



**STOCKHOLM
INITIATIVE**
FOR
FOOD SECURITY



Placing Food Security at the Heart of Human Development

Introductory Brochure
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Editorial

For over a century, humans have steadily mastered their knowledge and command over science, health and safety, industry, productivity, mobility and technology.

To this day, however, poverty and hunger remain a sad reality, a salient feature on the planetary landscape and the evidence of human collective failure in asserting the most basic human right: THE RIGHT TO FOOD.

There appears to be no end in sight to the persistent hunger affecting over 800 million humans according to FAO.

Why such hunger and malnutrition in the world at such magnitude in this day and age?

It is disappointing that the most common justification for food insecurity is demographic. Growing world population remains the “official” reasons for food insecurity alongside armed conflicts, natural disasters and now, climate change-induced disruptions.

Structural impediments are chief among the reasons for world hunger and extreme poverty.

The truth is that the reasons for food insecurity are also historic, financial and structural in nature. Indeed, the way food systems are articulated, policy options elaborated and adopted be in farming practices, crop selection, stapling, cattle management, trading, funding and training, all contribute to the prevailing and chronic food insecurity especially in low-income countries.

Recent geopolitical developments such as the Russian war on Ukraine, propelled food insecurity from an academic and institutional “headache” on the desk of World Leaders, aid agencies, UN institutions and researchers to a true global security imperative.

There will always be needs for emergency relief. However when will we take on the root causes of food insecurity in low-income countries?

It would appear that fighting hunger at a global scale must go through the inevitable exercise of recounting failures if we are to better comprehend food insecurity itself, define it properly and collectively move to reduce it measurably in a resolute, resilient and sustainable manner.

Hence the Stockholm Initiative.



**Andrea Lundh, Agronomist
Founder & President**

Mission

Placing Food Security at the Heart of Human Development

In 2015, the UN adopted 17 sustainable development goals with the aim to reach them in the context of what is often labelled the "2030 Agenda" for Sustainable Development.

Human development is central to the UN thinking. It is based on a multidimensional approach to development and well-being. As demonstrated in the 17 UN Goals, the thinking goes beyond the basic economic indicators as in income, GDP or purchasing power.

The first two goals for sustainable development: No Poverty and Zero Hunger, are intimately connected to food security imperatives.

In placing food security at the heart of human development, Stockholm Initiative aims at approaching hunger and food insecurity challenges in a holistic, and multidimensional context.

That is why, in cooperation with all stakeholders, our mission is to:

- Design and promote programs targeting small farmers enhancing food productivity;
- Focus on consolidating farmer adaptive capacity in coping with climate change induced disruptions and other shocks and stresses;
- Pursue ways and means to globally share farming knowledge and foster training and education; and
- Advocate for policies coherent with equity and fairness, self-reliance, gender equality and good governance.



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Team

Our Initiative is born in Sweden but conceived for a global outreach. It is no coincidence if the food security initiative is designed and launched in Sweden.

Like many OECD member countries and especially its fellow Scandinavian counterpart nations, Sweden enjoys a consistent and coherent track record in development aid. Agriculture in this context is considered indeed as a primary, formidable and efficient tool in alleviating poverty.

Such solid and consistent track record justifies the formidable credit Sweden enjoys among beneficiary nations, UN institutions, fellow aid agencies and donors.

In addition, this image is reinforced in the Global South by the historic fact that Sweden does not carry the burden or stigma of a former colonial power. This feature helps stakeholders focus on fighting hunger while raising awareness on food security's longer-term objectives with no ideological distractions or diversions.

Our team is led by **Andrea Lundh**, an agronomist who is a passionate advocate for fostering food security in low-income countries. Her co-founders are:

Peter de Jounge, a business executive attentive to global markets and versed in international business development.

Morgan Fehrling, passionate about political sciences, aid, development and the environment.



Peter de Jounge, Founder & Treasurer



Morgan Fehrling, Founder & Secretary



Ledarskribent

I över århundrade har människan i jämn takt bemästrat sin kunskap och användning av vetenskap, hälsa och säkerhet, industri, produktivitet, mobilitet, och teknik för produktion.

