The editor’s field – if the articles received in the journal...

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Are any indication there is no problem with production of vegetables, but there is a problem with distribution to the consumer. There is no question that most vegetable crops quickly deteriorate after harvest. They have also been proven to be a profitable enterprise. There are people who are classified as smallholder, or subsistence, producers. They grow for themselves, their families, and perhaps some neighbors. Their access to fresh vegetables is immediate, but limited. Some of the production limits are due to the amount of land available, and a large part of the ability to increase the distribution is the absence of all-weather infrastructure, and the ability of the grower to afford a method of moving the crop from the field to the market. The first concern will require a shift in the priorities of distribution of available government funds to the construction of infrastructure. At this point you are probably saying “Wait a minute if I raise this concern in a manuscript, I am told that it is not my job to tell policy makers what to do.” That is still true, but this is an editorial, an opinion, not the result of analyzed data, and I get to do what you cannot.

Aside from what an author and an editor can do, there are obvious benefits to the construction, and maintenance, of infrastructure. The immediate benefit is jobs, most in construction, with some in maintenance. There is developed connectivity between the centers of population, and power, and outlying areas. Sometimes that is not what a ruling group wants, but whatever the politics at some point those who live in cities are dependent on those who do not for their daily bread, meat, milk, and fruit and vegetables. The benefit to the government comes in taxes on wages, on improved income, on the products of ancillary jobs in industries that support the infrastructure and the vehicles that use it. With the ability to increase income comes the ability to spend income. Some of that will go to individual needs, but some of it will go to wants, those things that are out of reach if you have to eat what you produce rather than sell it. In a utopian situation, the outcome of improved infrastructure will accrue to the benefit of all people. Unfortunately, we must deal with others and conflicting views of what is best for a population are apt to surface. That is where compromise, stewardship, and statesmanship come into play. It is likely that all the benefits of improvement may not go to where it would best serve all. However, there is a saying: “Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good.” This means that if you cannot get everything you want do not take your ball and go home, learn to listen to the other side and perfect the art of compromise. Improved infrastructure will mean more vegetables and more people being fed, and hopefully, an agricultural industry that is sustainable.

Reviewers of submitted manuscripts

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