

Primary cause of malnutrition and/ or starvation: Diets are short protein long starch:

The Food for fuel debate cannot ignore corn distiller proteins as a needed and huge new major alternative source of protein. Distiller's proteins can be used directly for human consumption or free more soy proteins to supplement human diets in areas of malnutrition.

Today distiller's proteins supply over half of the protein to US feed rations freeing up nearly half of our soybeans for export.³

Ethanol critics concede that 'skyrocketing soybean demand' has been the primary driver for international land use changes simply because the Chinese decided to import soy protein to continue to increase meat consumption.

Granted an acre of corn produces 300 more pounds of total food per acre when processed through an ethanol plant than an acre of soybeans but 200 pounds less protein or 700 pounds vs 900 pounds.

Ending ethanol production would not necessarily mean increased protein production that is most critically short in many diets worldwide.

Soybean yields have increased relatively little compared to corn's thus more demand for soybeans means more acres must be planted to soybeans. Some twenty years ago an international scramble began to find those acres from grasslands, forests etc.

Corn is the only crop that produces enough total biomass above and below the ground that has begun to reverse several centuries of soil organic matter mining in the US.² Fertilized high yielding corn's C4 grass genetics produce roots that are massive and deep enough to capture escaping plant nutrients before they enter ground water as is the historic role of grasses in nature. .

Also as is nature's role for grasses corn's massive biomass contributions increase soil organic matter making it less likely to erode, less runoff because it improves water infiltration and overall soil health. Increasing soil organic matter sequesters carbon and is key to making agriculture sustainable thus increasing the yield of all crops in the rotation as it can do even in the most impoverished nations. Howard G. Buffett's grown son Howard W. Buffett who farms his family's 400-acre farm north of Omaha, philosophize about another approach to cutting soil loss and resource depletion: assigning a concrete economic value to it. "If we show that a 1% increase in soil organic matter increases crop yields by 12%, we might view conservation (corn's contributions to organic matter) more seriously," Buffett, 56, says.

The corn to ethanol system can restore severely depleted organic matter, improve soil productivity and increase food production in especially impoverished nations. As a big bonus produce safe, nonpolluting fuel to drive the economy.

A no growth ethanol industry means more soybean acres must be planted and the world loses a promising, new growing source of needed proteins to end risky, total reliance on soybeans for already critically short supplemental protein. Protein demand that drives land use changes, higher grain and land prices.

Google:

1. China's Rising Soybean Consumption Reshaping Western Agriculture. Lester R. Brown

2. Increasing Soil Organic Matter Levels in South Dakota –

3. DDG needle trends north