Trots detta, är fattigdom och hunger än idag en tragisk verklighet, en av våra största världsomfattande utmaningar, och ett bevis på vårt gemensamma misslyckande att försvara vår mest grundläggande mänskliga rättighet: RÄTTEN TILL MAT.

Det verkar inte finnas något slut i sikte på den ihärdiga hungern som idag drabbar över 800 miljoner människor enligt FAO.

Varför sådan hunger och undernäring i världen i en sådan omfattning?

Det är en besvikelse att den vanligaste förklaringen till en otrygg livsmedelsförsörjning är demografi. En växande världsbefolkning är fortfarande den "officiella" orsaken till otrygg livsmedelsförsörjning vid sidan av väpnade konflikter, naturkatastrofer och nu, klimatförändringar.

Strukturella problem i vårt livsmedelssystem är de främsta orsakerna till världens hunger och extrema fattigdom.

Sanningen är att orsakerna till en otrygg livsmedelsförsörjning även är historiska, ekonomiska och strukturella i sin natur. Faktum är att det sätt som livsmedelssystem är utformat till följd av politiska beslut om jordbruksmetoder, val och förädling av grödor, förvaltning av boskap, handel, finansiering, och utbildning, har allt bidragit till den kroniska och rådande livsmedelsosäkerhet, särskilt i låginkomstländer.

Den senaste tidens geopolitiska utveckling, så som Rysslands invadering av Ukraina, har drivit frågan om otrygg livsmedelsförsörjning från att verka som en akademisk och institutionell "huvudvärk", till att utgöra en verklig global säkerhetsfråga, högst på agendan för världsledare, biståndsorgan, FN-institutioner och forskare.

Behov av katastrofbistånd kommer alltid att finnas, men, när kommer dagen då vi tänkt ta itu med de faktiska grundorsakerna till dagens problem med otrygg livsmedelsförsörjning i låg-inkomst länder?

Det verkar som att kampen mot den globala hungern måste genomgå en oundviklig övning att syna våra misslyckanden, om vi bättre ska förstå otrygg livsmedelsförsörjning i sig, korrekt definiera konceptet, och för att vi tillsammans ska lyckas trygga livsmedelsförsörjning på ett mätbart, beslutsamt, resilient, och hållbart sätt.

Därav Stockholm Initiative.



Evaluating

Bilateral & Multilateral Aid

Since the late fifties, for several aid agencies, bilateral and multilateral alike, agriculture has always been present as a topic and an objective in the overall economic development spectrum. However, investing in agriculture has for decades been subject to fluctuating levels of focus and importance in relation to poverty alleviation on the part of those entities.

Moreover, most bilateral aid agencies and multilateral financial institutions, adopted models and policies essentially inspired from OECD countries' "heritage", including financing modes and structures. Little emphasis was placed on developing countries' priorities or development requirements let alone values such as sustainability and resilience.

None of these values have been inserted in funding and policy formulation or implementation.

Only recently, driven primarily by civil society and grass-root movements, the five-decade old international development model progressively came under the lens of valuation and questioning.

We now hear about: performance, sustainability, resilience, local community, small scale farmers predicaments, food security, self-reliance, diet and nutrition requirements.

The Stockholm Initiative is to serve as catalyst for these changes in cooperation with all stakeholders.

Our Initiative supports research and review of both bilateral and multilateral development programs in dealing with agricultural development and hunger alleviation in the Global South.

Our prime objective is to integrate new values and priorities in the policy and decision-making process.

One particular focus of our Initiative is to study and draw attention to structural impediments in the face of capacity building of farming communities. In facing economic and financial stress and in coping with climate change induced disruptions, small scale farmers in low-income countries require, in addition to emergency humanitarian aid, longer term programs driven by self-reliance objectives and awareness of food security objectives.

Among such values and priorities are:

Performance, private/public aid and finance structuring, good governance, gender equality, self-reliance, education, training, access to markets.





Supporting

Small & Medium enterprises

For years, public funding dispensed and monitored by central governments has been the norm in international development programs particularly in agriculture. Foreign aid destined to carry out reforms came in the form of grants or long-term loans extended to central governments often on concessionary terms.

In time however, it became clear that in funding farming in the Global South, centrally-designed and managed development programs led in many instances to misappropriation of foreign aid.

