Loss or degradation of key agricultural resources—especially land, water, and a stable climate—is leading to a global agricultural system in which more countries depend on international markets for basic food supplies. As a result, “land grabbing”—the purchase or lease of agricultural land by foreign interests—is surging, threatening food security. Gary Gardner argues that a food import strategy reduces pressure on agricultural resources in many countries, but also renders importing countries vulnerable to supply disruptions caused by poor harvests, political manipulation, or other factors beyond their control.

Mounting Losses of Agricultural Resources

Could poor harvests and political tensions disrupt our fragile food supply?

State of the World is available for purchase at www.worldwatch.org/bookstore/state-of-the-world