

REINVENTING FARMING

A new report calls for current farming methods to be changed radically. It notes some of the problems with the system today and makes suggestions for changes to governments and industry.



EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: A Ugandan villager walking in an agricultural field that was destroyed by floods last year near Nasiloit village in Karamoja (above). A new report says climate change is causing irreversible damage to farmland and may lead to social conflicts. Global warming is also blamed for rising commodity prices, which Filipinos protested against in Manila last weekend (right).

PROBLEMS

- » **GM CROPS**
Evidence of their benefits is unclear, anecdotal and contradictory.
- » **BIOFUELS**
Growing crops for fuel is unsustainable and drives up food prices.
- » **CLIMATE CHANGE**
Global warming is damaging agricultural land and increasing the likelihood of territorial disputes, leading to conflict.
- » **WATER**
There are increasing shortages of water in large parts of Africa and central and western Asia.
- » **FARM SUBSIDIES**
Such subsidies provide an unfair advantage to industrialised countries at the expense of the developing world.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Less reliance on fossil fuels.
- » Greater use of locally available resources, traditional seed and natural fertilisers.
- » Changes in government trade regimes and subsidy systems to ensure more equitable distribution of food globally.
- » More research into ways to protect soils, water and forests.