

Global food security since 1945: when should history be written backwards?

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Globalisation, uncertainty and volatile markets

- Since 1994: era of **transitory food surpluses** associated with the GATT-WTO process of trade liberalisation
- **2006: US linking energy security with biofuels and so with El Nino**
 - Energy markets are sensitive to politics of Middle East and Russia
 - Agricultural production expected to be affected by more extreme events

Political economy: big countries learn to assure national food security: the case of India

- 1965 - 1975: from famine to food crisis management
- 1975-1980: Green Revolution leads to structural surpluses of wheat allowing FCI to build up massive food stocks
- 1971-1975: the end of food aid dependence
- Continuing structural problems of poverty related hunger - 214 million in 2000-2002

Golghar, Patna: constructed 1770s, first utilised 1966

source: Srikanth Nadhamuni



Technology: Airlift revolution 1935-1949

- 1935: First flight of DC3 air-cargo workhorse
- 1942-45: US successfully use large scale movement of material in Pacific
- 1944-45: airdrops to Dutch famine victims
- 1948-49: Berlin Airlift - emergency aid can be provided anywhere, indefinitely, if cost is no object
- **Other technical changes: IT, satellite imaging?**

DC3: first air-cargo workhorse

Source: Bobalong, www.FLICKR.com



And now?

- Is there a “**global**” food security agenda that is separable from poverty reduction - just as literacy, clean water and communicable disease control contribute to PR?
- Are there only context specific food security problems of vulnerable populations, especially in marginalised countries and regions e.g. Sahel, Haiti, Nepal and Bihar?
- What are the emerging food security issues that will require new or remodelled global institutional arrangements?