GCBMUN
2024

GUÍA ACADEMICA

FAO

PRESIDENTE

LUCIANA GARCÍA MACIAS

PRESIDENTE

ANA SOFIA DUQUE VANEGAS

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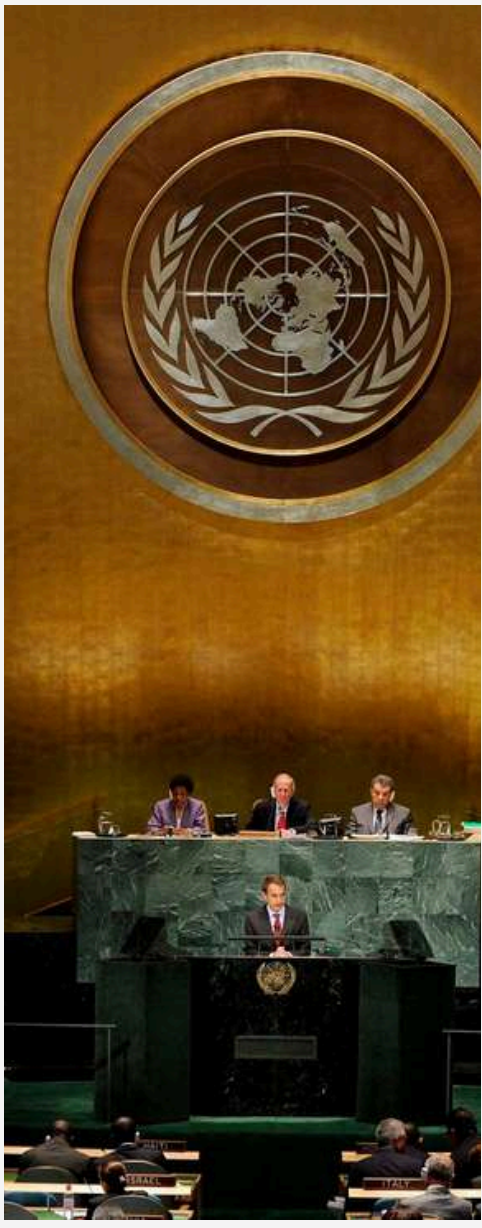
2024

GCBMUN XXIII



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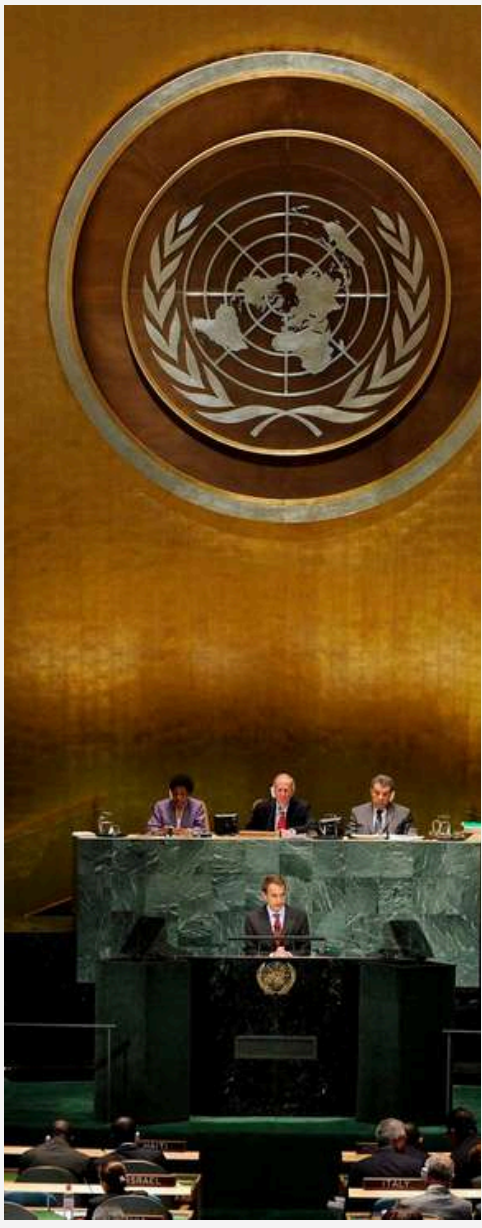

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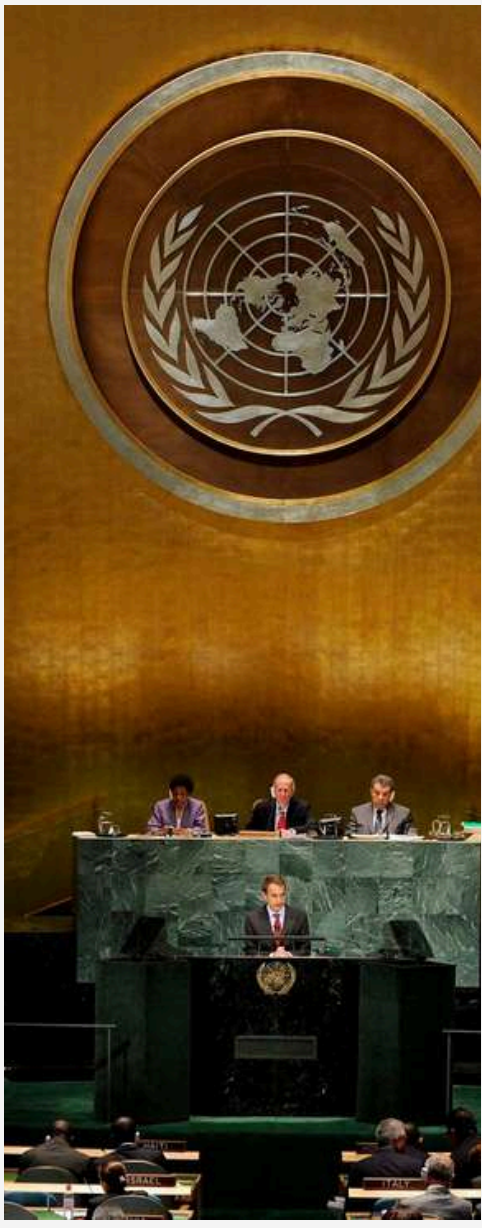

CARTA DE BIENVENIDA

MODELO DE NACIONES UNIDAS GCBMUN XXIV

GENERAL SECRETARY

FELIPE OSPINA

ACADEMIC SECRETARY

XIMENA PEÑA

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

XIMENA PEÑA

ACADEMIC SUPPORT IN CHARGE

XIMENA PEÑA

FELIPE OSPINA

GCBMUN DIRECTOR

FABIO CARDENAS

Dear Delegates,

It is a great pleasure and excitement to welcome you all to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) committee at the 23rd GCBMUN edition.

The GCBMUN approach emphasizes the importance of collaboration, critical thinking, and diplomacy in addressing global issues. Throughout various discussions, we will strive to find innovative solutions that prioritize the well-being of all people and the planet.

During these sessions we will have the opportunity to address issues that are threatening the lives of many individuals across the world, such as the Nuclear Techniques in Setting Science-Based Food Standards and the Hunger Crisis Caused by Violence in Haiti.

As dais we have high expectations for each and every one of you. We encourage you to come prepared, engage actively in discussions, and work tirelessly to find common ground. Remember, the success of this committee depends on your willingness to listen, compromise, and find creative solutions.

We look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the incredible work you will accomplish during our time together. If you have any questions or concerns, do not doubt to contact us and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Once again thank you for letting us be your dais in the FAO committee.

Best regards,

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323 210 9594

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

[Image 2] (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2023)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was established on October 16th, 1945, in Quebec, Canada. The idea of a permanent organization focused on food and agricultural issues was first discussed at the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture in Hot Springs, Virginia, in 1943. The Interim Commission for Food and Agriculture was established in 1945 to prepare the draft Constitution of FAO, which was signed by 34 nations in Quebec, Canada, officially establishing FAO as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations. (United Nations, s. f.)

