

GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2014 EDITION

Glossary: Food and climate

350.org: An international environmental organization aiming to raise awareness about and confront climate change. 350.org is headed by well-known environmentalist and journalist Bill McKibben.

2013 Climate Action Plan (Obama): Goals set by President Barack Obama in June 2013 aimed to cut carbon pollution in America, make preparations for climate change, and strengthen bilateral and international initiatives that address global climate change.

Lester R. Brown: Environmentalist, founder and president of the nonprofit organization, The Earth Policy Institute.

Celsius, or centigrade, (abbreviated as C): A unit of measurement for temperature used by scientists and many countries. The U.S. and a few other countries use the Fahrenheit scale (abbreviated as F).

Climate Change: The lasting statistical change in global weather patterns over both the short and long term caused by oceanic and biotic processes, variations in solar radiations, plate tectonics, volcanic eruptions and human-induced alterations of the natural world.

Copenhagen (2009): A climate change conference that took place in Copenhagen under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The conference resulted in the Copenhagen Accord, a political effort to reduce carbon and address climate change.

Energy Information Administration (EIA): Part of the Department of Energy, it is responsible for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on the full spectrum of energy resources.

Environmental refugee: A person forced to flee or migrate from an area because of sudden or long-term changes in his home environment.

Global warming: The rise of the Earth's temperature and the global sea level since the 19th century caused by the concentration of greenhouse gases resulting from such human activities as the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation.

Genetically Modified Foods (GMO): Foods produced by methods of genetic engineering, a process that alters the genetic makeup of

the food's source. Commercial sales of genetically modified foods started in 1994 and have since included crops such as tomatoes, corn and soybean.

Hurricane Sandy: The second costliest hurricane in United States history, it flooded New York City and caused \$95 billion in damages.

James Hansen: An adjunct professor at Columbia University's department of earth and environmental studies. In 1988, Hansen brought the topic of global warming to public attention through his Congressional testimony. Coauthor of "Climate Variability and Climate Change: The New Climate Dice," an article that connects recent heat waves to global warming.

International Energy Agency (IEA): An international nongovernmental organization advising governments on energy security, economic development and environmental protection.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): Founded in 1975, IFPRI conducts research in food security and agriculture to establish policies that would reduce poverty by improving agricultural and food systems.

Kyoto protocol: An international agreement through the United Nations Convention on Climate Change that binds member countries to emission reduction targets. Adopted in 1997, the protocol places higher emission reduction expectations on more developed countries.

Georges Lefebvre: A 20th century French historian who researched the French revolution and the peasantry. His work culminated in his 1924 book, *The Peasants of the North During the French Revolution*.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): A Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce that analyzes the conditions of oceans and the atmosphere. In 2012, it helped assess extreme climate changes for the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society.

Rajeev Patel: Academic and writer, Patel is a fellow at the Institute for Food and Development Policy and a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Center for African Studies. Patel also maintains a blog

in which he has written about the conditions of East Asian rice and the effects of the global food crisis.

Physiocrats: Adherents of the 18th century French school of economics that asserts the “rule of nature” such that economic laws should not be stifled by government policy and should instead operate through an unrestricted world market. Mercantilism was bashed in favor of an agricultural way of life in which land was the source of wealth.

Amartya Sen: Professor of philosophy and economics at Harvard University and recipient of the 1998 Nobel Prize in economics. His work most notably includes the claim that famines do not occur in democracies.

Threat multiplier: The concept that the consequences of climate change such as water shortages and more expensive food could exacerbate existing geopolitical and ethnic tensions.

United Nations Conference on the Environment and Develop-

ment: Also known as the Earth Summit or the Rio Conference, a conference held in 1992 that led to the creation of the Climate Change Convention. The Conference was reconvened in 2012 as Rio+20.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): Present in over 130 countries, FAO is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1943 that aims to help reduce food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. Its focus also includes agricultural sustainability and resilience from natural disasters.

Washington Consensus: Coined in 1989, the term referred to ten neoliberal policies advocated by the U.S. and financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. These policies include trade liberalization, deregulation and increased foreign direct investment.

World Food Program (WFP): A voluntary humanitarian agency within the United Nations established in 1961 to provide food to victims of emergencies, war, natural disasters and civil strife.