



## FOOD SECURITY: STEPS TOWARDS HUNGER FREE INDIA

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### **Abstract**

Food security has become a significant issue across the world, predominantly in developing countries since the global food crisis of 2008. India's strategy of agricultural development and approach to food security has proven its resilience in the wake of the recent global food crisis. India is one of the few countries in the world that has experimented with a broad spectrum of programs to improve food security. It has already made important developments in terms of overcoming short-lived food insecurity by providing a major incentive for self-sufficiency in food grains through procurement, public distribution, employment programs etc. It is sad but true that even after six and a half decades of our developmental journey; food insecurity continues to exist in the country. India today has reached a stage where the country is no longer exposed to real food scarcity, although there still exist in certain pockets within India in which people are contesting the need for food. India has failed to achieve the objective of food security on the national level despite autonomy in food grains. A large section of the Indian population is suffering from malnutrition and the inadequacy of food grains. Thus, food security has emerged as an important element of poverty alleviation in the country. Considering the dis-aggregated level of food security, the Indian government passed the food security bill in September 2013. It is devoted to increasing food security and access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for current and forthcoming generations of the nation. Issues associated with food security call for debate and the continued search for solutions.

**Keywords:** Food Security, Global, Crisis, Agriculture, India, Country, Food Grains, Development, Scarcity.

### **1. Introduction**

Hunger has been a driving force for human civilizations to develop and relocate and has sustained the very purpose of creation by God, the creator of all beings. Hence, food has always been the central point around which humans have woven stories of continued existence on the face of this earth. Food insecurity is a massive problem for most of the world's population. Despite reaching the horizon of economic development, people are struggling with the continuity of their everyday lives. Food is as essential for living as air is for breathing. Ensuring food security continues to be a challenging issue as well as of vital importance for developing countries. The Millennium Development Goals provide us with a starting point to assess the level of food security and prioritize our efforts to achieve it.

Three essentials are required for the survival of human beings, such as food, clothing and shelter. In ancient societies, when a man lived in the jungles, he did not have clothing or even shelter. However, food is one of the basic needs required for the survival of humans. It is required to get the energy, which man needs for various tasks. Even when a man is sleeping, his major organs like the heart or lungs remain active. They were functioning from birth to death by any stretch. To carry on these activities, energy is required which can be derived



from food and other nutrients. One requires a balanced diet to be healthy; otherwise, one can suffer from hunger and malnutrition that causes many diseases, famines, epidemics and even death. Therefore, every person has security to have sufficient, healthy balanced food at affordable prices. To ensure safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, primary health awareness, provision for basic education and hygienic environments are also needed.

It is now recognized that the ultimate aim of food security is not only to provide for the physical availability of adequate amounts of food grains for the entire population on a stable basis throughout the year but also to ensure that all populations, including the poor and vulnerable sections have economic access to food grains. This also implies that satisfactory production levels and stability of supply should be matched by a reduction in poverty and an increase in the effective demand to ensure economic and physical access to food for the poor.

The key thing one has to keep in mind is that some of the technologies relating to crop production, which were found to be inventive and quite pertinent in the yesteryears, might require modification in the present circumstances so far as food security is concerned. For example, the higher use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides was recommended earlier to attain higher food grain production. However, after realizing the potential environmental hazards caused by their use, we slowly started advocating the controlled use of fertilizers and pesticides. The perceptions of integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management have achieved significance in the perspective of sustainable soil fertility and environmental protection. Alternatively, the conscious development of crop yields may take longer in these sustainable agriculture technologies. Natural calamities like droughts, floods, cyclones, global warming, melting glaciers, rising sea levels etc. are increasing and the environment is degrading. Due to indiscriminate deforestation, the amount of rainfall reduces and land erosion takes place. Thus, the production of food grains decreased and caused food shortages at a worldwide level. Due to the non-availability of food, prices have gone up. At high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food. If a disaster takes place in a broad range or is strained over an extensive period, it may be a reason for hunger. Massive starvation can take the form of famine. A food crisis is caused by widespread deaths due to hunger and epidemics caused by forced use of infected water, decaying food and loss of body resistance due to weakening from starvation. Not only that, but sometimes the food crisis arises not due to food shortages, but because there is enough food in the stock that some people are starving due to a failure of the public distribution system. The crisis, not a food crisis, it is the policy crisis of the government. This misfortune ranges from food surplus to food scarcity.

