

Food and farming fit for the 21st century

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Brewing up for a perfect storm

- After a period of food surpluses, food security now high on the political agenda with global population predicted to rise from 6B to 9B
- Very heavy dependence on a diminishing reserve of fossil fuels
- Climate change set to affect migration, landscape and food production potential

Today's 'global weather'

- Farming dependent on oil based fertilisers and other inputs
- Food processing and distribution dependent on oil (both emitting greenhouse gases)
- Soils depleting with input dependent crops (reducing carbon store and causing environmental damage)
- Livestock farming providing poor welfare, and environmental and health risks
- Asian diets becoming 'westernised'
- Obesity and health related problems

But there could be a silver lining....

- Energy for food production from renewables (solar and biological)
- Energy for processing and distribution from renewables
- Farms diversifying into energy production
- Soil recognised as a carbon store
- Less meat in diets but better quality and forage raised
- Less cereal production and more horticulture
- Improved diets, less obesity