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## Rice Self Sufficiency and Food Security in the Philippines

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Oral Presentation O7.2

## **RICE SELF SUFFICIENCY AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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The Philippines have been advancing towards becoming a developed country. They have great potential since they are a great asset for sustainability and growth. One of the major factors that holds the country back though is food security. Food Security has doubled since 1990, but the level of food insecurity remains extremely high at approximately 66% of the population. The Philippine government has set out to tackle the problem through a policy of achieving rice self sufficiency. This paper analyzes why the policy of rice self sufficiency has been ineffective in reducing food insecurity sufficiently. In order to maximize food security/ rice self sufficiency, it is imperative to determine the major factors contributing to this issue. Focusing on the standard indicators of food security, availability and accessibility, the paper argues that there is low productivity gains and sustained high prices which constrain the access of the rural poor. This makes rice staple unaffordable to the rural poor. The data will be collected from the Philippine Statistics Authority and Ricepedia that both contain records of Philippine statistics. The conclusions hope to prove that these factors are the reason the country has not yet met rice self sufficiency.