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..... Pressing Issues Amid the Political Maelstrom

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Speaker

S. R. Raftery, *Advanced Energy Growing*

Topic:

"The Risks of Locating Infrastructure in Disaster Prone Areas"

Current, conventional farming continues to be an inefficient fuel-burning method of feeding the population. This forces consumers to settle for sub optimal products that lack not only in taste, but in the nutrient value as well. At the center of this problem is a food system that lacks resilience and long-term sustainability due to the prevailing approaches to agriculture and the lack of consumer's knowledge about how food gets to grocery stores, and ultimately their dinner table.

The expectation is that global food demand will increase 70% by 2050 with an expected increase in energy demand of 40% by 2030. True sustainability requires a paradigm shift in how society views food, food systems, and agriculture, which leads to the needed level of resilience to ensure continued availability of food production in the unstable climatic influences seen today. This means looking beyond soil biology, and crop rotation to solve this growing problem.

This paper explores sustainability of food systems through the prism of resilience as a means of creating new thought patterns by consumers and producers about how to efficiently create and deliver food that is high in nutrients with lower energy and resource requirements. Additional topics include exploring year round food production in an urban setting that creates local to regional growing with a direct channel to consumers