

Feeding Asia for the next 10 years

Asia's rapidly urbanising and growing population will see spending on food double to US\$8 trillion (S\$10.9 trillion) by 2030. Here are some of the challenges and opportunities in ensuring sustainable food for the region in the next decade.

A GROWING APPETITE

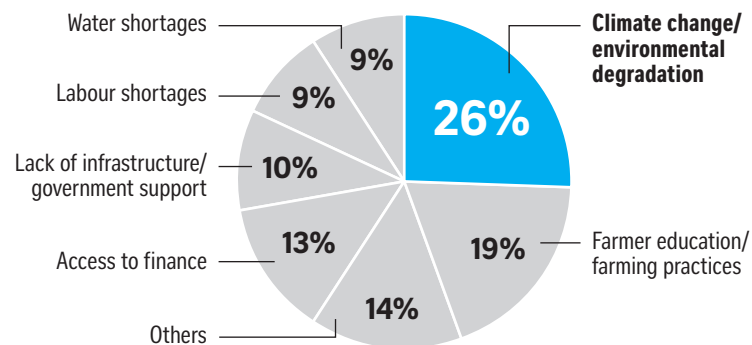
\$1.1 trillion

Additional investment needed in the next 10 years for Asia to feed its people sustainably

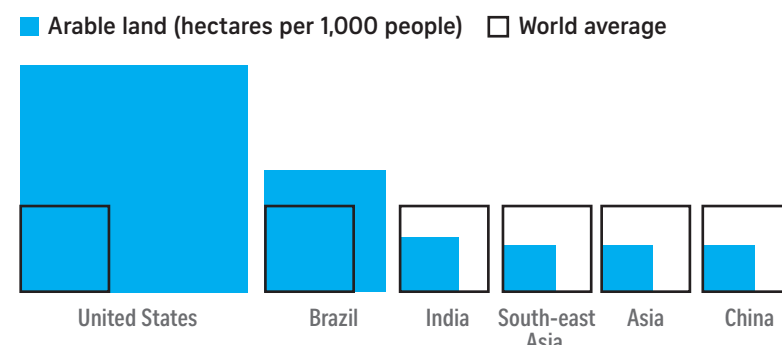
250 million

Extra mouths to feed by 2030 – about the size of Indonesia's current population

Biggest challenge facing Asian agri-food sector over next decade



Regional comparison of arable land per capita



WHAT'S ON THE MENU

'SCUBA RICE'

Developed by the International Rice Research Institute, "scuba rice" can withstand flooding for up to two weeks. Most rice varieties die within days of being submerged under water. This variety can potentially benefit 49 million acres of rice fields across Asia susceptible to flooding.



ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN

To reduce the carbon footprint and increase efficiency, lab-grown meat or plant-based products like the burgers from Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat will likely outstrip the overall protein market in terms of growth. Insect-based protein can also contribute as a key source of feed for aquaculture.

OFFSHORE FISH FARMS

One of the world's first floating closed-containment fish farms was commissioned earlier this week some 5km off Changi Point Ferry Terminal. The "Eco-Ark" built by Singapore-based Aquaculture Centre of Excellence can produce 166 tonnes of fish a year – about 20 times more than the minimum production yield set for coastal fish farms in Singapore.



INDOOR FARMS

Indoor farms save space, offer crops protection from the elements, are more sustainable, and produce better yields. Soil-free methods can use 70-95 per cent less water and vertical farms can increase yield 400-fold. There are already 500 plant factories across Asia, with over 200 in Japan.