The early years of FAO were marked by significant events and achievements. The first FAO Conference was held in 1954, where the organization's structure and functions were formalized. The FAO Constitution was modified in 1967 to include the concept of "food security." Throughout the 1970s, FAO played a crucial role in the development of international agreements on food and agriculture, such as the International Grains Agreement and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). (FAO, 2019)

FAO has continued to evolve and adapt to new challenges over the years. In the 1970s and 1980s, the organization focused on addressing the challenges of food security, particularly in developing countries, through initiatives such as the "World Food Security" resolution and the establishment of International Fund for Agricultural Development. In the 1990s and 2000s, FAO expanded its efforts to address global issues like climate change, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation. In the 2010s and beyond, FAO has continued to work on addressing global food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate change, as well as addressing specific challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing global food crisis. (FAO, 2024)

Key Events:

- 1943: United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture in Hot Springs, Virginia.
- 1945: Interim Commission for Food and Agriculture established; FAO Constitution signed.

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HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1946: First session of the Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture; Sir John Boyd Orr appointed as Director-General.
- 1947: The FAO Council was established to replace the original “Executive Committee”.
- 1948: Sir John Boyd Orr becomes the first Director-General of FAO.
- 1951: FAO headquarters transferred from Washington, D.C. to Rome, Italy.
- 1954: First FAO Conference.
- 1967: FAO Constitution amended to include “food security”.
- 1971: Establishment of "Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture".
- 1978: Conference adopting "International Grains Agreement" and "International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- 1981: The FAO Conference adopted the "World Food Security" resolution, emphasizing the importance of ensuring access to food for all people.
- 1990-2000: FAO continues to work towards its mission of eradicating hunger and improving nutrition and food security globally, with ongoing efforts in areas such as sustainable agriculture, climate change, biodiversity conservation and food security.
- 2010-present: FAO continues to address global food security, sustainable agriculture, and climate change; addresses specific challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and global food crisis and works to promote sustainable agriculture practices and support small-scale farmers.

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the procedure proposed in the GCBMUN handbook, will be followed in detail. This committee is expecting an active participation of the delegates, their ability to negotiate, and their ability to create solutions towards global problematics. The FAO leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.

Each member of the committee will be responsible for:

· Overseeing the FAO's programs and budget: The committee will review and approve the FAO's programs and budget, ensuring that they align with the organization's goals and objectives.

· Providing policy guidance: The committee will provide policy guidance to the FAO Director-General and other senior officials, ensuring that they are informed by the latest research and best practices in the field of food security and agriculture.

· Monitoring and evaluating progress: The committee will monitor and evaluate the progress of the FAO's programs and projects, identifying areas for improvement and recommending changes as needed.

The FAO Committee will use a system of voting to make decisions. The voting system will be based on the principle of one country, one vote, with the exception of the European Union, which will have a single vote.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is unique in that it is a specialized agency of the United Nations, focused specifically on food security and agriculture. The essence of the FAO Committee is its commitment to addressing global food security and agricultural challenges through evidence-based policy guidance and program implementation. The committee's work is guided by the principles of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereignty, non-interference, and cooperation.

Lastly, the only document required is an opening speech.

Opening Speech:

- It is read before starting the discussion of the topics and it cannot last more than 90 seconds.
- For this edition of the GCBMUN only one opening speech will be requested for both topics.
- It must be a diplomatic document intended to convey to the committee the delegation’s point of view.

Structure:

SPECIFICATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Header:

- Includes an image of the flag of the delegation, likewise the FAO's logo must be there.
- It is recommended to include the following information as well:

1. Name
2. Delegation
3. Committee
4. Topic

Greeting:

- Its purpose is to greet the other attendees
- It usually has the following structure (consider the hierarchical order of the presents in the room when doing the greeting):

1. Honorable members of the dais, delegates, sponsors and other presents in the room, receive a warm greeting from the delegation of the (complete name of your delegation).
2. Respected dais, fellow delegates, sponsors, observers and other presents in the room, receive a cordial greeting from (complete name of your delegation).

Introduction:

- Introduces the delegation to the rest of the committee.
- It is useful to mention important aspects of the delegation that could influence the debate during the committee.

Body:

- In the body should be an introduction to the topics and the position of your delegation.
- We recommend that you include specific statistics and facts in this part.
- It is also good that in this part of the speech you relate the two issues in some way.

Conclusion:

- It is the closing of the speech. It is suggested to put one or two of the proposals that you are going to develop during the debate.

Famous Quote:

- Although this is not included in all the speeches, it is a good tool to emphasize in the problematic or your position
- It could be added at the start or end of your speech.

GENERAL MISSION

The general mission of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee is to ensure food security and nutrition for all by leading international efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The FAO's primary goals are:

- Eradication of Hunger, Food Insecurity, and Malnutrition: FAO aims to ensure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

- Sustainable Agriculture: FAO promotes sustainable agriculture practices to preserve and restore natural resources and ecosystems.

- Rural Poverty Reduction: FAO works to improve the living conditions and nutritional levels of the poorest populations in developing countries.

The FAO Committee is guided by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2, which focuses on Zero Hunger. Though the Sustainable Development Goals may vary depending on the topic, but they always will focus on the SDG 2, Zero Hunger. The organization's strategic programs and projects are designed to achieve these goals through a holistic approach, involving technical cooperation, policy development, and stakeholder engagement.

However, due to the relevance to both topics, we will be addressing this Sustainable Development Goals:

2. Zero Hunger.

1. Good Health and Well-Being.

12. Responsible Consumption and Production.

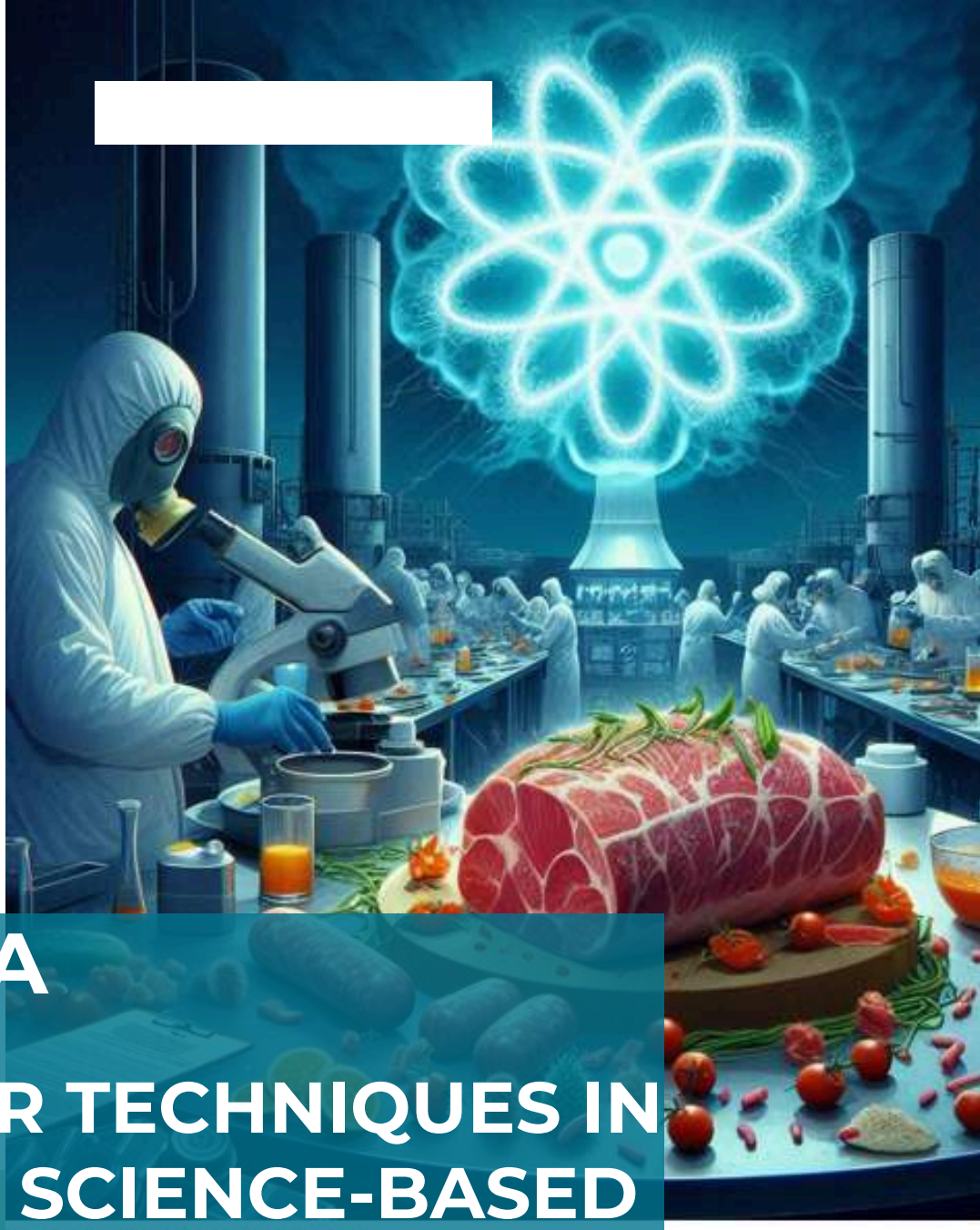
15. Life on Land.

