

# FOOD INSECURITY: THE DEFINING CHALLENGE OF THE CENTURY AHEAD

## Outline

### Introduction

- food insecurity as the gravest challenge to global peace, prosperity and political stability.
- World suffers serious challenges - over-population, climate change, depleting water resources - making the world incur food insecurity.

### Debunking the word food insecurity

- Unavailability, unaccessibility and unaffordability of sufficient, safe and nutritious food among the masses.

### Current Situation of food security :

Case: UNICEF's national



nutritional survey.

What Challenges of food insecurity have engulfed the world.

- Outburst of population
- Water crisis
- Climate Change
- Political conflicts around the globe.
- Wastage of food.

How some countries deal with food security.

- Australia
- Canada
- China
- India
- Indonesia

## Impacts of food insecurity

- Undernutrition children
- Poverty
- Social Unrest
- Rise in food prices
- Unable to reach development goals.

## Suggestions to cope up with this challenge.

- By improving agricultural productivity.
- By enhancing purchasing power capacity
- By addressing food wastage and loss.
- By implementing water conservative measures



◦ By ameliorating economic outlook.

Critical Analysis

Conclusion.



One of the gravest challenges confronting the world's peace, prosperity, and political is nothing but the rising peril of food insecurity. The challenges such as population growth, depleting water crisis, changing climate, political crisis and wasting of food, to a large extent, have made the land bear the reddish and unsurpassable effects of food insecurity. However, as every cloud has a silver lining, implementing population control measures, water conservation policies, improving agricultural productivity can help the world to nip the evil of food insecurity in the bud.

“Food is as important as energy, as security, as the environment. Everything is linked together.”

~ Louise Fresco

The problem of food insecurity today is not in the amount of food but its availability. It affects people's life quality and social development, but there are several measure that can be takes to cope up



with this grave challenge and to overcome it.

Food security refers to the availability, accessibility, and affordability of safe, healthy, and nutritious food at all times. A country, assuring all three dimensions of food, would be considered a food secure state, and the opposite is food insecurity. Hence, in the absence of food accessibility, man-in various parts of the blue planet - incurs hunger and mal-nutrients.

The global food crisis is affecting millions of people around the world. In 2023, record level of food insecurity persist due to protracted food crisis and new shocks. In 118 countries, 238 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity - 10% more than in 2022. The governments and all other stake holders need to take some rational steps to avoid the monster of food insecurity, engulfing the people's social, political, and above all, economic outlook.



It is essential to throw some light on the challenges of food security, making the current bear the unsurpassable effects of nutrition crisis.

To begin with, the outburst of population has wreaked havoc globally. According to UN, human population growth amounts to around 83 million annually which is 1.1% per year. The global population has grown from 1 billion in 1800 to 7.9 billion in 2022.

It leads to urbanization and shrinkage of farming land. Therefore, burgeoning population growth is one of the biggest challenge to food security, so compatible measures and policies should be formulated to cope up with this challenge.

Secondly, water crisis has also affected food security. Although, 70% of the world is water, but all of that is of no use. Agriculture is both a victim and a cause of water scarcity, as it is by far the industry that consumed the most water. According



to World Vision Organization, 771 million people lack access to clean water, that is 1 in 10 people on the planet. Water scarcity means less water for agriculture production, which in turn means less food available, threatening food security and nutrition. It can be linked to over-population and over-industrialization. Therefore, measures should be taken to grow more food with limited water resources.

Third, climate change has also given an impetus to food insecurity on global level. It has badly jolted the world's overall agrarian outlook. Likewise, draughts, unprecedented floods, global temperature rise, and rains have badly tarnished yield production. According to World Health Organization, over 122 million more people are facing hunger in the world due to pandemic and repeated weather shocks. If trends remain as they are, the Sustainable Development Goals of ending hunger



by 2030 will not be reached as warned by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WHO and other stakeholders. Therefore, we must build resilience against the crisis and shocks that drive food insecurity from conflict to climate, said UN Secretary General to rescue SDGs.

Fourth, political conflicts around the globe also raises the food insecurity issues. The political conflicts such as Russia - Ukraine War, and Hamas - Israel War, threw thousands of people in the burning fire of hunger in their own states and millions of people around the world are also affected due to these conflicts. Early in crisis, Food Agriculture Organization estimated that prolonged disruption of exports from Ukraine and Russia could increase in the number of undernourished people by 8 to 13 million in 2022.

