

## **STATUS OF FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA TO IMPROVE THE RURAL ECONOMY**

**Mr. P. Arumugam**

Full Time Ph.D Scholar, Department of Economics, Nehru Memorial College (Autonomous)  
(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli), Puthanampatti, Tiruchirappalli,  
Tamil Nadu, India

**Dr. K. Karunaharan**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Nehru Memorial College (Autonomous)  
(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli), Puthanampatti, Tiruchirappalli,  
Tamil Nadu, India

### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper questions what is the Status of Food Security in India is? The sub questions are what are the programmes serve up to achieve it? And what are the challenges ahead? These are all assessed in terms of the Central and State governments food security related programmes. To answer the questions the paper first discuss the food security related concepts secondly the paper addresses the performance of existing central and state government programme, third it analyse how the programmes are helpful to improve the rural economy? Final section describe the critics from various sources are given. Food security is a condition related to the supply of food, and individuals' access to it. It briefly explains the concepts of food security and traces out over the longer period in India how both State and Central government have been performing to fulfil the food security through its various programmes in India. Have they really either achieved or failed to answer the question secondary sources are given and findings are presented. In addition the evaluation of the programme by various agencies are identified and addressed through existed literatures.*

**Key words:** Scarcity of Agricultural labour, Farm wage rate MGNREGS, Tenancy Cultivation, Mechanization of agriculture.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Food Security is one among the safety nets in a welfare state. However, this sort of activities and its implementation is largely depends upon the system of the economy and the state's authority.

This paper questions what is the Status of Food Security in India? The sub questions are what are the existing programmes serve up to achieve it? And what are the challenges ahead? And how these programme support to improve the rural economy? These are all attempted to answer in the paper.

To answer the questions the paper first discuss the food security related concepts secondly the paper addresses the performance of existing central and state government programme, thirdly it analyse how the programmes are helpful to improve the rural economy? Fourth and final section describe the critics from various sources are given. It briefly explains the concepts of food security and traces out over the longer period in India how both State and Central government have been performing to fulfil the food security through its various programmes. Have they really either achieved or failed to answer the question secondary sources are given and findings are presented. In addition the evaluation of the programme by various agencies are identified and addressed through existed literatures.

## 2. FOOD SECURITY – SOME EXISTED CONCEPTS

### 2.1 Security

Security is the degree of resistance to, or protection from harm. It applies to any vulnerable and/or valuable asset, such as a person, dwelling, community, item, nation, or organization [4].

Food security is a condition related to the supply of food, and individuals' access to it [4].

### 2.2 Food Security

World Food Conference 1974 defines the Food Security is the “availability” at all the times of adequate World food supplies of basic food stuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices [8].

According to ShahinRazi (2012) [12] sustainable food security involves strengthening the livelihood security of all members within a household by ensuring both physical and economic access to balanced diet including the needed micro nutrients, safe drinking water, and environmental sanitation, basic health care and primary education. The food should originate from efficient and environmentally based production technologies that conserve and enhance the natural resource base of crops, farm animals, forestry, inland and marine fisheries [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24].

**Table 3.1** Purpose Oriented Food Security Program in India

Year	Scheme	Purpose
1975	Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)	Tackle malnutrition and health problems in children below 6 years of age and their mothers
1978	Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP)	Self-employment program
1985	Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMGAY)	Provides to loan to rural poor for constructing their houses.
1995	Midday Meal Scheme (MMS)	Lunch (free of cost) to school- children.
1995	National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAS)	Public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want

1999	Swarnajayanthi Gram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY)	Rural employment.
2000	Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY)	Poorest of the poor (BPL)
2001	SampoornaGrameenRozgarYojana (SGR)	Rural Self Employment (Providing additional wage employment and food security)
2004	National Pension Scheme (NPS)	Contribution based pension system
2005	JananiSurakshaYojana (JSY)	One- time cash incentive to pregnant women for institutional/ home births through skilled assistance
2006	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	Rural wage employment.
2007	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	Increase production and productivity.
2007	GraminBhandaranYojana (GBY)	Agricultural promotion
2007	RashtriyaKrishiVikasYojana (RKVY)	Achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture through development of Agriculture and its allied sectors during the XI Plan period
2010	The Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyogYojana (IGMSY)	Mother care.
2011	National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	SHG & Promote
2013	National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)	Reduce poverty at urban poor people
2015	Atal Pension Yojana (APY)	Social Sector Scheme pertaining to Pension Sector
2016	Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)	Launched to provide free LPG Connections to women from below poverty line families.