The world population is rising rapidly; diminishing land for agricultural purposes, the lack of sufficient available freshwater resources to meet water demand. The insufficiency of resources and the lack of sufficient food for all people on an equitable basis are the foremost issues in the realm of food security that arise. There are now over a billion malnourished people in the world meaning that approximately one-sixth of humankind is suffering from hunger. The predicament of the food crisis has been aggravated by the change in average weather conditions because of the modification of the environment to fit the needs of society in the name of development and industrialization. The issue of food security has turned from bad to worse over the years because there is now an unequal distribution of food intra-country and inter-country.



## 2. Definition of Food Security

Generally, food security is about freedom from hunger. People who are food secure are not in danger of suffering from hunger. The word "Food Security" itself has undergone a drastic transition to actual food security as well. The definition of food security given by different organizations is given below:

At the World Food Summit, 1974 food security is defined as, "availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices".

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO, 1983) has defined food security in terms of "ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food that they need."

The World Bank (1986), defined food security as the "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life."

World Food Summit redefined the definition of food security in the year 1996 as, "food security exists when all people, at all 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 lifestyle".

FAO expert consultation on food security gave a working definition of food security in 2002 as, "food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

In general, food security is defined as, "economic access to food along with food production and food availability." Food availability alone, therefore, does not ensure food security; access to food is equally important.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of USA, "Food security for a household means access by all members at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes at a minimum (i) the ready availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods and (ii) an assured ability to acquire acceptable food in socially acceptable ways."

Further, the WHO defines food security as "Food security means that:

- all people at all times have both physical and economic access to enough food for an active, healthy life;
- the ways in which food is produced and distributed are respectful of the natural processes of the earth and thus sustainable;
- both the consumption and production of food are governed by social values that are just and equitable as well as moral and ethical;
- the ability to acquire food is ensured;
- the food itself is nutritionally adequate and personally and culturally acceptable; and
- the food is obtained in a manner that upholds human dignity."

## 3. Concept of Food Security

Food security as a concept has continually developed over the last few decades to reflect changes in official policy thinking. The concern with food security can be drawn back to the world food crisis of 1972-74 and at the 1974 World Food Conference, Rome the first clear acknowledgment was made that this issue concerned the whole of humanity.



The World Food Conference in 1974 passed a Universal Declaration on the eradication of hunger and malnutrition proclaiming the following:

“(1) Every man, woman, and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties. Society today already possesses sufficient resources, organizational ability and technology and hence the competence to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the eradication of hunger is a common objective of all the countries and others in a position to help. (2) It is a fundamental responsibility of governments to work together for higher food production and a more equitable and efficient distribution of food between countries and within countries.”

Food security is achieved when 'all people at all times have physical and economic access to food that is sufficient to meet nutritional requirements for a healthy and constructive life'. In this sense, the achievement of food security implies producing (or importing) sufficient food and making it accessible to all individuals throughout the year and on a sustainable basis from year to year. Further, fulfilling dietary needs for a productive and healthy life requires physical and economic access of all people to nutritious food, according to each individual's needs. Food security thus means freedom from hunger and malnutrition.

The WHO depicts food security consists of three-dimension viz. “food availability”, “food access” and “food use”.

**Food Availability:** The physical availability of food refers to adequate quantities of food, supplied through native production or imports and the previous year's stock stored in government granaries. This refers to the 'supply-side' to food security. Availability of foodstuffs/food grains (wheat, rice, millet, semolina, tapioca, oats, cornmeal, barley or other cereal grain) as a substitute for food depends largely on domestic food grain production. It also depends on space for storage and transportation facilities, road infrastructure and market link-ups within the country.

