

Chávez's tactics

Opinion
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Re recent stories on Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez and ethanol: I am not aware that anyone is proposing ethanol to fully replace gasoline as a transportation fuel for "rich people's cars." Ethanol is being considered as a complementary fuel and/or blend to gasoline.

There is no basis for politically motivated scare tactics that ethanol would take away food from the mouths of the world's poor. I would encourage Chávez and Fidel Castro to analyze the economies of Vietnam and Zimbabwe to fully understand what it would take to feed the world's hungry.

In the early 1990s, communist Vietnam turned its collectivized agricultural system into a free and open market, turning Vietnam into the world's third-largest exporter of rice today. On the other hand Castro's friend, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, confiscated the agricultural sector, turning what was Africa's grain basket and largest exporter of grains into a country at the border of starvation.

World hunger is not a battle between rich and poor; it is the result of outdated and inefficient centrally planned economic systems trying to survive into the 21st century.