

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). Your use of this material constitutes acceptance of that license and the conditions of use of materials on this site.



Copyright 2008, The Johns Hopkins University, Robert S. Lawrence, and Polly Walker. All rights reserved. Use of these materials permitted only in accordance with license rights granted. Materials provided "AS IS"; no representations or warranties provided. User assumes all responsibility for use, and all liability related thereto, and must independently review all materials for accuracy and efficacy. May contain materials owned by others. User is responsible for obtaining permissions for use from third parties as needed.



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Section C: Relation between Environment and Development

Robert S. Lawrence, MD

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

- UN Conference on Environment and Development
 - Rio de Janeiro
 - June 3-14, 1992
 - <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

- Principle 1
 - “Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.”

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

- Principle 7
 - “States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem. ...”

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

- Principle 15
 - “In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities.”

Precautionary Principle

- Wingspread Conference, 1998
 - “When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.”
 - “In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof.”
- Note: “precautionary principle” and “polluter pays” were first mentioned in an international document in May 2001 at a Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

- Principle 16
 - “National authorities should endeavor to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution. ...”

Alternatives to the Industrial System

- Harm reduction in industrial animal production (IAP)
- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Local food systems
- Improved food policies

What Can Public Health Do?

- Research
- Practice/intervention
- Advocacy

“The whole problem of health, in soil, plant, animal and man is one great subject.”

– *Sir Albert Howard, 1939*

Course Outline

- Food Production, Public Health, and the Environment
 - Module 1: An Introduction to the Food System: Diet, Food Production, the Environment, and Public Health
 - Module 2: Historical, Ecological, and Economic Overview of Agriculture and Food Production
 - Module 3: Public Health Implications of Industrial Animal Production (IAP)
 - Module 4: Food Consumption, Culture, and Policy as Determinants of the Food System
 - Module 5: Sustainable Alternatives to the Current Food System
 - Module 6: Opportunities for Public Health

