

## FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA- ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

A. Gnanavelan

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Tagore College of Arts and Science, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

---

Received: 21 Aug 2018

Accepted: 27 Aug 2018

Published: 11 Sep 2018

---

### ABSTRACT

Food security has 3 crucial and closely related components, that are an availability of food, get entry to food, and absorption of food. Food protection is, as a result, a multi-dimensional idea and extends beyond the production availability, and call for food. There has been a particular and widespread paradigm shift in the idea of food security from mere macro degree availability and stability to micro stage family meals insecurity, and additionally from an assessment of power consumption to measures and signs of malnutrition.

This which means of meals security has developed over a time frame. As an idea, meals security originated inside the mid-Seventies, inside the wake of worldwide food disaster. The preliminary focus of attention becomes assuring the accessibility and to a few diploma the rate stability of primary foodstuffs on the worldwide and countrywide degree.

In FAO file on *The State of Food Insecurity, 2001*”, meals security is defined as a “ --- situation that exists while each person, at all times, have bodily, social and monetary get admission to to sufficient, secure and nutritious meals that meets their nutritional needs and meals choices for an lively and healthful life”. This turned into then broadened to incorporate the call for the aspect of meals protection in the early eighties. During the nineties, issues such as food protection, nutrition, nutritional needs, and food choices had been also taken into consideration the critical components of meals safety.

This paper is centered on several foods protection problems accepted within the Indian situation. Data are taken from relevant assets to evaluation the gravity of the food protection troubles in India. It also covered the several development programmes taken up through the Indian authorities to counter diverse food safety issues along with numerous schemes and yojanas. India’s biggest venture nonetheless remains to ensure meals and dietary security to its hundreds.

**KEYWORDS:** Food Security, Challenges, and Issues

### INTRODUCTION

Food safety is getting right of entry to enough meals with the aid of all of us at all time for a lively and nice life. India is certainly developing now and its income, infrastructure, according to capita profits has additionally advanced. But the primary trouble confronted via India is the hassle meals control and its distribution. Agriculture could be very essential to India, employing fifty-five % of its citizens and presenting 16.5% of its annual GDP. Attaining food security is an issue of high importance for India where extra than a-1/3 of its population is envisioned to be virtually terrible, and as many as one 1/2 of its children have suffered from malnourishment over the last three a long time.

India after 69th 12 months of independence has not best-seen development and progress, but also turning into one of the fastest developing economies within the global. This accomplishment takes a shattering twist while one seems on the starvation problem booming within it. Out of the estimated 1.27 billion population a total of 77% are considered terrible and inclined, and tens of millions of human beings fail to get two rectangular meals a day.

Despite ensuring sufficient availability of meals, the existence of meals lack of confidence at the micro-stage in the USA has remained a powerful undertaking for India. In these days launched the Global Hunger Index of 2013, India ranked 63rd out of 120 nations and this record is pretty worrying because India is one in all the most important manufacturers of meals within the world. Still, India isn't in the condition to fulfill the primary meals necessities of people.

Several important issues have emerged inside the context of meals protection in India. These were (a) the liberalization of the economic system and its effect on agriculture and meals safety; (b) the establishment of the WTO and the settlement on Agriculture; (c) climate exchange and its impact on food manufacturing and fees; (d) the prevalence of starvation and poverty coexisting with high ranges of food shares; (e) the advent of the centered Public Distribution System (f) the „Right to Food“ campaign; and (g) the National Food Security Bill. These vital issues have posed excessive demanding situations for meals security in the country.

### **Challenges to Food Security in India**

In not a part of the world is the food grains equally dispensed, but the hypothetical calculation goes to expose that availability isn't always the principle difficulty. Calculations show that within the future also, say in 2030 or 2050, the situation is possibly to be comparable. Not that all matters regarding availability were solved. But India, though nonetheless within the low ranks in terms of according to capita availability of food, has reached the stage in which, as a long way as food protection is involved, the accessory can be, and has to be, on getting admission to of various sections of the population to what's available.

