



South Florida Sun-Sentinel **RESPONSE-5.8.08**

“Hunger crisis at all-time high”

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Food prices and world hunger are in the headlines each day, and everyone is scrambling for answers. Unfortunately, the blame often wrongfully falls on the shoulders of the U.S. ethanol industry. It would be remiss to not acknowledge the current need to get a handle on escalating food prices and shrinking availability to those most in need around the world. But misplacing blame is equally dangerous.

Among the numerous global economic factors that are impacting food prices, the biggest culprit is fuel prices. Fuel prices touch almost every aspect of the food system: the cost of labor, fertilizer and chemical applications, harvesting and fueling machinery, packaging and transport. As those elevated costs add up, they are passed onto our grocery bills.

Ethanol is not taking food from the mouths of anyone. The U.S. corn crop is growing to support the demand of ethanol, export and domestic food. Last year the corn crop was the biggest in decades and exports were also the highest they had been in years.

Considering what rising fuel prices are doing to our wallets, it's time to recommit to a future of energy independence – and it's certainly not time to abandon the biofuels industry. Ethanol is part of our solution.