

Hunger, famine, starvation, and deprivation, as the world's population continues to grow, it is becoming harder and harder to feed mankind. Food shortages are becoming all too common. As we search for a solution to this problem, Agriculture seems to be an obvious choice. In Saskatchewan, we have a strong and prosperous agricultural sector. Saskatchewan agriculture can help solve the world's food shortage problem by efficiently producing quality crops and livestock, continuing growth in exported crops, and finally, increasing food processing plants in the province.

The first reason agriculture in Saskatchewan could solve the world's food shortage problem is due to the large land base and resources that produce quality crops and livestock. In Saskatchewan we have 64,000,000 agricultural acres and 44,329 people who farm for a living. Saskatchewan is one of the most affordable provinces in Canada to buy farm land. Generally land is available for rent or purchase which makes it easier for new farmers to get started, thereby replenishing the farming work force. Furthermore, in Saskatchewan we can grow many varieties of crops such as cereals, oilseeds, feeds and forage, pulses, and specialty crops. The increase in production of legumes provides cheap and nutritious protein sources to feed a growing population. All these factors would help solve a world food shortage problem.

Another reason that agriculture in Saskatchewan could solve the world's food shortage problem is our number of crops exported is continually growing. Saskatchewan is the world's largest flax seed, lentil, and mustard seed exporter and these numbers will continue to grow as demand increases. Saskatchewan produces the majority of Canada's crops. Nationally, Saskatchewan produces 95% of all lentils, 87% of all mustard, 80% of all chickpeas, 75% of all

dry peas, 80% of all durum, 75% of all flax seed, and 45% of all canola. Also in 2007, Saskatchewan's total agricultural exports totalled over \$6.5 billion, with \$1 billion of that being pulse crops. With these high statistics Saskatchewan is and will continue to be one of the world's biggest producers of field crops and can help feed the world.

The final reason that agriculture in Saskatchewan could solve the world's food shortage problem is there are opportunities for more manufacturing and processing plants in the province. There is available land to build on and a knowledgeable labour force to run the plant. By building processing plants close to the crop resources, transportation costs are reduced thus providing a cheaper product to feed the world. By having more processing plants in our own province we could produce the product more efficiently and economically. This in return would help solve a world food shortage problem.

No one should ever have to go through a day hungry; not knowing when they are going to get their next meal. With an abundant land base and bountiful resources, Saskatchewan farmers will help feed the world by efficiently producing nutritious crops for years to come. Growing exports of Saskatchewan crops and locally processed food products will help solve the problem of world hunger.