

# Global Food Security and Sustainability (RMES 500T)

Term 2: Mon 1- 4 pm, AERL 107/108



## **If the following questions interest you, this course is for you!**

If there is plenty of food grown in the world already, why are many people still hungry? What is better for the environment – eating local food, organic food, or being vegetarian? An increase in food price is worse for the consumer but better for the farmer, so is low food price good in the long run? Does giving people more money improve food security? How do different farming systems (organic, conventional, GM, urban, etc.) compare in terms of food production, environmental footprint, and livelihoods?

**Course description.** World cereal production hit a record high in 2013. Yet, nearly a billion people are malnourished and farming is a major environmental threat. This course will explore the nature of the sustainable food security challenge and the potential way forward through a broad review of the literature and analysis of data. A broad global perspective will be used to address the nutritional, biophysical, socio-economic, institutional, and policy dimensions of the problem. The course will emphasize the use of evidence to evaluate the various ideas being discussed. You will build knowledge through discussion of relevant papers, working on analytical and short writing assignments, and conducting a term project.

*Note: While this is a graduate course, senior undergrads are welcome with permission of instructor.*

If you have questions, please contact the instructor:

Prof. Navin Ramankutty

Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability and Liu Institute for Global Issues

navin.ramankutty@ubc.ca