Global food market implications for international trade and competition and consumer policies

Presentation

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Professor, Sciences Po Law School
Food insecurity

- Covid pandemic
- Climate change
- Water shortages
- Armed conflict
- High levels of inflation
- **Competition and trade policies**
  - Global value chains
  - International mergers
Countries with most food insecurity

Figure 5. The 10 Countries with the Most People Facing Acute Food Insecurity, August 2023

No 2023 data are available for 25 countries including Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, which were among the 10 largest food crises in 2022.

Source: IPC TWGs, CH, FEWS NET, HRP, HNO, REACH, 2022 and 2023.
Europe

Thousands rally in Athens as Greek farmers step up protests

By Stelios Misinas

February 20, 2024 11:26 PM GMT+2 · Updated 10 hours ago

[ subst]

Europe

French farmers up pressure on government as protests spread

By Cлотaire Achi, Sudip Kar-Gupta and Tassilo Hummel

January 24, 2024 12:32 AM GMT+2 · Updated a month ago

[ subst]
Anticompetitive and Unfair Practice?

Market structure

Prices

Supply
Who suffers along the chain?

- Farmers?
- Consumers?
- Other competitors?
How to address these issues?

- Identify the violation
- Identify the suffering along the chain
- Remedy it
  - Stand up to powerful companies
  - Active antitrust enforcement
  - With most vulnerable in mind
  - Empower – South-South relations
    - Merger enforcement
Mergers across developing countries, 1990s to 2020s

DINA I. WAKED
UNCTAD, July 2024
## Vision for Alternative Market Reality

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<tr>
<th>South-South cooperation</th>
<th>• Not just for trade, but collective action to collectively resist the trade and competition challenges</th>
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| Active merger enforcement against global M&As | • Collectively block harmful mergers  
• Instill avenues to share the surplus from these merged entities to secure that the price is not paid by the most vulnerable - like ESG mandates |
| Promote local production and trade – lax antitrust & active industrial policy? | • Protect the industries from international competition – look to Japan and Korea (and the US, Europe) for inspiration  
• Prioritize equity and not efficiency  
• Build into competition laws ways to redistribute |
Thank you!