

AJFAND Formerly AJFNS
ONLINE

ISSN 1684 5374

AFRICAN JOURNAL OF FOOD AGRICULTURE
NUTRITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Volume 10 No. 3 2010

Improved Nutrition

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EDITORIAL

Agriculture is often neglected as the most serious topic in recent times under different perspectives. We do talk about various disciplines of Science, Social Sciences and Humanities but often forget to provide due respect to the field of Agriculture and take this subject for granted. It is quite important to note that Agriculture just does not mean animal and crop production or pest and disease control or agronomy or soil science only; it spreads way beyond these usual scopes and now encompass divergent field as environmental sciences, food security and food politics, social anthropology, molecular biology, biotechnology, genetic engineering, nutritional sciences, human development, agricultural geography, satellite technologies and even nanotechnology. It has been slowly transformed into a most divergent, dynamic, engaging and multi-disciplinary subject that is inter-connected with every facet of modern human development. No human societies can survive in the present world without investing into some form or other into agricultural research and development. Agriculture is the mother and corner stone of all subjects and the fundamental pillar on which human societies and civilizations have thrived from time immemorial. The five basic requirements of any surviving human society on this planet, namely, food, fibre, fodder, fuel and fertilizer and are all direct products of agriculture [1,2].

With the increasing size in the global human population, coupled with shortages in available land resources for use in agriculture, the story of human hunger and starvation that still haunts some parts of our shared planet is indeed a serious global concern. No matter how much progress we make in different aspects of modern science, sustainable global food production is still and will continue to be the most intriguing and challenging problem for us to resolve in the not so distant future. A shift of interest among farmers from traditional food crops to industrial crops (like biofuel crops) can significantly destabilize global food production, resulting in food riots, famine, starvation, human death and misery as has been observed too often in recent times. With the growing income gap among developed, developing and under developed countries becoming wider every year, this crisis is going to stretch well beyond what has been speculated by most enthusiastic economists as a minor problem. Food security has been grossly underestimated in the context of severe environmental problems such as Global Warming and the inevitable forbidden fruit is already showing indications of a darker future filled with human suffering unless a comprehensive Food Policy is adapted globally which can provide Food Security for all. Some multinational food corporations and giant agro-based companies already are thriving on the booty generated from global food shortages by fluctuating prices and by tampering with economic indices for higher profit at the cost of human life and integrity [1,2].

While most journals specifically highlight on specialized aspects of agricultural or nutritional or social sciences research, the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) is unique in this context, as it brings all major facets of human development and agriculture under one

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