

Food insecurity will drop by 9% by 2030

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The share of world population experiencing food insecurity will fall to around 28 percent by 2030, according to new research by Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU).

The study, conducted by Jesús Crespo Cuaresma, professor of economics at WU and his co-authors from Harvard University, IIASA and the World Data Lab, investigated whether or not we are on track to end hunger and created a model to forecast the future development of global food insecurity.

Following the recent uptick in hunger indicators, current estimates indicates that food security today affects almost 33 percent of the world's population – roughly 790 million people.

The researchers predict that this figure will decrease throughout the 2020s, largely due to economic growth in developing countries, and drop to 28.4 percent, or down to 715 million by 2030.

These results contradict those that have been predicted by international organisations such as the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), who have said food hunger will increase by 24 percent by 2030.

“On one hand, the projections regarding the drivers of food security in the study give cause for optimism. However, on the other, the forecasts still indicate that a total of around 2.5 billion people will still be affected by severe or moderate food insecurity by 2030,” says Professor Crespo Cuaresma.

The novel prediction model is based on climatic and socioeconomic trends and employs machine learning tools to forecast the development of food insecurity for countries and subnational regions.

The statistical analysis conducted in the study reveals that trends in poverty rates, income per capita, rates of stunting, and income inequality indicators can be employed to provide precise, reliable forecasts of food insecurity levels.

The study was published in the Journal Global Food Security.

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For more information, a copy of the report, or to speak to Professor Crespo Cuaresma, contact Katie Hurley at BlueSky Education on khurley@bluesky-pr.com or call +44 (0) 1582 790708.