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

17. Partnerships for the Goals.

[Image 3] (University of the Philippines, 2022)

FAO



[Image 4] (AI Generated Image)

TOPIC A

NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES IN SETTING SCIENCE-BASED FOOD

INTRODUCTION

Nuclear techniques are methods that use the properties of atomic nuclei to analyze and improve food production, processing, and safety. These techniques are used to ensure that food is safe, healthy, and of high quality. They help people to understand how to grow better crops, raise healthier animals, and prevent foodborne illnesses, basically they make sure that the food that we take is free from contamination from bacteria, chemicals, and other signs of contamination.

Food standards are guidelines that ensure food is safe and healthy for consumption. Science-based food standards are crucial because they are based on the latest scientific research and data. These standards help protect consumers from harmful substances and ensure that food is produced and traded fairly. This is due to the foundations of development of food standards being predicated on scientific analysis and data. Regarding the use of science or evidence-based approaches, food safety standards eliminate predicting while setting practices. This approach offers much ground and a good foundation in ensuring public health by avoiding risks associated with food.

Nuclear techniques are used to analyze the chemical composition of food, detect contaminants, and identify genetic variations. These techniques help scientists understand how different factors, such as climate change and environmental conditions, affect food quality. By using nuclear techniques, scientists can develop more accurate and effective food standards that protect consumers and promote sustainable agriculture.

Key areas where nuclear techniques play a crucial role include:

1. Detection of Contaminants:

- **Objective**: Identify harmful substances such as pesticides, heavy metals, and pathogens in food.
- **Method**: Using techniques like radiotracers, scientists can detect and measure minute levels of contaminants that might not be visible through traditional methods.

[Image 5] (International Nuclear Information System, s.f.)

INTRODUCTION

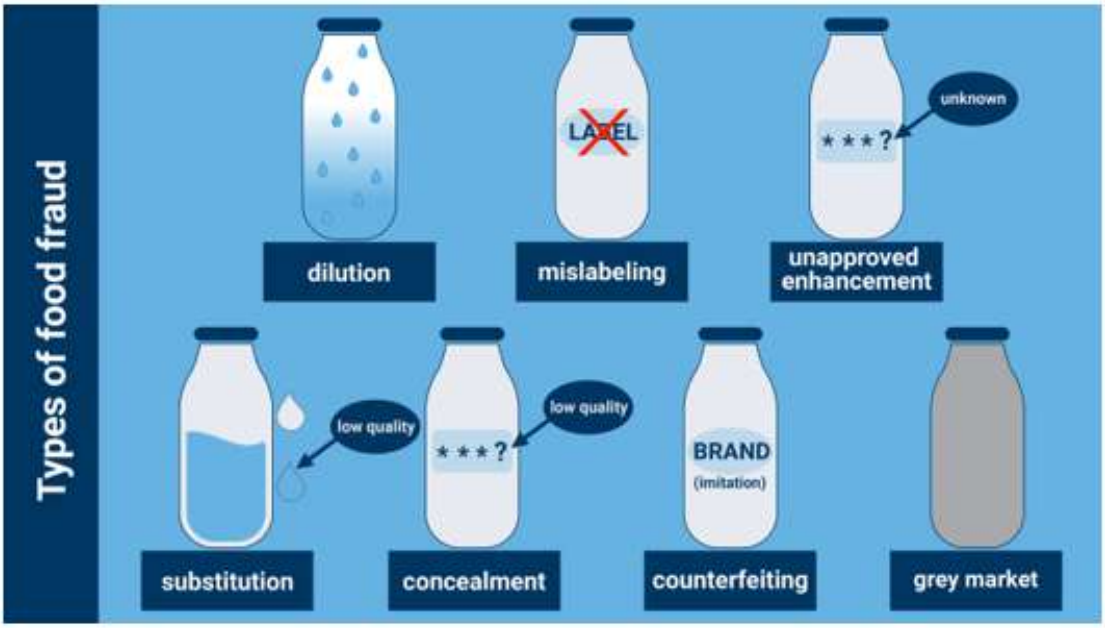
2. Monitoring Nutrients and Food Integrity:

- **Objective**: Ensure the retention of essential nutrients and verify the authenticity of food products.
- **Method**: Isotopic analysis allows scientists to track nutrient composition and detect any adulteration in food products by analyzing their atomic signatures.

[Image 6] (Stable Isotope Laboratory at the University of Oregon, 2017)

3. Combating Food Fraud:

- **Objective:** Prevent the sale of simulated or mislabeled food products.
- ·**Method**: Nuclear techniques help in authenticating food origin and composition, thus safeguarding against fraudulent practices that can mislead consumers.



[Image 7] (European Commission, 2020)

INTRODUCTION

On the other hand, they are varied options of nuclear techniques that may be employed in food safety, which include:

1. Radiation Detection:

- **Purpose**: Identify contaminants.
- **Process**: Low-level radiation is used to detect harmful elements within food, ensuring early identification and resolution of potential issues.

[Image 8] (Food Safety News, 2015)

[Image 9] (The Star, 2023)

2. Isotope Analysis:

- **Purpose**: Verify food origin and composition.
- **Process**: By examining the isotopic composition of food, scientists can determine its geographical origin and detect any adulteration or mislabeling.

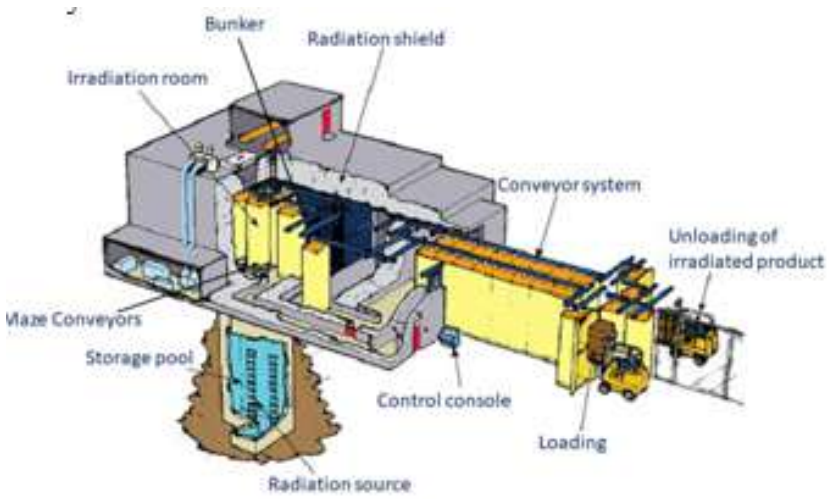
Stable isotope	What can be determined?	What food fraud can be identified?	What products can be affected?
Carbon	Photosynthesis (C3, C4 and CAM pathways)	Adulteration (e.g. sweetening with cheap sugar)	Honey, Liquor, Wine, Olive oil, Butter
Hydrogen	Local-regional rainfall and geographical area	Watering of beverages; origin of product	Coffee, Liquor, Wine, Water, Sugar, Meat
Nitrogen	Fertilizer assimilation by plants	Mislabelling (Organic and non-organic)	Vegetables, Meat
Oxygen	Local-regional rainfall and geographical area	Watering of beverages; origin of product	Coffee, Liquor, Wine, Water, Sugar, Meat
Sulfur	Local soil conditions; proximity to shoreline	Origin of product	Vegetables, Meat, Honey

[Image 10] (Shankariasparliament, 2024)

INTRODUCTION

3. Food Irradiation:

- **Purpose**: Enhance food safety.
- **Process**: Controlled exposure to ionizing radiation is used to eliminate pathogens and extend shelf life, without compromising food quality and safety.