By now, it has surpassed many million people. Same



is the case in Hamas-Israel War, as the continuous large-scale security, political and economic unrest and blockade on the Gaza Strip, have resulted in economic stagnation. Moreover, Israel government is using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in the occupied Gaza Strip, which is a war-crime. Hence, to overcome food insecurity such conflicts should be solved on global level.

Last, but not the least, wasting of food on global level has also worsened the scenarios. According to United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), one third of all food produced is lost or wasted - around 1.3 billion tonnes of food - costing the global economy close to \$940 billion each year. upto 40% of global greenhouse come from this food. Ironically, we human beings are participating in this process although some of the food is lost naturally.



Nature cannot be controlled but our voluntary actions to waste must be controlled in order to cope with challenge of food insecurity.

It is important to understand that how countries around the globe are trying to deal with food security.

First of all, one of the developed country, Australia develops strategies and options to mitigate risks and maintain continuity of food supply during national emergency. The department of Foreign Affairs and Trade announced that the Australian government had spent AUD 215.6 million from 2021 to 2022 to enhance agricultural development and food security. A pantry list has been created by Australian food and Grocery Council to help Australians deal with food insecurity during an emergency.

Then another country,



in a Proof's article "What can be done to reduce food insecurity in Canada?" professed that household food insecurity can be reduced by policy interventions that improve financial circumstances of households at the bottom of the income spectrum. The policies such as public old age pensions and Canada child benefit are used to alleviate food insecurity.

Then comes China, which has a population of 1.4 billion people and it has also managed to feed its population by introducing "seawater rice" which can generate over 82.5 kg of rice per acre. That's how it managed to deal with food crisis -

Our neighbouring country, India - is a developing country. According to WFP, 21.25% of Indians survive on less than USD 1.90 a day, a quarter of world's malnourished people



are in India. WFP helps to alleviate India's food insecurity by helping the Indian government to develop effectiveness and culpability of its own subsidized food supply system to ensure that 800 million Indians are fed.

Lastly, in Indonesia, Asia's News Network announced that Indonesia suggested that an "integrated food security framework" be established with ASEAN countries. Indonesia also proposed the same idea at G-20 summit in 2022.

Domestically, the government founded a "food estate program" where farmers grow a specific list of crops required in the frameworks.

Food insecurity across the globe is a huge challenge of this century and it is easily understood by looking at the impacts it posed.

One of the impact is



undernutrition in children and they are at the higher risk of chronic health conditions such as anaemia, asthma etc.

According to National Nutrition Survey, 33% of all children are underweight, nearly 44% are stunted, 33% are anemic. So, it affects the health on an unprecedented level.

Moreover, food insecurity leads to poverty. According to a report, the poverty rate in the world is 46.9%. Therefore, food insecurity is also having a huge impact on prosperity of the country and overall globe.

Furthermore, food insecurity poses a great threat to peace of the society and hungry people may involve in many social crimes and it leads to social unrest. According to a survey, crime rate is more in underdeveloped areas. Because, when basic needs are not met



The unattainment of the sustainable development goals is also a huge challenge faced by the world due to food insecurity, as most of the money is going to satisfy the hunger then comes the turn of the development goals.

As it is aptly said, that where there is a will, there is a way, world can still avoid the danger of food insecurity by implementing the following measures.

First, there is a need to improve agricultural productivity which can be assured by the help of better seed varieties, ameliorating irrigation system, and adopting modern agricultural techniques. Moreover, increasing water storage capacity, addressing food wastage and loss, enhancing purchasing power capacity is the need of the hour to

cope up with the challenge of food insecurity.

Critically, there has been political inability, world's inability to keep peace in the era, the unequal use of modern technologies and above all huge population bulge are the main causes of food insecurity which make it a challenge for this era.

To conclude, despite world is progressing day-by-day, there has been incurring acute food insecurity, making it suffer social, political and above all, economic hurdles. In fact, its over-population, changing climate and depleting economy have fueled the fire. Nevertheless, the world can still avoid food insecurity by implementing some sagacious steps as mentioned above. Let's hope, world can will be able to cope with this challenge in 21st century successfully.