

Impact on Food Security in India

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ABSTRACT

Food security is a fundamental human right. The right to food is one of the basic human rights which are closely linked to Right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, 1950. Food security includes both physical as well as economic access to food. The term accessibility here includes both availability and affordability. The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, food to maintain a healthy and active life”.

1. INTRODUCTION

Food security in India is a matter of primary importance where one third of its population is estimated to be absolutely poor and over half of all children are malnourished. India is truly developing now and its income, infrastructure, per capita income has also developed. But the major problem faced by India is “the problem food management and its distribution”. Agriculture is very important to India, employing 55% of its population and providing 16.5% of its annual GDP. Today, India ranks second worldwide in farm output. India is the largest producer in the world of milk, cashew nuts, coconuts, tea, ginger, turmeric and black pepper. It also has the world’s largest cattle population (281 million). It is the second largest producer of wheat, rice, sugar, groundnut and inland fish. It is the third largest producer of tobacco. India accounts for 10% of the world fruit production with first rank in the production of banana. The existence of this problem is not merely confined to rural areas but also extend to urban region. To combat this perennial problem, Government did introduce some major programmed such as Public food distribution system (PDS), the Integrated Child Development System (ICDS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) etc. This major programmed fails to penetrate in every section of the society and hunger continues to thrive among the poor people.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analysis the Trends in Per Capita Availability of Food Grain in India
- To evaluate the net availability of Edible Oils, Vanaspati and Sugar.
- To explain the problems of food production and distribution in India.

3. METHODOLOGY

The present study adopted secondary data and information from various sources of Indian food providing system which consists from Ministry of Agriculture Statistics from the year between 1951-2012. and Economic Survey between 1951-2011 (Government of India). The simple statistics like trend line will be used in this study. The discussion made about the problems production and distributions of Indian food providing system.

PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF FOOD GRAINS (GRAMS USED BY PERSONS)

The below table shows the availability of food grains of India between the years of 1951-2012. It reveals that, the year 1991, which was higher level of total cereals used by person when compared to upcoming years. The availability of pulses was 69 grams used by a person in 1961 that was higher level of availability of other decades. It was significantly decreasing from 1961 to 1981 and also decreasing recent years. From year 1991 vast decreasing total food grain level until 2012.

PROBLEMS OF FOOD SECURITY OF SYSTEM IN INDIA**CLIMATE CHANGE**

Climate change is expected to affect agricultural land use and production due to less availability of water for irrigation and other factors. There is climate change in India due to rising temperature and extreme events on the food production systems which impacts agricultural growth adversely. Various reports indicate that climate change would result in further intensification of temporal and spatial variation in the availability of water and extreme events of flood and drought. There is a strong need to address changes in institution and resource accessibility to tackle the climate induced natural hazards.

CROP DIVERSIFICATION

In recent years there has been great emphasis of agricultural scientist on implementation of crop diversification. The, price of food grains like rice and wheat are no encouraging and farmers ended up with very low return. By concentrating on other crops the farmers were encouraged to earn higher profits. The creation of decentralized food grain bank in each block or district would enable the villagers to get subsidized food. This concept will improve the delivery of food grains and reduce corruption

MISMATCH BETWEEN WATER DEMAND AND AVAILABILITY

There is a vast temporal and spatial variation in rainfall and water availability in the country. Majority of water is available during monsoon period and that too, through few spell of intense rainfall. The average rainfall in India is 1170mm . The demand for water for various purposes is increasing due to population growth, industrialization and urbanization. Presently agriculture sector is using about 83% of water resources, but due to demand from other sector availability may decline to 68% in 2050. Hence, mismatch between demand and supply of water

LAND FRAGMENTATION

Fragmentation of land is widespread in India and it is believed that fragmented nature of land holding plays a major role in explaining low levels of agricultural productivity. Increasing population has led to reduction in availability of land over the decades. There has been increase in putting agriculture land into non agriculture uses to accommodate developmental activities leading to land fragmentation and low productivity. Therefore there is a need for shift in land use and cropping pattern.

QUALITY SEEDS AND PLANTING MATERIAL

The challenge confronting the seed sector is to make available quality seeds having good genetic potential at an affordable price and across the country to the farmers to enable them harvest maximum yield in the given agro climatic conditions.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

Another critical and crucial challenge is supply chain management in agricultural marketing in India. Farmer's access to market is hampered by poor roads, excessive regulation and poor market infrastructure. Hence steps must be taken for the betterment of agricultural marketing by allowing private sector and Foreign Direct Investment to improve the marketing and agricultural produce in India.

GLOBALIZATION

Though globalization positively brought various changes like technology development, transport, fast communication and higher growth in service sector, at the same time it has also resulted in challenge. Globalization has certainly intensified interdependence and competition between economies in the world market creating worse condition for domestic farmers and producers. The impact of globalization culminated in the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs) which also led to widening the gap between rich and poor section.

4. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The decentralization of procurement and distribution has become necessary to improve and strengthen the PDS.
- A greater and more active involvement of the panchayats in the PDS can significantly improve access at the village level.
- Concerted efforts are needed for computerization of records, and the issue of smart cards to beneficiaries is essential for greater accountability and transparency.
- There is also an urgent need to set up a proper and effective grievances redressed system for both the fair price shops as well as beneficiaries.
- There is also an urgent need to enforce appropriate penalties and punishment for defaulters.
- The number of retail outlets should be seriously reviewed by each state government and the emphasis should be on an appropriate number of well equipped and financially viable fair price shops rather than a proliferation of non-functional outlets supposedly licensed for providing location convenience to beneficiaries.
- The Central Government will be left with sufficient funds, which may be given as grants to each State depending on the number of poor through PDS and MSP.
- The State government will in turn distribute the grants to the village bodies, which can decide on the list of essential infrastructure, work the village needs and allow every needy villager to contribute through his labour and get paid in food coupons and cash.

5. CONCLUSION

The inadequacy of food is a terrible cause which will lead to kind of poverty in developing countries. The availability of food grains and oil seeds are the necessary thing of each and every country. If the sources underutilized by the person, that will happen to be hunger, poverty and unhealthy life of poor. 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.

6. REFERENCE

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