

Food *and* Fuel: Biofuels Could Benefit World's Undernourished

Nations that develop domestic biofuels industries will be able to purchase fuel from their own farmers rather than spending scarce foreign exchange on imported oil.

The increase in world agriculture prices caused by the global boom in biofuels could benefit many of the world's rural poor, according to the Worldwatch Institute. This is one conclusion of a landmark new 450-page book, *Biofuels for Transport: Global Potential and Implications for Energy and Agriculture*, authored by Worldwatch and published by Earthscan.

"Decades of declining agricultural prices have been reversed thanks to the growing use of biofuels," says Christopher Flavin, president of the Institute. "Farmers in some of the poorest nations have been decimated by U.S. and European subsidies to crops such as corn, cotton, and sugar. Today's higher prices may allow them to sell their crops at a decent price, but major agriculture reforms and infrastructure development will be needed to ensure that the increased benefits go to the world's 800 million undernourished people, most of whom live in rural areas."

[Read the entire story in:](http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5302) <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5302>

Resources

- [Biofuels in Africa May Help Achieve Global Goals, Experts Say](#)
- [Biofuels: Miracle Cure or Path to Greater Destruction?](#)
- [World Watch Magazine, January/February 2006: Peak Oil Forum](#)



Biofuels for Transport: Global Potential and Implications for Energy and Agriculture

A comprehensive assessment of the opportunities and risks associated with the large-scale international development of biofuels. The book demystifies complex questions and concerns, such as the "food versus fuel" debate.