The want for achieving food safety is felt considerably in the latest years due to sizable stress from the ever-growing populace in India. The existence of this hassle isn't always merely restricted to rural regions but additionally expand to an urban region. To fight this perennial hassle, Government did introduce a few foremost programmers including Public meals distribution system (PDS), the Integrated Child Development System (ICDS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and many others. This most important programme fails to penetrate in each segment of the society and starvation continues to thrive a number of poor humans.

"Food Security Bill" in 2010, the invoice that's taken into consideration as the largest ever test in the international for dispensing particularly sponsored food for any government via a "rights-based" method. The National Food Security Bill after much debate and analysis become passed and became a law on 12th September 2013. According to this Act, Food Security is described because the availability of sufficient meals grains to satisfy the home call for as

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To examine the challenges of meals protection troubles in India
- To realize, why meals safety is wanted in India?
- To study the problems related to farmers and other problems

## METHODOLOGY

The present study is primarily based on the secondary information posted via numerous businesses and groups. The present look at uses facts and facts furnished through IFPRI, FCI, Ministry of Agriculture, Newspapers, Magazines, Books, Economic journals and Internet and many others.

### Why Food Security is Needed in India?

The International meals coverage research institute (IFPR) categorized the fame of hunger into 5 categories, low, mild, severe, alarming and extremely alarming. India falls into the class of alarming.

The most vital component contributing to this improvement is the non-availability of the basic requirement of food. It has been located that the intake of food, in phrases of nutrition and amount, is lacking some distance at the back of.

According to the observe conducted via National Institute of Nutrition, the minimal in step with capita meals grain required for an adult is 182.5kg/year whereas in India, the availability is simplest 173.6kg/12 months and as some distance as the protein requirement is concerned, the day by day intake should be 50mg but the scenario seems to remain stagnant, the in line with capita daily consumption is best 10mg. While India is predicted to be self-enough in food grains, it might need to keep uploading pulses and oilseeds to satisfy its future requirements. The projected call for and supply for the year 2020 has been expected by the Ministry of Agriculture as visible in Table 1 under.

**Table 1: Estimated Production and Projected Demand of Cereals and Non-Cereals Crops 2008-09, 2011-12, 2020**

Food Items	Demand	Supply
Rice	1.55	1.01
Wheat	1.42	1.34
Total cereals	3.17	1.45
Pulses	6.51	0.91
Edible oil	5.95	2.13
Sugar	8.22	0.41

Source: Ministry of Agriculture (2009)

The figures in Table 1 indicate that while the balance in food grain is expected to be maintained with enough supply to meet the projected demand in 2020, there is likely to be a shortfall in the case of coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds as well as sugarcane. Thus the reliance on imports is likely to continue in pulses and oilseeds in particular till the year 2020.

Performance of the Food Management System a nationwide public distribution system, which transfers available supplies to entitled consumers, is entirely run by the State Governments. It is closely supported by the Central Government through the procurement of food grain from the surplus regions as well as by maintaining buffer stocks. This Central Government initiative intended to protect and incentivize farmers is an effort to strengthen production and thereby self-sufficiency in food grains.

The maintenance of buffer stocks by the Central Government on the other hand is intended to guard against volatility in basic food grain prices and achieve the necessary moderation in the prices of food grain in the open market in the event of any unforeseen fall in production, which takes place mainly due to climatic conditions such as drought. The buffer stock thus provides an effective means of intervention by the Centre in order to control prices and ensure availability and access to the especially, vulnerable population. The food management system and food price policy thus consists of three major instruments, namely procurement at minimum support prices, the maintenance of buffer stocks, and the public distribution system. As the procurement and buffer stocking activity falls largely within the ambit.