[Image 11] (Science Direct, 2023)

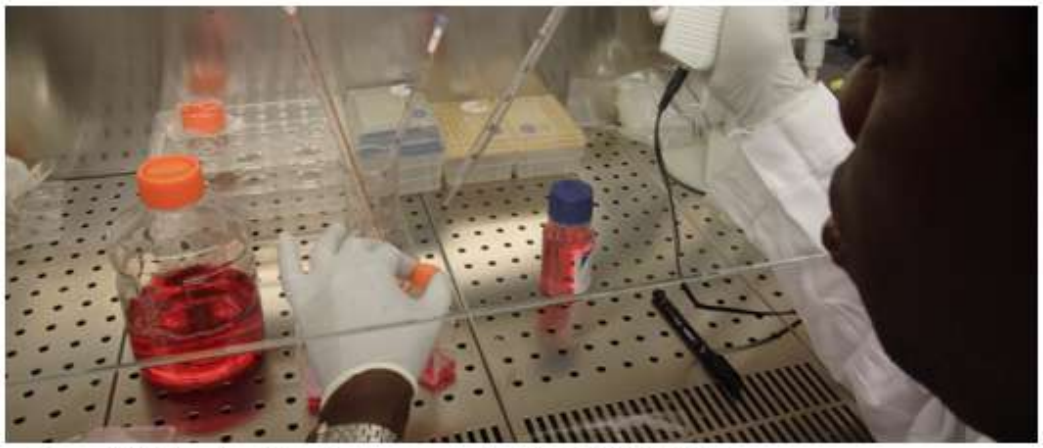
(Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, 2014)

The integration of nuclear techniques into food safety protocols has significantly improved the way we develop food standards. These methods offer exceptional precision and dependability in identifying contaminants, preserving nutrient quality, and preventing food adulteration. As a result, they enable the establishment of strict, evidence-based food standards that boost consumer trust and safeguard public health.

Nuclear techniques can improve food safety and quality, but concerns remain about accidents, contamination, environmental impact, cost, and public perception. The specialized nature of these techniques may make them inaccessible or cost-prohibitive for some countries, creating global inequality in food safety standards. Regulatory bodies also face complexities in setting international standards, making careful considerations of these crucial disadvantages for responsible and equitable application of nuclear techniques. (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 2024).

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

History and Description of the Topic



[Image 12] (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2024)

The use of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture dates to the 1950s and 1960s, when scientists began applying radioactive isotopes and radiation to improve crop yields, prevent corrosion, and ensure food safety. The development of the sterile insect technique in the 1960s was a significant breakthrough in controlling insect pests without using pesticides. Over the years, nuclear techniques have been used to improve crop varieties, prolong shelf life, and destroy pests and parasites, making food healthier and more appetizing. (International Atomic Energy Agency, 2023).

As nuclear science advanced, its applications in food safety also evolved. The 1960s and 1970s marked the introduction of food irradiation, a process that uses ionizing radiation to eliminate bacteria, parasites, and other pathogens in food. This technique gained international recognition as a powerful tool to enhance food safety and extend the shelf life of various food products, including fruits, vegetables, meat, and spices. In the 1980s and 1990s, the focus changed to isotope analysis. Scientists began using stable isotopes to verify the geographical origin of food and detect adulteration. This method involves analyzing the isotopic ratios of elements like carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen in food samples. Since these ratios vary depending on environmental conditions and agricultural practices, isotope analysis helps verify the authenticity of food products and trace their origins. (FAO, s. f.)

Some of the most innovative ways of improving agricultural practices involve nuclear technology. Using isotopes or radiation techniques in agriculture can control pests and diseases, increase crop production, protect land and water resources, ensure food safety, and increase livestock production. For example, nuclear and related technologies have made a difference in improving livestock productivity, controlling and preventing transboundary animal diseases, and protecting the environment. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2022).

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

In Cameroon, nuclear technology has been used effectively in livestock reproduction, breeding, artificial insemination, and disease control programs, resulting in increased milk yields and farmer income. In contrast, during the 1970s and 1980s, South Africa employed nuclear techniques in livestock management, including radioimmunoassay for reproductive control and radioisotopes for disease management. Initially, this led to increased productivity and milk yields. However, these methods ultimately resulted in reduced genetic diversity, increased disease susceptibility, and higher veterinary costs, negatively impacting farmers' incomes. Furthermore, the benefits were disproportionately distributed among white farmers due to apartheid-era policies, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities. Additionally, intensive farming practices contributed to environmental degradation, including overgrazing and soil erosion. (Nuclear Threat Initiative, 2007).

What is the significance of nuclear techniques in global food standards?

- Food safety: Nuclear techniques are often used in conjunction with complementary, non-nuclear methods to provide powerful solutions to food safety and control problems.
- Useful in food processing techniques: Pre-packaged fresh produce is exposed to controlled ionizing radiation to prevent pests, ensure quality, prevent illness, reduce losses, and extend shelf life.
- Antimicrobial resistance: It has a role in helping address issues such as antimicrobial resistance and mitigation of the effects of climate change on the food supply.
- Food authenticity: Field-deployable methods to check food authenticity at the point of contact and promotion of food authenticity for food safety and to improve nutrition.
- Detect chemical residues: It helps in detection and control of chemical residues and contaminants in food and feed to protect human and animal health.
- Emergency responses: They are used to speed up the natural process of plant mutation to develop crops that better withstand diseases and climatic shifts.
- Combat hunger: It offers competitive and unique solutions to combat hunger, reduce malnutrition, enhancing environmental sustainability.

(Shankaria's Parliament, s.f.)

CURRENT STATUS

The world faces immense food security and nutrition challenges. The initiative Atoms4Food, launched by the IAEA and FAO in October 2023, will support countries in using innovative nuclear techniques in enhancing agricultural productivity, reducing food losses, ensuring food safety, improving nutrition, and adapting to the challenges of climate change. Nuclear techniques can be applied to strengthen food security in different ways, such as speeding up the natural process of plant mutation to develop crops that better withstand diseases and climatic shifts. The IAEA and FAO will provide seven assessment services to support countries in using nuclear techniques for food security, including an assessment mission, crop variety improvement service, soil and water management service, animal production and health service, insect pest control service, food safety and control service, and public health nutrition service.

The seven assessments are:

1.Assessment Mission: To map the specific needs of countries and develop a tailored plan to address food security challenges.

2.Crop Variety Improvement Service: To use nuclear technology methods of plant mutation breeding to create more robust and nutritious crops.

3.Soil and Water Management and Crop Nutrition Service: To use nuclear and isotopic science to gather information on soil fertility, major crops and their average yield, availability of fertilizer, and water irrigation systems.

4.Animal Production and Health Service: To provide a scientific assessment of the epidemiological situation of animal diseases, interventions for prevention, diagnosis, and control, and laboratory and other veterinary service capacities.

5.Insect Pest Control Service: To address insect pests that affect agricultural production by using the nuclear-based sterile insect technique.

6.Food Safety and Control Service: To assess laboratory capabilities and the ability to conduct surveillance of food hazards.

7.Public Health Nutrition Service: To inform impactful nutrition programming using evidence on the nutritional value of foods and diet quality derived from the use of stable isotope techniques.

(Rural21, 2023)

The conflict started as a civil war, and the control for security managed by the United Nations led to its escalation to become an international conflict (Yang, 2010). Was it necessary to get involved in such a way? Did the conflict represent a great international thread before the UNSC involvement?

ANALYSIS

The topic of nuclear techniques in setting science-based food standards is highly relevant to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as it directly addresses the organization's mission to ensure food security and safety for all. The FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture plays a crucial role in promoting the safe and appropriate use of nuclear and related technologies to support global food security and sustainable agricultural development. This topic aligns with the FAO's Strategic Objectives 2, 4, and 5, which focus on making agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable, increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, and enabling inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems. (FAO, s.f.).

[Image 13] (International Atomic Energy Agency, 2024)

[Image 14] (United Nations, s.f.)

