

➤ **Different Reasons for why we need to talk about food security is given below.**

- **According to definition of fao (Food and Agricultural organization of united nations), Food security a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. So here if we analyze this definition deeply some factors will come out of this like Availability, Accessibility, Affordability and nutritional level of food. Let's talk about each one by one. India is almost self sufficient nation. So, there is no problem of Availability of food. As far as Affordability is concerned, In pds system poor people are getting food grains at very cheap price, that is also not a big problem. But when it comes to Accessibility we are lacking at this. In india distribution and monitoring of food is very complex and multidimensional process. We have not managed the distribution of food very well till now. India has very high level of malnourishment in children so we are lacking at providing nutritional food too. So, we have to concerned about food security because of this reasons.**
- **Lake of political willingness to solve the problem of food security.**
- **We are still having gender bias in our society. Where male of house is considered as the dominant one. In some cases, He wastes his money in his addictions like alcohol, cigarette and gambling. So because of this whole family will suffer by lacking of food in house.**
- **Lake of Efficient Storage Systems. And this storage systems cost a lot, some times one have to pay more for storage system which is higher that the total cost of that product which is being kept in storage.**

- **Lake of diversification in farming.** India is known for its diversity. Diversity in people and Diversity in food also. Indian people eat Food grains, dairy products, meat, fish, beef etc. Means we should not limit over self by farming only food grains, we also have to look at other options. We should also focus on poultry, fishery , dairy products , meat and beef. In short we need diversification in farming.

- Provision for food security bill are given below :-

1. **Provision for Homeless people :-** They can use their Aadhar card instead of Ration card because Aadhar card does not require address proof.
2. **Provision for Tribes :-** The Central Government and the State Governments shall, while implementing the provisions of this Act and the schemes for meeting specified entitlements, give special focus to the needs of the vulnerable groups especially in remote areas and other areas which are difficult to access, hilly and tribal areas for ensuring their food security.
3. **Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) :-** Upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population will be covered under TPDS, with uniform entitlement of 5 kg per person per month. However, since Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households constitute poorest of the poor, and are presently entitled to 35 kg per household per month, entitlement of existing AAY households will be protected at 35 kg per household per month.
4. **State-wise coverage :-** Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, State-wise coverage will be determined by the Central Government. Planning Commission has

determined the State-wise coverage by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.

5. **Subsidised prices under TPDS and their revision :-** Foodgrains under TPDS will be made available at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains for a period of three years from the date of commencement of the Act. Thereafter prices will be suitably linked to Minimum Support Price (MSP). In case, any State's allocation under the Act is lower than their current allocation, it will be protected upto the level of average offtake under normal TPDS during last three years, at prices to be determined by the Central Government. Existing prices for APL households i.e. Rs. 6.10 per kg for wheat and Rs 8.30 per kg for rice has been determined as issue prices for the additional allocation to protect the average offtake during last three years.
6. **Identification of Households :-** Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs.
7. **Nutritional Support to women and children :-** Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years will be entitled to meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes. Higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age.
8. **Maternity Benefit :-** Pregnant women and lactating mothers will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.
9. **Women Empowerment :-** Eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards.
10. **Grievance Redressal Mechanism :-** Grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels. States will have the flexibility to use the existing machinery or set up separate mechanism.

11. **Cost of intra-State transportation & handling of foodgrains and FPS Dealers' margin :-** Central Government will provide assistance to States in meeting the expenditure incurred by them on transportation of foodgrains within the State, its handling and FPS dealers' margin as per norms to be devised for this purpose.
12. **Transparency and Accountability :-** Provisions have been made for disclosure of records relating to PDS, social audits and setting up of Vigilance Committees in order to ensure transparency and accountability.
13. **Food Security Allowance :-** Provision for food security allowance to entitled beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
14. **Penalty :-** Provision for penalty on public servant or authority, to be imposed by the State Food Commission, in case of failure to comply with the relief recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer.

Reference :-

<http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/256128/food+drugs+law/The+National+Food+Security+Bill+2013>

- The following are the measures to be taken for achieving food security for growing population through higher food production.

1. Education and literacy

Role of education in improving farm efficiency and technology adoption has been well established. As agriculture transformed from subsistence to commercial level, farmers seek information on a wide range of issues to acquire knowledge or upgrade their skills and entrepreneurial ability.

