

Food Security: Inconvenient Questions

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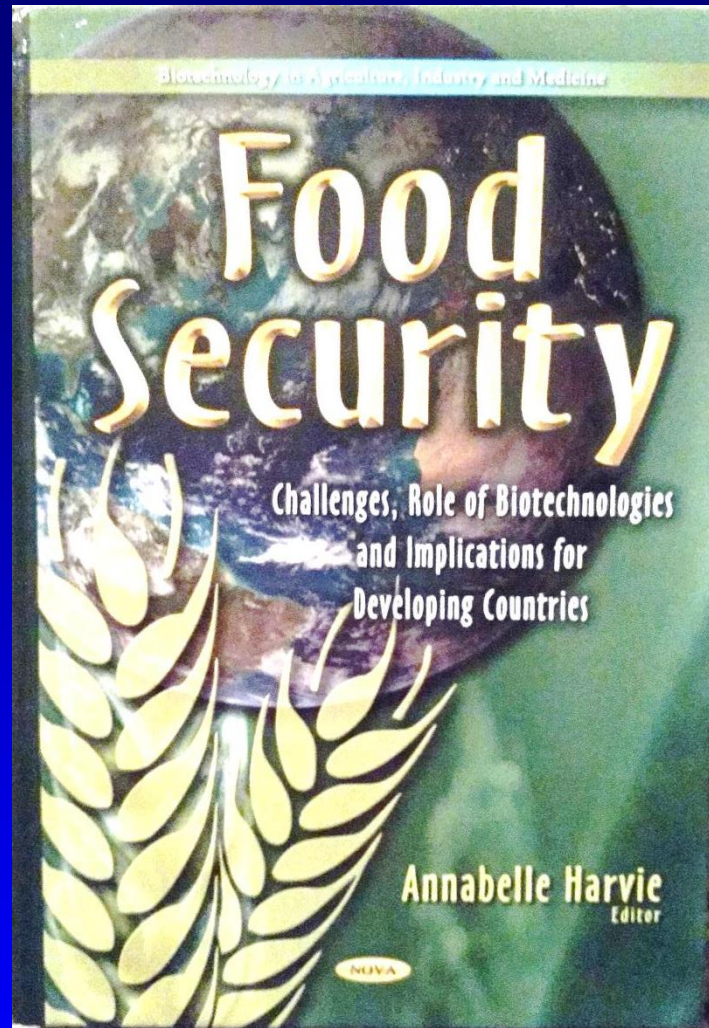
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Definition

- 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?



Chapter 1. Food Security: Some Inconvenient Questions (Nova Publishers, 2015)