Source: (<http://www.FAO.organization>).

Food Security incorporate a measure of resilience of future disruption or unavailability of Critical food supply due to various risk factors including droughts, Shipping disruptions, fuel shortages, economic instability and wars [8].

According Food And Organization (FAO) Food security exists when all people, at all the times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life [12] ([http://www.academia.edu/3742313/Food\\_Security\\_in\\_Rural\\_India](http://www.academia.edu/3742313/Food_Security_in_Rural_India)).

Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) identified the four pillars of foods security are availability, access, utilization and stability [8].

Thus the food security programme targets the marginalized community to ensure the access, and availability to them in right time by the authority especially the welfare government like union and state government of India.

### **3. STATUS OF FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA THROUGH THE CENTRE AND STATE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES**

Food security can be brought through various programmes by both central and State government in India. Here there are some important programmes either directly or indirectly related to food security programmes for poor people. The details are given in the table 1.

Though there are several programmes are launched to the poor communities by the Central Government of India, some of the programmes are very important they are Antyodaya Anna Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana as Table 2.

**Table 3.2** Date wise Important Food Security Programme of India

Scheme	Ministry	Date of Launch
Antyodaya Anna Yojna	NDA government	25 December 2000
PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana	MoSD&E	July 15, 2015
National Food Security Mission	Government of India	2007 for 5 years
PradhanMantriUjjwalaYojana	MoP&NG	1 May 2016

Source: <https://www.google.co.in/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF->

### 3.1 Achievement of Food Security Programme in India

The National Development Council (NDC) adopted a resolution to launch a Food Security Mission on 29th May, 2007. It comprises rice, wheat and pulses to increase the production of rice by 10 million tons, wheat by 8 million tons and pulses by 2 million tons by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12). Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), was launched in October 2007. The Mission is being continued during 12th Five Year Plan with new targets of additional production of food grains of 25 million tons of food grains comprising of 10 million tons rice, 8 million tons of wheat, 4 million tons of pulses and 3 million tons of coarse cereals by the end of 12th Five Year Plan. [7]

**Table 3.3** Procurement and off-Take of Wheat and Rice

Marketing Year	Procurement		Off- Take	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1970-71	5.09	3.46	4.45	3.37
1980-81	6.59	6.20	4.43	5.00
1990-91	11.07	13.02	8.58	7.91
1995-96	12.33	10.07	12.72	11.63
2000-01	16.35	21.28	7.73	10.22
2001-02	20.63	22.13	3.15	5.23
2002-03	19.05	16.42	9.78	10.35
2003-04	15.80	20.80	10.80	13.40
2004-05	16.80	24.68	13.1	16.6
2005-06	14.80	27.66	12.2	19.2
2006-07	9.2	25.11	10.4	21.2
2007-08	11.1	28.74	10.9	22.6
2008-09	22.07	33.69	12.6	22.2
2009-10	25.4	31.46	19.0	23.4

Source: Economic Surveys, Various Issues from 1971-72 to 210-11.

**Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).** The ICDS scheme was launched in 1975 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with major aim to improve the nutritional and health status of children below the age of six years and pregnant and lactating mothers; The programme has gradually increased from 33 projects to 7073 projects in 2009, catering to about 87.3 million beneficiaries through a network of about 1 million Anganwadi centres [1].

**The Mid-Day Meal Scheme:** Launched on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1995-under this scheme, food grains are supplied at free of cost and 100 gram per child per school day and cooked/processed hot meal is being served with a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 gm of protein each day of school for a minimum of 200 days and 3kg per student per month for 9-11 months in a year. The scheme covers Government, Government aided primary schools and primary schools run by local bodies. In drought-affected areas, the mid-day meal is distributed during the summer

vacations also. Twelve crore children have been covered so far under this largest school lunch programme in the world [1].

