

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF FOOD PROBLEMS IN INDIA

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Food Security means the easy availability and access of food. at all times in sufficient quantity in a safe and nutritious form to meet the dietary requirements and food preferences for an active healthy and productive life in fact food security is the imperative pre requisite for the economic and social stability of any nation. Again sustainable food security requires a stable supply of good and properly functioning agricultural markets. To encourage the food security the food and agriculture organization of the united nation celebrates World food day every year on 16th october the day on which the organization was founded in 1945. "World Food Security and the challenges of climate change and bio energy" was the theme for the world food day for the year 2008. The theme quite relevant at this hour when changes in agriculture production and cultivation pattern is being observed in different parts of the world due to drastic changes in the climate pattern. In worst affected under such circumstances will undoubtedly be the people residing in the developing and the under developed nation of the World.

Although India had long back achieved self sufficient in food the Government of the India has launched the new national Food Security Mission 2007 with the basic objective of grappling with the present yield storage in the country. The mission will increase the production of rice by 10 million tones, wheat by 8 million tons and pulse by 2 million tons in the Five years by the end of 11th five year plan (2011-2012).

Poor people of these countries are largely dependent on agriculture which is most vulnerable to climate change. Increase in the instances of crop failures and livestock deaths have already resulted in huge economic losses. Global warming and already in the green house gas emission deforestation for urbanization and injudicious use of natural resources are the major causes for climate change and they will directly or indirectly hamper agriculture production and productivity. This will in turn result in Food insecurity and finally result in riots and unrest in different parts of the world. Thus at present the world is not even on track to achieve the 1996 World food summit target of reducing the number of hungry people from 800 million by 2015.

Probably the best description of food problem which india has been facing not for one or Two year's, but for decades is to regard it as a " chronic malady". As professor Santwala states crisis but a chronic malady".

By food security we mean lively food security of all members within a house hold by ensuring both physical and economic aces to balance diet involving the needed micro nutrients, safe drinking water basic health care and primary education.

According to census 2011 the total population of india is 121 million and out of them 19.3% people are living below poverty line. The basic problem is how to uplift the people from BPL obviously several programs has been launched by the Government but still result is addicted. The government has to try its best in this direction. Certainly MANREGA initiated in 2005 is playing a vital role in this direction. Although the numbers of people who are below the poverty line has reduced significantly between 1993-94 & 1910-11.

According to a report by the world bank, productivity losses in India due to stunted growth Iodine deficiencies and Iron deficiencies are equivalent to almost 3 percent of G.D.P while during the colonial era famine was the primary result of "Food insecurity" malnutrition has replaced it as the chief concern of Legislators and economists.

The current problem in India is of the nutre: Its not so much a lack of Nutrients- rich but rather a weakness in the food supply chain. On a more positive note , India is expected to remain self sufficient in the production of food staples until at least 2025 However, infancies in the downstream segments of the Food supply chain are still rampant and threaten to undermine self sufficiency and perpetuate malnutrition. For example, inefficiency in the tomato business, according to the editor of the wall street Journal Asia, result in as much as 20 percent of tomatoes rotting in transit, while the price for consumers is maked up by as uch as 60 percent the right to food as human rights is well recognized in the universal declaration of human Rights (UDHR), 1948; The international covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (IESCR) 1966; and the UN convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990.

The "right to food" is impliedly recognized in the constitution of India in few of its articles pertaining to fundamental Rights as well as directive principles of state policy. Article 21 of the indian Constitution Provides the fundamental right to protection of life and personal liberty and implicitly includes the right to food.

To maintain the need of food for the growing population and to meet the minimum food requirement various steps have been taken in these directions.

1. Biotechnology is used to modify different cross genetically to increase the yield per hectare.
2. Genetically modified crops require less water compared to other crops.

3. Biotechnology made the crops more resistant to insect's pests and diseases.

The persisting problems:-

- I. The use of more and more land for construction of factories ware houses and shelters has reduced the land under cultivation and new fertile land for forming is no longer available.
- II. In spite of surplus food grains stock, It is also a reality that a vast number of people do not have enough money to feed themselves twice a day. Even in 1999. 20% of the people of India were below the poverty line.
- III. Though the percentage of people below poverty line declined substantially from 36% in 1993-94 to 20 % in 1999-2000, yet in absolute number it was 210 million which by no means a small number is.

It is at juncture that the state intervention in true senses is required to be supplemented with help and assistance from other organization, so that the desired results can be achieved. Following are certain suggestive interventions that can be opted for in certain areas:-

- I. Poverty and food insecurity is greater in rainfed and dry land areas. Small farms can be helped in increasing productivity by having access to extension services and better water management Sustainable agriculture should be the focus of interventions.
- II. Urban agriculture can omprove food security in urban areas. it one grown food can also be encouraged as it would contribute to food security and nutrition as well as free in comes for non food expenses such as health and education.
- III. New and innovative solutions for water management and improving soil fertility.
- IV. Focus on tribal areas for sustainable agriculture.
- V. Using information technology for agricultural production and marketing for example, providing mobile phones to the poor and marginal formers can help in marketing.

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