Global Hunger Index of 2013, making a marginal improvement since 2012 but continues to suffering far behind other emerging countries. The score for India has improved slightly from 22.9 in 2012 to 21.3 in 2013. The global hunger Index of 2013, India ranked 63<sup>rd</sup> out of 120 countries. Table-2 is shown to the performance on Global Hunger Index

**Table 2: Performance on Global Hunger Index**

Year	Rank Global Hunger Index	Out of no of countries	Score	Status
2007	94	118	25.03	Alarming
2008	66	88	23.70	Alarming
2009	65	88	23.90	Alarming
2010	67	84	24.10	Alarming
2011	67	81	24.20	Alarming
2012	65	79	22.90	Alarming
2013	63	120	21.30	Alarming

**Source:** Global Hunger Index Report-2013

Above this, a study conducted by Food and Agricultural Organization found that 225 million people i.e. 23% of our population are undernourished and 260 million people fall under the category of above the poverty line (APL). The increase in the number of APL household is supposed to decrease the number of undernourished people but it is happening the other way round.

### **Issues Related to Food Security in India**

Present demand and fill the gap of exiting gadget with a view to ensure meals safety to each citizen of the united states of America even as making grain available to all is crucial, it's far equally essential to make certain that all food supplied for consumption remains unadulterated and uncontaminated. Challenge of infection

### **Farmer's Issues**

The prevailing situation in the modern farming network needs extreme interest so one can produce 61.2 million tonnes of meals grain. Food and non-food fees have elevated notably in latest years and it's becoming unaffordable for the negative families to address the rising charge. The expenditure on cultivation has extended substantially but the agricultural earnings have no longer increased in proportion with its input.

In recent years, real wages in agriculture has elevated plenty quicker than the real increase in gross cost added in agriculture. During the duration (2007-2011), real farm wages recorded a mean increase rate of 6.8% even as the real increase in agriculture turned into only 3.3%.

### **Cultivation Issues**

Another essential difficulty which wants to be focused for food protection is the diversion of cultivated land towards wooden farming. High GDP boom is leading to the growth intake of timber and wood products like furnishings, timber, pulp, and paper. The cultivation of poplar tree in a few states of northern India has become out to be more remunerative than crop cultivation. And many farmers are leaning towards as it's far greater profits.

### **Energy Issues**

Energy plays a crucial position in determining the output of production. The increase within the charge of the strength has affected the food charges in two ways.

- Firstly, the upward push in the price of petroleum product motivates the authorities and the corporate zone to go for generating biogas. This will seriously decrease the land region beneath cultivation for the production of food grain.
- Secondly, the raising charge within the inputs likes fertilizers, pesticides and the price of mechanical cultivation has made agricultural production very luxurious. The percentage of mechanical and electrical energy in the general strength intake has grown extensively from 39.63% in 1972-1973 to 86% in 2005-2006, whilst corresponding human and animal power has come down from 60.37% to 13.4% for the duration of the identical length.

### **Infrastructures Issues**

- Inadequate and improper storage facilities for grains, which can be regularly saved outdoor beneath tarps that offer little safety from humidity and pests.
- Insufficient bloodless storage and cold chain transportation device is a first-rate motive for fruits, vegetables, and other perishable products to rot.
- Poor roads and inefficient shipping structures can reason massive delays. This in turn reasons decay of temperature sensitive products.
- Limited attain of Mandis, which can be currently the factor of aggregation for agricultural produce. This poses troubles for small farmers who don't have proper delivery facilities at their disposal and must tour and the average of 12 km to the nearest Mandi.
- Multiple layers of middlemen among the farmer and the give up purchaser, using up prices and decreasing bargaining electricity and charge transparency for the farmers. These intermediaries have caused a fee inflation of ~250% (over the cost of manufacturing).
- Lack of a well-evolved agricultural banking quarter, which forces farmers to take loans with excessive hobby from commission agents.

