


**NATURE AND IMPLEMENTATION  
OF FOOD POLICY**

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**Food Policy**

- A plan of collective action
- Regulations, incentives, knowledge
- Why interventions?
  - Public goods
  - Market power
  - Externalities/private vs. social costs/mkt.failure
  - Information



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**Policy Priorities (1)**

- Concurrent hunger, nutr. def. and obesity
  - Search for policies solving all three problems
  - Increased focus on demand policies
  - Shift from self-sufficiency to sovereignty
  - Shift from national to HH food security
  - Food safety policies
  - Safety nets
  - Health links



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**Policy Priorities (2)**

- Recognition of food system complexity
  - Importance of macroeconomic policies
  - Natural resource management policies
  - A comprehensive systems perspective
- Importance of the supply chain
  - Concentration and vertical integration
  - Contract farming
  - Infrastructure, public goods
  - Trade policy, price transmission
  - Institutions: Market efficiency and competition



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**Policy Priorities (3)**

- New supply-side concerns
  - Productivity-increases to reduce poverty
  - Choice of technology and prod. practices
  - Commercialization and structural changes
  - Water use efficiency
  - Sustainable management of natural resources
  - Institutions: Collective action



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**Policy Response to 2007-08 Food Crisis**

- Description of crisis
- Causes
- Consequences
- Policy responses



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## What is Food Policy Analysis?

- Policy affecting the global food system
- Aim to inform policy process
- Narrow or comprehensive?
- Positive or normative?
- Which ethical foundation?
- Is utility maximization value-free?
- Are other goals or ethics relevant?
- Single discipline or interdisciplinary?
- Choice of analytical approach



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## Two Perspectives

- Government maximizing social welfare
  - Seeking efficiency gains
  - Correcting market failures
  - Making social benefits dominate private ones
- Political economy approach
  - Seeking government legitimacy
  - Rent-seeking by public or private groups
  - Market distortions



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## Stakeholder Analysis

- Identify and describe stakeholder groups
  - Description
  - Position on policy issue
  - Strength of interest
  - Capacity to influence policy debate and outcome
  - Possibilities for coalitions and consensus
  - Government position and strength



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## Stakeholder Groups

- Various parts of government
- Various consumer groups
- Various producer groups
- Various marketing groups
- Advocacy groups
- International agencies
- Trading partners
- Others



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