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## The Estey Centre Journal of International Law and Trade Policy

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# Food Security and Trade: Some Supply Conundrums for 2050

### Abstract

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Global food demand is expected to double by 2050, partly as global population rises to nine billion and also because the nature of demand will change as incomes rise considerably for large numbers of individuals in developing countries. The projected rise in demand for food has sparked concerns regarding global food security. To maintain or improve food security will require a major increase in agricultural production. To date, considerable thought and effort have been put into issues related to increasing output in developing countries, which will be where the additional demand will be located. It has also been recognized, however, that developing countries are unlikely to be able to increase production sufficiently to meet the increased demand and that additional food supplies will have to be available through international trade. The latter is simply assumed – that some countries will have considerable surpluses available at tidewater that can enter international food supply chains. This article calls into question that assumption. Four conundrums for future agri-food supplies are examined in this article: (1) the ability of surpluses from the Canadian Prairies to move to tidewater; (2) the high degree of uncertainty regarding Ukrainian supplies; (3) the lack of transparency in U.S. biofuels policy; and (4) the inhibiting effect of EU policy toward genetically modified foods on global investment in biotechnology. It is concluded that the assumption regarding future available international supplies needs to be revisited by those concerned with global food security.

Keywords: biofuels, biotechnology Black Sea, Canadian Prairies, food security, trade

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