



Is Germany Prepared to Ensure Food Security in Order to Overcome a Serious Crisis or War? What Needs to Be Done, by Whom until When?

An Emergency Call in 2026!

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Summary

Smart decisions enable forward-looking action.

The paper is an urgent wake-up call to secure food, agriculture, and food supplies in Germany and Europe in the face of growing global crises, conflicts, and ongoing and potential wars. Freedom and peace can no longer be taken for granted, but must be actively defended. Food security is becoming a key issue.

Under normal conditions, Germany has a good food supply thanks to its highly efficient agriculture and food supply chains. However, in the event of a prolonged crisis or war, significant weaknesses become apparent. Germany is not unprepared, but it is also not sufficiently prepared.

Food is not a luxury good—it is strategic security and the foundation for stability, sovereignty, and sustainable crisis management. Consequently, agriculture and food production are part of the critical infrastructure that must be protected as a matter of priority. Germany's security must also be defended “in the fields, on farms, in food production centers, and in supermarkets,” because tanks alone cannot ensure internal peace.

The defense of critical infrastructure, including agriculture and food production, against air strikes and drones should be a top priority. The necessary financial resources should be provided from the “special fund.”

The resilience of agricultural production must be strengthened. This includes strategic reserves of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, animal feed, and spare parts, the expansion of decentralized energy supply systems on farms, and the protection of digital infrastructures against cyber threats. Agriculture, production and supply chains, and the population must be systematically made crisis- and war-ready. Financial support for resilient production, for example in the form of a “resilience bonus,” is urgently needed.



Politicians and individuals alike must take responsibility and make provisions; the state through strategic planning, financial support, supraregional stockpiling, legal measures, school programs, and constructive dialogue; citizens through a realistic change in awareness, sustainable stockpiling, and problem-oriented further education.

Only through joint action can the population's food supply be secured in uncertain times and resilience can be strengthened in Germany. Yes, we can! Everyone in Germany should answer the following question: "What can I do for my country and what should our country do for me?" and act accordingly.

Emergency food reserves are not a luxury. They are a form of collective insurance. You hope to never need them – but you are grateful when they exist.

Taking precautions is not an exaggeration—it means taking responsibility and leadership.

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Analysis



Symbol of Resilience in Agriculture

Prolog 2026

- **The world order is in turmoil, with new imbalances and dangerous disorder!**
- Human dignity is increasingly being disregarded in many countries around the world, with human rights and constitutional rights being abolished at the stroke of a pen.
- We are witnessing an increase in acts of violence, a lowering of the threshold for the use of violence, and a creeping acceptance of more and more innocent victims.
- We are experiencing increasing medial, political, economic, social, and military uncertainties.
- In many places, the world is becoming more dishonest (not honest, morally questionable), more ruthless (ignoring others, selfish), more undemocratic (opposed to fair participation and co-determination), more unjust (violating justice, unfair), more inhumane (depriving people of their humanity, cruel), more despotic (domineering, tyrannical), more autocratic (sole ruler, without co-determination), more arbitrary (acts on a whim, without rules), more military/militant (willing to use violence to enforce), more violent (open to physical or aggressive means), more dangerous (generally threatening), more unsafe (unpredictable, risky for others), more unscrupulous (unrestrained, reckless, conscienceless, only concerned with their own advantage), and more brutal (extreme violence, ruthlessness).
- Some cynics will probably say, **“So what? What does that have to do with me?”**
- In 2023 the author has outlined the following¹: *“Thursday, February 24, 2022. The world awakens to a turning of the times. It is no longer faced with ‘cold war’, but a ‘hot war’, for which the Ukraine is currently paying with its blood and human lives. We were naive, lazy, and politically insufficiently alert; we live life through rose-tinted glasses. We are an unprepared society, which lacks necessary military means; we have been subject to years of inaccurate estimates of political and military situations. Unilateral disarmament does not lead to more security. Freedom and life in peace have their price.*
- *Permit me once again to quote from Goethe’s Faust – Tragedy (1749-1832):*

Another citizen.

Sundays and holidays, I like, of all things, a good prattle

Of war and fighting, and the whole array,

When back in Turkey, far away,

The peoples give each other battle.

¹ Dr. Kern, Manfred: White Paper: The Four Horsemen of Apocalypse Are on the Way – ‘Hunger’, ‘Pestilence’, ‘War’, ‘Death’, in: ISPSW, ISPSW Strategic Series, Issue No. 902, Berlin, February 2023, https://www.ispsw.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/902_Kern.pdf



*One stands before the window, drinks his glass,
And sees the ships with flags glide slowly down the river;
Comes home at night, when out of sight they pass,
And sings with joy, "Oh, peace forever!"*

*Third citizen.
So I say, neighbour! Let them have their way,
Crack skulls and in their crazy riot
Turn all things upside down they may,
But leave us here in peace and quiet.*

- **Conscience prompts the question as to whether it is alright to enjoy a glass of wine in the evening while you watch news images from Ukraine and the rest of the world.**

Was this the consequence of another lapse in risk judgement?

- *Was it simply ignorance, resistance to advice, lack of insight, carelessness, irresponsibility, misjudgement of the danger and urgency, fear, wrong prioritization, or did it seem unimportant, unnecessary, inconvenient, unattractive topic, unsuitable for PR, simply too expensive, irrelevant for elections, inconvenient, untimely, simply inopportune, incommunicable, and unreasonable for society or politicians to accept? May we ask a similar question about the media's failure to address the potential dangers and hazards?*
- *Catastrophes and wars are not on the agenda, but foreseeable or predictable!"*
- **But what happens if Germany/Europe also has to wage war?** We would have to cope with the sudden reality of a "new world" and should be adequately prepared for it.
- **Will we wait again until we have to realize once more: "We woke up in a new world on February 24, 2022?"** The morning is already here—what we do now shapes its face; let's act now, or action will be taken without us.
- **"Is Ukraine basically already fighting the wars of the future that we are not even planning yet?"** (Illner, M., ZDF, in: maybrit illner, February 19, 2026). Unfortunately, this question about a plan, which was posed to General C. Breuer (Inspector General of the German Armed Forces), remained completely unanswered. The war in Ukraine is not a blueprint for a future war, but rather a teacher from which lessons can be learned.

Introduction

Food for Thought

Eleven Cardinal Clusters Covering 79 Core Criteria:

- 1. Human Fundamentals (Internal Causes) Which Should Determine How People Act, Make Decisions, and Take Responsibility**



Conscience, conscientiousness, common-sense, courage, confidence, credibility, character, constructiveness, creativity, critical ability, catholicity, compassion, candor, charity, civility

2. Society and Coexistence Enabling People Living together with Shared Structures and Norms, Peacefully despite Differences

Communication, conversation, christfluencer, consultation, collaboration, cooperation, connections, coexistence, community, civilisation, charitableness

3. Order, Rules and Power Are Stable Arrangements to Create Prediction, Security, to Shape Behaviour or Enforce Outcomes Over Others

Cornerstones, contracts, constitutions, conventions, commitments, constrains, complexity, changes, consequences, costs

4. Economy and Systems Are Creating Prosperity, but also Dependencies and Risks

Capitalism, companies, competition, cupidity, crypto currency

5. Environment and Resources Are Key Factors for Survival, Development, and Quality of Life

Carbon dioxide, climate change, circular economy

6. Technological and Agricultural Responses Are Solving Existential Global Problems

Conventional agriculture, controlled environment agriculture, cellular agriculture, cutting edge AI-supported agriculture, crops resistant to 'nuclear winter' periods, crops resistant to abrupt sunlight reduction scenarios

7. Tensions and Escalation Refer to the Increasing Hostility and Conflict between and within Nations

Cold war, confrontation, conspiracy, conflict, clash, combatants, coup

8. War and Violence is the Continuation of Politics by Other Means – with Human Costs

Von Clausewitz, conventional war, crimes, civilian death, cemetery

9. Digital Conflict Zones Are Shifting to the Digital Space or Outer Space

Cyber crime, cyber attack, cyber war, cyberspace force

10. Escalation of Consequences Is Making Something Greater, Worse, More Serious

Catastrophe, crisis, collateral damages, cruelties, collapse, chaos

11. Reactions and Solutions Are Responding to Challenges and Fix Them

Countermeasures, cooperation, consensuses, convergence, collaboration.

