

VIDEO STUDY

For use by individuals, churches or community groups to spark discussion and action.

Note: these videos are independent from Canadian Foodgrains Bank and do not necessarily express the views and opinions of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, its membership, or the Good Soil campaign.

Feeding 9 Billion: Distribution

Three short videos, total run time of 17:21

Video 1: The need for more equitable food distribution (5:39) <https://feedingninebillion.com/video/need-more-equitable-food-distribution>

Video 2: The challenge of small-scale farming in the developing world (6:07) <https://feedingninebillion.com/video/challenge-small-scale-farming-developing-world>

Video 3: Reducing food insecurity in the developing world (5:35) <https://feedingninebillion.com/video/reducing-food-insecurity-developing-world>

Questions:

These are suggested questions to spark discussion after watching the Food Distribution videos.

- 1) In the first video, Dr. Evan Fraser talks about three arguments to correct food imbalance (end food for fuel, reduce food aid, change wealthy diets). What do you think of these arguments, and the counter-arguments suggested in this video?
- 2) This video also suggests a couple of strategies towards building resilient food systems, including better food reserves and reducing poverty through small-scale enterprises. How effective do you think these solutions would be?
- 3) These videos bring up the issue of high external inputs, such as purchased seeds and chemical fertilizers, which can be useful to farmers, but can also trap small-scale farmers in further cycles of poverty. Canadian Foodgrains Bank member projects sometimes provide inputs such as tools and seeds, but more often promote low- to no-external input farming strategies such as seed saving, crop rotation, mulching and using natural fertilizers such as manure and compost to improve yields and soil health. What are the benefits and drawbacks for small-scale farmers to both approaches?

- 4) The second video mentions four strategies to help small-scale farmers: improve soil health, create alternative financial instruments such as co-ops in order to gain capital, improved storage and processing, and labour saving techniques. If you had to choose one as the most important, which would you choose, and why? Were there other important strategies that you thought were missing?
- 5) The third video talks about two different and divergent strategies for small-scale farmers: intensifying and modernizing agriculture, as has been done in Canada, and smaller scale knowledge-building approaches on individual farms and communities. What are the benefits and drawbacks of each strategy? Which, if any, do you think is more important for improving the food security of small-scale farmers?

The Last Hunger Season

Eight short videos, total run time of 34:15

Playlist (8 videos): <http://outrageandinspire.org/the-last-hunger-season/videos/> OR on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_G8Yk0cat8o&list=PLmlHoT7XW-DPtBU-JHcQCBHOMRA-34L7RG

**Note that this video series says there are 840 million people living with hunger, however the number from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization as of October 2014 is 805 million.*

Discussion Questions:

Suggested questions to spark discussion after watching The Last Hunger Season film series.

- 1) There are a few themes that come up several times throughout the series. Discuss some or all:
 - a. The link between education and prosperity. In Leonida's family, several people mention that in this world, without education you cannot be seen as a person. What are your thoughts on this statement? How are education and prosperity linked? Why would choosing between paying for food and educating your children be a difficult choice?
 - b. Africa feeding the world. It is mentioned a few times that if African farmers can succeed, so might we all. What does this mean? Zipporah mentions that her small farm contributes to global food security, and Rasoa talks about Africa feeding itself, and then assisting other regions. These visions of African farmers are not the ones usually expressed. What do you think about these visions? How will this vision change how you talk about Africa, and about international development?
 - c. Women's workload. We see Leonida and her daughters, especially Sitawa, performing many of the chores both on the house compound and on the farm. How would Leonida's life change if others took on more roles such as cleaning and cooking? How would Sitawa's life change?

- 2) Andrew Youn, director of One Acre Fund, says:

“As human beings, we respond to emergency... but we can't Band-Aid the prob-

lem forever. We need permanent solutions and lasting solutions. For that to happen we really need to invest in long-term agriculture development.”

One Acre Fund works on a small scale to support agricultural development. What kind of impact can be had if national governments invest in long-term agricultural development? What can the variety of players bring to the table (national governments, donor governments, NGOs, community groups, etc.)?

- 3) One Acre Fund provides seeds and fertilizers to farmers as loans. What do you think of this approach? What are the pros and cons of promoting purchased inputs?

In some cases Canadian Foodgrains Bank member projects provide inputs such as tools and seeds, but more often promote low- to no-external input farming strategies such as seed saving, crop rotation (also mentioned in the films), mulching and using natural fertilizers such as manure and compost to improve yields and soil health. What are the benefits and drawbacks for small-scale farmers to both approaches?

- 4) Other problems mentioned in the films are market access and education fees. How can these problems be overcome by communities? How can these be overcome by governments? It is important for public investment in such things?
- 5) The goal of the Good Soil campaign is to get the Canadian government to put more aid dollars toward agricultural development. How could this kind of investment impact people like these Kenyan farmers? How could it impact the Kenyan government? What should be the role of the Kenyan government?

What next?

Want to learn and do more on this issue? There are a few ways Canadian Foodgrains Bank asks you to respond:

- **PRAY:** we recognize the importance of prayer in our lives and in the way we interact with the world. Pray for people working hard to grow enough food to feed themselves and their families. Pray for leaders – local and global – whose decisions affect those living with food insecurity. Pray that our government, along with others, make decisions to the benefit of all people and the planet.

You can find prayer and worship resources to use in your church or group on our website at foodgrainsbank.ca/worship

- **ADVOCATE:** An important part of responding to the needs of small-scale farmers is to encourage our government to support developing countries in their agricultural development. You can do this in a few ways:
 - Write a letter: personal letters are an effective way to reach your Member of Parliament. Foodgrains Bank staff hear from MPs and the Minister of Development how much letters mean to them – much more than postcards or petitions. Letters

show commitment to an issue. You can arrange for your church or community to all write letters to your MPs to make the message go further. Postage to the House of Commons is free, and if you include your return address, your MP must write you back!

- Send an email: personal emails are also a good way to reach your Member of Parliament. They work well as follow-up to letters, and other correspondence with your MP on this issue.
- Phone call: calling your MP to talk about the issue is also effective. Even leaving messages with your MP's assistant brings attention to the issue.
- The most effective way of advocating is to meet your MP in person. Call your MP's constituency office to find out when she or he is around, and arrange a time to meet. Bring a friend or two from the same riding for support and to reinforce the importance of this issue.

For help and additional resources to help you advocate, please visit foodgrains-bank.ca/letters, or contact a Foodgrains Bank staff member for assistance.

- **LEARN MORE:** The issues around hunger and poverty are complex. The more we all learn, the better equipped we are to respond in faithful ways. Learn more about the issues, and help educate others. Visit the Foodgrains Bank website for great educational resources, activities and games for more learning opportunities: foodgrains-bank.ca/education