

# Food Security, Globalization, and Sustainability

Guest lecture

KSU Center for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (CESAS)

*Seminar on Renewable Energy, Food, and Sustainability*

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Additional, relevant papers and podcasts available at <http://frontier.k-state.edu>

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## Frontier

### ★ Welcome To Frontier

An interdisciplinary program  
for the historical studies of  
border security, food security,  
and trade policy

# Food security and globalization



Commonly voiced terms in global food safety & security communities:

*foreign animal disease*

*import security*

*border security*

***food security***

# Evolution of the term “food security”

“Ideas have a radiation and development,  
an ancestry and posterity of their own.”

- Lord Acton, 15 March 1880

# Evolution of the term “food security”

**1996 | U.S. Departments of Ag, State, and USAID on food security:**

- **“physical and economic access to sufficient food”**
- **Largely a humanitarian endeavor**
- **Examples used to illustrate why relevant to U.S. national security:**
  - **Grain imports in Asia affect farmers’ purchasing power in Kansas**
  - **In crisis-ridden, food-insecure Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, and now former Yugoslavia, U.S. troops have recently saved lives, restored order, and protected U.S. interests.**
  - **A food crisis in North Korea threatens stability in a region vital to U.S. security**
  - ***No mention of protection of the U.S. food supply***

# Evolution of the term “food security”

The events of 9/11 prompted the reflection of a new meaning of homeland security:

**“[T]he reduction of terrorism and the ability to pursue and maintain social practices and opportunities that Americans hold dear.”**

- Beresford, Annette D. "Homeland Security as an American Ideology: Implications for U.S. Policy and Action." *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management* 1, no. 3 (2004): article 301, page 16.

# Evolution of the term “food security”

**Today food security covers every aspect of:**

- **production,**
- **supply,**
- **safety,**
- **processing,**
- **distribution, and**
- **consumption of food**



**...for the purposes of ensuring without disruption:**

- **a healthy, adequate, and cost effective food supply**

# Food security and globalization



- Increasingly, the agricultural and food industry is integrated *across borders*



Many countries' food security hinges on the *maintenance of regional and global agricultural and food trade flows.*

- Pork-supply concerns in China (1.4 bn consumers)
- United Nations' concern about food price increases
- Harriet Friedmann: "As starvation mounts, so do fears of political unrest."



Technology

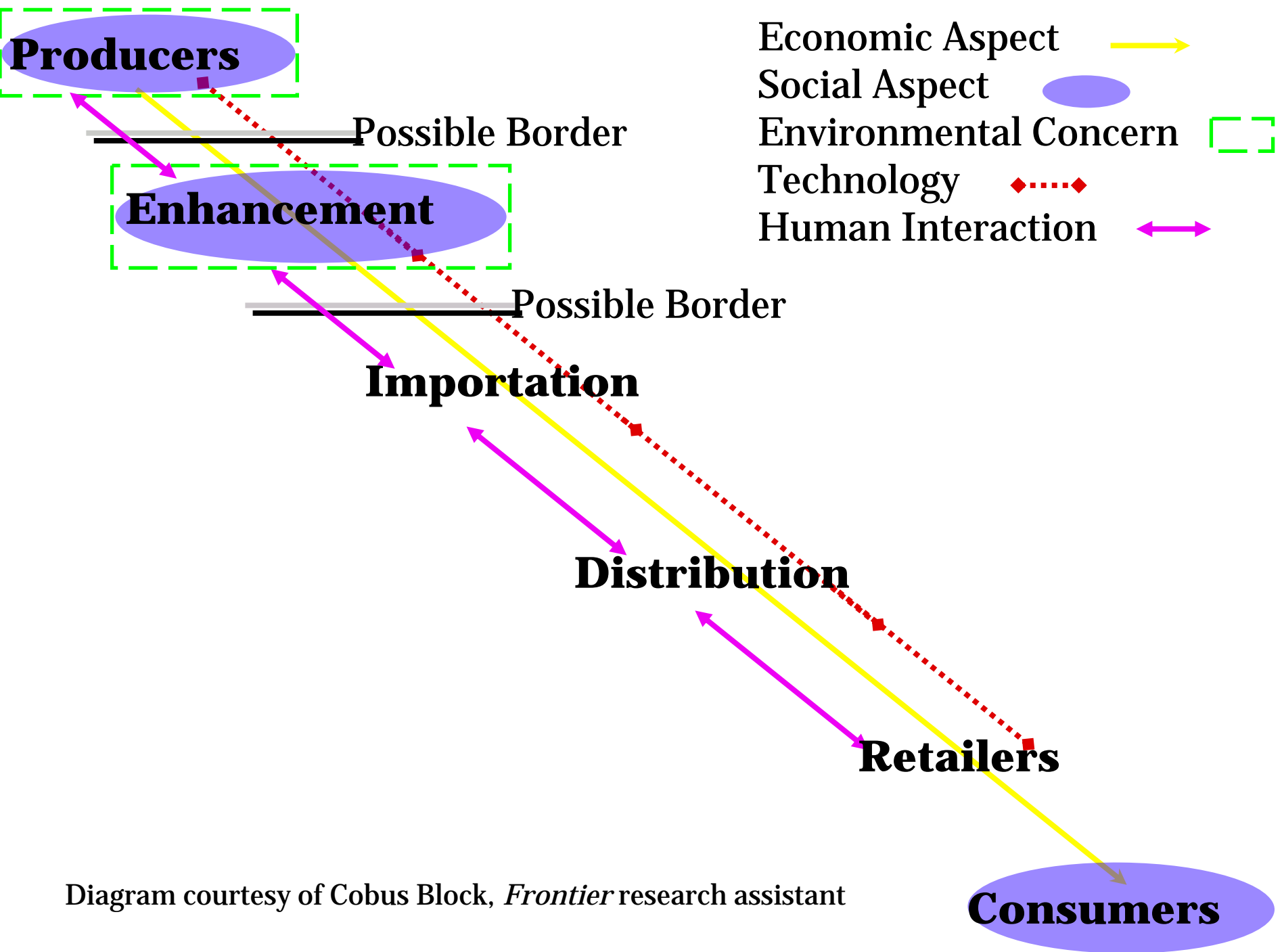
Environment

Human Interactions

Economy

Social

Diagram courtesy of Cobus Block,  
*Frontier* research assistant



# International trade policy and supply-chain systems

- In the post-9/11 era, governments and companies are keen to configure border security and supply-chain systems ***across traditional state borders***.
- These systems may Operate on different spatial scales (i.e., sub-national and transnational)
  - This is necessary in highly integrated economic regions in North America (e.g., U.S.-Canada trade corridors, U.S.-Mexico border zones, etc.)
  - Critical for both ***food security and sustainability***

# Regionalization and Compartmentalization

**Regionalization** – managing food safety and/or animal disease risk in *geographic* regions, for trade



**Compartmentalization** – managing risk in specific *supply chains* and *establishments* to ensure trade

# The case of Mexico

## Mexico-U.S. trade in cattle

### The Case of Chihuahua



# The case of China

## Food Imports from China

**“Food safety is not just an issue of law enforcement, it is also related to the health and safety of the people, to the nation's image and to bilateral and even multilateral political relationships.”**

**- Li Changjiang, head of China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine**



# Discussion

- Food security, globalization, and sustainability suggest the need for ***non-traditional methods*** of border control, regulation, and international cooperation
- These border management strategies require configuration ***across traditional state borders*** and at different *scales*
- In tandem with this, ***capacity building***—public administration, scientific expertise, and business management—is required.