One Cardinal Cluster Covering:

7 D's of Social Destabilisation:

Disinformation, distortion, discrimination, dominance, destruction, disruption, demolition.

We live in an age of profound global instability. High levels of conflict have become the new normal. Shared rules and values are eroding, while power politics, climate change, geopolitical tensions, and military conflicts reshape our world.

In this reality, food security is no longer a humanitarian concern alone. It has become a strategic, societal, and moral imperative.



Analysis

The Reality Is Changing.

The global food system is under pressure from climate shocks, cyber risks, disrupted supply chains, and the deliberate misuse of food as a weapon. Hunger fuels instability, violence, war, and migration. And it has to be considered: War – is the ultimate threat to food, freedom and life!

When food systems fail, peace cannot be stained. There is no security without food security.

Food Security Is Peace Security.

Food security has become a strategic variable. Agriculture is a critical infrastructure. Food sovereignty and the resilience of national supplies are under severe pressure, and food security in 2050 cannot be taken for granted.

As early as 1997, at a NATO-CCMS conference in Prague, the author advocated for the inclusion of the topic of “food security” as a critical factor in the NATO/CCMS Pilot Study on Environment and Security in an International Context (Kern, M., 1997). Following this in 1999, it was recommended that a “*Club of the Globe*,” an international platform for global governance with a focus on “safeguarding food security,” be established. The members were to come from NATO, the World Bank, FAO, WTO, OECD, United Nations, EU, governments, universities, farmer unions, food producers, food processors, food traders, media, NGOs, consumers, and others (Kern, M., 1999, 2001).

Furthermore, let us take a look back at the outlook at the beginning of 2017 (Kern, M., 2017):

- Unusual: 3 years of record harvests in a row – no failure of key regions – storage facilities are full
- 2017: “*El Niño / La Niña*,” increased risk of severe weather in Europe, drought in the US, Argentina, drought in Somalia / Kenya – rising food prices
- Global Food Price Index 1/2017 at its highest level in 2 years – trend very volatile (Brexit, US, elections)
- Significant purchasing power gap within Europe North/South and North/East and with Africa
- Increasing number of internal and international refugees/migrants
- Persistence of terrorism, IS, etc.
- Increasing risk of economic wars worldwide – including in the food sector (distortions on agricultural commodity markets)
- Escalating conflicts between the US and China (South China Sea), the US and Iran, the US and North Korea, Russia and Ukraine, etc. – Increase in military armament (arms race)
- Increase in the trend toward nationhood in Europe (“renationalization”), isolation/exclusion
- Keep oil prices at a moderate level – < US\$ 65-70/barrel
- Open up access to European markets for Africa
- Transfer modern agricultural technologies to crisis-stricken countries, establish/expand the primary sector



- Provide robust military protection measures
- Expand, fortify, and secure borders within and outside Europe
- Significantly expand and upgrade the German Armed Forces
- Evaluate the reintroduction of compulsory military service due to a significant increase in future tasks
- Establish a new set of rules with new goals and meaningful purposes (“Creating peace without weapons?”)

“History has taught us that wars lead to hunger, but we are less aware that mass poverty can in turn lead to war or end in chaos. Where hunger prevails, peace cannot endure. Those who want to outlaw war must also banish mass poverty” (Willy Brand, who served as the chancellor of West Germany from 1969-1974).

It’s never too late to do what is necessary and right.

In early 2026, the MSC (Munich Security Conference) launched the Food Security Track to systematically integrate food security into its activities and promote political investment (MSC, 2/2026; 2026a). The MSC Food Security Task Force is a group of fifteen senior stakeholders drawn from five continents, representing a uniquely diverse coalition across national security and defense communities, governments, development actors, multilateral institutions, and the private sector. Brought together by a shared recognition that food security is a cornerstone of global stability, human security, and economic resilience, the Task Force reflects a cross-sectoral and crossregional perspective on one of the defining challenges of our time (MSC, 2/2026 b). They will have a clear focus on the weaponization of food worldwide, i.e. manipulation of food access, food access as a tool for recruitment, strategic targeting of agricultural infrastructure, food as a “*long-range weapon*,” economic coercion, cyber threats, and biothreats. The overall goal is to enable more resilient agrifood systems as forward defense and to improve national security and stability.

This may now be the birth of the necessary “*Club of the Globe*,” which will develop and implement good and timely solutions.

Worldwide, 1.4 billion people were exposed to armed conflicts in 2025 (ACLED’s Conflict Watchlist, 2026). Conflicts accounted for 60% of global acute food insecurity in 2024 (Gitnux Report 2026, GRFC, 2025).

Total global military expenditure reached \$3.58 trillion in 2026 (Global Military Spending Clock, 2/2026). This expenditure is expected to rise to \$5.2 trillion by 2030 and \$6.6 trillion by 2035 (United Nations, 7/2025).

2.3 billion people were moderately or severely food insecure in 2024, and 2.6 billion people were unable to afford a healthy diet (EU Commission, 12/2025).

Global Food Security 2025/2050

Between 2015 and 2050 more than a doubling of crop production, a tripling of plant based protein production (food & feed), and a tripling of fruit and vegetable production is necessary to feed 9.7 billion people on earth (Kern, M., 2016, 2019).

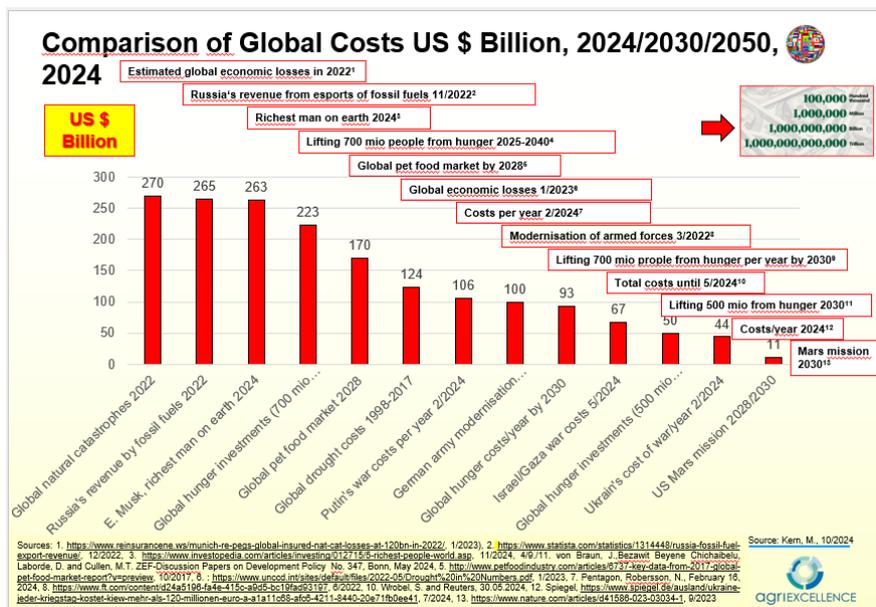


The global challenges concerning safeguarding food security was outlined yearly more or less by the author since 30 years (Kern, M., 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011 a, 2011 b, 2012, 2014, 2015 a, 2015 b, 2016, 2017, 2018 a, 2018 b, 2018 c, 2018 d, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2021, 2023, 2025, 2026).

