

Food Security in India

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→ Overview: Food Security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.

→ What is Food Security?

- Availability of food means food production within the country,
- All persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality
- There is no barrier on access of food. And an individual has enough money to buy sufficient food.
- Creation of "Buffer Stock" is also done in this system.

→ Why Food Security?

- Food security is helpful at the time of natural disaster / calamity like earthquake, drought, flood etc. Production of foodgrains decreased which creates a situation of decrease in food availability.
- The attainment of food security therefore involves eliminating current hunger and reducing the risks of future hunger.
- Famine of Bengal in 1943 was the most devastating famine and have killed 30 lakh people in Bengal.

Who are Food-insecure?

- In rural areas, landless and marginal farmers Traditional artisans like blacksmith, providers of Services like Washerman, petty self employed workers and destitute came under the category of food-insecure.
- In Urban areas, persons employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labourers are food-insecure, these labour came under seasonal workers and have low wages.
- Children under the age of 5 years, large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers are also came under the category of food-insecure (NHFS 1998-1999, the number of such family and children are 11 crore)
- Person who is not able to fulfil their daily requirements or people came below poverty line are also food-insecure (2400 Rural & 100 Urban, Requirement of calory) (816 P/m for Rural & 1000^{1/2 m} for Urban below that poverty is poor) (World bank \$ 1.90 per person per day) (201+ R 400 Rs P/m for 5 member family in Rural and 5000^{1/2 m} urban)
- People belonging to some socially backward class are also came under the head of food-insecure.
- In India Some States has large number of food-insecure like, Bihar, Orissa, U.P., Jharkhand, WB, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and M.H.

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| Year | Type of hunger Seasonal | Chronic. | Total |
|-----------|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| Rural | | | |
| 1983 | 16.2 | 2.3 | 18.5 |
| 1993-94 | 4.2 | 0.9 | 5.1 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.6 | 0.7 | 3.3 |
| Urban | | | |
| 1983 | 5.6 | 0.8 | 6.4 |
| 1993-94 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| 1999-2000 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.9 |

→ Seasonal hunger:

- When a person is unable to get work for entire year, then they came under the category of Seasonal hunger.

→ Chronic hunger:

- Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality.
- A person who has low level of income is came under the category of Chronic hunger.

| Years | M tonnes |
|---------|----------|
| 1960-61 | — 80 |
| 1970-71 | 108 |
| 1980-81 | 130 |
| 1990-91 | 176 |
| 2000-01 | 196 |
| 2010-11 | 245 |
| 2016-17 | 275.68 |

Production of Foodgrains in India [Million Tonnes]

Economic Survey:
2015-16

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⇒ BUFFER STOCK ⇒ • The Farmers Sale their food-grains at minimum support price i.e pre-announced price of the government.

- The Food grains stored in the warehouse of "Food Corporation of India (FCI) called Buffer Stock of food grains.

⇒ What is public distribution System?

- Public distribution System (PDS); is the system of providing Foodgrains from Food corporation of India to poor section of the society at subsidized rate.
- This programme was launched in 1992 in 1700 backward blocks in the country. This a Food security programme.
- For the implementation of this system many programmes are launched by the government of India like the Antyodaya Ann Yojana which is for poorest of the poor and the Annapurna Schemes which is for needy Senior citizens. These two programmes are launched in 2000.
- For take the benefit of public Distribution system the government of India provide 3 types of Ration card.

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- (1) Antyodaya card for the poorest of the poor
- (2) BPL card for the people living below poverty line.
- (3) APL card for other all people.

- About 5.5 lakh ration shops or fair price shops are here all over the country for implementation of this System.

→ current status of public Distribution:

- At the time of introducing of public distribution system. It was for all category of people i.e. there was no discrimination between the poor and non-poor.
- In 1992, Government of India decided to launch Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in 1992 with the aim to start in 1700 blocks in the country.
- Again in 1997, Public Distribution System revised as Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), which was only for the poor section of the society.

→ merits of Public Distribution System:

- It helps to keep food price stable by providing food at concessional rate.
- It helps to prevent large number of hunger and the famine by the way of supplying food from surplus region to deficit region.

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- Poor section of society can easily buy food at subsidized rates from fair price shop and it has been possible through public distribution system.
- It assuring to the Farmers by the way of purchasing food at minimum Sport price.

⇒ Demerits of public Distribution System:

- In this system foodgrains are stored as buffer stock which became wasteful due to gradually decrease in the quantity of food grains due to deterioration, wear and tear and rotting etc.
- Sometimes product of the public Distribution system is malpracticed by the PDS Dealers through selling the foodgrains in the open market for getting better margin.

⇒ Role of cooperatives in Food Security:

- cooperatives opens many fair price shop to sell foodgrain at concessional rate.
- Academy of Development Science is an organization of training and capacity building programmes on Food security for NGOs in Maharashtra. It facilitates a network of NGO for setting up banks of grains. It is a successful food security intervention.

- In Tamil Nadu, 94 percent fair price shop are being run by the cooperatives.
- Mother Dairy is a success story of cooperatives in milk and vegetables in Delhi.
- Amul is also a success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products in Gujarat.

⇒ National Food for Work programme:

- This programme was started on November 14, 2004 in 150 most backward district of the country.
- The programme is for those rural people who are needy of wages employment and desire to do manual unskilled work.
- The aim of this programme is to intensify the generation of supplementary wages employment.
- It is 100% centrally sponsored scheme. In this programme, the food grains are provided to states free of cost.
- At district level nodal officer is the collector in this programme.

⇒ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AY):

- This Yojana was started in December 2000.
- One crore of the poorest among the BPL families are came under public distribution system in this programme.
- In this programme, poorest people among peoples are identified through Below poverty line Survey.
- Now, 2 crore families have been covered under the AY with the increment of 50 lakh each in June 2003 and in August 2004.

⇒ Subsidy:

- Subsidies are financial assistance given by the government to a producer to fix the price of a commodity

$$MP = FC + NIT \text{ (IT-Subsidy)}$$
- It leads to a fall in price of Subsidized product with maintaining producer's profit.

