

Food insecurity: The defining Challenge of century ahead

Outline

1. Introduction

Despite the abundance of food produced globally, food insecurity persists due to various reasons like climate change, population explosion, food wastage, economic stability and resource scarcity. These factors directly impact health, development and socio-political stability. A multi-pronged approach is needed to end this and ensure access of safe food to every one.

2. Debunking the term food insecurity

3. Current situation of food insecurity

4. Factors responsible for prevailing food security

4.1. Climate Changes

a) 2023 Heatwave impacted wheat Production in Punjab

4.2. Population Explosion

a) World population's projected growth is 9.7 billion by 2050 placing significant Pressure on global food Production systems
(Worldometer)

4.3- Pandemics and natural disasters

a) 2023 floods in Pakistan has exacerbated food insecurity

4.4- Economic instability

a) Ongoing Russian-Ukraine war, Ukraine was a major wheat exporter. Since war the global wheat supplies chain has been disrupted.

(World Food Programming)

4.5 Food wastage

a) Pakistan wastes around 36 tonnes of food annually, which is $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of total Food production (PIDE)

4.6 Challenges faced by the agriculture sector such as limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, lack of modern and current farming practices responsible for Green house gases emission.

4.7 Hoarding

4.8 Conflict and displacement

a) Afghan-Refugee population, placing an additional strain on its food resources (UNHCR)

5- Impacts of Food insecurity

5.1- Water scarcity

a) Pakistan is the 3rd most affected

country by water scarcity, which would dry upto 2025 (World Bank Report)

5.2- Poverty

5.3- Inflation

5.4- Hunger Persistence

a) 670 million People will face hunger by 2030 (WB Report)

5.5- Socio-political instability

5.6- Illiteracy

5.7- Imbalance between supply and demand

a) In 1981 wheat supply in Pakistan was 12M tonnes with a population of 84M. Today's Production is 28M tons, but population is 241M.

5.8- Malnutrition

5.9- Security threats

6- Wayforwards to overcome food insecurity

6.1- Investment for sustainable agriculture

a) Drip irrigation system and drought-resistant wheat varieties in Pakistan

6.2- Reduce food wastage

6.3- Strengthen social safety Nets

6.4- Foster global cooperation

6.5- Combat Climate changes

6.7- Promotion of responsible consumption Practices

7- Conclusion