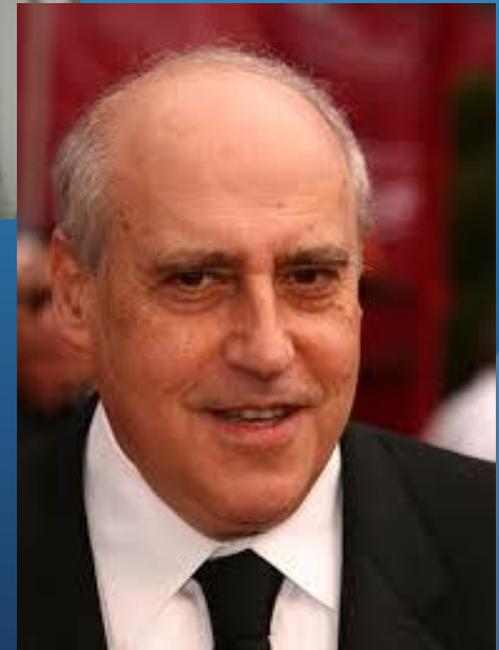
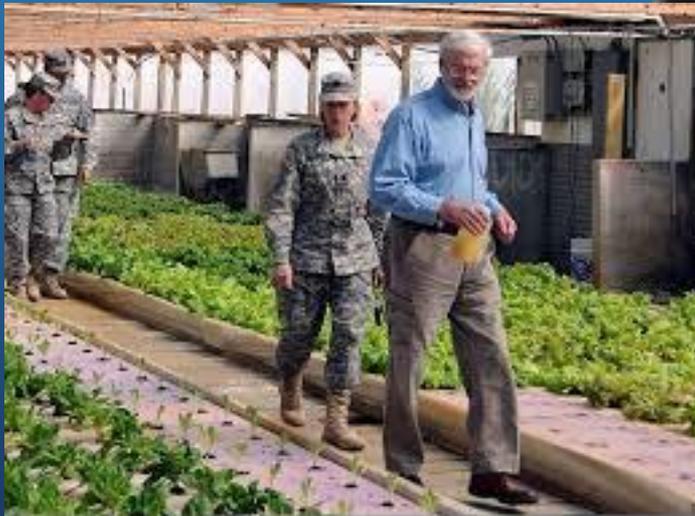
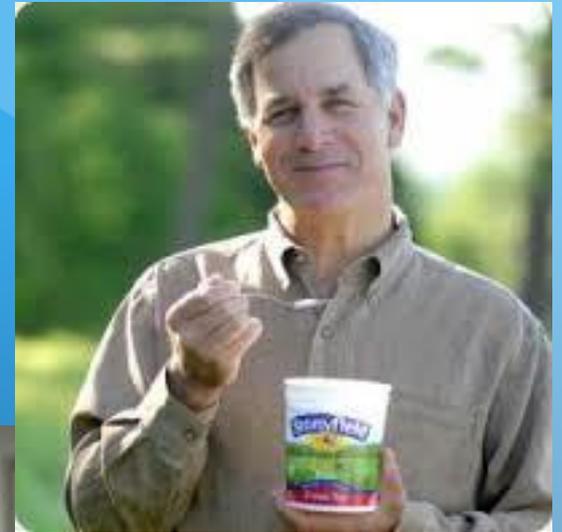


# Transforming Food and Agricultural Policy: How U.S. Decision-Making Might Shape the Future of Food on a Global Scale

Emmy Simmons  
USAID Alumni Association  
September 14, 2015



# AGree's mission since 2011

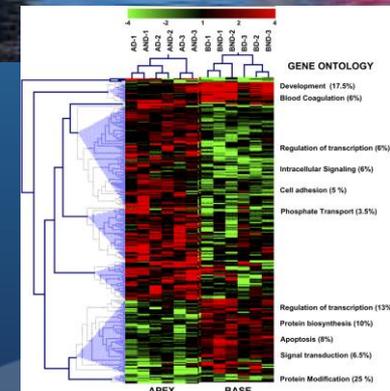
- Drive **positive change** in the food and agriculture system
- Elevate food and agriculture as **a national priority**
- Connect and **challenge leaders from diverse communities** to catalyze action

