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Soaring food prices: New face of hunger





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Food security

All people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.



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Food security – three components

- Availability (production, import)
- Access (own production, purchase)
- Utilisation (determining nutrition)

WFP dealing with Access (and Nutrition) against backdrop of Availability



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soaring food prices



Source: *The Economist*

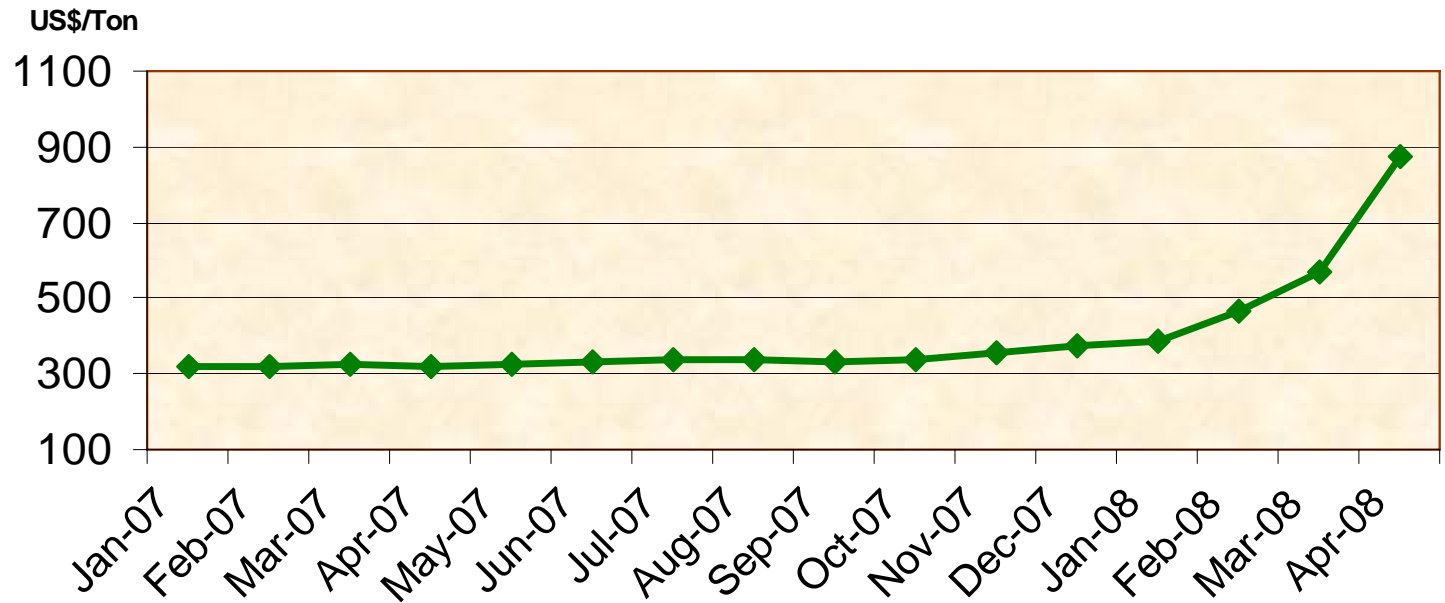


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Rice Price 2007-2008



White Rice - Thai 100% B second grade f.o.b. Bangkok

Source: FAO/Jackson Son & Co. (London) Ltd.