Well, more or less all data and recommendations made during the Public Hearing on the Subject of “*Global Nutrition*”, 35th Session of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the German Bundestag, 17th Legislative Period, Berlin, Germany, April 4, 2011, are still valid in 2026. For further reference, have a look at a lead paper presented in 2012 titled: “*Food Security at the Crossroads – A Wake up Call*” (Kern, 2012), a second lead paper presented in 2025 titled: “*Food Security in 2030/2050 at Crossroads – A Wake-up Call in 2012! / An Emergency Call in 2025!*” (Kern, M., 2/2025) as well as a paper published in 2025 titled: “*Most of the 17 SDGs Are Not on Track to Be Achieved by 2030!*” (Kern, M., 4/2025).

Today “*Food Security 2026*” is not only a global challenge – it is a disaster – a real, but not necessary catastrophe – a global failure of human mankind!

To free 500 million people from hunger by 2030 would require around 50 billion US dollars/year, and to free 700 million people from hunger by 2024 (2025-2040) would require around 223 billion US dollars (von Braun, J. et al., 5/2024). The following diagram is shown to illustrate the cost dimensions in billions of US dollars (Kern, M., 4/2025).



Comparison of Global Costs US \$ Billion, 2024/2030/2050 (Kern, M., 4/2025)

Unfortunately, it is the bitter truth, that hunger in the world will not be eradicated by 2030, mostly due to a lack of political will and political failure. The global community should not ignore the alarm bells in order to prevent a “*hunger tipping point*”, triggering violence, conflicts, riots, crisis, wars, and migrations (Kern, M., 4/2025). The logics of war and food (in)security based on destruction, conflict-induced displacement, food



control and hunger as a “*weapon of war*” are well described by Kemmerling, B. et al. (4/2022). The weaponization of food has been taken to geopolitical levels (Mudie-Mantz, A. and Werz, M., 4/2025).

An insecure world requires preparedness. Food preparedness is crisis preparedness. Food preparedness is peace preparedness.

Responsibility of the State and Society

Emergency food reserves are not a luxury. They are a form of collective insurance. You hope to never need them — but you are grateful when they exist.

Reliable food supply security is more valuable than any life insurance policy. Resilience in agriculture is the defining task of this decade.

Europe

As early as 2015, a report by the European Commission titled: “*Global Food Security 2030*” described a vision for food security in order to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. This vision was then challenged in a test of resilience to unexpected occurrences and/or underestimated trends. The impact of a possible warfare was not included only a case study was presented on the topic: “*What would happen if ... international trade in agriculture broke down?*” Some key assessments addressing the year 2020 are listed here:

- Many countries adopted a protectionist approach.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) became increasingly irrelevant in enforcing multilateral rules.
- Numerous unilateral reforms emerged.
- Mistrust in the agricultural trading system increased.
- Self-sufficiency became a political instrument.
- These arrangements led to the build-up of regional and national stockpiles.
- Global food price volatility became extremely high.
- The prevailing mantra for food security became: “*Food self-reliance at the national level through regional self-sufficiency.*”
- Consumers were forced to adapt quickly to regionally produced food products.
- European consumers were able to buy more European products, but at significantly higher prices.
- The United States adopted an isolationist stance toward food production and were forced to become fully self-sufficient.
- Agricultural activity gradually shifted away from cash crops toward non-tradable products.
- Many countries established food reserves.



With Putin's aggression/war against Ukraine starting on February 24, 2022, and the hybrid war against Europe, this case study is the reality in 2026 – all food supply chains were abruptly interrupted and food supplies were misused as a weapon, with catastrophic consequences triggering welfare losses, hunger, and migration. For now, the global trade including food trade is battered, but not broken.

In an EU report, written by Sauli Niinistö, former President of the Republic of Finland, and Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission (10/2024), it is noted that the EU was not prepared for either the COVID-19 pandemic or Russia's aggression against the Ukraine, and that it is essential to move "*from reaction to proactive preparedness*". In case of war with Russia, the author recommended that households should be prepared for a minimum of 3 days (Shoaib, A., 10/2024). But only 29 percent of the households in the EU 27 keep an emergency stock/pack of drinks and food at home. The report (Niinisto, S., 10/2024) should be read as an eye opener by every European citizen.

Actually, an EU-wide coordinated food stockpiling for crisis preparedness is making little progress. The goal for 2025, it was said, was to further assess the potential food demand in the EU. A comprehensive assessment, let alone the introduction of necessary security measures, has not yet been carried out (Deter, A., 1/2025).

EU Trade Agreements

There are currently 44 EU trade agreements in force with 76 countries. 44% of EU foreign trade is conducted on the basis of these agreements.

The ratification of a free trade agreement with Mexico and Switzerland is expected to take place by mid-2026. Negotiations are also underway with Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom (SPS+ETS), Australia, and Tajikistan, with an agreement expected in 2026 (German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, 1/2026). This will also create new supply chains in the area of agricultural and food production, which will lead to the stabilization of food security in the participating countries. Appropriate safeguard clauses to protect domestic agriculture must be agreed upon – see, for example, the Mercosur agreements, which contain safeguard clauses for beef, poultry, honey, citrus fruits, and sugar.

Actually, with 72 percent of global trade still covered by WTO rules, the "system is holding." Since November 2024, there have been 43 trade negotiations between Europe-Global South (11), Other Global North-Global South (14), and South-South (18) without the US. A critical mass of countries wish to preserve and reform rules-based trade (MSC, 2/2026). These trade agreements are the necessary responses to the illegal, irrational, and arbitrarily imposed tariffs of Donald Trump (President of the United States), which are causing food prices to rise, social instability and ultimately affecting the livelihoods of the poorest people in every country.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz emphasized in his speech "We assert our freedom with our neighbors" at the Munich Security Conference on February 13, 2026, that in a world of increasing tensions, Europe must preserve its own values, protect its freedom, and build on its strengths—Europe is more valuable today than ever before. And, a strong network of global partnerships is essential (The Federal Government, Merz, F., 2/2026).

Ultimately, this means that the 7 D's of social destabilization—based on disinformation, distortion, discrimination, dominance, destruction, disruption, and demolition mentioned at the beginning of this paper—



must be countered as quickly as possible with wisdom, prudence, courage, confidence, and careful measures. *“Sitting it out”* would be grossly negligent and would put us all in danger.

Germany 2023

In June 2023, under Chancellor Scholz, the German government published the first national security strategy in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany, entitled “Integrated Security for Germany” (The Federal Government, 6/2023). It states: “We are taking the turning point that Russia's war of aggression represents as an opportunity to finally equip our armed forces appropriately. This will enable it to continue to fulfill its core mission in the future: defending our country and our allies against any conceivable attack.” Furthermore, it is about strengthening the cohesion of our society. Unfortunately, the summary does not mention anything about securing food production or procuring emergency reserves in Germany, let alone the fact that agriculture is part of critical infrastructure. Only in the study itself is this area mentioned in general terms (p. 36): “National reserves for food, the health sector, and the care of people will be reviewed and, if necessary, further expanded in order to be able to respond better in emergency situations.” The aim is also to undertake a sustainable transformation of local and regional agricultural and food systems in order to become less dependent on global crises and conflicts, including by reducing trade restrictions and realigning supply chains.