These programs also resulted in poor performance and showed little adequacy with fundamental needs of the populations, especially in impoverished rural areas.

By excluding local communities from the policy making process, by concentrating programs on large farms, vast numbers of small scale farmers have been left heavily dependent on government and foreign aid.

With no access to private capital and in the absence of proper investment schemes and opportunities, small scale farmers remain out of the economic development dynamics. They accumulate vulnerabilities exacerbated by ever rising cost of living and hostile global economic and market conditions.

Aid Agencies have now recognized the merit of supporting small and medium farming enterprises.

The new thinking in agriculture is precisely:

- To combine public and private investments learning from successful precedents,
- To foster capital availability to small scale farmers by guaranteeing locally structured small loans,
- To offer specific training for farmers determined to start or to expand on existing farming operations.

So far, funding models have all been generally based on dogmatic options as in mono-crop and large farm structures, disregarding local farming, dietary and nutritional priorities, self-reliance, sustainability and a holistic human development approach.

The Stockholm Initiative strives to raise awareness to business model alternatives with emphasis on performance, monitoring and free enterprise combined with values such as sustainability, good governance, transparency, training in business savvy and technology transfer and use.

We are ready to help bridge the gap between private capital and small scale farmers.



Knowledge Sharing

Promoting Food Security Chairs in African Colleges & Universities

With a few exceptions, the global south and specifically low-income countries lack the proper structures to educate and train youth in farming.

In most Global South countries, earlier massive exodus to cities left small scale farmers and rural laborers battling with poverty and the perception of unsuccessful, unrewarding, uninspiring activities.

As a consequence, young people are not generally attracted to acquiring agronomic qualifications. No academic tracks are even readily available.

For those who remained behind on farm lands for lack of alternatives, they mostly either become laborers in large farms or survived as they could in rural areas with little or no support for possible improvement of their economic conditions and therefore more poverty.

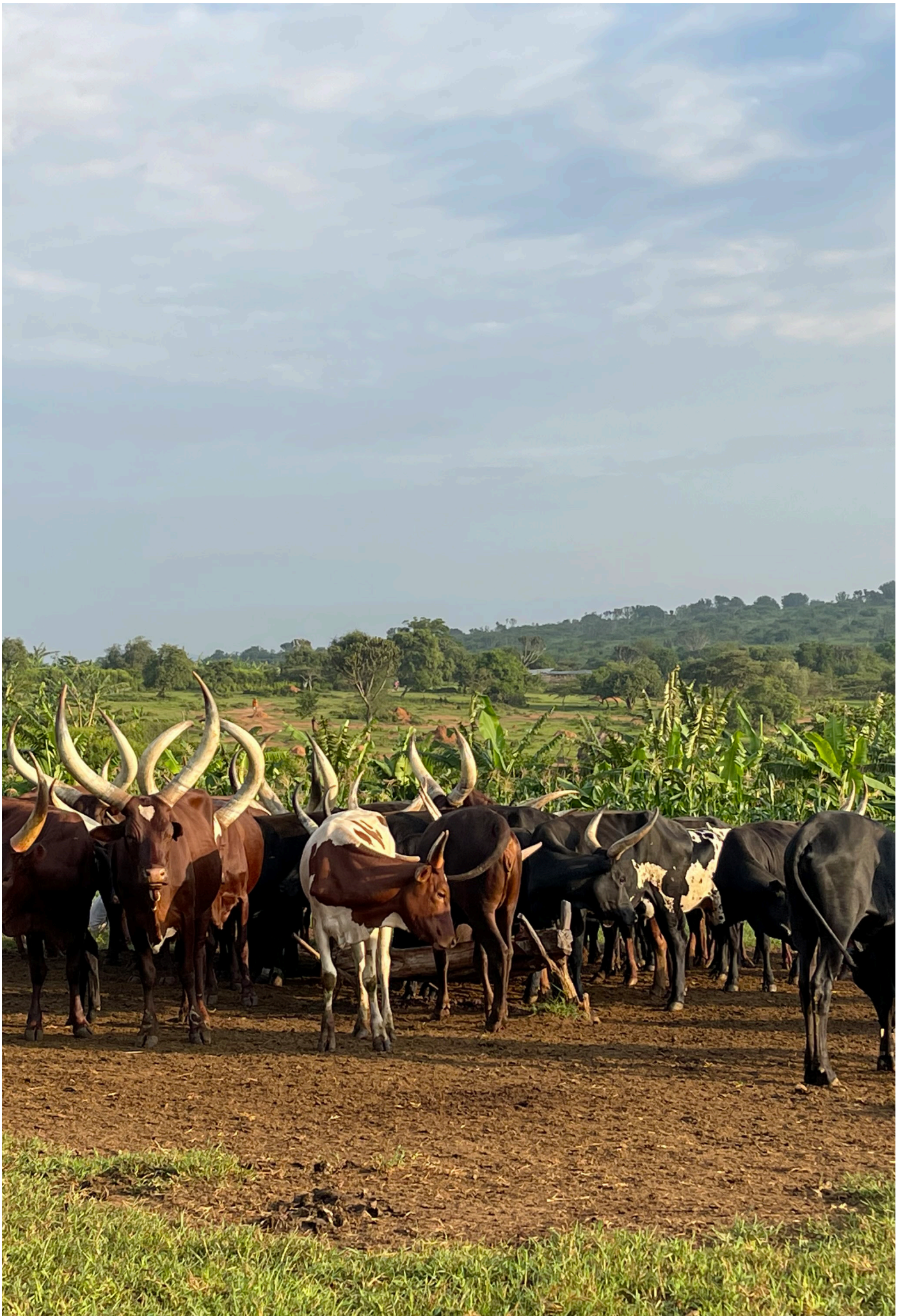
Teaching and training in agriculture bring to food in general a sense of awareness, of self-reliance, of value. It expands global understanding of food security to diet, health and nutrition.

