# SDG2 Food Security due to the Political Conflict

- Issues and Challenges in the Republic of Korea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food for all</td>
<td>2.2 End all forms of malnutrition</td>
<td>2.3 Double smallholder food production and income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Deliver sustainable, resilient food systems</td>
<td>2.5 Maintain agrobiodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.a Increase investment in rural infrastructure and services</td>
<td>2.1.b Correct and prevent world agricultural trade distortions</td>
<td>2.1.c Ensure proper functioning of food commodity markets</td>
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</table>
Global food security has been affected by the challenges such as climate change, war and conflict for a few decades, and recently worsened by the COVID-19

Global food system reportedly failed to respond to them, resulting in the vicious cycle of food insecurity which has been repeating, continuing and expanding

Unexpected change in main food production and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine affect grain production of both countries that have been producers and exporters of wheat and maize to the rest of the world. Food importing countries face soaring of the food price. However, there is no problem with a global food supply at the present moment.

'Sustainable food security' is meant to be a just food system that guarantees food accessibility to all and preserve ecosystem with biodiversity.
Background and Current Status (price)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Item</th>
<th>(2021. 7.) Price Index</th>
<th>(2022. 7.) Price Index</th>
<th>increase rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Food Price</td>
<td>124.6</td>
<td>140.9</td>
<td>△16.4(13.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal Price</td>
<td>126.3</td>
<td>147.3</td>
<td>△20.0(16.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetables oils</td>
<td>155.5</td>
<td>171.1</td>
<td>△15.6(10.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>114.1</td>
<td>124.0</td>
<td>△9.9(8.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>116.7</td>
<td>146.4</td>
<td>△29.7(25.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>112.8</td>
<td>△3.2(2.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coarse grains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>△12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAO Food Price Index July 2022

- 2022. 4. FAO started to support the farmers' farming and those living in food insecurity in Ukraine (some $115.4 million)
Background and Current Status (price)

- Attack Ukraine (Feb 24)
- Unblock Black Sea Port (July 22)

Soybean: $576, Wheat: $288, Maize: $260

Aug 2021 Aug 2022

CBOT: [http://www.krei.re.kr:18181/new_sub01](http://www.krei.re.kr:18181/new_sub01)

Unit: USD/ton
Background and Current Status (output estimated)

World Cereal Production 2022 over 2021
(Crop prospects and food situation, FAO Quarterly Report July 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>+0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>-4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>+9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>+0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>-5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>-14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **China (wheat)**: above -average
- **Japan, Mongolia (wheat)**: average to above-average
- **Republic of Korea (paddy)**: close to the five-year average
- **China (paddy)**: close to the 2021 above-average
- **DPRK (main crops)**: below average
- **China (maize)**: increase, above-average
- **DPRK (maize)**: decline
Background and Current Status (Asia)

Overall cereal production: slightly below the record level of 2021, above average

Cereal export and import
Rice: exports > import
wheat and coarse grains: import > export, strong demand for feed crops in China, Thailand and the Republic of Korea

Cause of Food Insecurity
2021: COVID-19 pandemic caused income loss → lack of purchasing power, food accessibility
2022: Conflict causing high food price → affecting the countries that have higher dependence on import
Main Issues 1 Import Dependence: RoK

food self-sufficiency

- rice 92.8%
- soybean 7.5%
- maize 0.7%
- wheat 0.5%

(source: FAO STAT)

pie chart:
- Ukraine: 61%
- Russia: 12%
- Rumania: 10%
- Canada: 9%
- Bulgaria: 13%
- USA: 18%
- Others: 7%

service: Wheat Import (tons)

- Ukraine: 14
- Serbia: 60
- Russia: 23
- Bulgaria: 27
- Brazil: 36
- USA: 51
- Others: 16

(source: NSDG report 2022)
Main Issues 1 Import Dependence: RoK

1. Impact on Food/Fertilizer supply by Export Restrictions (Food Protectionism)
   - 57 measures in 2022, out of which 45 measures after Russia attacked Ukraine
   - Korea imports 11.6% from those imposed restrictions

2. Domestic Consumer Price Index (July 2022)
   - Agricultural, livestock products and seafood: △ 7.1% (rice ▼ 14.3%)
   - Pork △ 9.9%, imported beef △ 24.7%
   - fresh vegetables △ 26% fresh fruits △ 7.5%

3. Government’s Response to Food Crisis - Two tracks; Improve Domestic Production and Agricultural Direct Investment Abroad
   - No improvement of domestic production for past decades
   - Support agro-business company such as POSCO International
Main Issues 1 Import Dependence: RoK

4th Eco-friendly Agricultural Promotion Plan 2016–2020: Failure to reach the goal

- The cultivation area: around 5 percentage, failing to reach the target 8 percentage by 2020.
- It planned to reduce pesticide use by 8.5 kilograms per ha, but still 9 kilograms per ha.
- The use of Chemical fertilizers even increased, which is 266 kilograms per ha.

If chemical fertilizers are not replaced by organic fertilizers domestically manufactured but increased such as, we will have to depend on imports accordingly.

⇒ Government does not give a priority to improve domestic production and structural transition in response to the global food crisis caused by conflict as well as climate change.
Main Issues 1 Import Dependence: RoK

**Ongoing Issues**

- Decrease in Agricultural Land: Speculation on agricultural land
- Decrease in the number of farmers and their aging
- Decrease in the number of rural population, Disappearance of rural community

NSDG report 2022

Household: 1.151 → 1.031 million
No of farmers: 2.912 → 2.215 millions

KOSIS
Main Issues 2 Food Safety

Fukushima Water into Pacific Ocean: Food Safety

• The RoK has not yet lifted restriction on food import from Fukushima since 2013 due to the food safety
• After final confirmation to release Fukushima water by Japan in July 2022, the government of Korea and international community failed to stop it with strong and clear disagreement
• Fishing communities of Japan and Korea and Civil society have been strongly opposing to the release of contaminated water from Fukushima since last year
• Some provincial governments including Gyounggi and Gyougnam did take concrete steps by adding more species to the list of examination, origin inspection etc.

→ No functioning mechanism of accountability for food safety after Fukushima water is released into the Pacific Ocean
Main Issues 3 Food Justice

Farmers’ Perspective: Stability and Diversity of Food Production
- Over 60 percentage of farmers and fisheries who are small scaled and/or do not have their own land
- Small scaled farmers who produce environmentally-friendly and diverse crops and vegetables get less support from the government

Consumers’ Perspective: Safe and Affordable Food Consumption
- Adequate food for the low-income families and their children
  - Some provincial governments increase the budget for school meals or meals for the children from the low-income families in the rise of the food price, but many need more support
- Public food procurement for students and army at military service
  - Governments attempt to privatize food procurement and face strong opposition by the farmers as well as civil society
Suggestions

• In conclusion, ensuring ‘sustainable food security’ should be common objective of civil society that take into account mutually impacted multi-dimensions such as climate change, COVID-19, and armed conflicts.

• (Increase in domestic production as a priority) Government should provide more support to the farmers who practice sustainable farming and secure agricultural land for the farmers, in order to reduce food import dependency.

• Government should seek ways to produce more fresh food (vegetables and fruits) domestically both in urban and rural areas.

• (More specific and policy based indicators in the National SDGs Report) It is suggested that more policy based indicators should be added to the national report as it is merely limited to the indicators based on the statistically available data.