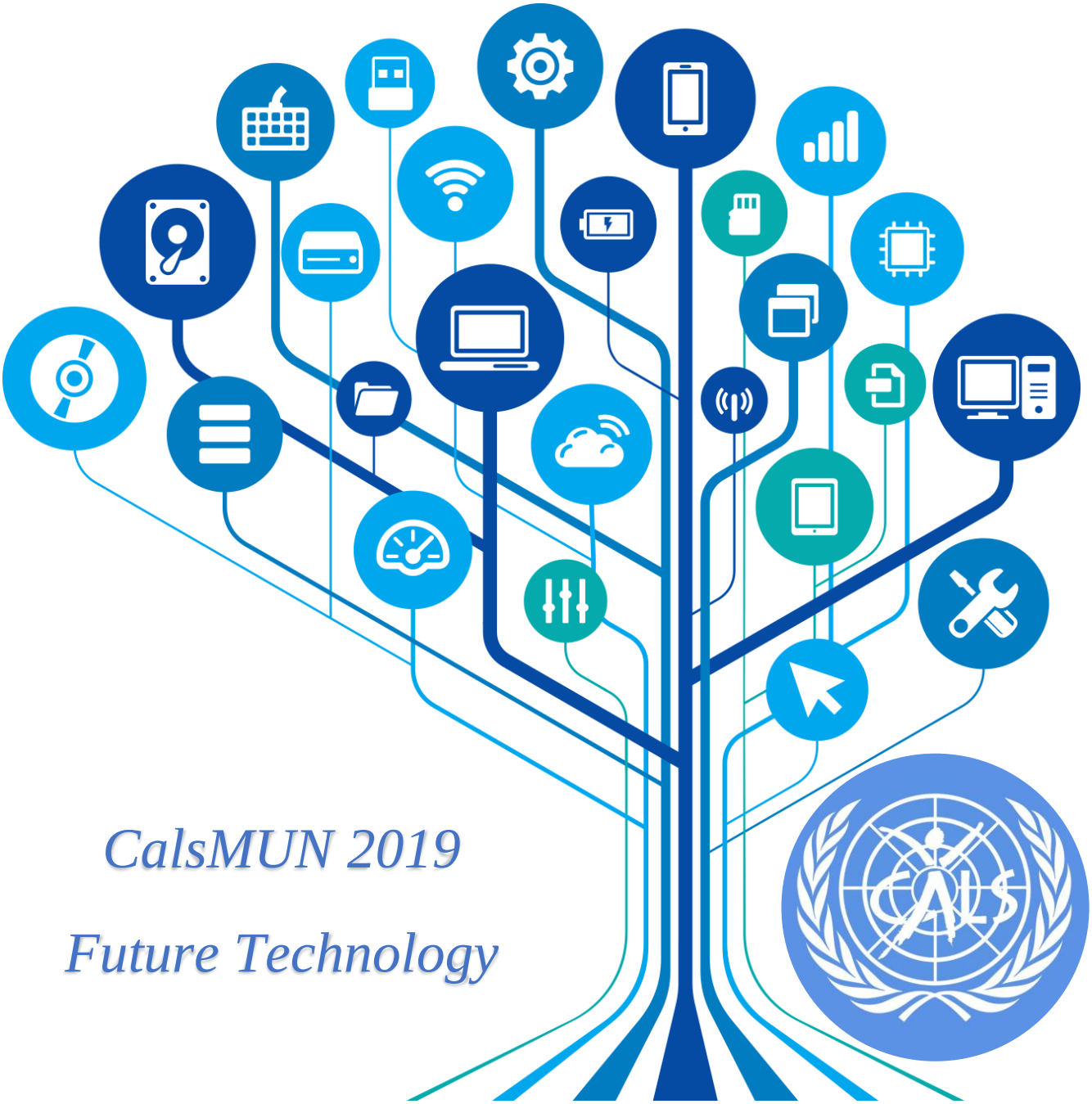

# CalsMUN 2019

# Future Technology

## Research Report

**Forum:** Food and Agriculture Organization

**Issue:** The destruction of nature in the Amazone due to the increasing food demand

**Chairs:** Guus Janssen and Simon Theunissen

## Personal Introduction

**Guus Janssen**
Hello! My name is Guus Janssen, 17 years old and I am in my last year at the Cals College. Last year I was in the OC. I was the deputy SG and although I had an amazing experience, I decided to focus on my school work. I did want to participate in CalsMUN. This is my first MUN chairing and I think it's a nice challenge. My hobbies are going to the gym and binge watching :). I am looking forward to meeting you all! Let it be a fruitful debate!
Sincerely
Guus

**Simon Theunissen**
Hey there, my name is Simon Theunissen and I'm going to be one of the chairs of the Food and Agriculture Organisation. I'm 17 years old and I've lived my entire life in and around the beautiful Dutch province of Utrecht. Some of my hobbies are: judo, running, videogames, reading and of course participating in MUN's; I participated in my first MUN three years ago and since then I've been to seven. I participate in MUN's because I like to look at issues from different perspectives and to debate.