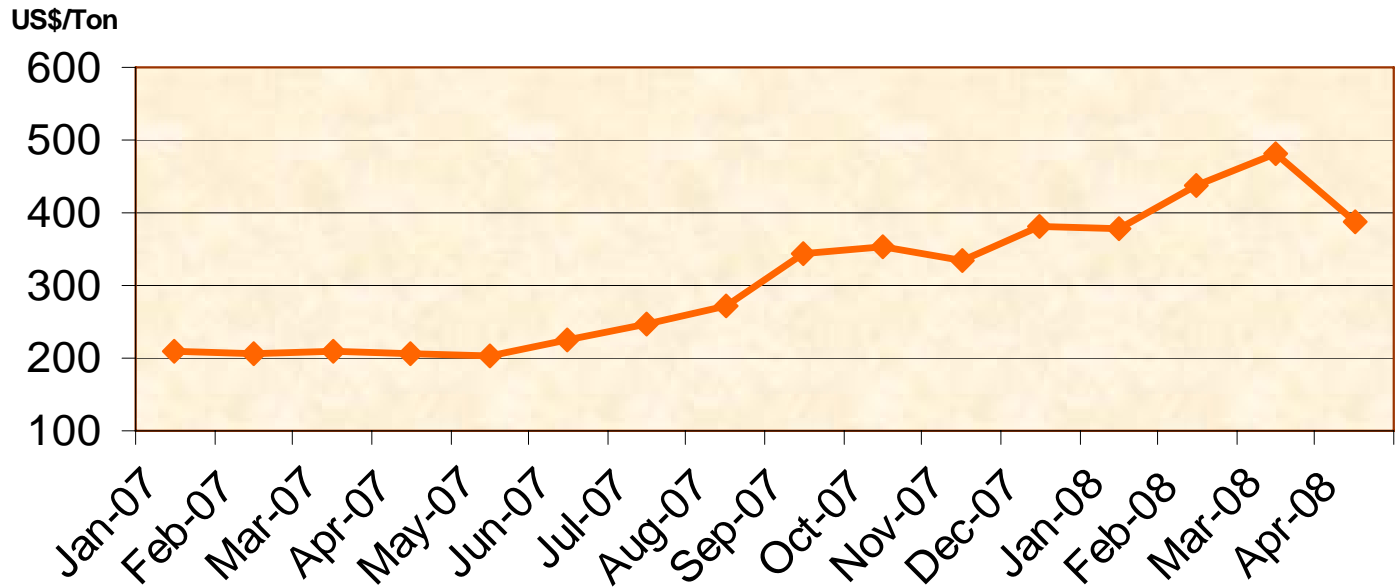


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Wheat Price 2007-2008



Wheat - US No.2, Hard Red Winter ord. Prot, US Fob Gulf

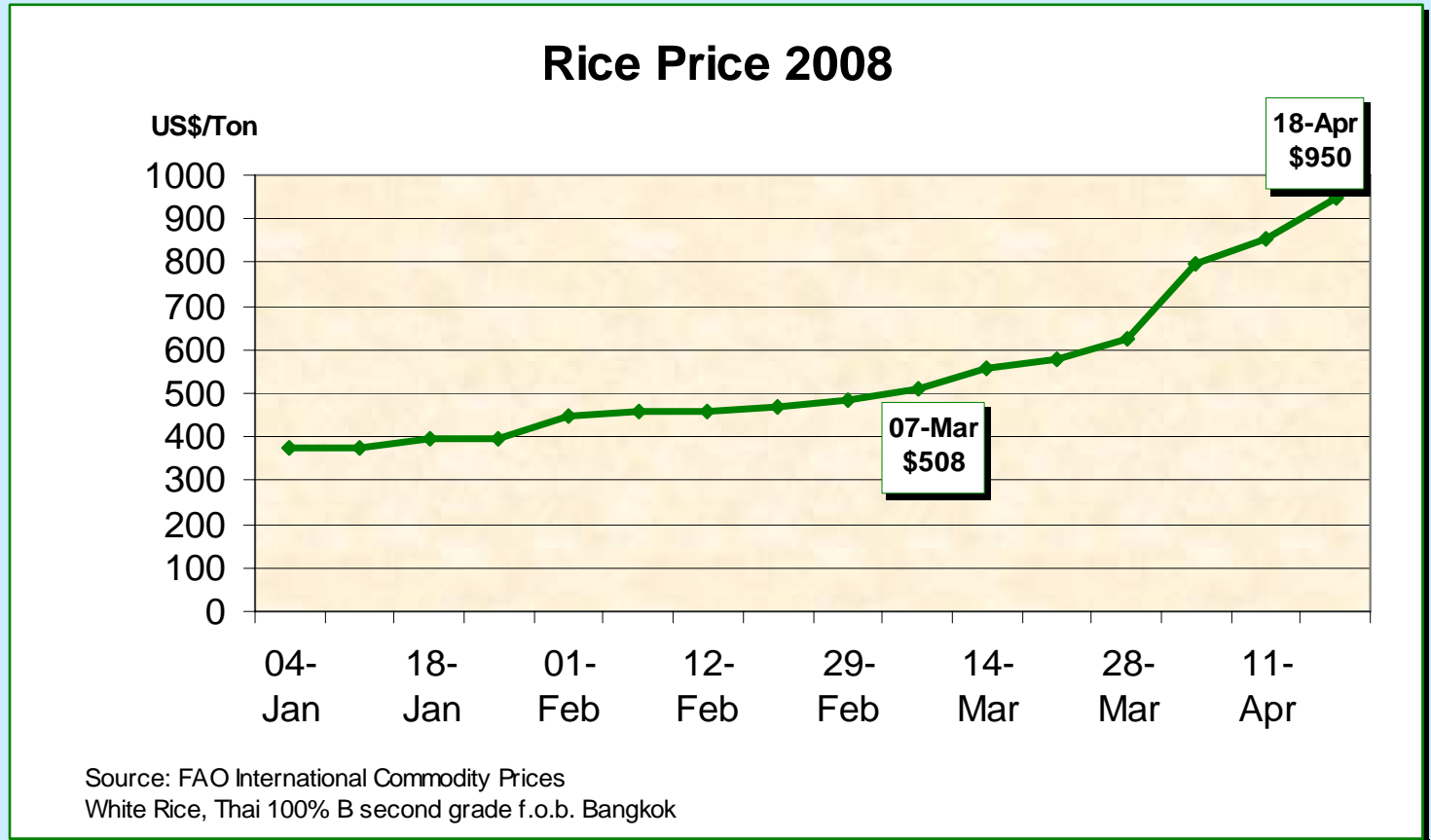
Source: FAO/International Grain Council



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87% increase in rice alone – March to April 2008



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causes

- ◆ income growth, changing diets in emerging economies
- ◆ record prices of oil
- ◆ link between food and fuel
- ◆ increasingly severe weather
- ◆ restricted trade and tight supply



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Countries most at risk in Asia- **Impact will be greater in countries with an already high incidence of hunger and under-nutrition**

- those importing high proportion of food requirements
- those with limited international reserves
- those already facing inflationary pressure
- those whose populations spend a large proportion of household income on food
- those experiencing an additional “shock” such as extreme weather or conflict



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People's food insecurity

- Before the crisis: 800 million food insecure people in the world.
- WFP provides assistance to some 75 million globally, of which 28 million vulnerable poor in 14 countries in Asia
- Due to the crisis more people become food insecure, i.e. those who were vulnerable but who could still manage

Hunger in Asia and the Pacific Region

Asia and the Pacific have:

- More than two-thirds of the developing world's population
- Nearly two-thirds of the developing world's undernourished population