There are also plans to increase the cultivation of plant proteins and improve the framework conditions for breeding research. The opportunities and risks of new breeding techniques, such as CRISPR/Cas, will also be examined (p. 70). Without further discussion of the political statements, it should be noted that there is not a single time frame specified! There are no statements whatsoever about what needs to be done, by whom, and by when in order to implement this national security strategy and ensure integrated security. After 1.5 years, citizens should be informed about what has been implemented.

Due to the very dynamic and, in some places, dangerous changes in the world, a second national security strategy should be developed immediately. Regardless of declarations of intent, this should include food security, stockpiling, and German agriculture as critical infrastructure. The time horizon should cover three years (worst-case scenario: attack by Russia on NATO countries, 2029) and beyond, i.e., 2030/2040/2050. Well, General C. Breuer (Inspector General of the German Armed Forces) recently stated that Russia is currently arming itself with 1.5 million soldiers. He emphasized that, in a worst-case scenario, Russia could wage a war of aggression against a NATO country “from 2029 onwards” – “we must be prepared for this” (Haacke, P., 2/2026).

Important impetus for a new security policy discourse in Germany comes from the work of Stoltenow, S. (Federal Academy for Security Policy, 9/2025).

Referring to the national security strategy (6/2023), the author states that “since the ‘turning point,’ the Federal Republic is still far from reaching a social consensus.”

“Integrated security,” i.e., total defense, requires both “integrated communication” and “strategic communication” in order to improve overall social security and cooperation. The author adopts the nine policy areas of “integrated security in Germany” – the area of securing food production and nutrition is thus also excluded.



It is rightly lamented that the term “communication” appears only three times in the national security strategy and is not a central element of the strategy itself. Authorities primarily engage in information work and are not focused on dialogue. “Official announcement communication” meets an audience with little interest in security policy issues and completely changed media usage habits. “After the suspension of compulsory military service in 2011, the federal governments also almost completely stopped explaining why security is neither a given nor free.

The idea that security and freedom must be achieved and defended has faded among large sections of the population.

Within the framework of “integrated security” in conjunction with “integrated communication,” it is important to communicate political decisions, build trust, and establish a common and resilient basis for understanding. This means “moving away from pure information transfer toward a genuine social debate.” The “Zeitenwende on Tour” format of the Munich Security Conference is cited as a first positive approach. It is proposed that individuals who can act as multipliers in security policy be identified and trained accordingly. These multipliers should come from different age groups and social milieus.

“In terms of content, communication should clearly and unvarnishedly identify the current threat situation and dangers without stirring up fears. Instead, the aim is to show how each individual and society as a whole can become capable of action and contribute to security.” There is nothing to add to this.

Germany February 24, 2026

What needs to be done by whom and by when in order to be prepared for long-lasting natural or technological crises, conflicts, and wars? Who is responsible for securing the food supply in Germany, and how?

Food security is increasingly becoming a focus of political attention. Since January 2026, the German government has been addressing food security in the National Security Council, which was established in August 2025 (Kalmer, T., 1/2026).

The aim is to find ways and take measures to better protect agricultural businesses. The aim is to have strong domestic agriculture and stable supply chains, because food security can no longer be taken for granted, but is systemically important and part of critical infrastructure.

The KRITIS umbrella law has been in place since January 2026, setting out uniform federal and cross-sector minimum standards for the protection of critical infrastructure. Furthermore, although the KRITIS umbrella law contains clear guidelines for securing food supplies and agriculture in critical infrastructures in the event of natural disasters, pandemics, climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and changing market structures, these guidelines have not yet been explicitly designed for cases of war (KRITIS-info, 2025). This needs to be incorporated immediately.

In 2019, the BBK published a study on “Food Security” and “Protection of Critical Infrastructure,” which also included accidents in nuclear facilities. Regardless of this, there is still a lack of information on the complex dangers of “war.” (BBK, 2019). This should be taken into account immediately.

It is only since August 2025 that potential military conflicts have been clearly included. Under the heading “Measures to bridge supply bottlenecks,” the BMLEH (8/2025) stated the following: “Protecting and providing



for citizens in times of crisis is a sovereign task. It can be derived constitutionally from the general defense task of the state and the state's duty to provide public services for the population. Public services refer not only to crises caused by military conflicts, but also to other damaging events such as natural and environmental disasters. This can also include accidents in large-scale technical facilities at home and abroad, as well as criminal and terrorist acts. One of the most fundamental components of providing for the public good is, without doubt, the food supply. Government food reserves help to bridge short-term supply bottlenecks in crisis situations. However, they need to be supplemented by private food reserves. Government and, above all, private reserves are still important today. Even though the probability of a food supply crisis and the associated need to intervene in the food supply is considered to be rather low, recent events have revealed the vulnerability of critical infrastructures in our modern society (e.g., the war in Ukraine, natural disasters such as the flooding of the Ahr River, or the coronavirus pandemic). Prevention reduces uncertainty."

The 15th and 17th Security Reports published by the IfD Allensbach Institute (Köcher, R. and Schweinsberg, K., 1/2024; 2/2026) reveal that there is considerable concern among the population. In 2024, 64 percent of respondents confirmed that the situation in Europe and the world is becoming increasingly unpredictable. By 2026, this figure had risen to 78 percent. Fifty percent (1/2024) and 69 percent (2/2026) believed that Germany could be drawn into military conflicts. Furthermore, 49 percent of the population felt personally threatened by war or military conflicts involving Germany. A study conducted by Deloitte (1/2026) with a sample size of 5,000 shows a figure of 43.7 percent.

Only three percent of the population consider it very likely that Germany will be involved in a war. 28 percent think it is somewhat likely, 24 percent were undecided, 40 percent believed it was somewhat unlikely, and five percent considered it very unlikely (Clasmann, A.-B., 2/2026).

What if we wake up again in the morning—will we have woken up to a new world? Or will we find that it is completely dark and also very cold – see the power outage in Berlin (2.5 days, the longest power outage since end of the 2nd world war)?

75 percent have heard of the recommendations of the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance to keep 10 days' worth of emergency food supplies at home. 73 percent of those surveyed also believe that the federal government should do more to protect the population.

According to a Forsa survey, 75 percent of respondents in Germany consider it sensible to keep emergency supplies at home, but only 46 percent have emergency supplies for up to 10 days; 54 percent are not adequately prepared (Forsa, 11/2023).

Agriculture in Germany

Germany has the best agriculture in the world, but most people don't know this and some refuse to believe it.

The agricultural and food industries, including the food trade, are part of the critical infrastructure that must be protected. Food security cannot be taken for granted; it is systemically important. **Food is a means of life, i.e., it is essential for life.** Comprehensive protection is therefore indispensable.

Lieutenant General Bodemann, Deputy Commander of the Bundeswehr Operational Command and Commander of Territorial Tasks, stated (9/2025): "An essential component of social resilience is food supply in



times of crisis and war." "It is imperative to make agriculture more redundant and resilient. To this end, we need a common understanding of resilience that prepares our population for risks of all kinds. The aim is to make the supply of food to the people of Germany crisis-proof and, if necessary, war-proof" (Stelzer, M., (9/2025).

Major General Henne, commander of the newly founded Homeland Security Division of the German Armed Forces, made it clear (1/2026): "Germany's security is also defended in the fields." He said that food reserves were also being built up – from a few days' worth to several weeks' worth. Food for NATO troops would also be provided in the event of war. In addition, appropriate quantities of fuel, seeds, and animal feed for agriculture would be stockpiled and made available in the event of a crisis. He said that Germany was well on the way to making its agriculture more resilient and ultimately fit for war (Ruge, M., 1/2026). By when? That question remained unanswered.