· SDG 2: Zero Hunger: Ensuring food security and safety is critical for achieving this goal. Nuclear techniques help ensure that food products are safe for consumption, reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses and improving public health.

· SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being: By improving food safety and reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses, the use of nuclear techniques in food standards directly contributes to this goal. Safer food products lead to better public health outcomes.

· SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: The use of nuclear techniques in food safety and quality control promotes sustainable consumption patterns by ensuring that food products are safe and of high quality, reducing waste, and promoting efficient use of resources.

· SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals: The FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture collaborates with member states and international organizations to promote the safe and appropriate use of nuclear and related technologies, fostering global partnerships and cooperation.

ANALYSIS

However, the use of nuclear techniques in food safety and quality control has significant cultural, social, economic, and political implications:

Cultural:
- When introducing modern nuclear techniques in regions with strong traditional food customs, it is important to approach this transition with sensitivity to avoid conflicts with cultural traditions. Educating and raising awareness can help bridge the gap between practices and current safety standards.

Social:
- By employing techniques to ensure food safety and authenticity, public trust in the food supply can be strengthened, especially in developing nations where foodborne illnesses are more prevalent.

Economic:
- Utilizing nuclear methods can boost trade by guaranteeing that exported foods meet global safety criteria. This can expand market access for developing countries and drive economic growth by enabling them to compete on a global scale.

- The implementation of nuclear techniques can also reduce the costs associated with food recalls and improve the efficiency of food testing programs.

Political – Policy Development:
- The use of nuclear techniques in food safety and quality control can help countries act in accordance with international standards and regulations, enhancing their reputation and trade relationships.

- Regulation: Governments must establish and enforce regulations that surround nuclear methods in food safety standards. Collaboration with organizations such as FAO and IAEA are essential for aligning standards and procedures.

- Funding and Infrastructure: Developing nations may require assistance to implement techniques, including financial support for equipment, training and infrastructure. International cooperation and aid are factors, in facilitating this transition.

- The public's view: Decision makers need to address worries among people regarding the application of technology in food such as concerns about radiation. It is crucial to communicate about the safety and advantages of these methods, for gaining public approval.

Overall, the use of nuclear techniques in food safety and quality control is crucial for public health and trust in the food system. It can lead to increased consumer confidence, reduced foodborne illnesses, and more efficient and cost-effective food testing programs. This, in turn, can have significant cultural, social, economic, and political implications, contributing to sustainable development and global food security.

ANALYSIS

[Image 15] (MDPI, 2021)

PREPARATION QUESTIONS

1. How can your delegation contribute to the discussion on the use of nuclear techniques?

2. What are the potential benefits and risks of using nuclear techniques in food production and processing that your delegation should consider?

3. How does your delegation's stance on international cooperation and technology transfer relate to the implementation of nuclear techniques in setting food standards?

4. What are the key concerns your delegation has regarding the transparency and public acceptance of using nuclear techniques in the food industry?

5. How can your delegation's experience with food inspection and monitoring systems inform the development of science-based standards using nuclear techniques?

6. What are the potential economic and trade implications of adopting nuclear techniques in food production that your delegation should address?

7. How can your delegation's position on environmental protection and sustainability be integrated into the discussion on the use of nuclear techniques in food systems?

8. What are the potential human health and safety considerations that your delegation should raise when discussing the application of nuclear techniques in food standards?

9. What specific policy recommendations or strategies can your delegation propose to ensure the responsible and equitable use of nuclear techniques in establishing science-based food standards?

10. How can your delegation's stance on the moral and ethical considerations of using nuclear techniques in food production and processing influence the debate?

GLOSSARY

Adulteration: The act of making something poorer in quality by adding inferior or forbidden substances to it.

Apartheid-era policies: Policies and practices of racial segregation and discrimination that were in place in South Africa during the apartheid era.

Artificial Insemination: The introduction of semen into a female's reproductive tract by artificial means, rather than by natural mating.

Atomic nuclei: The dense central core of an atom, consisting of protons and neutrons.

Authenticating: The process of verifying the origin or validity of something.

Breakthrough: A sudden, dramatic, and important discovery or development.

Conjunction: The act of joining or linking together.

Corrosion: The gradual destruction of a material, usually a metal, by chemical reaction with its environment.

Enhance: To improve the quality, value, or extent of something.

Fisheries: An area or industry of water that is fished commercially.

Foodborne Illnesses: Diseases caused by consuming contaminated food or beverages.

Forestry: The science and practice of managing forests and woodlands.

Ionizing radiation: High-energy radiation that can ionize atoms and molecules, potentially damaging living tissue.

Livestock: Farm animals, such as cattle, sheep, and pigs, raised for use or for profit.

Livelihoods: A means of securing the basic necessities of life.

Mislead: To cause (someone) to believe something that is not true.

Mitigation: The action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something.

Overgrazing: The act of allowing livestock to graze an area to the point that the vegetation is damaged or destroyed.

Radiotracers: Radioactive substances used to trace the movement or location of substances within a system.

GLOSSARY

Shelf Life: The length of time a product can be stored and remain suitable for use.

Surveillance: Close observation or monitoring of a person or group, especially one under suspicion.

Tailored: Made to fit the customer's or client's individual requirements.

Transboundary: Crossing or extending across a boundary, especially a political boundary.

Withstand: To remain firm and intact under the action of something that might destroy or impair.

FAO

[Image 16] (AI Generated Image)

TOPIC B

HUNGER CRISIS CAUSED BY VIOLENCE IN HAITI

INTRODUCTION

[Image 17] (CBS News, 2021)

Haiti is currently facing a severe hunger crisis exacerbated by widespread gang violence, political instability, and economic disturbance. This situation has led to one of the most critical humanitarian emergencies in the country's history, affecting millions of people, especially children. As of early 2024, nearly half of Haiti's population, approximately 4.97 million people, are in need of food assistance, with 1.64 million facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity, just one step away from famine. (World Food Program USA, 2024).

[Image 18] (Love A Child)

he roots of this crisis are deeply related to the escalating violence perpetrated by armed groups, which have taken control of significant areas, including the capital, Port-au-Prince. Reports indicate that gangs control up to 90% of the city, using hunger as a weapon to manipulate and intimidate local populations. (BBC, 2023). They have disrupted supply chains, blocked access to agricultural regions, and imposed extortionate fees on those attempting to transport food, thereby exacerbating food shortages and driving prices to unaffordable levels.
(Institute of Food Technologists, 2024).

Haiti's agricultural sector, which could potentially sustain the population, has been severely impacted. The Food and Agriculture Organization reported a significant decline in agricultural production, with crops like maize and rice seeing reductions of up to 39% and 34%, respectively, compared to the five-year average. (Britannica, 2024). This decline is not completely due to violence; it also results from years of underdevelopment, political mismanagement, and the effects of climate change, which have led to increased droughts and flooding.

INTRODUCTION

The humanitarian response to this crisis has been delayed by the very conditions that have created it. Aid organizations are struggling to deliver assistance due to safety concerns and logistical challenges. The World Food Program (WFP) has made efforts to provide food and monetarial assistance to those in need, reaching over 460,000 people across the country in recent months.

[Image 19] (Love A Child, 2023)

However, the scale of the crisis demands a tougher international response to ensure that humanitarian aid can reach those most affected. (U.S. Agency for International Development, 2024).

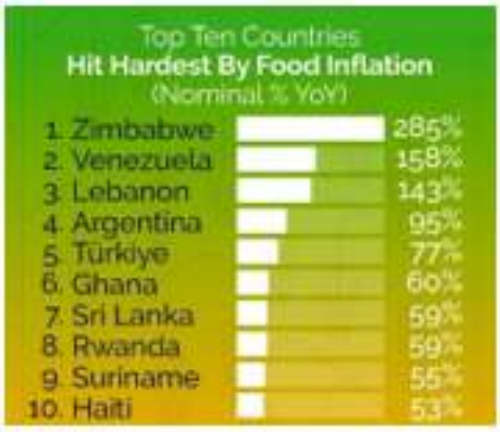
Children are particularly vulnerable in this crisis, with a reported 22% of children suffering from chronic malnutrition. (U.S. Agency for International Development, 2024). The ongoing violence and instability not only threaten their physical health but also their access to education and protection from exploitation. As families are displaced and livelihoods are destroyed, the risk of child labor, early marriage, and other forms of exploitation increases significantly.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

Millions of Haitians are now experiencing food insecurity, with alarming consequences for their health and well-being. The following timeline outlines the key events that have contributed to the current hunger crisis in Haiti, illustrating how the interplay of violence, political disturbs, and economic challenges have created one of the most severe humanitarian emergencies in the world today.

