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# What's right, what's wrong?

When looking at the current discussion on the energy crisis, energy savings, and the use of alternative energies, the question arises of who says what and what are the reasons behind their particular arguments. However, all players have one thing in common; and that is the picture, depicting future problems is rather drastic. Research institutes require research orders which they will only receive if someone finds it important to reveal a certain correlation. Farmers benefit if they grow plants on fields which had formerly been fallow because selling these plants to energy producers' is more profitable than the money they would get from the EU for letting a field rest. The energy producers' want to continue to control the energy market regardless of where the resources for the energy come from. Grain processors' and fat producers' would like to stop this particular use of raw materials because it is an unwanted competition which leads to increasing costs. This list could be continued arbitrarily and in the end one is none the wiser, as it is well known that too many cooks spoil the broth. Therefore, care and a certain distance are needed from all these prophets of doom. Europe and America will not starve from lack of grain because the wheat is use for the generation of energy instead of being eaten. The hungry people in Africa wait for help in vain, not because there is not enough food but because the distribution is unfair which means that they will not be sufficiently supplied as there is no adequate political persuasion to really change this situation.

Energy savings in the industrial countries will better protect the world than the generation of alternative energy. But it must be initiated and not just talked about. Nevertheless, it makes sense to set the generation of alternative energy on the research agenda because the fossil fuels will be exhausted in the near future.

Using plants for the generation of energy is not the work of the devil, but rather a new technology, which has not quite been exhaustingly analyzed in terms of ecology, economics and sustainability. It is also a technology with a fast moving development.

It would be better if the matters were discussed with less ideology, which just shelters sound egoistical interests anyway. Nevertheless, the baking industry is being asked to think about their energy handling and wasting of energy in the bakeries. This consideration is however rarely made. Obviously energy is still too cheap for the bakeries.

Sincerely yours,



**++ Hildegard Keil, editor-in-chief**  
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