

# The Importance of Natural Resources in the Sustainable Development Goals

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## **The Importance of Natural Resources in the Sustainable Development Goals**

Haomeng Wang

### **Introduction**

Even with the rapid development of technology, food insecurity and malnutrition remain a problem and challenge for the world. According to Bahn et al. (2016), by 2019, the hunger rate in sub-Saharan Africa even increased by 1.9% since 2015. As of 2018, the absolute number of hungry people was concentrated in the Asian region, with North America and Europe reporting the lowest hunger rates since 2005. People must do something that try to change the situation so that people can get rid of hunger.

How can people figure these food security and malnutrition problems out all over the world? People should develop agriculture to improve food supply. In order to develop agriculture better, people need reasonably utilize natural resources like water resource (Barthel & Isendahl, 2013) and forests (World Bank, 2004). Although these are two different entry points, they both contribute to the development of agriculture.

### **The Sustainable Development Goals**

In the video (Taylor, 2021), Taylor states the SDGS aim to address the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development in an integrated manner. FAO (2016) states both the SDGs and FAO's strategic framework aim to address the root causes of poverty and hunger and build a fairer society that leaves no one behind.

### **SDG# 2: Food security and nutrition**

Sustainable development goal#2 is to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. For examples, children in Bolivia cannot properly receive a full education due to hunger, and the local government developed a school food law to

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secure children's rights to food. The Philippine government is focused on rebuilding agriculture after Typhoon Haiyan, the largest typhoon on record, hit the central Philippines in 2013 (FAO, 2016).

### **Findings and Discussion**

Develop sustainable agriculture so that the supply of agricultural production is sufficient to eliminate hunger and improve nutrition. Safe and harmless agricultural development and chemical fertilizer free food processing without chemical additives contribute to the realization of food safety. According to Sadeghi and Moghadam (2021), water, energy and food are important resources for achieving economic improvement and social aspirations for sustainable global economic development. These elements are completely interrelated, and they depend on each other to a great extent. It is the water that makes the trees flourish, and the respiration and transpiration of the leaves promote the circulation of water. People therefore need to use a variety of natural resources, including water and forests, as efficiently as possible to promote agricultural development. Such as planting trees, building reservoirs and so on.

Stephan et al. (2018) state the close link between water and food is most evident in the water and irrigation needs of agriculture. In other words, in addition to people's domestic water, water can be involved in agricultural irrigation, which indirectly affects food production. According to Barthel and Isondahl (2013), the Mayans maintained the structure of the dispersed settlement pattern of the city as it expanded, i.e., residential areas clustered in communities around ancillary municipal ceremonial buildings. The family group was the basic settlement unit of a Mayan city, consisting of a raised quadrilateral foundation platform with houses built on each side. Walk together as a farmstead or "garden city". This urban structure is very effective at keeping water in place from the moment it hits the ground, and at keeping water on the ground

for a significantly longer period of time, allowing residents to use "more" water. For modern society, the government can build reservoirs to store a certain amount of water. This water can be used by residents in the rainy season and irrigated in the dry season.

In fact, the definition of forest that forests are not only the patches of trees and vegetation, but also the places where these plants take root. The World Bank (2004) states that forests are central to growth through trade and industrial development in many developing countries. That is to say, some countries, especially developing countries, may overuse forest resources when developing their economies. Such as excessive logging. In fact, forest resources affect the development of local agriculture by affecting the local natural environment such as precipitation and sand fixation, which in turn limits the height of local economic leap.

Obviously, water and forests are just as inextricably linked as the 17 interrelated SDGs. Lush forests play an important role in stabilizing soil, water and water cycles. In other words, forests ensure better rainfall. Besides being the source of life, water is also important to the crops in people's fields. If people consume forest resources in an unplanned way, the local water cycle will be affected, and agriculture and the economy will suffer.

## **Conclusion**

People must spare time to participate in afforestation activities and actively respond to the government's forest city construction. They should also reflect on the sustainability of their work.

In the coming decades, the demand for food is bound to increase. In his TED talk, Friedrich (2019) shows North America's terrible demand for food, especially meat. There is therefore a greater need to develop sustainable agriculture to cope with the increasing demand for food.

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