



## IUFOST FOOD SECURITY ISSUE PAPER

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The purpose of this paper is to launch a discussion on World Food Security and to uncover ways that IUFOST members could address and contribute to the issues that might arise in these discussions. This is considered a brainstorming session meaning “anything goes” and there are no bad responses. The idea is to build on each others comments and follow this with a discussion at the World Congress. I will start the session with possibly debatable comments in order to get the discussion initiated.

There will always be hunger in the world. No matter how much we get involved or help, people will continue to die of malnutrition. This number is quoted to be over 800 million people. The World Food Program, already in place and other groups are already responding to these needs. While our involvement with this population would help, we will not be able to prevent starvation and would not be of such a scale to have significant impact. There will always be natural disasters, wars, diseases, and political uprisings that will continue to contribute to large populations requiring food aid in order to just survive. Then where could IUFOST be involved that would have an impact?

Over 1 billion people in the world live in poverty. They may have enough food to survive but do not have money. They live without hope but want to break out of this dilemma. It is not uncommon for them to produce enough food but still have significant food losses. In many instances, they are also affected with food borne illnesses. Could this be our focus group? Could our focus be on the population that can produce enough food but do not know how to prevent spoilage and have no idea of how to market it? With our membership consisting of food scientists, food microbiologists and food engineers, we have the abilities to address these needs.

In the past, efforts were made to reduce food losses and certainly there are programs that address these problems today. But what is missing is an integrated effort that is coordinated worldwide on such a scale as to have a greater impact. Envision the coordination of programs that addresses food safety, preservation and market development. With the support of World Governments and Foundations and working with universities and industries within each country, I believe we could make a better and safer world. Could our membership lead these efforts?