

Landsat Plays Key Role in Feeding a Hungry Planet

“A vision
to observe
Earth for
the benefit
of all...”

Interior Secretary
Stewart Udall, 1966

With population estimates of 9 billion people on the planet by 2050, Landsat satellites will play vital roles in domestic and international food production.

Globally, irrigated agriculture supports the producing of roughly half the world’s food supply. In western America, federal officials estimate up to 90 percent of water consumption is tied to agriculture. That makes Landsat’s ability to monitor and identify consumptive water use of vital importance.

The satellite system serves agriculture in other ways, too:

- Unbiased crop estimates established through surveys and validated by Landsat help keep commodity markets from swinging wildly through manipulation.
- The ability of Landsat sensors to see infrared light enables producers to discern when crops are stressed, or when weeds are present, and address those situations.
- Landsat’s 44 years of monitoring agricultural land, and its freely accessible data since 2008, are valuable tools in fighting crop insurance fraud.



A vision to observe Earth...
50th Anniversary Celebration

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<http://eros.usgs.gov/Udall50thAnniversary>