## Introduction

As population increases, our food demands are also rising and the international market's demand for certain products is leading to some disastrous and unsustainable effects.

In Latin America, commercial agriculture is the main cause of deforestation. Commerical agriculture generated almost 70% of deforestation in Latin America between 2000-2010.

In the Amazon in particular agribusiness production for international markets was the main factor behind deforestation since 1990, as result of practices such as extensive grazing, cultivation of soy and palm oil plantations.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Rising Global Food Demand**

Since the number of inhabitants is rising, the demand for food is rising as well. Next to that, more people are seeing an increase in income which leads to an increase in the demand for specific foods such as meats.

**Amazon Rainforest**

The Amazon rainforest is a moist broadleaf forest in the Amazon biome that covers most of the Amazon basin of South America. The area is about 5,500,00 km2. The region includes territory belonging to nine nations.

## Timeline of Events

- Later part of the 20th century : extreme increase in proportion of the deforestation in the Amazon due to industrial activities and large-scale agriculture.
- 2000s : more than three-quarters of forest clearing in the Amazon for cattle-ranching
- 2004 : the trend began to reverse in Brazil. Since then, annual forest loss in the country that contains nearly two-thirds of the Amazon's forest cover has declined by roughly eighty percent.
- 2 jan. 2019 : Brazil's new president, Jair Bolsonaro, has launched an assault on environmental and Amazon protections with an executive order transferring the regulation and creation of new indigenous reserves to the agriculture ministry – which is controlled by the agribusiness lobby.

## General Overview

**Expansion of pastures: main cause of deforestation**

A study cited by the SOFO (FAO report on The State of the World's Forest (2016)) on the causes of deforestation in seven countries in South America showed the relationship between deforestation and the expansion of extensive grazing.

According to the study, between 1990-2005, 71% of deforestation in Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela was due to increased demand for pasture; 14% due to cash crops; and less than 2% to infrastructure and urban sprawl.

The expansion of pastures caused the loss of at least one third of the forests in six of the countries analysed. The exception was Peru, where the increase of small-scale farming was the dominant factor driving deforestation, causing 41% of the total.

In Argentina, the expansion of pastures was responsible for 45% of deforestation, while the expansion of commercial agriculture accounted for more than 43%. In Brazil, more than 80% of deforestation was associated with forests being cut down for pasture.'

**Smaller farmers**

In some parts of the world, large-scale commercial agriculture takes up the majority of the productive floodplain and volcanic soils in the area, while leaving smaller farmers with little choice but to cut farmland from the rainforest. The ownership of these large commercial farms is concentrated in the hands of a wealthy minority, who may benefit from tax incentives to leave some of their land fallow and not fully employed at any given time. These large farm businesses generally do not employ large numbers of locals, though when they do, workers are used seasonally for low wages. In recent years, grain production in Brazil and other Latin American countries has widely accelerated. However, most of the money ends up in the hands of a few large landowners who, in more marginal areas, have relied on subsidies to survive the harsh soil and climate conditions. Only through these handouts have these landowners been able to turn a profit.

**Amazonian Soy**

Soy production in the Amazon exploded in the early 1990s following the development of a new variety of soybean suitable to the soils and climate of the region. Most expansion occurred in the cerrado, a wooded grassland ecosystem, and the transition forests in the

southern fringes in the Amazon basin, especially in states of Mato Grosso and Pará — direct conversion of rainforests for soy has been relatively limited. Instead, the impact of soy on rainforests is generally seen to be indirect. Soy expansion has driven up land prices, created impetus for infrastructure improvements that promote forest clearing, and displaced cattle ranchers to frontier areas, spurring deforestation.

In recent years soy growers, crushers, and traders have taken steps to reduce the environmental impact of their crop in the Amazon biome. After a damaging Greenpeace campaign in 2006, leading players in the industry agreed to a moratorium on soy grown on newly deforested lands. Independent analysis has shown that growers are mostly abiding by the ban: only 12 of 630 sample areas (1,389 of 157,896 hectares) deforested since July 2006 — the date the moratorium took effect — were planted with soy.

### Countries

**Brazil**

Brazil is the largest exporter of beef which is causing 80% of all deforestation in the Amazon. Using figures from Greenpeace, the country's export value rose to $1.9 billion in 2004. This does not mean that Brazil is the biggest malefactor in the area. It should also be noted that if policies are too strict in one country, this demand will simply be met in another. For Brazil, this means finding a way to control its deforestation without actively killing the industry that is providing lucrative profits.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Countries have taken several actions to regulate deforestation in their lands by:

- Working with larger corporations like major exporters to agree on f.e. only purchasing cattle from ranches that aren't undergoing deforestation.
- Limiting the emissions of deforestation and protecting the entire forest reserves where possible
- Punish illegal ranches and businesses that increase deforestation in the areas

## Possible Solutions

- The development of forest plantations in order to reduce the pressure on native forests
- Strengthen and expand the Green Zone (the 45% of Amazonia that is composed of forest formally designated as protected areas of indigenous lands an territories)
- Increase sustainable in the area where Amazonia's forest have already been lost or heavily degraded.

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