Post-industrial Food Security

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Agri-foods ‘Production Paradigm’

increase production at nearly any cost to end hunger;
the singular goal and driving ethic of modern agriculture

R. Zimdahl, 2006
The outcome in a nutshell

- Feeding more people than ever before
- Enough grains, fruits, vegetables and meat for >3,200 calories daily/ person
- 1.2 billion people food insecure
- 1 million children starve to death annually
- 1.5 billion are overfed

Food First, 2006; Lang and Heasman, 2009; Patel, R. 2007
Childhood onset diabetes and obesity are epidemic; our children may be the first generation with a life span shorter than their parents.

K. Clancy
Union of Concerned Scientists
2003

‘Western diseases’ mostly food related

Canada’s health care expenditures

Canadian Institute for Health Information
Resource, socio-economic, and environmental threats to food security

- Global climate change, lack of system resilience
- Global fresh water depletion and shortages
- Arable land destruction and loss
- Increasing demand for animal protein
- Loss of agro-ecosystem management knowledge
- Lack of business model and economic strategy diversity
- Peak oil and agri-foods negative EROEI
‘...end of the global agri-food system...resurgence of local agriculture, bottling, canning, processing eminent’

M. Simmons, 2006
Global Oil Depletion and Implications for the Pacific Northwest
Agri-Foods
Challenge and Opportunity

Substantial re-regionalization of agri-food to compliment the trans-national system
Regional agri-food systems maximize supply predicated on ecology and environmental capacity of place

- Production
- Processing/ storage
- Distribution
- Sales
- Waste and nutrient cycling
- Energy and input reduction
- Environmentally sound
A 21st century food security vision

A global network of regional agri-food systems

Southwest B.C Bio-region
Our food system is the foundation of our sustainability

No sustainable food system, no sustainable humanity