Source: FAO State Of Food Insecurity, 2006



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the implications

people most at risk:

- refugees, IDPs
- infants and mothers
- orphans and vulnerable schoolchildren
- the rural poor
- HIV/AIDS patients
- small-scale farmers and pastoralists
- the urban poor on less than \$1 a day

coping strategies being enacted:

- less healthcare, education
- selling household assets in desperation
- purchasing less nutritious food-Increase Malnutrition
- consuming less food, eating fewer meals



less resilient to disasters and shocks





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Silent emergency



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impact on the MDGs

there will be rise in both
the depth and incidence
of hunger/malnutrition

**MDG 1: eradicate extreme
poverty and hunger**

MDG 4: reduce child mortality

health status will decline
increased maternal mortality

**MDG 5: improve maternal
health**



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a coherent global response

Global response involving governments, UN agencies, international financial institutions and NGOs working together to avert a hunger and nutritional crisis and address long term solutions. Potential actions include:

- ◆ **Immediate/Medium Term**
 - **assess needs and identify new vulnerable people**
 - **ramp up existing safety nets**
 - **targeted food distributions**
 - **policy advice to governments**
 - **balance of payment support**
 - **provide seeds, fertilizer, and other inputs**
 - **expand cash and voucher programmes**
 - **launch new safety net programmes**