Literacy emerges as an important source of growth in adoption of technology, and use of modern inputs like fertilizers and machines.

An educated workforce makes it easier to train and acquire new skills and technologies required for productivity growth. Thus, contribution of literacy will be substantial on yield growth and domestic supply of food.

2. Crop diversification

Food availability is a necessary condition for food security. India is more or less self sufficient in cereals but has deficit in pulses and oilseeds. Due to changes in consumption patterns, demand for fruits, vegetables, dairy, meat, poultry, and fishery products has been increasing. There is a need to increase crop diversification and improve allied activities to produce such crops and produces in which we are deficient.

3. Tackling climate change

Food security in India can be achieved by paying higher attention to issues such as climate change, limiting global warming, including the promotion of climate-smart agricultural production systems and land use policies at a scale to help adapt and mitigate ill effects of climate change.

4. Integrated water management

India needs to produce more crop per unit of land and water resources. Alarming rates of groundwater depletions and increasing environmental and social problems pose acute threats to mankind. Improved management of irrigation water is essential in enhancing production and productivity, food security and poverty alleviation. Agriculture is the biggest user of water accounting for over 80 percent of the water withdrawals. There are pressures for diverting water from agriculture to other sectors. It has been projected that availability of water for agriculture use in India may be reduced by 21 percent by 2020, resulting in drop of yields, especially rice, leading to price rise and threat to food security of the poor. The needs of other sectors for water cannot be ignored. As a result, it is necessary that an integrated water use policy is formulated and judiciously implemented. Modern methods of irrigation like sprinkler, drip irrigation, fertigation, among other water efficient tools need to be adopted on larger scale.

5. Integrated nutrient management

Attention needs to be given to balanced use of nutrients. Phosphorus deficiency is the most wide spread soil fertility problem in both irrigated and non-irrigated rainfed areas. To improve the efficiency of fertilizer-use, what really needed is enhanced location-specific research on efficient fertilizer practices, improvement in soil testing services, development of improved

fertilizer supply and distribution systems and development of physical and institutional infrastructure.

6. Improved varieties

In several regions, farmers are not able to get information about the availability of new and improved varieties and some are not having access to quality seeds of these varieties, resulting in lesser yields. This situation has to be corrected by developing a national-level network to monitor and coordinate the activities with the various State government functionaries working in the area of crop production.

7. Improved technology adoption

Adoption of technologies like integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management and integrated weed management need to be made available for adoption to ensure higher production and sustainability of production base.

8. Awareness on population growth

The awareness of the pressures of increasing population growth and consumption patterns on ecosystem functioning should be created to sensitize farmers on adoption of sustainable crop cultivation and management practices.

9. Focus on small farmers

Increase in food production in the country does not necessarily ensure food security, if the poor do not have the buying power. Therefore, participation of small farmers in food production is essential to achieve food security. Most of them being illiterate and having failed earlier either in adopting new technologies or repaying the loan provided under various development schemes. They need support not only to procure inputs but also to gain confidence.

The strategy to enhance the food production should address the problems of such small landholding farmers, who constitute over 83 percent of farmers in the country. They own less than two hectare of land per family, mostly marginal and non-irrigated. They have been practicing low-external input farming and the crop yields have been substantially low. However, their contribution to the national food production is considerable and meets a significant part of their food needs.

10. Agricultural research education

The agricultural education in India is facing one of the biggest challenges. It has to identify its role in equipping the human resources for enhanced agricultural productivity and sustainable use of natural resources. Agricultural colleges and universities were initially assigned to disseminate scientific knowledge and skills to the farming community and to train them to use such skills for better output. As a backup for such a mission, agricultural research was encouraged to focus on scientific knowledge to suit to the realities of rural societies.

However, these initiatives could not keep pace with the fast changing scientific and technical improvements and gradually failed in their objective to cultivate the most modern skills and attitudes to both agricultural students and farmers. Therefore, updation of the curricula of agricultural education has become imperative. This is very relevant to teaching, research and extension functions of the university as they form the inter-related, theoretical and practical basis of modern agricultural education in India.

References :-

<https://www.ruralmarketing.in/industry/agriculture/10-measures-to-ensure-national-food-security>