**Food Accessibility:** It refers to the physical and economic access of all households to food through a nutritious and balanced diet. Physical methodologies require proficient marketing, transportation, storage techniques to transport food in effortless access and otherwise at an adequate distance from human settlements (villages). Economic access of every household to food depends on its purchasing power and prices of food at which it is available to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs or has sufficient land and other resources to grow its food.

**Food Utilization:** When a family receives food, an assortment of issues influences the amount and nature of food that accesses members of the family. Intake of food depends on the intra-family allotment of food and care of a sound level of fitness of every person to eat and take up the needed quantity of food. Social issues like primary healthcare, education, femininity bias as well as the role and importance of women in family decisions can affect food precautions at a personal level.

Remarkably, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) added a fourth dimension i.e. "the stability of the first three dimensions of food security over time".

**Stability:** It is normally related to vulnerability and risk factors that can destructively affect food availability or access to food. It requires that an individual, household or population must have access to adequate food at all times, and that food insecurity be transitory, seasonal or chronic. In brief food insecurity, food may be unavailable during particular periods for example during natural disasters, civil conflicts and droughts. Seasonal food insecurity can



result from the usual pattern of producing seasonal foods. Chronic (or permanent) food insecurity is characterized as the long- time, continuing absence of enough food. Chronic and short-term food uncertainties are interrelated as the re-emergence of short-term food security can make families more helpless to chronic food uncertainty. Households may have problems ensuring a constant supply of healthy and nutritionally miscellaneous foods for all members in the off-season.

#### **4. Food Security in India**

Food security has been a matter of great concern in India since the British period. Even in modern India, chronic hunger and malnutrition persist on a massive scale. Since independence, the Indian government has focussed on four different aspects, viz. production, procurement, storage and distribution of food grains has taken several measures to enhance food security in the country. India, despite tremendous increases in food production in the post-independence era has failed to ensure adequate access to food for its people. The prevalence of hunger and malnutrition in India is one of the highest in the world and much higher than even the very poor countries of Asia and Africa. In 2006, the FAO stated that no country in the world comes close to India in terms of the absolute number of people living with chronic hunger.

In the late 1960s, the Green Revolution (especially in two major crops, wheat and rice) significantly contributed to India's self-sufficiency and its emergence as a global food grain producer. This revolution brought a new dimension in food grain management and has certainly contributed to better food security status for the growing population of the nation. Currently, India ranks second worldwide in farming output. India is the leading producer of milk, coconuts, cashew nuts, tea, turmeric, black pepper and ginger in the world. It is the second-largest producer of rice, wheat, sugar, groundnuts and inland fisheries in the world. It is the third-largest tobacco producer in the world. India accounts for 10% of the world's fruit production, while India ranks first in banana production. Despite a tremendous increase in food production in the post-independence era, India's failure to ensure adequate access to food has been a shocking truth for millions of Indian people. In a country where agriculture provides the livelihood for 90 million farmers, contributes to national income and sustains international trade, the country is also struggling with problems of hunger and food insecurity due to problems with food management and its proper distribution. Thus, ensuring food security continues to be a challenging issue that is of vital importance for the Indian government.

As per the Global Hunger Index of 2013, India was positioned 63<sup>rd</sup> out of 120 countries and this information is very worrying because India is the leading food producer in the world. Even now, India is not meeting the basic food requirements of its citizens. Many people in India strive hard for even square meals. Rural people do not face this type of problem, but people in major cities are also facing the same problem. A lack of food supply and nutritional deficiency not only creates a bad mark for the country's image at the international level but can also hurt the country's developing economic policies and its structure. Mismanagement of food products and the food supply is also putting the country under the control of a dreadful disease. India's biggest challenge remains to ensure food and nutritional security to its masses.