# “U.S. decision-making” encompasses actions affecting:

- The direct role of US agriculture in global food supply
- The influence of US science and technology in global food and agriculture
- US corporate involvement in global food systems
- The structure of global food and agricultural trade: food safety regulations, preferences, protections
- The environmental conditions for global agriculture, e.g. climate
- Provision of food- and agriculture-related foreign aid

# What shapes current food and agriculture policy in the US?

- American farmers provide abundant, affordable food for our citizens and “feed the world”
- American agricultural technology is second to none
- Markets are generally the most efficient means for managing the food supply
- Americans are a generous people, ready to provide food aid for those in need
- U.S. development assistance helps support global growth - both MCC and Feed the Future have “made a difference”
- America’s land and water resources can support intensive, highly-productive agriculture and the production of healthy, nutritious foods

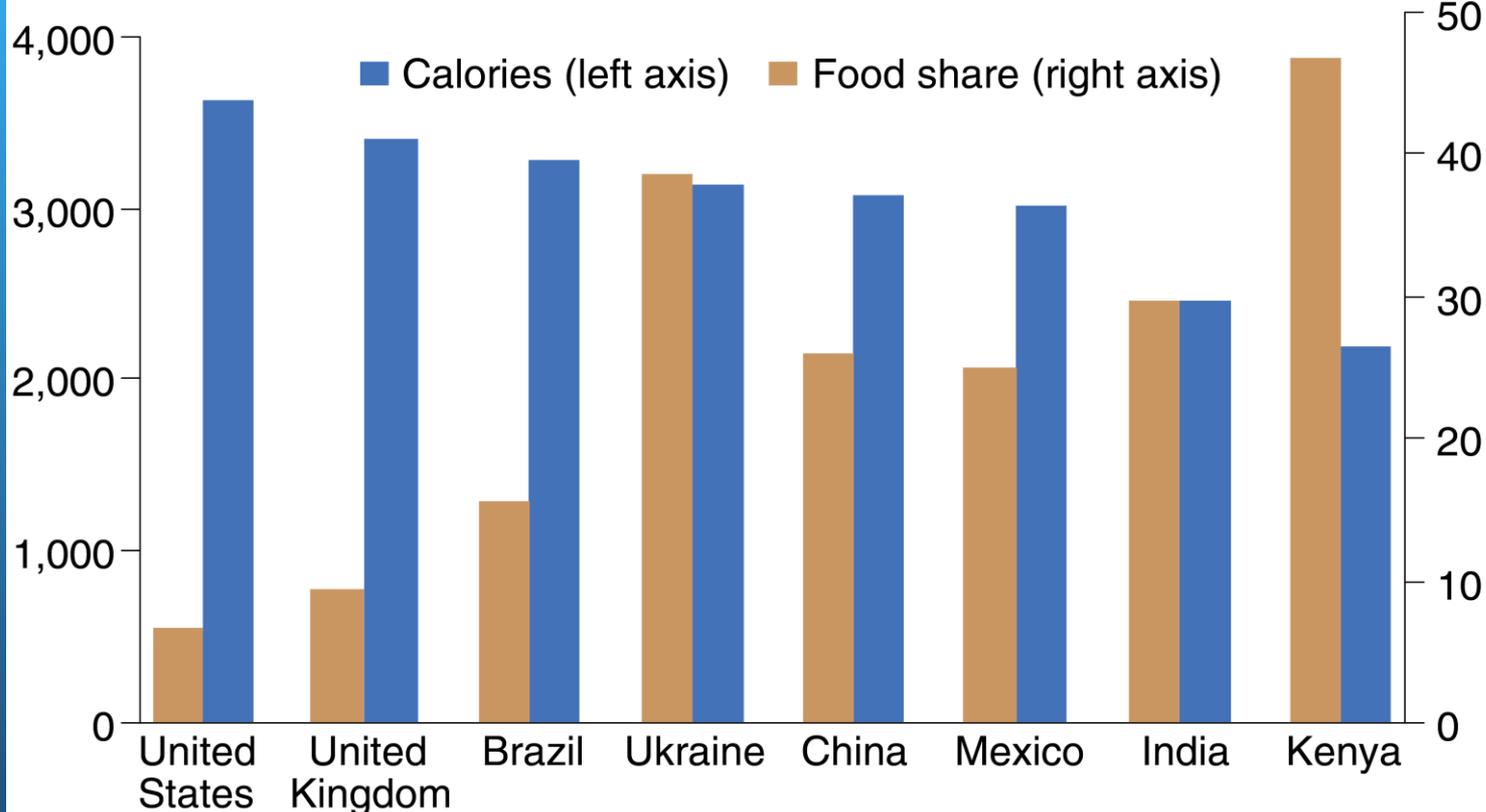


# Abundance and Affordability

## Calorie availability and share of consumption expenditures spent on food at home

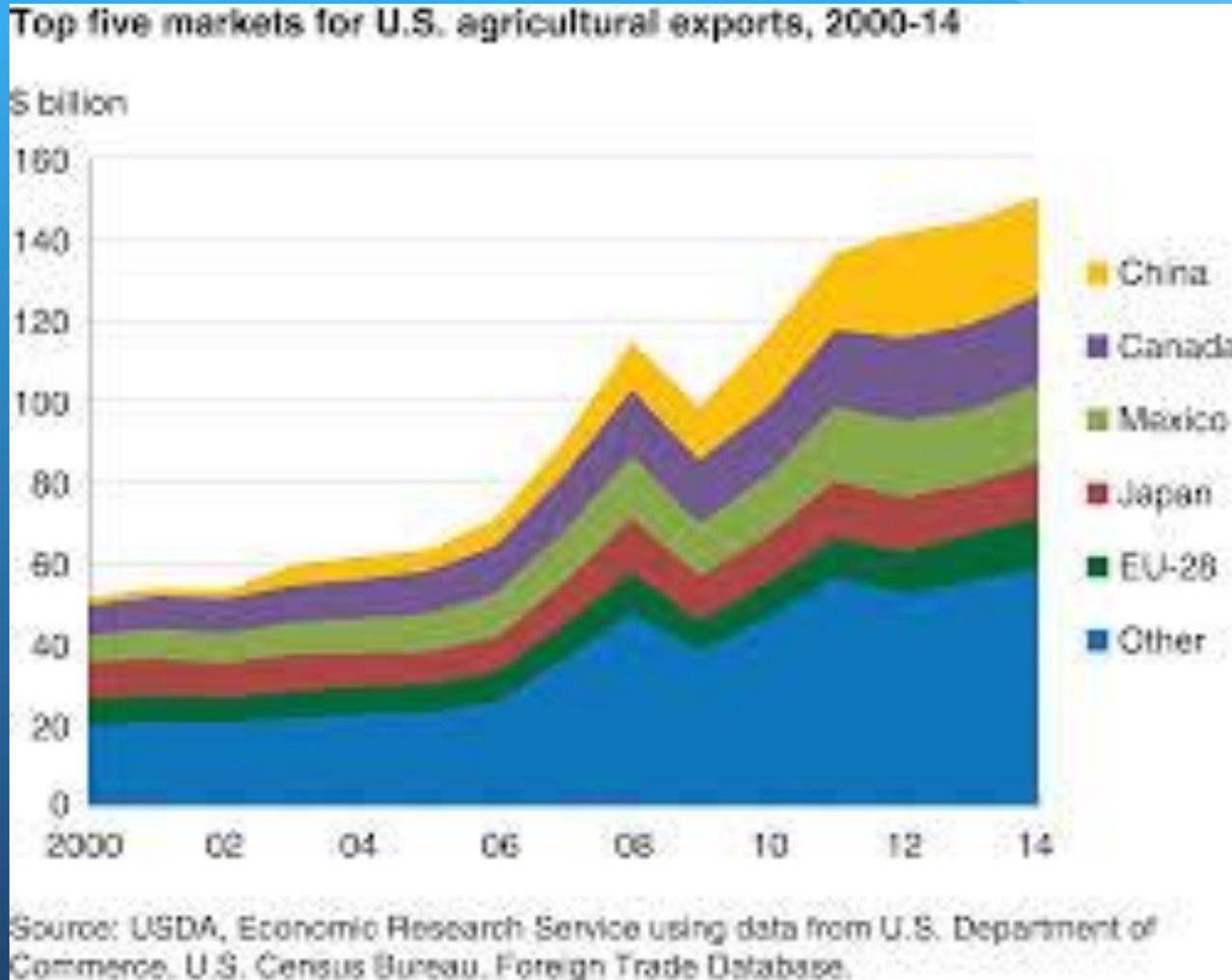
Daily calories per capita, 2011

Household spending share, 2013



Source: Expenditure data from USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Euromonitor International. Calorie data from FAOSTAT.

