

Session 22: Food vs. Fuel?

Discussion questions

1. What drives the increasing production and use of biofuel? What do you think will be the future trend?
2. With the current technology, what raw materials do the production of two main types of biofuel, *ethanol*, and *biodiesel* use? What countries or regions are leading such production?
3. What is “food security”?
4. How is the production of biofuel linked with the food-security issue? Consider the following factors:
 - prices and stocks of the raw materials used for biofuel
 - land use for competing crops
 - price of substituting crops
 - any other factors?
5. Do you agree with Mitchell’s (2008) argument that the rising food prices should be primarily attributed to the large increase in biofuel production in the United States and the European Union? If this argument is true, what would be the impact of biofuel production on people in developing countries?
6. What can be done to mitigate the impact on food security of biofuel production? Think of the following factors
 - technology
 - policy
 - public-private partnership
7. How can we make biofuel production an opportunity for rural development?
8. Take a step back, why are countries enthusiastic about biofuel? What are the environmental and social impacts of it?

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