India joined 188 other nations in 2000 to endorse the Millennium Declaration, committing to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015 (Millennium Development Target: 1c). The Millennium Development Goals provide us with a starting point to assess the level of food security and prioritize our efforts to achieve it. Although the hunger-reduction target was deemed globally achievable, India's performance has remained unacceptably poor and appears to be in serious doubt. For this goal to be successful, India needs to reassess its policies to tackle the food and nutrition insecurity plaguing its population.

### **5. Need for Food Security in India**

The need for ensuring food security has been felt notably in recent years due to enormous pressure from the ever-increasing population in India. India after six and a half decades of independence has not only seen development and progress but is also becoming one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. This achievement takes a shattering twist when one looks at the hunger problem rising within it. Out of the estimated 1.27 billion population, 77% are considered poor and vulnerable and millions of people fail to get two square meals a day. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) categorized the status of hunger into five categories: low, moderate, serious, alarming and extremely alarming. India falls into the category of alarming. The most important aspect contributing to this development is the non-availability of basic food requirements. It has been noted that food consumption, in terms of nutrition and quantity is far behind. According to a study carried out by the National Institute of Nutrition, the minimum per capita food grain required for an adult is 182.5 kg/year. In India, the availability is only 173.6 kg/year and as far as the protein requirement is concerned, the daily consumption should be 50 mg. However, the situation has remained stagnant, with a per capita daily intake of only 10 mg.

According to the 2013 Global Hunger Index with a population of 1.24 billion, over 17% of India's population is undernourished. Malnutrition and poverty are the main causes of the adoption of food security in India. Nearly 50,000 children die every year due to inadequate food consumption. Furthermore, a 2011 HUNGaMA report published by the Nandi Foundation estimated that 42% of Indian children less than 5 years of age were underweight and 59% were stunted, which accounts for India having the highest number of undernourished children worldwide. This is also a leading cause for India's having the highest rate of child (under-five) deaths in the world. In addition to this, a study led by the Food and Agricultural Organisation found that 225 million people i.e. 23% of our population are malnourished while 260 million falls under the group exceeding the poverty line (APL). The rise in the number of APL families is believed to be reducing the number of malnourished populations, but it happens the other way around. Despite buoyant economic growth in recent years, around one-third of India's population still lives below the poverty line. All these estimates point to the continuation of food insecurity at the expense of either the non-existence of economic access to food or a lack of presence of food for a healthy lifestyle.

### **6. Different Schemes of the Government of India for Food Security**

India is one of the few countries in the world, which has tried a broad spectrum of programs to improve food security in the country. It has already made substantial progress in terms of overcoming transient food insecurity by giving priority to self-sufficiency in food grains and through procurement, public distribution of food grains, employment programs etc. There is



no denying the fact that since independence the Indian Government has made all-around efforts to ensure appropriate food security for all citizens at affordable prices to combat this perennial problem through various schemes such as:

**(a). Public Distribution System (PDS)**

The food security system in India was started by the Indian Government under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to supply food and non-food items to India's poor at subsidized rates to protect them from the impact of increasing prices of these goods and maintain the minimum nutritional status of our population. This scheme was first introduced in February 1944, during the Second World War; it was launched in its current form in June 1947. Most important commodities distributed contain staple food grains, including wheat, rice, sugar and essential fuels like kerosene through a network of fair price shops (also known as ration shops) set up in several states across the country. Food Corporation of India (FCI), a government-owned corporation, procures and maintains the public distribution system (PDS). It is the largest public food distribution program in the world, mainly through a network of fair price shops in both rural and urban areas of the country. It functions under the joint responsibility of the central and state governments. The central government through the FCI has discharged its responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and wholesale distribution of food grains to the state governments. The operational responsibility for identifying families below the poverty line (BPL), issuing ration cards rests with the state governments. Under the PDS, wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene are allocated to the states/UTs for distribution. Some states/UTs also distribute other items of mass consumption via their PDS outlets such as clothing, pulses, salt etc. The food subsidy to the central government at Rs.17, 612 crore accounted for 0.89 percent of GDP in 2001-02. In the wake of economic reforms, the PDS was supposed to be the core safety net to protect the poor from possible short-run price-induced adverse effects of economic reforms.

