

Swedish foodsupplies in case of crisis

Sven Lindgren, 2018-10-25

Former county governor, and also former chairman of Swedish Civil Protection Association and Rural Economy and Agriculture Societies

THREATS AGAINST FOOD PRODUCTION AND ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER

- **MILITARY ATTACK**
- **CIVIL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT**
- **ELECTRICITY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BREAKDOWN**

Everything which is depending on electricity will end: Potable water, cash registers, computers, cashpoints, alarm, mobile phones, entry phones, fuels, etc.

Food, medication and finance systems will be influenced.

Threats...

- **EPIDEMICS** (pandemic, epizootic and zoonos diseases)

- **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Heatwave, drought and flood which can lead to crop failure

- **POLUTION OF DRINKING-WATER**

- **DISTURBANCES IN TRANSPORT SYSTEM**

Food and drink will end in the food shops within already 1-2 days!

Half part of the Swedish food consumption comes from import. If Sweden has been isolated, consequencely half of our consumption will be gone out of the market after 10-12 days!

The agriculture sector is extremely depended on fuctionality in society, especially when it comes to electricity and fuels.

Today, we live in a global world with "just-in -time" business, which make us very vulnerable

SWEDEN OCTOBER 2018

- Today, there is no central authority having a responsibility for food protection. The Government has abdicated and left the responsibility completely to the market
- The municipalities are responsible in some ways, but many of them seem not to be properly aware of that
- Since 2001, Sweden has no civil defence established as a part of a totala defence, including military forces.
- In times of peace military defence supports the civil society, but in times of war the civil society has to support the military forces.

SWEDEN 2018 ...

- Despite these realities, Swedish population very much rely on central authorities and municipalities and not being aware of their own responsibility for their individual preparedness when it comes to food and other goods in situations of crisis or war.
- Not even the military forces have supplies of their own
- There are neither civil nor military storages of food – no "larders" on any public level
- If Sweden would be isolated, half of our daily food will be ended within 10-12 days, also if our domestic transport system will be intact

SWEDEN 2018 ...

- If all of a sudden fuels would be reduced by 50 %, the population could not expect any guarantee of food
- Sweden has stored fuels only for 90 days (private market)
- No one – except for yourself – is responsible for your household's preparedness

When almost everything is missing, the to-do-list is very long!

FUTURE – A NEW CIVIL DEFENCE

- **Parliament has accepted the Governments plan & strategy on how to increase agriculture production**
- **Many county administration boards have decided to draw up regional food strategies, including plans for food preparedness**
- In December 2015 the Government told central authorities and municipalities to draw up plans for their civil defence ability
- In 2018 Parliament decided to accept a plan for developing of the countryside in a lot of aspects

THE SWEDISH DEFENCE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR 2021-2025

- Coordination of the total defence should reside in the Ministry of Defence
- Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) should respond for planning, leading and coordination of the civil defence
- A capability to resist serious disturbances in the functionality of Swedish society for three (3) months, where there will be war part of this time
- Each individual should have a preparedness to manage his or her basic provision and care for a week without public support

Continue...

- **Storages of fuels, food, medication and other goods and services necessary for survival in wartime should be established**
- Actors responsible for critical services will be required to build independent emergency power solutions in order to secure supply of electricity
- A national council for total defence in order to establish a long-term cooperation between public and private actors on central, region and local level
- Population needs to be able to perform basic economic transactions during war. Access to cash or some sort of credit to uphold basic economic relations

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?

- **Houshold:** At least preparedness for one week
- **Municipalities:** According to law municipalities have a special responsibility for weak and exposed individuals and groups in community. They have to be aware of that and plan for it!
- **Government & central authorities:**

Information to the population

The Government must clarify mandates and command structures for actions in crisis and war

A lot of obsolete laws have to be upgraded

CLIMATE CHANGE & CLIMAT ADAPTION

Climate change is a threat against agriculture – and a possibility.

- Swedish food supply is depending on import. Therefore we have to take in consideration how climate change affects also other countries which produce agriculture products
- The access to fish could be affected. Fish potential in North Atlantic could affects in a negative way, due to less production of planton

Continue...

- Climate change also influences the amount of pests and crop diseases and spread of animal diseases
- BUT: Global warming could also result in an increased production of agriculture, at least in our part of Europe. New crops will be introduced into Sweden, like cereals, soya, fruits and wine.