- March 2018: Venezuela's limitations of oil exports to Haiti resulted in significant fuel shortages, generating the Haitian government to eliminate fuel subsidies. This decision led to an outstanding 50% increase in fuel prices, causing widespread protests that escalated into violent demonstrations. These protests severely disrupted access to food and essential services, exacerbating the already fragile security situation (Smith, 2019). The unrest highlighted the interconnectedness of economic policies and social stability, as rising fuel costs directly impacted food prices and availability, pushing many families into deeper food insecurity (Jones, 2020).
- September 2019: Protests against President Jovenel Moïse intensified, with tens of thousands demanding his resignation. The protests turned violent, leading to a lockdown that lasted over two months, during which humanitarian organizations faced significant barriers in accessing affected areas (United Nations, 2020). This blockade further intensified food shortages, illustrating how political instability can directly obstruct humanitarian efforts and exacerbate food insecurity (Brown, 2021).

[Image 20] (BBC News, 2019)



[Image 21] (World Economic Forum, s.f.)

- ·2020: The COVID-19 pandemic affected negatively nationwide lockdowns, disrupting economic activities and food supply chains. Economic shocks led to huge food prices, with reports indicating that a working individual in Haiti spent approximately 35% of their income on a single meal (World Food Programme, 2021). This situation significantly worsened food insecurity, as many families struggled to meet basic needs. The pandemic underscored the vulnerability of Haiti's economy and its reliance on stable supply chains, which were severely disrupted during this period (Miller, 2022).

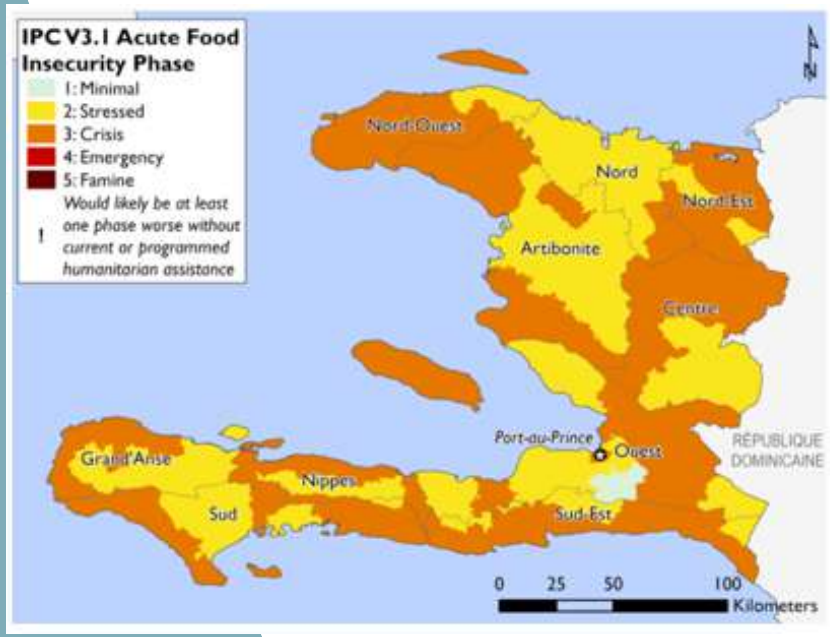
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

- 7th of July 2021: The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse created a power vacuum, leading to a surge in violence from armed groups. Reports indicated that gangs began controlling up to 90% of Port-au-Prince, severely limiting access to food and essential services (International Crisis Group, 2021).

[Image 22] (NY Post, 2021)

The rise of gang violence highlighted the intersection of political instability and food security, as armed groups exploited the situation to exert control over vital resources and supply routes (Johnson, 2022).

- August 2021: A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake gets to Haiti, compounding the humanitarian crisis by destroying infrastructure and displacing thousands (Haitian Government, 2021). The earthquake exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, making it increasingly difficult for families to access food and other essential services. This disaster illustrated the fragility of Haiti's infrastructure and the compounded effects of natural disasters on food security (FAO, 2021).

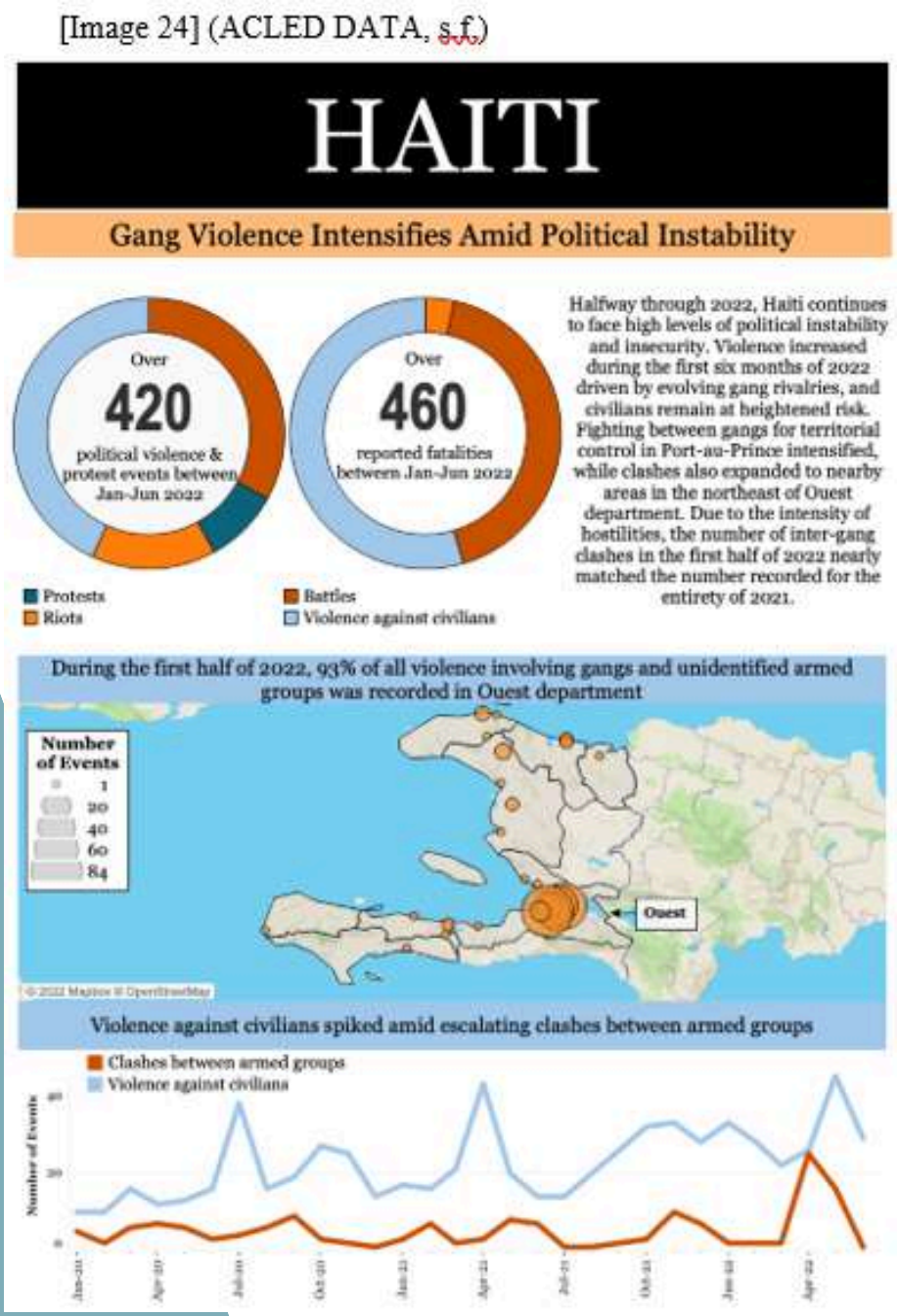


[Image 23] (FEWS NET, 2023)

- 2022: Armed groups intensified their control over food supply routes, using hunger as a weapon to manipulate local populations. Reports indicated that gangs blocked access to agricultural areas, threatening farmers and disrupting food production (United Nations, 2022). The UN reported that gangs have “directly and indirectly threatened the nation’s food security,” emphasizing the role of violence in exacerbating hunger (FAO, 2022). Additionally, the FAO reported significant decreases in agricultural production, with maize, rice, and sorghum yields plummeting compared to the five-year average, further amplifying food insecurity (FAO, 2022).