**(b). Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS)**

It was launched in June 1992 in 1775 blocks all over the country with a vision to make the PDS stronger and more efficient as well as to improve its reach in the far-flung, hilly, remote and inaccessible areas, where a substantial section of the poor live, including agriculturally unfavorable regions like drought-prone areas. The RPDS regulated areas move towards confirming the efficient reach of the PDS commodities and their delivery by state governments at the doorstep of FPSs in the recognized areas, additional ration cards to the left of families, infrastructure requirements like extra Fair Price Shops, storage capacity etc. and other commodities like tea, salt, pulses, soap etc. for distribution through PDS outlets.

There are several programs in these areas; for example, the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Drought Prone Areas Program (DPAP), Desert Development Program (DDP) and certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA) were developed in consultation with state governments for special focus, concerning improvements to the PDS infrastructure. Under this system, food grains-rice and wheat were allocated to state/union territories at a price lower by Rs. 50 per quintal than the issue prices for a general public distribution system. The scale of the issue was up to 20 kg per card.



**(c). Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**

The shortcomings of PDS led the government to re-launch PDS as the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June 1997 with a focus on the poorest sections of society. Targeted Public Distribution System is run under the joint responsibility of the central and the state/union territory (UT) governments. The central government has taken accountability for the purchasing, storage, transportation, bulk distribution of food grains etc. The responsibility for effectively distributing the goods to consumers via a network of FPSs lies with the state/UT governments. The responsibilities of the operation, including supply within the state/UTs, identification of families below the poverty line, distribution of ration cards, supervision and monitoring of FPSs, rest with the state/UT governments.

As a result, the TPDS implemented by the Government of India maintains the widespread character of the PDS but adds a special focus on the people below the poverty line (known as BPL). Special cards were distributed to BPL families who were provided with subsidized grains.

**(d). Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**

It was launched in 1975 as a centrally sponsored scheme through the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) in the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, administered by the state government. The central government is responsible for program planning and operating costs while state governments are responsible for program implementation and providing supplementary nutrition. ICDS participates in additional nutrition programs through primary health care and informal education programs. It is one of the largest child intervention and unique programs for early childhood care and development in the world with a holistic package of six basic services for children up to six years of age and for pregnant and nursing mothers.

It is an important symbol of the country's commitment to its children and nursing mothers, as a response to the challenge of making available pre-school formal education on one hand and destroying the vicious cycle of malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity and mortality on the other. There are several plans to improve the quality of services, the goal being universalization of quality. The Government of India increased the budgetary allocations for ICDS, so that more projects could be started in hitherto unreached areas.

**(e). Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

It was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) with effect from August 1995 for the benefit of students in primary schools. The first programs were established in 2,408 specific blocks of the country, but the government finally expanded its reach all over the country in the year 1997 to cover each primary-school-aged child in government plus public schools. It includes the provision of free lunches for school children on all working days. It has the dual objectives of improving the nutritional status of primary school children and increasing enrolment, regular attendance and retention in schools.

The Department of Food & Public Distribution makes the delivery of the annually requisite amount of food grains under the scheme to the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The central government free of cost to the state governments supplies the food grains, while the transport and cooking costs are borne by the





state governments. Under this program, three alternatives are available to the states, viz. a) making available a hot, cooked meal containing 100 grams of rice/wheat per day per child for 200 school days, or (b) distributing ready-to-eat meals, or (c) distributing 3 kg of rice or wheat for 10 months per child.

