

New Publication

## **Food and Nutrition Security in the Process of Globalization and Urbanization**

**Spektrum 84, Berlin Series on Society, Economy and Politics in Developing Countries**

**UWE KRACHT AND MANFRED SCHULZ (Eds.)**

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The reader in two volumes but in one book examines key issues of food and nutrition security under the driving forces of globalization and urbanization. The different sections and chapters present approaches to food security throughout the world in a historic as well as a systematic perspective. The methods applied are both qualitative and quantitative. Although much has been written on food security, a systematic treatment of a historical-empirical and theoretical-analytical view is a recent development, and we have therefore chosen a ‘holistic’ approach.

The first volume contains contributions of a more historical-empirical nature; the second volume is policy oriented. Each volume is essentially self-contained and can be read in its own right, according to the reader’s

interest.

The current work builds on our 1999 volume on “Food Security and Nutrition – The Global Challenge”. Our new reader comprises 62 articles by 71 authors. It is written for a broad audience, including scientists, experts, consultants, practitioners of development aid and students. The reader constitutes one of the most comprehensive compendia of its kind.

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urban food and nutrition security depends on strong links between urban and rural areas. But policymakers and urban planners often ignore this interdependence. There are two broad, often overlapping, categories of rural-urban link-ages. At the same time, urbanization is at its most intense in these peri-urban areas. The process of urbanization transforms land-use and farming systems, patterns of labor-force participation, infrastructure requirements, and natural resource systems. Peri-urban areas show wide regional variations. Southeast Asia's extended metropolitan regions involve a mix of agriculture, cottage industry, industrial estates, suburban development, and other residential settlement over a wide radius. 6 Food Security and Nutrition in an Urbanizing World. This gain is driven mainly by maize and wheat. Global rice production for 2016 could reach an all-time high of 498.5 million metric tons, marking the first expansion in global rice production since 2013. Rice production in Asia recovered toward the end of 2016 following the dissipation of the El Niño cycle, with yields increasing to 450.7 million metric tons. These gains imply that many of the poorest, who spend a larger share of their income on food purchases, were able to experience some improvement in their food security and poverty status. Urbanization was elevated in the global development policy agenda in 2016, most prominently through 167 countries' adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III summit. Food security in urban areas is tied to purchasing power whereas in rural areas food security is related to the availability of food. In many cities, the urban poor spend up to 90 percent of their household income on food. Compounding the problem, urban centers are highly dependent on imported foods and are surprisingly divorced from food produced within their country or regionally. In many cities in Africa, 30-50 percent of food staples and vegetable oil found in the markets are imported. Most of the urbanization in the developing world is occurring in fragile and conflict-affected states. That is an ominous trend. Fragile states are the most susceptible to urban poverty, food insecurity, high malnutrition, and are the least able to deal with them.