What does it mean to become resilient? Resilience for food systems means: "*Capacity over time of a food system and its units at multiple levels, to provide sufficient, appropriate and accessible food for all, in the face of various and even unforeseen disturbances.*" (Tendall, D.M. et al., 2015). The time dimension in resilience is the key factor. Robustness, redundancy, flexibility, rapidity, resourcefulness, improvisation capabilities, and adaptability are key challenges to establish resilient food systems.

Critical infrastructure relating to the security of primary food production in Germany includes, among other things:

- energy supply, electricity, and fuel storage
- transport routes and logistics, such as highways including the rolling truck depots, railways, import, export, and inland ports, waterways, airports
- storage facilities and silos, such as strategic storage facilities, grain silos, cold stores, storage facilities for seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and animal feed, dairies, food processing plants
- agricultural machinery and agricultural technology, such as the main production sites of John Deere GmbH in Mannheim/Kaiserslautern (tractors, combine harvesters), Claas in Harsewinkel (tractors, combine harvesters, forage harvesters), Fendt in Marktoberdorf (tractors, precision farming systems), Deutz-Fahr in Lauingen (tractors, trailers) and Krone in Spelle (mowers, balers and forage harvesters). These companies are not only important production sites, but also essential for the provision of spare parts, service, and digitization systems.

Similar key areas need to be identified for food processing, production, distribution, and trade, because all of these need to be protected against military and cyber attacks accordingly.

Protection of Critical Agricultural Infrastructure in Germany

What measures need to be taken to protect agriculture, i.e., to protect the critical agricultural infrastructure in Germany and to become resilient?

A comprehensive prevention and crisis strategy is needed to strengthen the resilience of agriculture. This includes, in particular, the targeted stockpiling of key operating resources such as operating materials, seeds,



fertilizers, pesticides, and emergency feed supplies. It is equally important to ensure the availability of spare parts for agricultural technology in order to maintain the functionality of agricultural businesses even in crisis situations.

In addition to material resources, the protection of digital infrastructure is becoming increasingly important. Agriculture today is heavily dependent on digital systems, which is why effective measures to defend against cyber attacks are essential. In this context, reducing dependence on global IT networks and establishing greater IT autonomy on farms is also of strategic importance. Local, self-sufficient, and fail-safe systems can ensure the ability to act in the event of a crisis.

Furthermore, clearly defined contingency plans for agriculture are needed in order to be prepared for various crisis scenarios, such as supply bottlenecks, power outages, or geopolitical conflicts and wars. It is imperative to conduct appropriate emergency drills at the facilities and to remedy any weaknesses.

Another component is forward-looking planning for the use of disused agricultural land so that production capacities can be expanded quickly if necessary.

To increase energy independence, targeted support programs should promote the direct use of wind, solar, and photovoltaic energy on farms. A decentralized energy supply not only strengthens security of supply but also reduces external dependencies.

Furthermore, it makes sense to systematically evaluate the potential of green spaces and private gardens for food production. In times of crisis, such areas could make a supplementary contribution to food security.

With Ukraine's accession to the EU, food security and the stability of supply chains in Europe and also in Germany would increase significantly. Nevertheless, it is important to protect national, mostly family-run farms through safeguard clauses and import restrictions (Rukwied, J., DBV, 6/2024), because effective and efficient national agricultural production facilities are the existential life insurance within Germany.

Well, actually, it is hard to imagine that German farmers should have to prepare themselves for clearing mines from their agricultural land or even clear mines on their own initiative. The same applies to attacks by combat drones on agricultural machinery in the fields (Der Schweizer Bauer, 2/2026). Neither of these things is necessary at present – but they are in Eastern European countries. Agricultural drones might then have to be converted into combat drones out of necessity.

Every day, we see how Putin is systematically destroying critical infrastructure in Ukraine with missiles and combat drones, and how thousands of people in Ukraine are being injured or killed. It is blatantly obvious how vital a well-functioning air defense system is for survival. According to unofficial information, 61 Gepard anti-aircraft gun tanks are now in use in Ukraine.

As a former reserve officer and commander of an anti-aircraft tank battalion with 36 Gepard anti-aircraft tanks, the author himself is an insider who knows from his own experience the high combat and firepower of these systems and their high quality in terms of speed, precision, and efficiency. The Gepard anti-aircraft tank was and is an excellent air defense weapon system.

The Gepard anti-aircraft tank was primarily developed to protect tank and armored infantry troops from attacking aircraft and helicopters at low altitudes during escort missions. However, the Gepard anti-aircraft tank was also very well suited for comprehensive stationary protection against air attacks, for example from



bridges, buildings, or critical infrastructure. In the 1990s, the German Armed Forces had 420 Gepard anti-aircraft tanks. These were decommissioned in 2010 and the Army Air Defense Force was disbanded in 2015. This was a politically and militarily strategic mistake with serious consequences that are now coming back to haunt us all. Disarm? Yes! But make ourselves defenseless? No!

Closing this dangerous strategic gap in air defense must be a top priority, given the use of combat drones in Ukraine and the use of drones in Russia's hybrid warfare.

Currently, the German Armed Forces do not have any anti-aircraft tanks comparable to the Gepard anti-aircraft tank.

As a quick and partial alternative, Rheinmetall's new "Skyranger 30" wheeled anti-aircraft vehicle, equipped with a 30 mm cannon, is to be introduced into the German Armed Forces. Nineteen units are to be ready for deployment in 2026. Series delivery is to take place mainly in 2027/2028. 500-600 "Skyranger 30" vehicles are planned for the German Armed Forces.

As a direct and improved replacement for the Gepard anti-aircraft tank, Rheinmetall's "Skyranger 35" anti-aircraft tank, equipped with a 35 mm cannon, is to be put into service in the 2030s. Prototypes are currently in the testing phase. The German Armed Forces has not yet disclosed the number of orders for this new anti-aircraft tank.

Furthermore, as part of a joint multi-layered air defense system, corresponding short-range medium-range air defense systems, such as the "RIS-T SLS" and "RIS-T/SLM" systems, are currently being developed to combat aircraft, helicopters, and drones from a distance of approximately 12-15 km and up to 40 km, respectively. The right path has been taken, but we still have a long dry spell of 6 to 8 years ahead of us before an efficient new air defense system will be implemented in Germany. The faster this process progresses, every anti-aircraft tank counts, the greater the security against air attacks on people, critical infrastructure, and our country and allies in Europe.

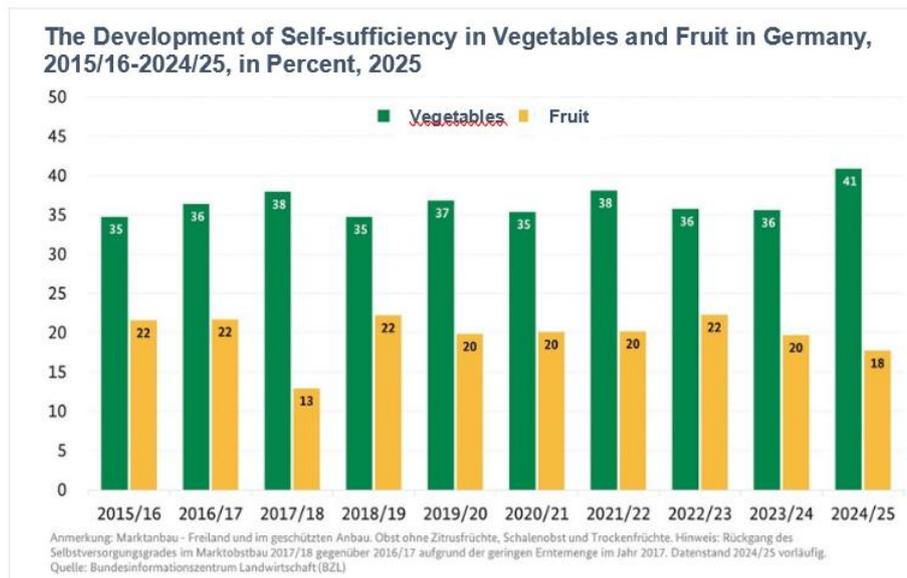
In view of Putin's threats regarding the use of nuclear weapons and the increase in nuclear weapons worldwide, the extent to which it is necessary to breed particularly resistant seed varieties that can withstand a "nuclear winter" should be examined. For example, plants that are resistant to an abrupt loss of sunlight and to prolonged cold and frost (Alvarado et al., 2/2019; Kern, M., 2/2026). A long-term adaptation strategy in the area of seed development could enable food security even under these exceptional conditions.