**(f). Antyodaya Anna Yojana**

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December 2000, this scheme reflects the commitment of the Government of India to ensure food security, to create a hunger-free India and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System to help the poorest of the poor in rural and urban areas. Various reports and estimates reported around 5% of the country's population were unable to get two square meals a day throughout the year. From its inception, the scheme expanded thrice. The first expansion took place in June 2003, the second in August 2004 and the third in May 2005. With every extension, 50 lakh families were added and therefore at present, that covers about 2.5 crore families. Identification of 2.5 crore families out of the number of BPL families is the responsibility of the state government and they will be provided food grains at the rate of 35 kg per family per month. The food grains have to be issued by the Government of India @ 2/- kg for wheat and 3/- kg for rice. The Indian Government suggests that given the abject poverty of this group of beneficiaries, the state government should ensure that the final retail price is retained at 2/- kg for wheat and 3/- kg for rice.

**(g). Annapurna Scheme**

The government in April 2000 launched the Annapurna Scheme as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. It aims to make food security available to meet the needs of those senior citizens who are still entitled to remain uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). 10 kg of food grains per month is to be provided 'free of cost' to the beneficiary under this scheme. The age of the claimant (male or female) should be 65 years or above. The budget allocation during the first year (2000-01) of its operations was Rs. 100 crore.

**(h). Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, currently known as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA from October 2, 2009) was passed in the year 2005. The basic objective of the Act is to ensure livelihood and food security by providing unskilled work to people through the creation of sustainable assets. The Ministry of Rural Development wants to implement the scheme most transparently and effectively possible. Under the provisions of the Act, the state must ensure an enhancement of livelihood security to households in rural areas by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment to each household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled work. In-built with various transparency and accountability measures and provisions for social audits this Act for the first time addresses the role of the state as a provider of livelihood. The program was implemented in 100 of the most backward districts in the country in the first phase during the financial year 2006-07. The second phase started from the beginning of the next financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2007) whereby another 100 backward districts were added to the list of the districts where MGNREGA was under implementation. From the beginning of the



next financial year, i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, the whole country, including the union territories were brought under the umbrella of the MGNREGA. Thus, in the financial year 2008-09, MGNREGA was implemented throughout the country.

#### **(i). National Food Security Bill**

Despite the ample production of food grains, the existence of food insecurity at the micro-level in the country has remained a big challenge for India. TPDS suffered from a large exclusion error and failed to meet its specific objectives. India has been pursuing various social welfare measures, but the results of these measures in reducing poverty and hunger are far from satisfactory. Hence, a rights-based legislative measure namely the National Food Security Bill was passed in the parliament in September 2013 to ensure legal entitlement to minimum food for every citizen. This bill/law aims at providing subsidized food grains to approximately two-thirds of India's population. It guarantees the "right to food". Accordingly, the beneficiaries are entitled to purchase 5 kgs of rice, wheat, millet (coarse grains) per month per person at Rs. 3/- kg, Rs. 2/- kg, and Rs. 1/- kg respectively. Near about 75% of rural and 50% of the urban population is entitled to such benefits over the next three years. Under the bill, pregnant women, lactating mothers and certain categories of children are eligible for daily free meals. The Bill expands coverage of the Targeted Public Distribution System. All the below poverty line (BPL) families, people living in slums and resettlement colonies, rural landless laborers, artisans and all poor people living in rural plus urban areas are covered under this act.

#### **Conclusion**

At present, India finds itself amid a paradoxical situation: endemic mass-hunger coexisting with mounting food grain stocks. The paradox remains in the inherent flaws in our current policy and implementation bottlenecks. At the national level, we have solved the food security problem shown in growing buffer stocks. Still, there are millions of food insecure and undernourished people in India. The limitation is not the food supply, but the food distribution itself. Cautious about the importance of food security requires moving beyond food availability and recognizing the low earnings of the poor.

Effective processes are needed to achieve the aims of hunger-free, food and nutritional security in India. This can be achieved by paying closer attention to issues such as faulty food distribution systems, unmonitored nutrition programs, lack of intersecting coordination, implementing measures to improve agricultural productivity and food storage and ensuring food availability and accessibility to below poverty line (BPL) candidates. Government policies need to be redesigned to meet the present demand and fill the gap in the existing system to ensure food security for every citizen of the country.

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