Committee: FAO (Junior)

Topic: Ensuring sustainable food production and distribution to

accommodate the increasing world population

Country: the Republic of Austria

Austria is a country located in Central Europe bordering with Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland with a population of nearly 9 million people. Around two-thirds of the populace lives in urban areas and the North and eastern parts of the country are more densely populated. The country has the natural resources like oil, coal, lignite, timber, iron ore, copper, zinc, antimony, magnesite, tungsten, graphite, salt and hydropower whereas milk, maize, sugar beet, wheat, barley, potatoes, pork, triticale, grapes, apples are the main agricultural products grown in 38.4 % of the total land.

Today we are interested in the question of what the situation of security of supply in Austria as a result of Corona crisis or the war in Ukraine is. Although, the virus and the war affected global agricultural markets severely, as the Ukraine is one of the world’s top agricultural producers and plays an important role in supplying grains and oilseeds to the global market, Austrian food security is not currently at risk. Driven by the Austrian government and non-governmental organizations, Austrian consumers are highly aware of environmental issues. This creates a growing market for sustainably and regionally produced food products. In reaction to this trend, retail chains started launching private labels promoting the “sustainability” and “regionality” of their products. Austria tries its best to follow useful practises such sustainable use of agricultural raw materials, CO2 reduction in food production, waste heat utilisation in food production, for biorefineries to recycle raw materials, keeping food packaging materials in a closed loop and social & environmental sustainability in the food chain.

Austria firmly believes that building [healthy soil](https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/safeguarding-soil)and [preventing erosion](https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/how-soil-erosion-threatens-food-and-farms), managing water wisely, minimizing air and [water pollution](https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/reviving-dead-zone), [storing carbon on farms](https://blog.ucsusa.org/marcia-delonge/farming-carbon-into-soils-and-trees-a-climate-smart-mid-century-strategy-for-agriculture/), increasing resilience to extreme weather and promoting biodiversity are the first steps that must be taken worldwide and these solutions can be applied for underdeveloped or developing countries only with the economic and social help of member states.