Global Food Ethics: Achieving Global Food Security, Fairly and Responsibly

Today, out of more than 7 billion people in the world, more than 800 million regularly go undernourished, while another two billion suffer from nutritional deficiencies or obesity. As climate change threatens food production and the world’s population continues to climb, this picture will only get worse — unless we act together today.
FINDING A MORAL COMMON GROUND FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

By 2050, a projected global population of 9.6 billion will pose a huge challenge to our planet: how to guarantee that everyone on Earth has access to the right foods for a decent, healthy life. Complicating this profound moral imperative are conflicting visions of what it means to feed the world ethically. For example, how much emphasis should our policies and personal choices give to the impact of food systems on the environment, the rights and interests of farmers and workers, and the welfare of animals? Disputes over how to produce, distribute, market, sell, and consume food derive from ethical disagreements about which values should inform our decisions and which means are permissible to carry out our obligations. Despite the complexity of these issues, we cannot step aside from this challenge. The Berman Institute of Bioethics is leading a global initiative to resolve the ethical challenges at the heart of global food security.

Your support for the Global Food Ethics program — a priority of Rising to the Challenge: The Campaign for Johns Hopkins — will help us launch a set of national and global projects led by international experts; create the world’s leading center for the study of global food ethics. Drawing on our faculty’s renowned expertise in public health ethics, continuous engagement with developing countries, close collaboration with Johns Hopkins scholars working on food and environmental issues, and our initial years of work, this permanent program will provide the robust insight and moral compass to guide global conversations on food security.

The new Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor in Ethics, Global Food, and Agricultural Policy, Jessica Fanzo, PhD — who bridges and deepens our capacity for collaboration between the Berman Institute and the university’s Nitze School of Advanced International Studies — will serve as the anchor for this program. Your gifts will enable us to support additional faculty members and students who will advance the program’s capabilities and generate the sustained collaborative work necessary to produce tangible outcomes over time.

REFRAMING THE AGENDA

In 2012, Johns Hopkins launched a comprehensive study to assess the core ethical issues and disagreements at the heart of the food security challenge, and how these issues relate to the science, technology, and economics of food and agriculture. This process brought together global leaders from four continents with expertise ranging from plant genetics and climate change to agricultural economics and animal welfare. Working intensively, these experts identified core ethical issues that are critically important in solving the challenge of food security.

From this meeting emerged a focused “7 by 5 Agenda for Ethics and Global Food Security” — seven concrete, tractable projects that in five years can make real progress in addressing ethical issues that stand as obstacles to global food security. Your support will enable us to take on these projects.

CREATING A WORLD-CLASS PROGRAM

With so much at stake, Johns Hopkins is moving forward quickly to create the world’s leading center for the study of global food ethics. Drawing on our faculty’s renowned expertise in public health ethics, continuous engagement with developing countries, close collaboration with Johns Hopkins scholars working on food and environmental issues, and our initial years of work, this permanent program will provide the robust insight and moral compass to guide global conversations on food security.

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ENGAGING AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

With your support, we will use traditional and social media, conferences, and other engagement strategies to promote public appreciation and dialogue about the ethical dimensions of global food security. Your gifts will help us gain wider support for emerging policies to address food ethics around the world.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Global Food Ethics program seeks your support. We will be happy to work with you to develop a gift that meets your needs and ours.

Seed Funding for Working Groups

Support for the Global Food Ethics Working Group, an interdisciplinary and international group whose work culminated in the “7 by 5 Agenda for Ethics and Global Food Security”

(Fulfilled) $800,000
(Funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation)

Support for Core Personnel

Faculty Leadership: Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor in Ethics, Global Food, and Agricultural Policy

(Fulfilled) $3,750,000
(Funded by Michael R. Bloomberg)

Assistant/Associate Professor to provide daily oversight of projects, conduct original research, and mentor fellows and students

$750,000

Post-doctoral fellows

$400,000

Masters-level project staff and administrative support to assist with project implementation

$300,000

Scholarships for 2-3 doctoral students

$250,000

Research Funding

To support original scholarship by core faculty members

$500,000

Engaging and Educating the Public

Public engagement and dissemination of findings

$250,000

Total

$7,000,000

CONTACT US TODAY

To make a gift to the Global Food Ethics program, please contact:

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