USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum
What lies ahead:
Searching for Innovation and the Next Technological Frontier

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735 million people faced hunger in 2022.

That is an increase of over 122 million people in one year due to the effects of the pandemic, repeated weather shocks and conflicts.

3 billion people don’t have access to a healthy diet.
In 2022, 258 million people had experienced acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) in 58 countries.

Phase 3: Crisis
Highly stressed and critical lack of food access with high and above usual malnutrition and accelerated depletion of livelihood assets

Phase 4: Emergency
Severe lack of food access with excess mortality, very high and increasing malnutrition, and irreversible livelihood asset stripping

Phase 5: Famine
Extreme social upheaval with complete lack of food access and/or other basic needs where mass starvation, death and displacement are evident

Urgent action required
Main drivers:

- conflict
- economic shocks
- weather extremes
Farmers are the most vulnerable.
But Farmers are also innovators.
FAO promotes and upscales innovation.
Without trade, food availability and accessibility would be more unevenly distributed.

We would have less diverse diets.
Impacts and Disruptions:

- Panama Canal
- Red Sea
- Black Sea
Challenges:

- Low water levels
- Changes in shipping routes
- Longer shipping routes
Innovation is, at its core, about solving problems.

E-phyto solution and supply chain traceability are two important – and practical – innovations.
FAO’s work and contributions
Thank you!