

RUSSIA AND GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

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The given course was elaborated according to R. Naylor and W. Falcon's Syllabus for the Stanford's course «The World food economy»

Prerequisites

The course covers the economic dimensions of food production, consumption, and trade. The main aim of the course is to form a clear understanding of the current state of the global food market, of the main structural shifts which have taken place on it and also to give the students an idea of the ways of overcoming the critical situation in the agricultural sector in terms of the threats to Global food security.

The principal focus of this course is on the nature and degree of global food problem's impact on the economic policy of each country, as well as on the world economy as a whole. The main emphasis of the course is laid on the fact that the country's ability to provide the sufficient for its people amount of food and still have a surplus of products to export becomes one of the most powerful levers of economic and political influence.

The key issue for debate during the course proposed is the fact that at the moment the food deficit is the most endogenous factor of all global problems of mankind. However if the humanity doesn't take some measures to reduce the influence of global food problem immediately, in the near future the problem will get out of hand and will turn into the perennially exogenous one.

The course presupposes that the students already have the profound knowledge of the world economy, global affairs and international economic affairs.

Course Outline and Associated Reading

1. Global food problem: the leading causes

T. Malthus and his theory. Population explosion of 19 and 20 centuries.: causes and consequences. Uneven distribution of natural resources. Limited arable land. Inefficient farming. Soil degradation. Salinity. Desertification. Deficit of clean water. Drought. Demand for biofuels. Evolution of the structure of food consumption in developing countries.

- *Rosamond Naylor and Walter Falcon, "Our Daily Bread", Boston Review, September/October, 2008: pp. 13-18.*
- *Malthus, T. Essay on the Principle of Population*
<http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/malthus/popu.txt>
- *FAO, "Undernourishment Around the World", The State of Food Insecurity in the World, Rome, 2009: pp. 8-12. The new aspects of global food problem*
- *E. Kovalev // World Economy and International Affairs, № 3, March 2005, p. 3-9*

2. Food consumption

The main streams of the global food consumptions. Diet's westernization. Urbanization and its impact on food consumption. Globalization and food availability. The demand shifts. The elasticity of food demand. Engel's law. Bennet's law/

- *Prabhu Pingali, "Westernization of Asian Diets and the Transformation of Food Systems: Implications for Research and Policy", Food Policy 32 (2), 2006: pp. 281-298*
- *THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, Livestock in the balance, FAO, 2009*
- *TFP, "Analysis of Food Consumption and Nutrition", Chapter 2, pp. 19-76.*

3. Food production

Structure of supply. Production costs. The main constraints (land, agroclimatic conditions, factor availability, affordable technology). Farmer decision-making. The main food producers: historically and now.

- *TFP, "Analysis of Food Production Systems", Chapter 3, pp. 77-121*
- *Tyers R., Anderson K. Dissaray in world food markets/ Hong Kong, Cambridge University press, 1992, p.17-30*

4. Structural Transformation of the global food market.

Paradoxes of the global food market. Underlying forces of structural transformation. Stages of structural transformation. The new key players. Competitive advantages: absolute, relative. The theories of international division of labor (Adam Smith, D. Ricardo, E. Heksher-B. Olin) in the context of international

food market. The degree of impact of each of the players on the state of the food problem.

- *Traisey M. Agriculture and food in the economy of developed countries: / St. Petersburg.: Ekonomicheskaya shkola, 1995*
- *Ilyina Z.M., Mirochizkaya I.V. The markets of agricultural raw materials and food. School-book. – Minsk.: BSEU, 2000. Chapter 1*
- *C. Peter Timmer, “The Paradoxical Role of Agriculture in the Structural Transformation” (Chapter 3) and “Concluding Observations” (Chapter 5) in A World Without Agriculture, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C., 2009: pp 37-48 and 61-63.*
- *D. Gale Johnson, "Agriculture and the Wealth of Nations", American Economic Review, May 1997, pp. 1-12.*
- *H. S. Houthakker, "Causes of the Farm Problem", Chapter 2 in Economic Policy for the Farm Sector, American Enterprise Institute, 1967, pp. 5-11.*

5. The agricultural modernization (Biotechnology and Technological Change)

Technology (Technically feasible? Privately profitable? Socially desirable?). Macro physical constraints on farming systems (soil, sunlight, temperature, water). The Green Revolution. «Precision agriculture». The radical transformation of the agricultural sector, its effects and consequences. The Asian model of agriculture. The American and European ones. Biotechnology. GMO's

- *Ventura Morera. Agricultura e Indústria. Editorial universitario de Buenos Aires, 1963*
- *FAO, “What is agricultural biotechnology?” The State of Food and Agriculture 2004, Rome: pp 8-24*
- *Yakovlev P.P.. The economy of Argentine in the face of modernization's challenges. – M.: ILA RAN, 2008. Chapters 1,2*
- *Brazil – the emerging center of economic and political impact влияния/ Edited by V.M. Davydov. – M.:ILA RAN, 2008. Chapter 1*

6. Food security as one of the main levers of influence on the world economy and politics

Definition of food security. Food security - a traditional force or a Soft power? The consequences of food dependence. The ways to improve the food security.

- *V.S. Balabanov, E.N. Borisenko. Food security. – M.: Economica, 2002. Chapters 6,7*
- *Mc.Donald B. Food security/ Polity press, 2010 pp.54-76*
- *The feeding of 9 billion//Royal institute of international affairs, 2009, pp.7-11*

7. The Livestock Revolution and Biofuels

Forces of Change in the Livestock Sector. Past and Projected Trends in Meat and Milk Consumption. Structural Change in the Livestock Sector. Livestock-Price

Dynamics. Crop-based biofuels. Demand for food and fuels. Renewable fuels standard.

- *Rosamond L. Naylor and Walter P. Falcon, "The Global Costs of American Ethanol", The American Interest, VII (2), November/December 2011, pp. 66-76*
- *Rosamond Naylor et al., "Losing the Links Between Livestock and Land," Science, December 2005, pp 1621-1622.*
- *Vaclav Smil, "Rationalizing Animal Food Production", Chap. 5 in Feeding the World, A Challenge for the 21st Century, MIT Press, 2000, pp.141-180.*

8. Russia's position in the global agricultural system

Russia's shares in food production, food consumption, food exports and food imports. The most competitive agricultural sector in Russia. Strengths and weaknesses of Russian agriculture. The ways of agricultural modernization in Russia. Prospects of Russian agriculture in the global market.

- *<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&iso3=RUS>*
- *THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE , Livestock in the balance, FAO, 2009*
- *<http://www.mcx.ru/>*
- *<http://www.agro.ru>*