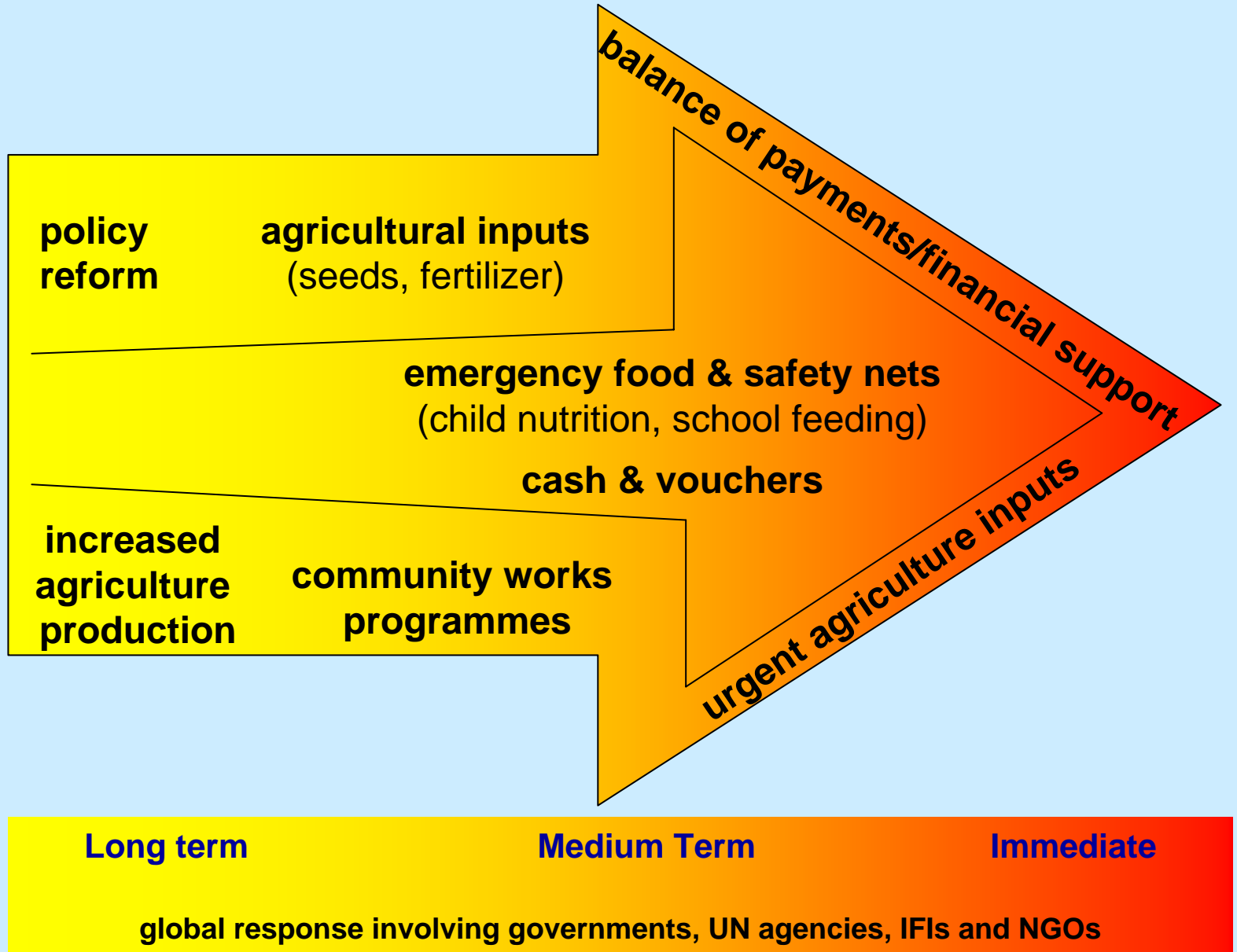
- ◆ **Medium/Longer Term**
 - **policy reform**
 - **promote increased agricultural production**
 - **invest in sustainable and predictable safety nets**



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a coherent global response:





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Constraints for increased production

- Arable land availability
- Water availability
- Natural disasters more frequent due to over population, over exploitation of land



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WFP's response - Interventions

- ➔ scale up safety nets for the vulnerable
 - targeted food distribution
 - supplementary nutritional feeding
 - school feeding (+ take home rations)
 - food or cash transfers
 - employment schemes (food/cash)
- ➔ use distribution network to support partner agencies
- ➔ local purchases to support small farmers
- ➔ policy advice to governments in responding to crisis

More Information

- High Level Joint UN taskforce
- www.un.org
- www.ifpri.org/pubs/bp/bp001.asp
- www.wfp.org

THANK YOU