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

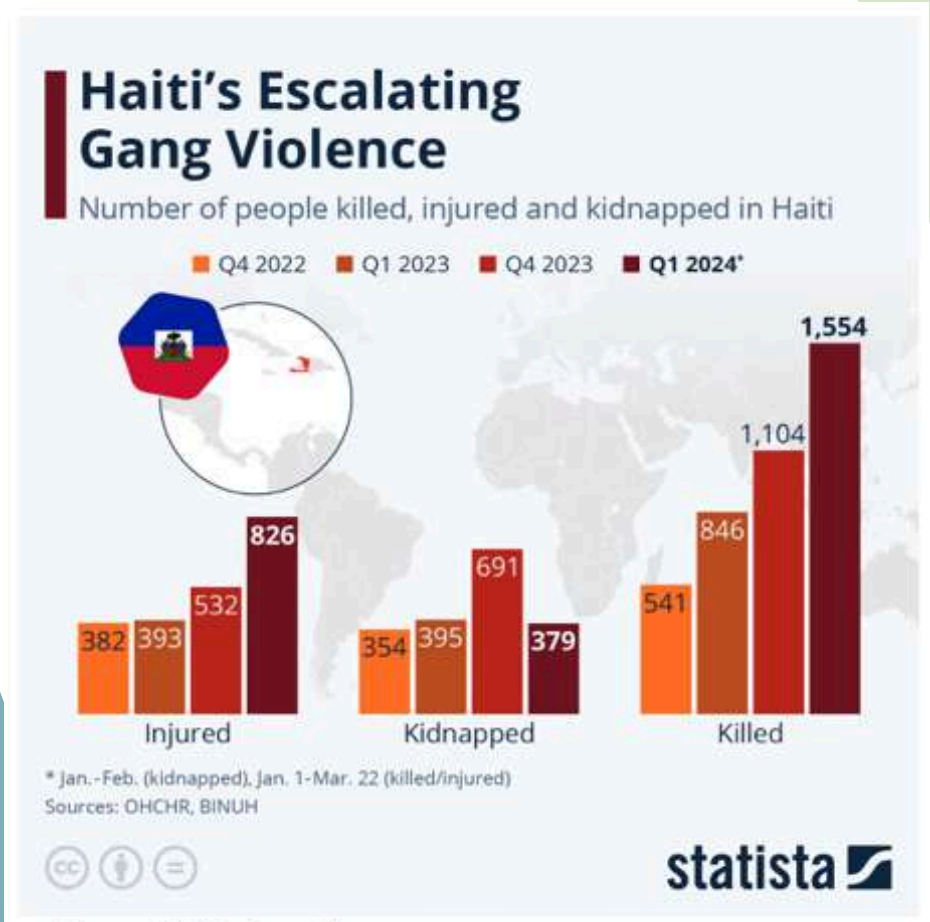
[Image 24] (ACLED DATA, s.f.)



- Early 2023: Nearly 4.97 million Haitians faced acute food insecurity, with 1.64 million in emergency conditions (World Food Programme, 2023). Children were particularly affected, with a reported 19% increase in severe acute malnutrition cases (UNICEF, 2023). This alarming statistic underscores the critical need for targeted interventions to protect vulnerable populations, particularly children, from the devastating effects of food insecurity.

- 2023: Haiti experienced a resurgence of cholera, with over 72,000 cases reported as of October 2023 (World Health Organization, 2023). This public health crisis further strained the already fragile health system and increased the demand for humanitarian assistance, highlighting the complex interplay between health crises and food security (Smith, 2023).

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC



[Image 25] (Satista, s.f.)

- 2023-2024: The ongoing violence has displaced approximately 360,000 individuals since the start of 2024 (International Organization for Migration, 2024). Armed groups continue to block key transportation routes, driving up food prices and limiting access to agricultural areas. The situation remains tough, with 5.5 million people requiring humanitarian assistance as of April 2024 (United Nations, 2024). The UN reports that the worsening crisis is attributed to ongoing violence, inflation, and poor harvests, emphasizing the urgent need for coordinated humanitarian responses to address the escalating hunger crisis (World Food Programme, 2024).

- May 2024: Humanitarian organizations, including the World Food Programme, have called for immediate action to address the escalating hunger crisis (World Food Programme, 2024). The combination of violence, economic instability, and environmental challenges continues to threaten the lives of millions of Haitians, underscoring the need for comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of food insecurity (Brown, 2024).

CURRENT STATUS

Food Insecurity:

The hunger crisis in Haiti has reached alarming levels, with 97% of households in some regions suffering from severe hunger. Many families are surviving on just one meal per day, and the situation is particularly dire for children, with a reported 19% increase in severe acute malnutrition cases in 2024. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 4.35 million people do not have enough to eat, highlighting the urgent need for humanitarian assistance.

[Image 26] (The Borgen Project, 2024)

Armed Groups and Its Impact:

The control exerted by gangs over key transportation routes has disrupted food supply chains, making it difficult for food to reach those in need. Gangs have been known to impose roadblocks and extort payments from those attempting to transport goods, effectively using hunger as a weapon to manipulate local populations. The UN has reported that these gangs have "directly and indirectly threatened the nation's food security," creating significant obstacles for humanitarian organizations trying to provide aid.

[Image 27] (Reuters, 2022)

CURRENT STATUS

Humanitarian Response:

In response to the escalating crisis, various humanitarian organizations, including the WFP and UNICEF, are working to provide food assistance and support agricultural livelihoods. The WFP has reached over 460,000 people with food and monetarial assistance, including school meals for children. However, the ongoing violence poses significant challenges to these efforts, and the scale of the crisis demands a more effective and totalitarian international response to ensure that aid can reach those most affected.

[Image 28] (PAHO, s.f)

[Image 29] (Army Mil, 2024)

[Image 30] (US Agency for International Development, s.f)

ANALYSIS

The hunger crisis in Haiti has emerged as a critical humanitarian issue, exacerbated by a complex interplay of violence, economic instability, and socio-political challenges. Recent investigations reveal alarming levels of food insecurity, with a significant portion of the population struggling with extreme hunger and malnutrition. In urban areas like Port-au-Prince, nearly half of the population experiences moderate to severe food insecurity, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions.

Furthermore, the relationship between food insecurity and health outcomes, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children, underscores the multifaceted nature of this crisis. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing effective strategies to solve hunger and improve nutritional health in Haiti, as the consequences of inaction could be alarming for millions of individuals and families.

Analysis of Key Findings

-Prevalence of Food Insecurity:

- The study reports that 40.1% of participants experienced moderate to high food insecurity, while 43.7% faced extreme food insecurity. These figures indicate that a substantial portion of the population is struggling to access adequate food, reflecting the broader humanitarian crisis in Haiti exacerbated by violence and economic instability.

