**Restoring Food to Its Central Place**

Food production is rising, the amount of cultivated land is increasing, and 22 percent of the world population (almost half of the total workforce) is engaged in agriculture, but the food produced for twelve billion people is in fact not enough to feed the six billion who actually live in the world. Moreover, this effort of production has not achieved its aims. It has subjected the Earth to such stress that the land either turns to desert or dies because of the excessive use of chemical products. Water resources are running out. Biodiversity is rapidly diminishing, especially agro-biodiversity, with a continual reduction in the number of animal breeds and vegetable varieties that have for centuries contributed to the sustenance of entire regions in a perfectly sustainable partnership between man and nature.

Something must have gone wrong, because if we consider the problem of satisfying the primal need for food and analyze it over the long term, the hunger for production has done more harm than good.

The contradiction in agro-industrial terms is clearly emerging: agro-industry has given us the illusion that it could solve the problem of feeding the human race. I would go even further: over the last fifty years, it has turned food production into both executioner and victim. Executioner, because the unsustainable methods of agro-industry have led to the disappearance of many sustainable production methods that were once part of the identity of the communities that practised them and were one of the highest pleasures for the gastronome in search of valuable knowledge and flavours. Victim, because the same unsustainable methods -originally necessary in order to feed a larger number of people—have since turned the sphere of food and agriculture into a neglected sector, completely detached from the lives of billions of people, as if procuring food .. required no effort at all. Politicians show little interest in it, except when pressured to do so by the most powerful international corporations of agro-industry, while the average consumer either does not reflect on what he or she is eating or has to make a titanic effort to obtain the information that will explain it.

Food and its production must regain the central place that they deserve among human activities, and we must re-examine the criteria that guide our actions. The crucial point now is no longer, as has been for all too long, the quality of food that is produced, but its complex quality, a concept that ranges from the question of taste to that of variety, from respect for the environment, ecosystems, and the rhythms of nature to respect for human dignity. The aim is to make a significant improvement to everybody's quality of life without having to submit, as we have done until now, to a model development that is incompatible with the needs of the planet. (472 words)

**Analysis & Summary Writing**

**The author’s thesis and suggestion are clearly given in the final paragraph:**

*Food and its production must regain the central place that they deserve among human activities, and we must re-examine the criteria that guide our actions. The aim is to make a significant improvement to everybody's quality of life without having to submit to a model development that is incompatible with the needs of the planet.*

**The key points in the text are as follows:**

1. *Food production is rising, the amount of cultivated land is increasing but the food produced for twelve billion people is in fact not enough to feed the six billion.*
2. *This effort of production has not achieved its aims & The hunger for production has done more harm than good:*
* *The land either turns to desert or dies.*
* *Water resources are running out.*
* *Biodiversity is rapidly diminishing, especially agro-biodiversity.*
1. *Agro-industry has given us the illusion that it could solve the problem of feeding the human race.*
2. *Agro-industry has turned food production into both executioner and victim.*
* *Executioner, because the unsustainable methods of agro-industry have led to the disappearance of many sustainable production methods*
* *Victim, because the same unsustainable methods have since turned the sphere of food and agriculture into a neglected sector.*
1. *Politicians show little interest in it*
2. *The average consumer does not reflect on what s/he is eating*

**SUGGESTED SUMMARY:**

The article *Restoring Food to Its Central Place*points out to the fact that although there is an increase in food production, people living in the world cannot get enough of it. The author of the article states that the endeavor to increase food production has caused more damage than benefit, leading to many ecological problems. We have been, the author argues, mistaken by believing that agro-industry could solve food problems. In fact, agro-industry is inconsistent as it both causes the problem and is affected by the problem at the same time. On one hand, unsustainable agro-industrial methods have caused sustainable methods to die out. On the other hand, agro-industry has been crippled by the same unsustainable methods because agriculture has turned into a discrete and unappreciated sector. This can be clearly seen in the indifference of politicians and the typical consumer. As a conclusion, the author argues that the place and the methods of agriculture must be reconsidered and recommends developing agricultural models that comply with the needs of the earth and increase the life-quality of people living on it. (181 words)