The world population is projected to grow from 7.6 billion in 2020 to 8.5 billion in 2030 and then shrink. By 2055, it is expected to reach 9.7 billion, after which it will begin to decline. The global food demand in 2050 is expected to increase by at least 60%. Worldwide arable land is projected to shrink to 586 million hectares by 2030, from 649 million hectares in 2015.

Africa's youth population is expected to continue to grow throughout the remainder of the twenty-first century, more than doubling from current levels by 2055. In Africa, the number of youth is growing rapidly. In 2015, 226 million youth aged 15-24 years lived in Africa, accounting for 19% of the global youth population. By 2030, it is projected to reach 42%. Africa's youth are the most educated in the world, with the highest levels of education in the continent. They are the most urbanized, with the highest levels of urbanization. They are the most income-grown, with the highest levels of income growth. They are the fastest-developing population in the world, with the highest levels of development.

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Launched at Michigan State University in 2012, the Global Center for Food Systems Innovation (GCFSI) is one of eight development labs established through the Higher Education Solutions Network of the United States Agency for International Development.

Through research and capacity-building activities, we create, test and enable the scaling of food security solutions. The Innovation Scholars Program is hosted in collaboration with Malawi’s Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Innovation is a process, not a product. Innovation happens when people see opportunity where they once saw a problem.

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