# A Robust Role in Global Agricultural Exports

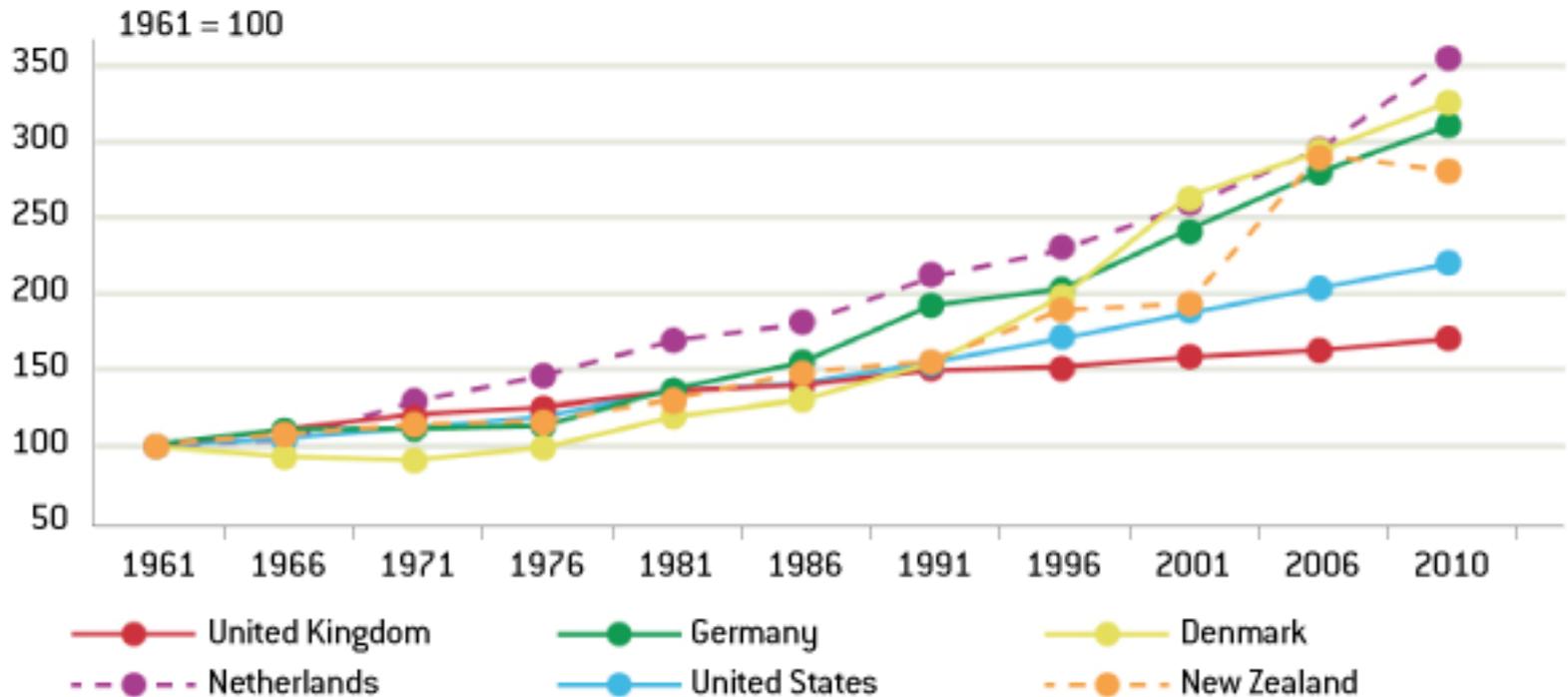


# ...but emerging realities pose serious questions

- American agricultural productivity increases slowing, US share of global commodity markets is shrinking
- US public investments in agricultural research have been declining - private sector research focus on GM technologies
- Recession in US stretched SNAP, global emergencies challenged international food aid
- Effectiveness of development assistance always an issue, concerns regarding agricultural assistance
- U.S. consumer demands shifting: environmental sustainability, healthy eating, the alignment of nutrition and health, aging farmers to younger farmers, labor

