

# manoj oswal

## WORLD HUNGER, VEGETARIANISM COULD BE THE WAY OUT

Each 16<sup>th</sup> October we “celebrate” world hunger day now called world food day. Thousands of people observe a fast to save food for the rest, but there is another event that actually saves much more food, The Meatless Day and The “Meat Out” day in some other parts of the world.

Food, or any shortage is a result of two factors ... firstly, the gap in production and demand and second, how the resource is distributed.

Production, today the amount of land under cultivation is more than any time in the history and producing more per acre yield than ever before. Yet we seem to have 840 million human beings on our Earth that remain chronically hungry. The reason being while the production is increasing more and more people are moving higher up in the food chain, eating animals that are being fed tons of grains rather than eating the grain directly.

This can be well seen from how much we can produce from an acre of prime land as per USDA estimates.

Food Produce	Per Acre Production as per USDA Stats in Pounds
<b>Beef</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>Mutton</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>Chicken</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>1680</b>
<b>Beans</b>	<b>1800</b>
<b>Barley</b>	<b>1800</b>
<b>Rice</b>	<b>4565</b>

In an acre of land we can produce 182 pounds of beef or 228 pounds mutton or about 440 pounds of chicken.

**The same amount of land would yield 1680 pounds of wheat or 1800 pounds of beans and barley or still better 4565 pounds of rice. But this is still just half the story. A pound of meat which is usually 60% water may barely feed one person a day, a pound of cooked rice on the other hand can feed at least 4 times more people.**

According to World Watch Institute we have more feedlot animals on earth than human beings. Against every 10 men on this planet we have 35 chicken, 4 cows, 4 goats and 3 pigs adding up to 4 animals. All animals force fed to fatten so much that many weigh 3 times their natural weight.

**How much of resources the use?** EU for example uses 75% of all its agricultural land to accommodate these creatures. America’s 89% of soybean, 78% of the corn and nearly 70% of all its food grain is fed to animals and yet it imports substantial amount of meat and grain to feed animals.

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Distribution : The affluent fashion is infecting all countries, causing a rift at micro and macro level. The rich countries and rich people within the country are driving the demand for meat, causing individual farmers and countries to switch to grain for animals rather than human beings.

The same trend can be found in the Middle East and North Africa--increases in grain-fed livestock and import of feed. Twenty years ago, Egypt was self-sufficient in grain, livestock ate only 10 percent of the nation's grain. Today, livestock consume 36 percent of Egypt's grain, Egypt must now import 8,000,000 tons of grain every year. Twenty-five years ago, Syria was a barley exporter. But in the intervening years, livestock has consumed increasing amounts of the country's grain. Now, despite a phenomenal 1,000 percent increase in production it now imports grain.

But the real threat is China, who in 1990s was a net exporter of grain, today it is the worlds second largest importer of grain. Its 26% of grain is fed to animals. China cannot import grain feeding its 1.5 billion population without driving the world food grain prices upwards near future, leaving more poor people an countries to no one to turn towards.

Next time you eat that tandoori chicken or kabab, give a second thought, you might be one contributor to world hunger.

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