- Lack of education and education on new techniques, technology, and agricultural merchandise.
- There has been a sluggish shift from the cultivation of meals crops to the cultivation of culmination, greens, oilseeds, and vegetation which act also as industrial raw substances. This had led to the discount in net sown place underneath cereals, millets, and pulses.
- The use of increasingly land for the creation of factories, ware-homes and shelters has reduced the land underneath cultivation and now fertile land for farming is no longer to be had.
- The productivity of land has begun showing a declining trend. Fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides, which as soon as confirmed dramatic outcomes, are actually being held liable for lowering fertility of the soil
- Inadequate Storage capacity for meals grains is likewise huge hurdle. Table –three is explained the meals grains stock, storage capacity, and shortage

**Table 3: Inadequate Storage Capacity for Food Grains (Figures in Million Tonnes)**

Year	Food grains stock	Storage capacity	Shortage
2008	29.88	23.89	5.99
2009	41.94	25.27	16.67
2010	46.87	28.83	18.04
2011	54.13	31.61	22.52
2012	66.78	33.60	33.18

**Source:** FCI, Commission for Agricultural Cost and Price. Ministry of Agricultural

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need to shift from the existing expensive, inefficient and corruption-ridden institutional arrangements.
- To avoid wide fluctuations in prices and prevent distress selling by small farmers, the futures market can be encouraged.
- Improved communication systems through the use of information technology may help farmers get a better deal for their produce.
- Crop insurance schemes can be promoted with government meeting a major part of the insurance premium to protect the farmers against natural calamities.
- To start with, all restrictions on food grains regarding inter-State movement, stocking, exports, and institutional credit and trade financing should be renounced.
- Free trade will help make-up the difference between production and consumption needs, reduce supply variability, increase efficiency in resource-use and permit production in regions more suited to it. Food-for-education programme
- To achieve cent per cent literacy, the food security need can be productively linked to increased enrolment in schools. With the phasing out of PDS, food coupons may be issued to poor people depending on their entitlement.
- The State government will in turn, distribute the grants to the village bodies, which can decide on the list of essential infrastructure.

- To make Community grain storage banks
- The grain storage facilities can be created within two years under the existing rural development schemes

## CONCLUSIONS

The impact of globalization in the form of SEZs and other factors has been both positive and negative in terms of agricultural prosperity and there is a strong need to regulate the policies related to globalization for reducing its negative effects on food security in India.. Limit global warming, including the promotion of climate-friendly agricultural production systems and land-use policies at a scale to help mitigate climate change. In nutshell, despite ensuring ample availability of food, the existence of food insecurity at the micro-level in the country has remained a formidable challenge for India.

## REFERENCES

1. Ajani, Kumar. et al. (2012). „Food Security in India: Trends, Patterns, and determinants. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol 67, No. 3, July-Sept 2012.
2. Bhalla, G.S., Hazell, P. and Kerr, J. (2001). “Prospects for India’s Cereal Supply and Demand to 2020, *Food, Agriculture and the Environment, Discussion Paper 29, International Food Security Institute, Washington*
3. D.C. Bhramanad, P.S. et al. (2013). “Challenges to Food Security in India”. *Current Science*. Vol 104. No. 7, 10 April 2013.
4. Dreze, Jean. and A. Sen. (1989). *Hunger and Public Action*, Clarendon Press. Oxford. Dyson, Tim. and A. Hanchate. (2000). “India’s Demographic and Food Prospects: State Level Analysis”,
5. *Economic and Political Weekly*, November 11, Vol 35. GoI. (2002). „Report of the High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy”. Department of Food and Public Distribution System,
6. Government of India. GoI. (2007a). *Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2006*.
7. Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi. GoI.(2007b).
8. IFPRI, and Concern Worldwide: 2013 Global Hunger Index -The challenge of hunger: Building Resilience to Achieve Food and Nutrition Security. Bonn, Washington D. C., Dublin. October 2013.
9. Ghosh, S. and Brahmanand, P. S., *Water and food security, Kurukshetra*, 2009, 57,19–20.
10. FCI reports -2010, 2011 and 2013
11. The Department of Public Distribution of India, (Internet.)
12. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) reports. (Various annual reports)
13. Ramesh, Jairam, *The Economic Times*, SEZs will need to meet the land acquisition bill norms, dated 10 July 2012.