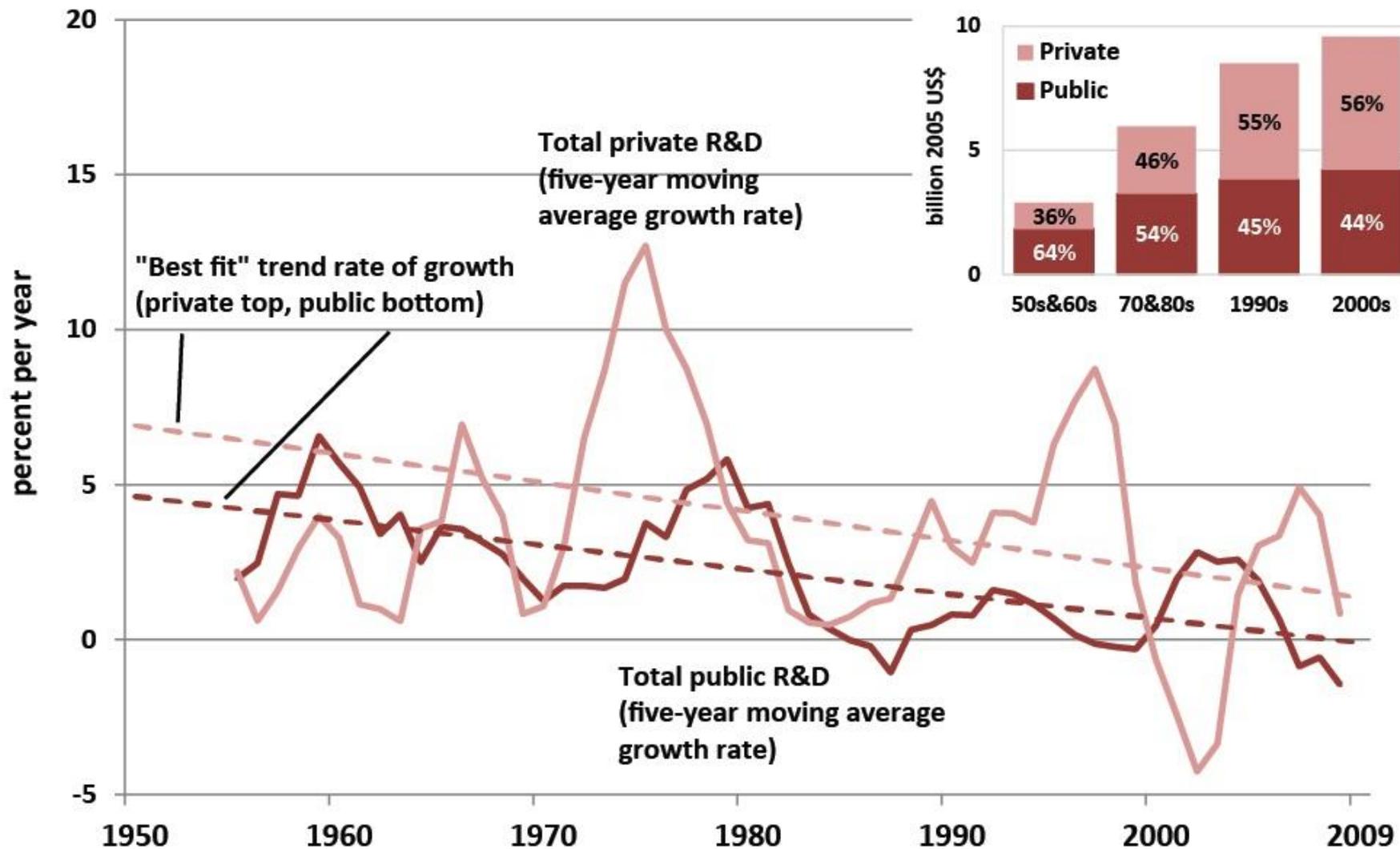
# Total Factor Productivity Growth is Slowing

## AGRICULTURAL TOTAL FACTOR PRODUCTIVITY



Source: USDA/FAO

# Research and Innovation



# Converging Challenges at Home and Abroad

1. Meet future demand for food
2. Conserve and enhance land, water, soil and habitat
3. Improve nutrition and public health
4. Strengthen farms, workers and communities



# CHALLENGES

- Meet Future Demand for Food
- Conserve and Enhance Water, Soil, and Habitat
- Improve Nutrition and Public Health
- Strengthen Farms and Communities to Improve Livelihoods

# Strategies



Note: *Dark boxes* indicate strategies where AGree is focusing efforts to develop recommendations in 2013 and beyond.

