Food Security: Inconvenient Questions

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June 27, 2016
Definition

• Food security (FAO): *All people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.*

• Are we asking the *right* questions about food security?
Inconvenient Questions

- Can we address food security apart from linked issues? [No]
- Is food security even possible? [Not without systemic economic change]
- Realistically, what can we do about it?
Some Linked Problems

• Pest control, soil, and water
• Population & poverty:
  – women’s health and education
• Energy and climate change:
  – fossil fuel dependence
  – carbon budget
What do systems dynamics models say?

Limits to Growth; 2004 Reference Scenario
2052: Randers’ Projection (2012)

- Growth will slow, but there will be enough resources – including energy, water and food – to cover demand (which is not the same as need)
- There will be more poverty (*food insecurity*) – both in rich and in poor countries
- Climate crisis looms
How do we create a sustainable, desirable, and food secure future?

- Paradigm Shift: the Steady State economy
Realistically, what can we do about it?
Realistically, what can we do about it?

• Do well what you do
  – Improve the food system, e.g., reducing waste
  – Dig deeper into what a steady state economy might look like
  – Conceive a realistic policy path

• Build local sustainability from the ground up, e.g., Gunter Pauli, *The Blue Economy*

• Improve women’s health and education

• Break into the policy system: e.g., get tracking GPI get on the agenda! Connect with your representatives.