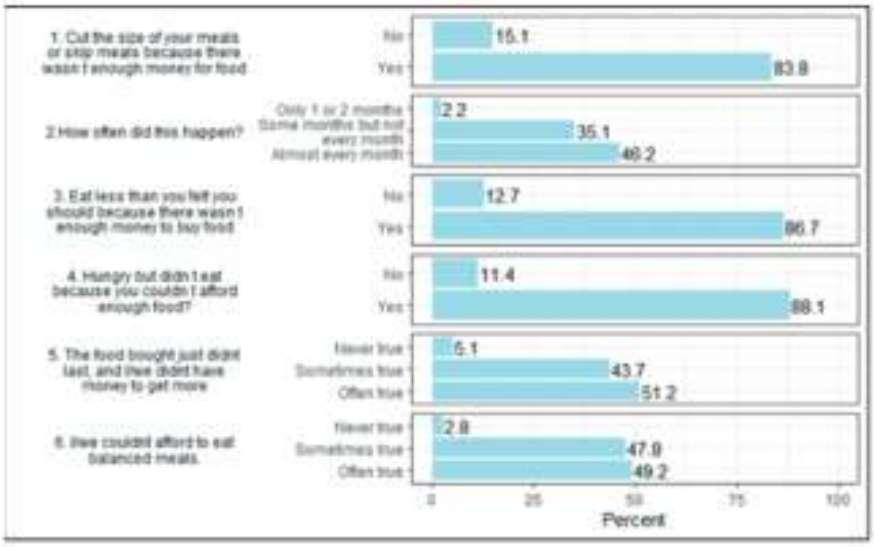
-Demographic Insights:

- Those experiencing extreme food insecurity tended to be older (median age of 41 years) and less educated, with only 11.6% having completed secondary education compared to 20.3% among those with no or low food insecurity. This highlights the intersection of education and food security, suggesting that educational initiatives could play a vital role in alleviating food insecurity in the long term.

-Inverse Relationship with Obesity:

- Additionally, the study found an inverse relationship between food insecurity and obesity. Participants with extreme food insecurity had the lowest prevalence of obesity (15.3%) compared to those with no or low food insecurity (21.6%). The authors suggest that this counterintuitive finding warrants further investigation, as it challenges common assumptions about food insecurity leading to obesity.

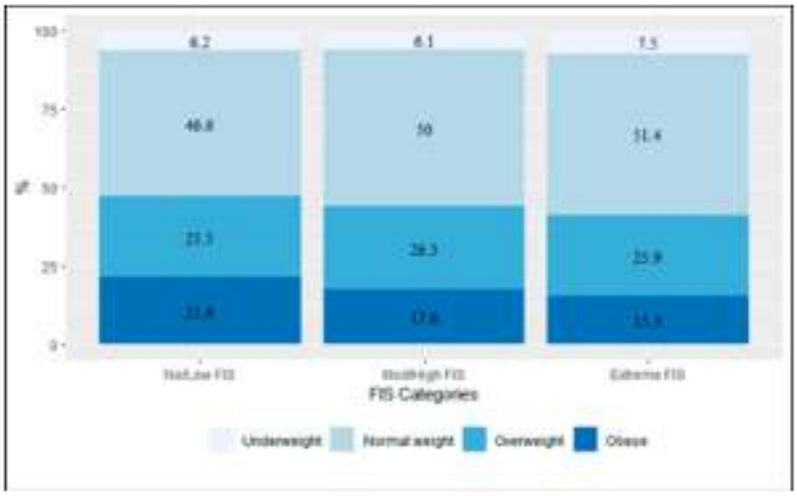
ANALYSIS



[Image 31] (MDPI, 2024)

Description: Image 31 visually represents the prevalence of food insecurity levels among participants. It categorizes individuals into groups based on their food security status, illustrating the significant proportion experiencing moderate to extreme food insecurity.

Analysis: This image emphasizes the urgent need for targeted interventions to address food insecurity in Haiti. The high prevalence rates underscore the critical situation that many households face, particularly in urban areas like Port-au-Prince, where access to food is severely compromised by violence and economic challenges.



[Image 32] (MDPI, 2024)

Description: Image 32 shows the relationship between different levels of food insecurity and the prevalence of obesity among participants. It highlights the contrasting trends observed in the study, were higher levels of food insecurity correlate with lower rates of obesity.

ANALYSIS

Analysis: This image is crucial for understanding the complexity of malnutrition in Haiti. It suggests that while food insecurity is prevalent, it does not necessarily lead to higher obesity rates, possibly due to the types of food available and the economic constraints that limit dietary choices. This finding calls for a nuanced approach to nutrition interventions, considering both food access and the quality of food consumed.

[Image 33] (United Nations, s.f.)

Here's how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 15, 16, and 17 are related to the hunger crisis in Haiti:

- SDG 2, Zero Hunger: This goal directly addresses the hunger crisis in Haiti by aiming to end hunger, achieve food security, and promote sustainable agriculture. Given that nearly 5 million Haitians are currently food insecure, achieving this goal is critical for improving nutrition and health outcomes in the country.

- SDG 3, Good Health and Well-Being: The hunger crisis significantly impacts health outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children. High levels of malnutrition lead to increased rates of illness and mortality. Addressing food insecurity is essential for improving overall health and reducing the burden of disease in Haiti.

- SDG 15, Life on Land: Sustainable land management and the protection of ecosystems are vital for agricultural productivity and food security. Deforestation and environmental degradation in Haiti have contributed to reduced agricultural yields. Promoting sustainable land practices can enhance food production and resilience against climate change.

- SDG 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: The ongoing violence and instability caused by armed groups directly undermine efforts to achieve food security. Strengthening governance, promoting peace, and ensuring justice are essential for creating a secure environment where humanitarian aid can be effectively delivered, and agricultural activities can thrive.

- SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals: Achieving food security in Haiti requires collaboration among governments, international organizations, and local communities. Partnerships are crucial for mobilizing resources, sharing knowledge, and implementing effective interventions to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

These SDGs are interconnected, and progress in one area can significantly influence outcomes in others, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle the hunger crisis in Haiti.

ANALYSIS

The hunger crisis in Haiti represents a deep humanitarian emergency driven by a confluence of violence, political instability, and economic challenges. The alarming prevalence of food insecurity, particularly in urban areas like Port-au-Prince, underscores the urgent need for comprehensive interventions that address both immediate food needs and the underlying factors contributing to malnutrition. Recent findings reveal that a significant portion of the population faces extreme food insecurity, with vulnerable groups, especially children, bearing the brunt of this crisis. The complex relationship between food insecurity and health outcomes, including the unexpected correlation with obesity, highlights the necessity for nuanced approaches in humanitarian responses. As the situation continues to deteriorate, it is imperative for the international community and local organizations to collaborate in implementing effective strategies that not only provide immediate relief but also foster long-term resilience and stability in Haiti. Without decisive action, the consequences of this crisis will persist, affecting the health and future of millions of Haitians.

The social impact of the Hunger Crisis in Haiti caused by Violence, is devastating and multifaceted. The most vulnerable communities are trapped in a cycle of poverty and malnutrition, where access to food and basic services is limited or non-existent. Violence not only destabilizes the local economy but also deepens social divisions, disproportionately affecting women, children, and marginalized groups. Furthermore, the ideological diversity within the country complicates the response to the crisis. Different political sectors and armed groups often have ideologies that contradict humanitarian efforts, making it difficult to implement sustainable solutions. This fragmented ideological context delays social cohesion and perpetuates the crisis, highlighting the need for an inclusive approach that considers the diverse perspectives and needs of the Haitian population.

PREPARATION QUESTIONS

1. How have armed groups disrupted food supply chains and agricultural production in Haiti?

2. What is the relationship between food insecurity and malnutrition in Haiti?

3. What are the long-term consequences of the hunger crisis on the health, education, security and well-being of Haitian people?

4. What roles have trade liberalization policies played in undermining Haiti's agricultural sector and contributing to food insecurity over the past few decades?

5. What specific initiatives have humanitarian organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) implemented to address the hunger crisis in Haiti? How effective have these interventions been in reaching those most in need?

6. What are the most affected regions in Haiti by the hunger crisis, and what specific challenges do these areas face?

7. How has the Haitian government addressed the hunger crisis and the violence contributing to it?

8. What policy recommendations would your delegation propose to address the main or root causes of the hunger crisis in Haiti and ensure long-term food security for the population?

9. How does your delegation's country view the situation in Haiti, and what actions have they taken or proposed in response to the crisis?

10. What are the ethical considerations in providing aid to Haiti, especially in the context of ongoing violence and political instability?

GLOSSARY

Cholera: A highly infectious, often fatal disease occurring in hot countries, caused by contaminated water and characterized by severe diarrhea and dehydration.

Famine: A severe shortage of food resulting in widespread hunger and death.

Harvests: The process or period of gathering in crops.

Households: A house and its occupants regarded as a unit.

Nuanced: Having or showing a subtle difference in meaning or opinion.

Resignation: The acceptance of something undesirable but inevitable.

Roadblocks: An obstruction placed across a road to stop vehicles.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

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FAO (The official webpage of FAO).

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