It is important to be prepared in this regard without falling into alarmism or catastrophizing. But it does not seem unreasonable to think about it - to think about deterrence, defense, preparedness, and resilience.

Food Security and Self-Sufficiency in Germany

- In terms of food security, Germany ranks 19th in an international comparison of countries according to the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) and is thus relatively well positioned.
- However, in terms of food self-sufficiency, i.e., domestic demand met by local production, it ranks below 50th place (Visual Capitalist on Instagram, 9/2025, Stahl, J. et al., 5/2025).

- From a purely statistical perspective, food self-sufficiency in Germany averaged 83 percent over the past ten years (BLE, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, 3/2025).
- There is an obvious supply gap in the area of plant protein (animal feed) as well as in the area of vegetables and fruit. In both areas, Germany is dependent on imports and thus also dependent on secure trade shipping routes, which can be very unstable or come to a standstill in times of crisis or war.
- The sharp decline in production is cause for concern, as farms lack the necessary national framework conditions and prospects for sufficient economic efficiency and planning security (Deter, A., 1/2025).
- Chancellor Friedrich Merz at Green Week in Berlin (1/2026) sees food security in Germany once again becoming a greater focus of the government. Geopolitical crises have meant that nothing can be taken for granted anymore. The federal government is now also discussing the issue in the National Security Council. Efforts are being made to create good framework conditions for agriculture, forestry, and the food industry in Germany.



Self-Sufficiency Rate for Vegetables and Fruit in Germany 2015/2016-2024/2025, 2025
 (Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, BLE, 1/2026)

Self-Sufficiency Rate for Vegetables and fruit in Germany, 2025

- According to a national consumption study, almost 90% of people in Germany do not eat enough vegetables.
- Between 2015 and 2025, the self-sufficiency rate for vegetables in Germany averaged 37 percent, while for fruit it averaged only 20 percent (BMLEH, 2025).



- There are approximately 6,000 vegetable farms in Germany (approximately 2.3 percent of all agricultural businesses). In 2000, there were still 12,000 vegetable farms, but by 2040, there are expected to be only 2,400.
- Wholesalers and discounters have a 70 percent market share in vegetable marketing. 500 farms sell directly to consumers (6-8 percent of total sales).
- 75 percent have no successor to take over the farm, up to 60 percent of farms will close by 2040, training numbers in vegetable farming are in decline, and there is a rapidly increasing shortage of skilled workers.
- One is to introduce resilience premiums, i.e., to establish financial state support to ensure the most resilient producer structures possible in vegetable cultivation" (WirGarten, 5/2024).

In 2000, the area used for vegetable greenhouse cultivation in Germany was around 1,340 hectares; by 2024, this had fallen to just 1,240 hectares. Koch, M. (AMI, 5/2025) described the situation and outlook in Germany up to 2030 as follows: "There's no way for Germany, say, in the next 4–5 years to become a big player in greenhouse crop production. Setting up a facility is too expensive, you need to find the right place, go through German bureaucracy, and so on. There were some plans for greenhouses to be set up, but none of them have materialized as far as I know, and it's still a question whether they even will in the next few years." This means: Germany remains highly dependent on imports for greenhouse vegetables despite soaring demand.

In fact, many countries and governments are increasing their self-sufficiency potential for vegetables by expanding '*Controlled Environmental Agriculture*' (CEA) and building more greenhouse infrastructure (Rabobank, 2/2026). Germany should also take immediate action and launch a corresponding support program to reduce the significant deficit. This will help to maintain food security in face of trade crises, climate change, and military conflicts.

State Food Supplies, State Emergency Reserves

According to the BMLEH (1/2026), there is no legal obligation in Germany for the state to store food supplies. Nevertheless, there are 150 unknown storage locations for state emergency reserves, which are designed to last for 30 days. These storage facilities belong to private companies. The federal government has sole control over the emergency food supplies, but the states can apply for release in an emergency. Emergencies such as large-scale and prolonged power outages, a pandemic, an attack involving widespread radioactive release, military tensions, or in the event of defense. The use of state emergency food reserves has not yet been necessary in Germany.

The BMLEH currently intends to convert the national emergency reserve from the products stored to date (wheat, rye, oats, rice, peas, lentils, and condensed milk) to ready-to-eat products (Lemkemeyer, S., 8/2025). Expanding emergency preparedness in Germany would cost approximately 80-90 million euros.

The Food Security and Preparedness Act (ESVG) of the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (4/2017), a law on securing the basic supply of food in a supply crisis and measures to prepare for a supply crisis, regulates the basic supply of essential foodstuffs and production-related operating resources only in the event of a supply crisis. The stockpiling of products is then primarily the responsibility of food companies.

During the COVID-19 crisis, over 70 percent of food retailers had difficulty keeping their shelves adequately stocked. This has shown how vulnerable supply chains are (Lebensmittehandel-bvl.de,

To date, there has been no comprehensive national risk analysis, and the food industry needs financial support to develop its own emergency plans and storage capacities (Lebensmittel Praxis, 6/2025).

Note: If military armament is financed from the ‘special fund’ and agriculture in Germany is part of critical infrastructure, then it is also necessary to use appropriate financial resources from the ‘special fund’ to increase the resilience of the food supply.

Stockpiling of Food

Global food systems are instable, fragile, not sustainable, not resilient and being reshaped by power, risk, climate change, geopolitics, and wars. Food is more and more politically not neutral. Energy, trade and increasingly food are used as strategic weapons (Kern, M., 2/2023), and food security has become a strategic variable, whereby agriculture is recognized as critical infrastructure (Mc Carthy, J., 1/2026).

Worldwide many governments have stockpiled or are stockpiling food. Some examples are taken from Donley, A. (11/2025) and Savage, S. (1/2026) and others:

Country	Inhabitants Mio	Stockpile Mio Tons	Reserves Months	Value Mio €	€ per Person	Private Stocks (d) recommended	Year
Norway	5.6	0.03		6	1.1	7	2025
Norway+	5.6	0.083	3	16.6	3.0		-2029
Sweden	10.6	n.d.	12	60	5.7	7	2026
Finland	5.6	n.d.	6-9	n.d.	n.d.	3-7	2025
Germany	83	0.1	1	25	0.3	3	-2025
Germany+	83	0.1+	>1	90	1.1	10	2026+
Egypt	120	6.0	>6	1800	15	n.d.	2025
Brazil	212	0.45	n.d.	100	0.47	n.d.	2025
India	1720	80-90 +70	>12 >15	27000	16	n.d.	2025 -2030
Indonesia	288	4	4-5	13.5	0.05	n.d.	2025
China	1400	700	>12	210000	150	n.d.	2025

Governments stockpiling and private stocks recommended, 2025/2026

India

In India, the food and agricultural industry has made significant progress over the past three decades. India has achieved food security and is on its way to self-sufficiency. India will become a major global agricultural and food power within the next decade (Kern, M., 2026).

