

IOWA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

Position Paper (2022)

Science Committee

Topic: What should be the U.S. position in the United Nations on sustainable food production?

Italic means passed

Bold means failed

Underlined means tabled

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. *The United States has placed emphasis on the reduction of food loss and waste due to the statistic that 30-40% of food in the United States is never consumed.*
2. ~~Deforestation and forest degradation are responsible for around 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions.~~
3. *Recognizes the United Nations 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets for development.*
4. *Livestock is defined as an animal farmed and raised for consumption and/or for resources, ex. (sheep, cattle, and wool) and are considered assets. (Oxford Dictionary)*
5. ~~In the United States, 85% of greenhouse gas emissions, from food waste, are attributable to production, transportation, processing, and distribution. (EPA)~~
6. *A proposal that the committee recognizes current total Earth population estimates of 9.8 billion by 2050 and 11.2 billion by 2100 according to the United Nations official release.*

- ~~7. Safe labor laws are defined as a healthy relationship between work and corporation where conditions are safe and sanitary, a fair and competitive wage, provides a lawful amount of work hours and does not discriminate against gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity.~~
8. *Crop is defined as a plant that is grown with intent of consumption, resource, and/or to study. And regarded as an asset. (Oxford dictionary)*
9. *Sustainable agriculture is defined as agriculture that meets the needs for future and present population while ensuring profitability and environmental health. (United Nations website)*
10. *The United States 2030 food loss and waste reduction goal outlines plans to address climate change, increase food security, productivity, and economic efficiency, and conserve energy and other natural resources.*
- ~~11. In 2003, 516 million pounds of pesticides were used in the United States on 21 types of crops.~~
- ~~12. "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair was a catalyst for multiple meat standard and sanitary laws.~~
13. *Recognizing the 2003 global food summit set international goals from 2003 to 2023.*
- ~~14. Organic is defined as food growth without the use of pesticides.~~
- ~~15. A 1/3 of edible produce is wasted during food production at the farming level.~~
16. *Sustainable food production is a pressing matter considering food production is expected to increase 100%-110% between the years 2005-2050.*
- ~~17. Deforestation can be defined as the purposeful clearing of forested land.~~
- ~~18. Vertical farming is defined as growing plants indoor in layers using LED lighting and controlled growing and nutrition systems.~~
- ~~19. The United Nations defines sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.~~
20. *Sustainable food production is defined as a "method of production using processes and systems that are non-polluting, conserve non-renewable energy and natural resources, are economically efficient are safe workers communities and consumers and do not compromise the needs for future generations."*

- ~~21. sustainable food production is the process of making food in a way that conserves energy and natural resources while still being economically efficient so that present needs are met while still preserving the earth for future generations~~
- ~~22. Anaerobic digestion is the act of turning organic food waste into usable biosludge and methane gas.~~
- ~~23. By 2050 estimates show that general food production will need to increase by 110% to cover the needs of a population that may exceed 9 billion individuals.~~
- ~~24. The United States has activated its first domestic plan to reduce food waste to show its dedication to increasing the sustainable production of food not only in the United States but for all nations and peoples of the world.~~
25. *The United States is supporting, “The Coalition of Action on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation,” accelerating the transition to more sustainable food systems through agricultural productivity growth that optimizes social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability. (USDA)*
26. *According to the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations 33% of global land not covered in ice is taken for feeding and maintenance of livestock.*
- ~~27. The USDA has made efforts toward the global “Food is Never Waste Coalition,” reaffirming the United States’ commitment to reducing food loss and waste domestically.~~
28. *The legal definition of organic is “certified to have grown on soil that had no prohibited substances applied for three years prior” (USDA)*
29. *Cover crops are a plant that is used to prevent soil erosion by protecting soil.*
30. *Food security is defined as the state of having reliable access to sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food(Oxford Dictionary)*
31. *The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate stands for increasing public and private investment in climate-smart agriculture and food system innovation.*

32. *Sustainable food production is defined as production that promotes and ensures the prosperity of food production and positively or neutrally impacts the environment.*

COUNTRY'S POSITION:

- ~~1. The United States firmly supports the development of more eco-friendly and sustainable food production.~~
2. *The practice of crop rotation should be incentivized to increase biodiversity and thus decrease the need for pesticides and synthetic chemicals.*
- ~~3. Implementing policies that require farmers to practice crop rotations will improve soil and water quality while also increasing high yielding crops.~~
- ~~4. The United States has already committed to multiple initiatives for sustainable agricultural development and believes in promoting agricultural development and global food security to achieve sustainable development (USUN). Other members should continue to work in partnership with initiatives like those that the United States has committed to, such as the agricultural innovation mission for climate, as well as continuing to develop solutions domestically. We propose to find domestic and international research into efficient and sustainable food production and encourage other United Nation countries to follow suit.~~
5. *The United States supports "The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate," which stands for increasing public and private investment in climate-smart agriculture and food system innovation.*
6. *To ensure an equitable and inclusive market at the local, regional, national, and international level, the United States will provide economic viability for farms that are practicing sustainable and organic food production.*
7. *The planting of cover crops should be encouraged to protect soil health and prevent soil erosion.*

8. *The United States is open to the new agricultural practices that will promote sustainable food production.*
9. *The USDA supports vertical farming as defined as a climate controlled, and light controlled alternative to current agricultural practices.*
10. *The USA encourages innovations in agriculture.*
11. *The United States supports actions taken towards waste reduction.*

JUSTIFICATION AND SUMMARY:

1. *The United States firmly asserts its position in favor of sustainable food production.*
2. *The United States' position on food production is to implement a sustainable system that provides equitable access that is environmentally secure.*
3. *In order to live peacefully with our environment it is necessary to create more sustainable food production systems.*
4. *The United States believes it is important to implement sustainable food production systems in order to account for rising food demands and to protect the environment.*
5. *We hold that the solution lies in increasing the efficiency and sustainability of global agriculture via diversification of agricultural practices, as well as, agricultural practices that best preserve the land they utilize.*