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**Title:** Sustainable Development Goal on Food Security and Agriculture: A political ecology analysis of opportunities and barriers to progressive realization

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 contains a global commitment to "end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture" by the year 2030. The realization of this goal under current global political economy and national realities is a daunting challenge. In this paper, we draw on a political ecology theory to examine the complex ecological, economic, geopolitical, and legal barriers that might threaten the achievement of SDG 2. We show how the unevenness of power and resource distribution, reduced genetic diversity, restrictive property rights, poor legal and institutional frameworks, and the control of stable food production by agri-businesses have served to undermine food security and hunger reduction under the Millennium Development Goal 1. Using thematic and content analysis, we examine the extent to which SDG 2 seeks to overcome these barriers. Our findings reveal that the "intent and targets" of SDG 2 incorporate strategies for addressing the pre-existing problems under MDG 1, however, the risk of sabotage is heightened by the current wave of trade wars, rise of right-wing nationalism, and reduced momentum on climate change. Through this work, we reveal the contradictions between global goal setting, the global environment, and the global political economy while suggesting ways in which reforms at the national level might nonetheless allow for the progressive realization of SDG 2 in developing countries such as Nigeria, Mexico and Qatar.