India has a grain storage capacity of 145 million tons, with only 3 million tons stored in modern steel facilities (Ukr Agro Consult, 7/2025). Currently, most of India's grain is stored in conventional warehouses and open storage facilities, but about 25 percent is lost through post-harvest losses such as weather, pests, other



environmental factors, and transportation. To reduce spoilage, modern storage systems are being installed to reduce losses to about 8 to 10 percent. Grain storage in India (+70 million tons by 2030) serves to stabilize food prices and respond to food crises in order to ensure food security and resilience to environmental, economic, and military shocks. India is striving for food self-sufficiency.

China

China is on the way from food scarcity, to bolster food security, to realize food self-sufficiency and to reach food sovereignty.

In China, food security has top priority by the government and president Xi in order to be prepared for future uncertainties (natural disasters, floods, draughts, climate change, trade turbulences, geopolitical shocks, conflicts). Consequently, food security and agriculture will remain a cornerstone in the pursuit of economic resilience, documented in the “No 1 central document” of the next 5-year plan in China.

In this context, it is also important to mention a surprising finding from the research conducted by Bunde, T. and Eisentraut, S. (Munich Security Report 2026 2/2026). In a comparison based on 32 risk index scores between China and the US, China ranks the US first in terms of risk perception. In contrast, China only ranks 12th in the risk assessment from the US perspective. According to Chinese respondents, the US and trade wars pose the most serious risks to their community. And only 8 percent see their country as unprepared to deal with the threat posed by the US. In the US, 21% responded that they were not well prepared.

In China, the risk factor score “*food shortages*” was in 26th place, with only 11% seeing their country as unprepared. In the US, “*food shortages*” ranked 11th, and 29% think that the US is unprepared. Just for comparison with Germany, the risk factor “*food shortages*” is almost at the bottom of the risk parameters in 31st place, but 32% do not consider their country to be adequately prepared.

Actually, China is emerging as key hub for agricultural innovation, the ‘*Agricultural Silicon Valley*’, a global center for agricultural breeding implementing artificial intelligence, digital technologies, modern biotechnologies and “*Agriculture 5.0*” (Kern, M., 2026). China aims are to achieve 92 percent self-sufficiency in staple grains and beans by 2033, up from 84 percent during the 2021-2023 period (Chu, M.M., 2024). China is on the way to feed 1.4 billion people without dependency on other countries and without U.S. crops especially (Cheng, E., 2/2026).

Furthermore, China raised its 2025 budget for stockpiling grain, edible oils and other materials to \$18.12 billion (Chu, M.M., 3/2025). According to some estimates, China possesses nearly 70 percent of the global corn reserves and more than 50 percent of its wheat and rice stockpiles. Chinas’ hoarding of 700 million tons has significantly contributed to rising food prices and food shortages (Donley, A., 12/2025).

Well, the great diversity and high food stock levels are unusual and historically very high!

In 2022 it was stated that there were no signs that China was mobilizing for war in any way and that there were hardly any signs of national preparations for war (Ying, B.X., 2024).

In 2026 it still appears that this also seems to be true, but no one knows what will happen in the coming years. Food stocks are full—overflowing, and therefore not a limiting factor for military conflicts. Is China preparing for war or just for a crisis? Actually, this question remains unanswered, but for a war cannot be ruled out.



Private Emergency Supplies

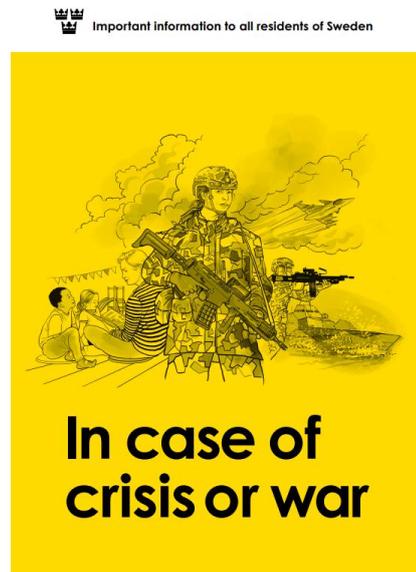
Citizens at home: private emergency supplies (food and beverages) in the event of war or severe crisis

- For 3-10 days, food and beverages that you normally consume (BKK, Guide to emergency preparedness and correct action in emergency situations, 7/2019).
- For 1-28 days: see the supply calculator of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Home Affairs (2025).
- More than 22 days: e.g., emergency rations similar to those used by the German Armed Forces, EPA (single-serving packs), long shelf life (some edible for several decades), space-saving, and very nutritious (BW online shop). Appropriate, very long-lasting food from the Moon or space food sector (Kern, M., 2026) should also be included.
- Bearing in mind that food prices have risen by 35 percent in Germany since 2020 and could rise further in 2026 try to buy a little more food with a long shelf life (12-24 months) when you go shopping and set it aside as an emergency supply. Also consider helping people who are unable to do so for financial or space reasons. It is worthwhile and creates networks of solidarity.
- If possible, stock up on larger quantities of supplies so that you can share with others in need.
- Establishment of survival/emergency gardens based on the “Victory Gardens” that were implemented in the USA during WWII. 40 percent of the nation's vegetables were produced in such home and public gardens (Winger, J. 1/2023). The ‘V-Gardens’ – were a powerful symbol of unity and resilience (Bradshaw, P., 3/2024). There are around 17 million private and allotment gardens covering an area of 0.68–0.93 million hectares, which is approximately 2 percent of Germany's land area. Around 30 percent of private gardens are lawns or grassy areas. A national and regional assessment of this food production potential should be made asap. Citizens should be made aware of these options.
- Cultivation of fruit trees instead of ornamental shrubs, or e.g. cedars, cypresses
- Creation of homesteading plots
- Storage of small containers for growing vegetable and herbs
- Storage of appropriate amounts of soil
- Specific spectrum of appropriate survival vegetable seeds
- Acquisition of vertical garden facilities
- Establishment of hydroponic setups to grow food
- Installation of photovoltaic-supported mini-greenhouses on balconies
- Storage of water for irrigation
- Stockpiling of sufficient drinking water

Emergency food reserves are not a luxury. They are a form of collective insurance. You hope to never need them — but you are grateful when they exist.

The Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) is responding to the threatening security situation. With the new guide: *“Preparing for Crises and Disasters,”* which the BBK has published on its website, citizens are being prepared for disasters and crises and, more recently, also for a possible war (fig. left), (BBK, 10/2025). Everyone in Germany should have and read this brochure and should follow these recommendations, see:

https://www.bbk.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Mediathek/Publikationen/Buergerinformationen/Ratgeber/BBK-Vorsorgen-fuer-Krisen-und-Katastrophen.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=41



This brochure (fig. right) titled *“In case of crisis or war”* is distributed to every household in Sweden on behalf of the Swedish government (The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) has a clear focus on crisis and war (11/2024)!

