received his PhD in International Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Father Ryscavage also received an honorary doctorate from Assumption College and Masters degrees in Political Philosophy from Boston College and International Administration from the School for International Training. He was a member of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus.

Fr. Rick made a tremendous impact and will be greatly missed. Please remember him in your prayers.

Requiescat in Pace

# Speakers

***The Most Reverend Archbishop Bernardito Auza***

Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

***Prof. Christopher Barrett***

Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley

Professor of Applied Economics and Management,  
International Professor of Agriculture, Cornell University

***Prof. Kelly Davidson***

Respondent; Assistant Professor of Applied Economics and  
Statistics, University of Delaware

***Dr. Sarah Davidson Exanega***

Director, Cornell Alliance for Science, College of  
Agricultural and Life Sciences, Cornell University

***Dr. Frederick Fakharzadeh***

President, CAPP-USA

***The Most Reverend Archbishop Richard Gallagher***

Secretary for Relations with States;  
Head of the Holy See's Delegation to the  
Opening of the U.N. General Assembly

***Prof. Craig Gundersen***

Soybean Industry Endowed Professor in  
Agricultural Strategy, University of Illinois

***Dr. Daniel Gustafson***

Deputy Director-General (Programmes),  
U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization

***Mr. Bill O'Keefe***

Vice President, Government Relations and Advocacy,  
Catholic Relief Services

***Rev. Richard Ryscavage, S.J.***

Panel Moderator; Affiliated Scholar in the School of Foreign  
Service, Institute for the Study of International Migration,  
Georgetown University

***Prof. Andrew Simons***

Respondent; Associate Professor of Economics,  
Fordham University

***Mr. Brian Strassburger, S.J.***

Rapporteur; Masters of Divinity Student,  
Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

***Prof. Henry Schwalbenberg***

Director, International Political Economy  
and Development Program, Fordham University

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*It is urgent to continue to initiate efforts and to finance programmes to confront hunger and structural poverty in a more effective and promising way.”*

*- Pope Francis*



*This report summarizes the discussions and conclusions reached during the Fondazione Centesimus Annus - Pro Pontifice on September.*

*It aims to fulfill the intention of the conference to move beyond where we find ourselves today.*

*We see the good that has been accomplished but the focus of the conference pushed beyond that to address the continuing issues of hunger, especially undernourishment and vitamin-deficiency that affect millions across the globe.*

