



Globalization Impact on Sustainable Agriculture

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Scholars concur that the current drivers of globalization, such as deregulation of global currencies, trade liberalization, international migration, rural-urban migration, and technology advancements, have profound effects on sustainable development (van der Velde et al. 2007; Zimmerer 2007). On the other hand, opinions on whether globalization has genuinely resulted in sustainable farming methods differ. In order to show that the focus on globalization has continued to impede the goal of sustainable agriculture, the current paper assesses the impact of globalization on sustainable agriculture

Definition of terms

"The increased global integration of internationally dispersed activities" is how globalization has been defined (Zimmerer 2007, p. 10). In contrast, sustainability will be defined in this research as the advocacy of agricultural practices that guarantee an equitable and ecologically sustainable global order while fostering growth (Olsson, Hourcade, & Kohler 2014).

Analysis

Research consistently shows that the adoption of creative, mostly environmentally and socially just methods for producing food and using resources has been favorably correlated with globalization (Zimmerer 2007). It is noteworthy to mention that advancements in technology and methods of transportation, refrigeration, and preservation of perishable goods are simplifying the process of importing and exporting food products worldwide while also reducing food waste (Murphy 2001).

On the other hand, detractors contend that globalization has in fact promoted the unsustainable export of agricultural products to foreign food markets, resulting in higher air pollution, problems with waste disposal, and higher energy usage from packing and refrigeration (La Trobe & Acott 2000).

Additionally, farmers are being pressured to diversify their food crops in a way that is environmentally friendly due to the growing market opportunities for agricultural produce. In order to not only gain entry into the international market but also to achieve labor efficiency and sustain demand, proponents of this perspective contend that farmers in developing countries are being forced to adopt sustainable agricultural practices, diversification, and intensification by the strict regulations enforced by global and regional trade organizations (Murphy 2001). (Zimmerer 2007).

On the other hand, La Trobe and Acott (2000, p. 309) contend that "moves towards sustainability have been impeded by adverse environmental, social, and economic consequences resulting from agricultural intensification and the globalization of the agro-food chain." These effects, as will be shown later, surpass the advantages that come with globalization.

First, it is clear that trade liberalization brought about by globalization has led to a situation in which farmers are mechanizing, intensifying, and diversifying their agricultural practices in order to increase yields and maintain a presence in the global market. Zimmerer (2007) blames this perspective for the ongoing agricultural crises that we see today as well as the tendency in a de-agrarian nation to shift the socioeconomic structure from an agrarian model to a capitalistic agriculture model.

In fact, the intensification and mechanization of agriculture have been linked negatively to a number of ongoing agricultural crises, including declining soil fertility and biodiversity, pest resistance developing, abhorrent animal husbandry practices, health risks related to chemical application, and the substitution of machinery for manual labor (La Trobe & Acott 2009). Since most of the alternative foods that farmers cultivate don't sell for the prices that farmers want on international markets, a de-agrarian nation in most developing countries has been accused of perpetuating poverty and social striving (van der Velde et al. 2007). These nations' farmers have thus been unable to provide for their families' fundamental necessities, including their children's education.

Additionally, there is a perception that the increasing vulnerability to climate change is positively correlated with globalization. Research indicates that industrial-scale technologically oriented agricultural investment is preferred over potentially more environmentally sustainable or peasant forms of agriculture, and that markets are relied upon to allocate resources in a politically neutral manner. This is evidenced by neoliberal policies (Burton & Peoples 2014, p. 90).

Once more, as farmers in developing nations strive to meet demand in the global market, agricultural intensification and diversification are fundamental components of the challenge of climate change. The impact of market liberalization policies in New Zealand on the ability of dryland sheep farmers to handle drought is evidence that farmers in industrialized countries are not left behind (Burton & Peoples 2014).

Sustainability is hard to attain because of the tension between environmental concerns and agriculture methods driven by globalization (Olsson, Hourcade, & Kohler 2014).

Unrestrained resource exploitation to meet the demands of international markets has resulted in environmental degradation and other issues, which is another effect of globalization. Here, the body of research indicates that "the widespread worsening and frequent occurrence of environmental problems have been contributed to by globalization and neoliberal-led escalations" (Zimmerer 2007, p. 10).

Explore further

For instance, the majority of farmers in developing nations adopt unsustainable methods of production to meet the enormous demand for agricultural products in global markets by taking advantage of lax environmental protection laws in their home nations. This indicates that even although expanded access to foreign markets is providing farmers with a means of subsistence, globalization is also helping to solidify unsustainable farming methods.