The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) ensures availability of minimum quantity of food grains to the families living below the poverty line, It was launched in June 1997 and intended to benefit about six crore poor families in the country for whom a quantum of 72 lakh tons of food grains was earmarked annually at the rate of 10kg per family per month. The total off-take of food grains (Wheat and rice) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) during April 2007 to March 2008 was about 33.5 lakh tones comprising 265.6 lakh tons of rice and 109.07 lakh tons of wheat.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana focus and target towards the poorest section of population, the “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” (AAY) contemplated identification of one crore poorest of the poor families from amongst the BPL families covered under TDPS within the States and providing them food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2/-per kg for Wheat and Rs.3/-per kg for rice. The AAY Scheme has been expanded in subsequent years and presently it is covering 2.5 crore households [1].

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was initiated in 2005, it guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. Aiming at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work; so far this revolutionary legislation has generated over 450 crore person-days of employment across the country [1].

National Food Security Mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It was launched in the Country to enhance the production of rice, Wheat and pulses by 10,8 and 2 million tons respectively by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> plan [1].

**Table 3.4** Production – Consumption gap in Major Food items in India (in million tons)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Pulses	Sugar	Oilseeds
2005-06	2.3	-4.2	-0.9	-4.1	-4.6
2006-07	6.7	-0.4	-1.0	0.7	-1.9
2007-08	6.6	2.4	-1.6	8.3	-6.2
2008-09	6.2	2.2	-2.6	5.1	-4.0
2009-10	6.0	9.8	-2.2	-8.1	-4.7
2010-11	-2.8	2.1	-2.3	-7.5	-6.0

Source: RBI Bulletin 2010.

Table 4 explains that from 2005-06 to 2010-11 rice production unable to fulfil the demand during the year 2010-11 similarly in pulses, sugar and oilseeds except wheat production.

According to Ministry of Food the India’s national food security welfare programme will cost the government 1.4 trillion rupees (\$21.00 billion) a year and it covers, 50 percent of urban and 75 percent of rural areas in India [5].

#### **4. FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY**

One of the programmes of Food Security is MGNREGA which enable minimum purchasing power of rural poor. It has set the floor for the rural wage level, making wage push inflation, however, to tackle hunger and food insecurity in rural India need multi sector’s efforts [1].

## 5. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD IN INDIA

Anupam Hazara (2012) [1] has concluded regarding the food stock that the sustaining the current rate of food production in the government. It needs a minute concentration on proper storage and distribution of food for proper delivery. Proper maintenance of distribution governance ensures the right to food acts.

Praveen S study (2016) [11] has concluded that the Food security programme has reached the target segment and has been well accepted by the people; however, the programme should lay emphasis on improving awareness level through publicity and to ensure timely distribution of benefit. He also suggested that the Below Poverty Line (BPL) group could be targeted to include under the programme from the available data.

In the present environment food security system is one of the most significant Human Development aspects. The study observed that there is a close linkage existing between food security and socio economic development, rural health and public distribution system for improving human development indicators in the developing countries. The study also suggested understanding and find out the optimal solution of mitigating the problems of poverty hungers diseases and malnutrition [2].

The level of hunger and starvation and the consequent farmers' suicides to an unbelievably high number is linked to agriculture and food management. What is of great urgency is the adoption of both short-term and long-term strategies. The case for universal PDS and thus accessibility to food to all is undeniable. The study suggested that if the universal PDS system would be implemented the deficiencies in the state distributed food grains administration like errors in targeting the poor, the risk of exclusion of the deserving poor, unjustified inclusion of the non-poor, etc., could be largely minimized (edited book 2004).

Right to food and child nutrition are essentially human rights issues and denial of such means no freedoms. All these human rights need to be protected at any cost. And for these durable legal entitlements that guarantee the right to food (i.e., non-discriminatory access and universal entitlements) need to be created not as a makeshift one (edited book 2004).

The programme has reached the target segment and has been well accepted by the people. However, the programme should lay emphasis on improving awareness level through publicity and to ensure timely distribution of benefit. It can also be made demand driven as the framework and data of targeted BPL section is already available. The amount given in the scheme is too less for an individual, whereas we can see there is huge LPG subsidy given to middle class (edited book 2004).

Biswagit C 2004 concluded in his study that Food insecurity is one of the major challenges to the world.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Provision of Food security is responsible of a government largely in underdeveloped and in developing nations. Even though Indian government has been taking several efforts to fulfil the need still the nation needs to go a long way to achieve it in terms of health improvement, effective food security system, increase number of working days under MNREGP and other income and employment generated areas.

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