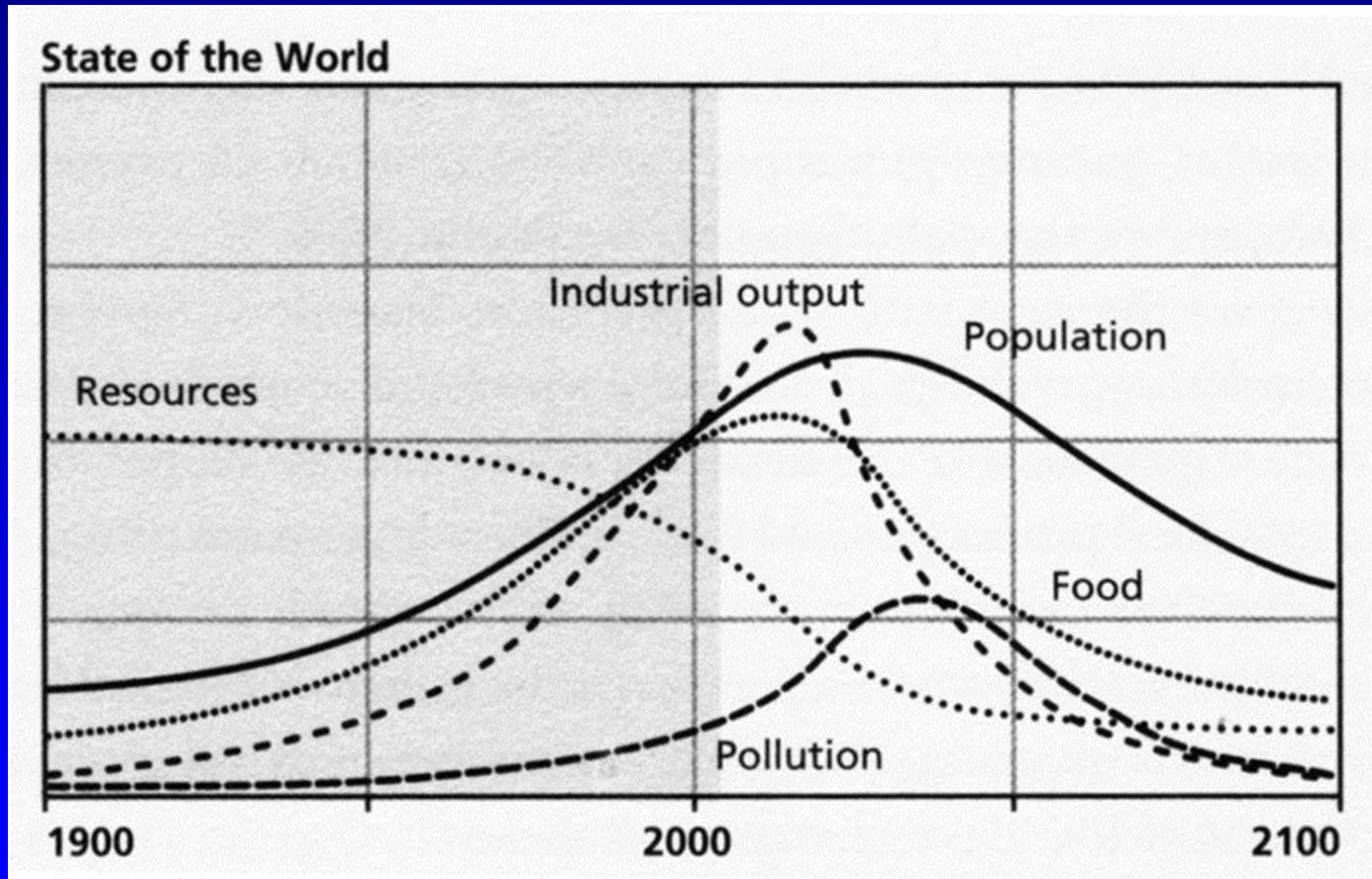
Inconvenient Questions

- 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?

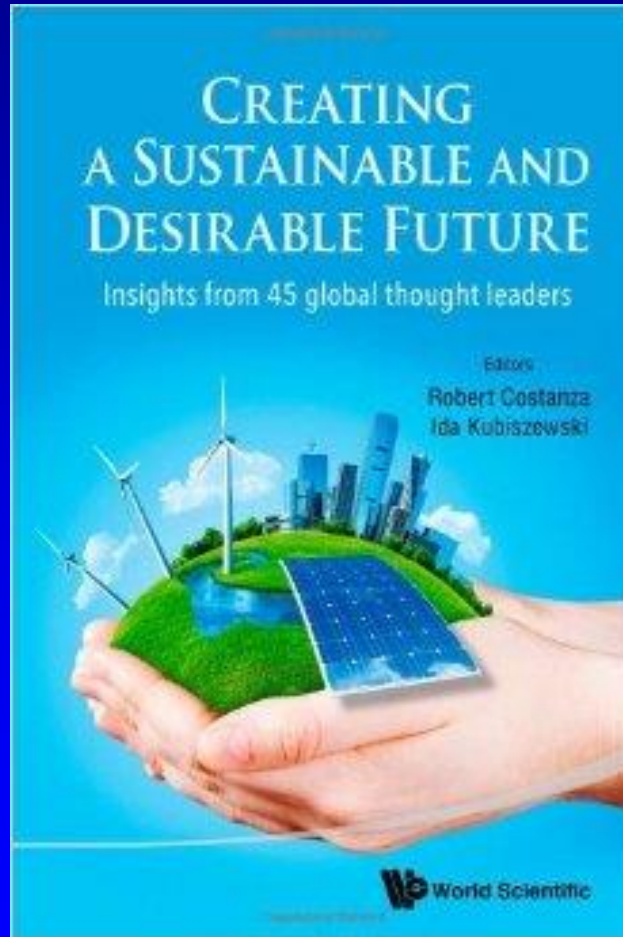


Limits to Growth; 2004 Reference Scenario

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



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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.