# Eight Initiatives

## Recommendations Published ([foodandagpolicy.org](http://foodandagpolicy.org))

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- Working landscapes
- Food and nutrition: healthy communities
- International development through food and agriculture
- A stable workforce: immigration reform
- Research and innovation

## In Progress

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- Risk management
- Local food
- Next generation

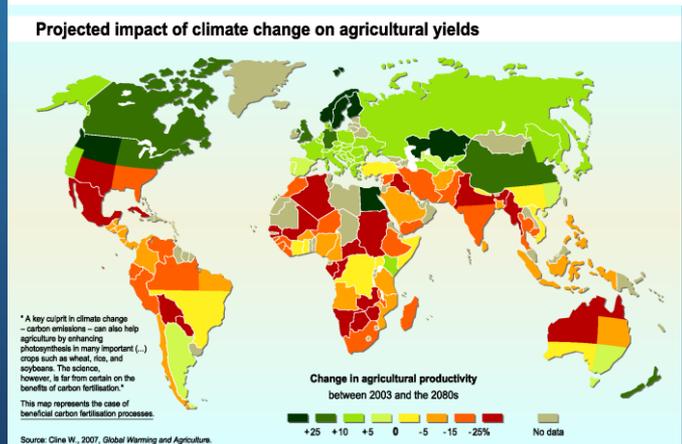
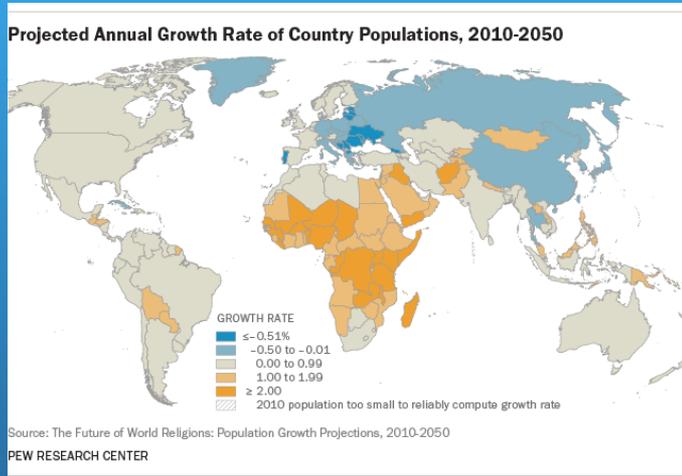
# International assistance through food and agriculture agenda:

- Pass **authorizing legislation** to sustain food and agricultural orientation in assistance policies
- Continue food aid and disaster assistance reform
- Expand USG tool box for food security and agricultural development
- Promote partnerships, investments, expanded trade
- Engage U.S. universities more fully
- Reinvigorate public investments in food and agriculture research, education, extension
- Build nutrition awareness, consumer education, integrate with healthcare
- Promote public review and debate on U.S. food and agriculture issues that have global impact



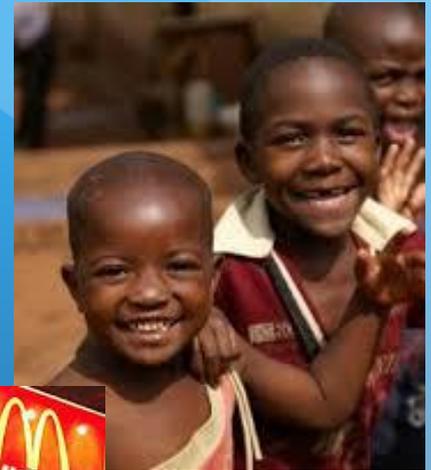
# More ambition needed

- Demographic change - Africa
- Natural resource constraints (climate change)
- Rapid urbanization
- Persistent food insecurity, markets not working for all
- Technological change
- Trade and investment opportunities shifting
- Changing dietary habits



# How decision-makers might better shape the future

- Recognize that *both* domestic and global food environments are undergoing radical changes
- Seize opportunities to better align food and agriculture policies with emerging realities
- Engage and challenge youth



Thanks!