- *“Food You need food that is filling, energy-rich and that can be stored safely at room temperature. Get food that can be prepared quickly, requires very little water, or that can be eaten immediately.*
- *Start building up your emergency storage by simply buying one or two additional items when doing your regular shopping. Good things to keep at home: Non-perishables: Grains, cereal, pasta, rice, couscous, instant mashed potatoes, milk powder, tortillas, crispbread, crackers, salt, and spices. Tinned goods: Tomatoes, vegetables, fruit, and ready-to-eat meals. High-protein: Dried or tinned meat and fish, chickpeas, beans, lentils, and cheese in a tube. High-fat: Cooking oil, pesto, sun-dried tomatoes in oil, tapenade, peanut butter, nuts and seeds. Energy boosts: Fruit custard, jam, chocolate, honey, protein bars, and dried fruit. Drinks: Coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix, blueberry and rosehip soup, juice, or milk. Food for children: Gruel, infant formula, oatmeal, and baby food!*
- *Make use of available fruits and berries. Grow edible food in your garden, on your balcony, or on a windowsill.”*

Further Education, Networking, Training in Schools

- Talk to your family members, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances about the need to set up appropriate emergency supplies. The BBK's new brochure, "Preparing for Crises, Disasters, and War," can be a good starting point. This brochure is available at every town hall and can be obtained there.
- In Finland, there are "*prepper courses*" where participants can teach each other how to provide themselves with food for three days in times of crisis or war as part of a snowball system (RadioEins, 6/2025).



Coloring picture for children "Squirrel" Stock up on supplies! (BMLEH, 2026)

- It is also important to facilitate fear-free access to the issue in school lessons. Where does our food come from? What does it take to successfully produce vegetables or even fruits, for example running a school garden? The children take responsibility for the joint project and develop their personalities in the process. Suitable plants must be selected, appropriate beds or small greenhouses must be incorporated, and the growth of the plants must be specifically monitored.
- By creating school gardens as realistic and practical learning environments, practical skills can be acquired that can be very helpful in crises or emergencies.
- Emergency plans for up to 10 days can also be developed, for example, with regard to stocking up on food for the home. These plans can then be implemented together with the parents. This provides security and forward-looking crisis awareness without resorting to "fear-based education." Taking precautions is not an exaggeration—it means taking responsibility.
- Knowledge, skills, and action often protect against fears!

Communication 2026-2029

Finally, here are some recommendations for decision-makers in the field of communication:

- Publish regular, brief, consistent, understandable, reliable statements written in clear language, without concealing or downplaying anything.



- Remaining calm and objective, actively correcting fake news, showing compassion, and offering guidance are key elements of trust-building communication.
- Highlight options for action by the state and within the population – explain the pros and cons.
- Engage in clear dialogue to emphasize the necessity of action.
- Present concrete facts, contexts, and consequences—avoid exaggeration.
- Emphasize the impact on individuals and the civilian population (raise awareness of a “non-peaceful situation”/a possible defensive war).
- Communicate what personal stockpiling measures you yourself have taken as a decision-maker.
- Win over prominent figures from all areas of society who can help as multipliers to encourage citizens to take security-related precautions.
- Trigger media spots that highlight the need for precautionary action.
- Make the objectives and development status of measures to ensure the resilience of the population (protective measures, resource reserves of all kinds) transparent.
- Provide clear instructions for action that justify or explain why these necessary measures are necessary. Citizens must also be prepared to accept unreasonable demands and even sacrifices.
- Commission in-depth analyses and make them available in print, TV, online, or social media formats.

Conclusions

The paper is an urgent wake-up call to secure food, agriculture, and food supplies in Germany and Europe in the face of growing global crises, conflicts, and ongoing and potential wars. The starting point is the observation that the world order in 2026 is undergoing profound changes. Violence is on the rise, international rules are losing their binding force, international laws are increasingly being broken, geopolitical tensions are intensifying, and hybrid threats – from cyberattacks (on a “significant scale” against the German Federal Railways on February 18, 2026) to targeted destabilization – are shaping the security policy environment. Freedom and peace can no longer be taken for granted, but must be actively defended.

Against this backdrop, food security is becoming a key issue. It is no longer just a humanitarian issue, but a core strategic task of public services. Without a secure food supply, there can be no social stability or internal or external security. Wars destroy agricultural infrastructure, disrupt supply chains, and deliberately use food as a weapon, causing hunger and death. Food security is therefore ultimately also peacekeeping.

Under normal conditions, Germany has a good food supply thanks to its highly efficient agriculture. However, in the event of a prolonged crisis or war, significant weaknesses become apparent. Germany is not unprepared, but it is also not sufficiently prepared.

Food is not a luxury good—it is strategic security and the foundation for stability, sovereignty, and sustainable crisis management. Consequently, agriculture and food production are part of the critical infrastructure that



must be protected as a matter of priority. Germany's security must also be defended “in the fields, on farms, in food production centers, and in supermarkets,” because tanks alone cannot ensure internal peace.

The defense of critical infrastructure, including agriculture and food production, against air strikes and drones should be a top priority. The necessary financial resources should be provided from the “special fund.” The financial dimension is manageable compared to the necessary large-scale military investments. If defense capabilities are strengthened through “special funds,” food security must also be taken into account as part of critical infrastructure.

The decommissioning of the Gepard anti-aircraft tank in 2010 and the dissolution of the Army Air Defense in 2015 was a political and military-strategic mistake with far-reaching consequences that are now coming back to haunt us all. Disarm? Yes! - But make ourselves defenseless? No!

New systems such as the Skyranger 30/35 and modern short- and medium-range air defense systems are being developed and introduced, but it will take several years before they are fully operational.

At the same time, the resilience of agricultural production must be strengthened. This includes strategic reserves of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, animal feed, and spare parts, the expansion of decentralized energy supply systems on farms, and the protection of digital infrastructures against cyber threats. Agriculture, production and supply chains, and the population must be systematically made crisis- and war-ready. Financial support for resilient production, for example in the form of a “resilience bonus,” is urgently needed.

Politicians and individuals alike must take responsibility and make provisions; the state through strategic planning, financial support, supraregional stockpiling, legal measures, school programs, and constructive dialogue; citizens through a realistic change in awareness, sustainable stockpiling, and problem-oriented further education. Appropriate instructions on food production and food storage were provided. Only through joint action can the population's food supply be secured in uncertain times and resilience in Germany be strengthened. Yes, we can! Everyone in Germany should answer the following question: “What can I do for my country and what should our country do for me?” and act accordingly.

Emergency food reserves are not a luxury. They are a form of collective insurance. You hope to never need them – but you are grateful when they exist.

Taking precautions is not an exaggeration—it means taking responsibility and leadership.



Comment: Opinions expressed in this contribution are those of the author.



About the Author of this Issue

Dr. Manfred Jakob Kern is a biologist, futurologist, and managing director of agriExcellence e.K. (www.agriexcellence.de), worked in the chemical crop protection industry for Hoechst AG, AgrEvo GmbH, Aventis CropScience AG and Bayer CropScience AG. Over the foregoing 40 years he has held key positions in science and technology, strategy, marketing and communications. He has been running the project "Future of Agriculture: Vision 2025/2050", a comprehensive and still running study on the safeguarding of world food supplies, since 1995. He has more than 200 publications to his credit and has given over 1,200 presentations at international/national congresses, conferences, symposia, and workshops in over 80 countries. He serves on many editorial boards and is a reviewer for several reputed journals published.

In 1999 Dr. Kern finished the "Kern-Seminar on Security Policy" of the Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik (BAKS), (Federal Academy on Security Policy) of the Federal Republic of Germany (the supreme education course of Germany) in Maria Laach, Berlin, Vienna, Moscow and Washington.

He was Lieutenant-Colonel (P.) (Res.) in the Euro-Corps within the German Armed Forces, decorated with the silver medal of the German Armed Forces.

Dr. Kern was awarded by different organizations for significant accomplishments in the field of innovations in agriculture. In 2007, the secretariat of UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) recognized Dr. Kern by upholding his title as "Eminent Person".

In 2023, Dr. Kern received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the IFSDAA and the AASF (Afro-Asia Studies Promotion Association) in Göttingen, Germany, in recognition of his worldwide acclaim and outstanding contributions to the life sciences, people, societies, and humanity.



Manfred Kern



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