In cooperation with leading universities, the Stockholm Initiative is launching a CHAIR PROGRAM with the specific aim of designing agronomic curriculum modules at college or graduate levels. Such modules offer content with uncontested and updated scientific value while integrating local farming and, diet and nutrition realities into the equation.

In cooperation with donors and sponsors, Stockholm Initiative is determined to fund classes and laboratories in various African colleges and chairs in African Universities. The food security curriculum would center around:

- Agronomy and Food Science,
- Sustainable farming practices,
- Methodology in dealing with shocks, stress
- Consolidating food security through private entrepreneurial initiatives,
- Studying broader challenges such as diet and nutrition,
- Learning about technology applied to various segments in the food system "from field to mouth",
- Social and local communities' dimensions in fighting hunger.





Indexing

Food Security



Indexing food security generally answers the need for a reliable set of tools in order to assess, compare and understand the state of food security in any given region or indeed globally.

It is crucial that any index offers a consistent and somehow harmonized platform.

In the context of fighting hunger, in reforming farming, in designing investment programs, in teaching and training as well as in research, an index serves for stakeholders as the basis to form opinions, design or evaluate strategies, review and adopt policies across countries or regions.

Specifically, in the hands of multilateral institutions, national aid agencies and donors, such measurement tools facilitate and guide decisions on grants and loans or various combined financial aid packages.

Today, the international developmental research scene is populated with a series of food security indices covering either a given geographic region or the globe.

While the main indices have, to a certain extent, contributed to a better assessment of the food security situation, a closer look reveals several shortcomings. For instance,

- They mostly reflect OECD countries' thinking thus falling short of providing an accurate picture when it comes to the Global South. Methodology and selection of indicators are not necessarily adapted to the reality of low-income countries.

- None of the indices integrate the concept of informal economy in measuring crucial data points in relation to access to food, affordability and availability.

- None of them reflect degrees of public perception of food insecurity or dietary and nutrition understanding,

Designing a new food security index is among the most pressing programs we would like to implement.

Indeed, a new tool for measurement and understanding levels of food insecurity is warranted in order to properly guide policy options and funding decisions.

It must extend beyond traditional economic and financial indicators to a full new and detailed range of agronomic indicators.

We, at Stockholm Initiative, recognize the challenge of broadening the range of measurements and indicators to several novel elements not necessarily available. This surely requires substantial primary research efforts.

We are determined to associate experts in qualitative analysis and institutions having already acquired experience and expertise in the indexing field yet demonstrating a special "sensitivity" to Global South developmental priorities.





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