

FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

SUB-ECONOMICS

SUBJECT : (ECONOMICS)

CHAPTER NUMBER: 4

CHAPTER NAME : FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

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FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA



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FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

What is food security?

FOOD SECURITY MEANS

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Affordability of food to all people at all times



FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

What is food security?

Food security is ensured in a country only if

- Enough food available for all the persons
- All persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality and
- There is no barrier on access to food.

FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Need for Food Security

- For the poor section of society
- Natural disaster, calamity like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami
- Widespread crop failure due to draught



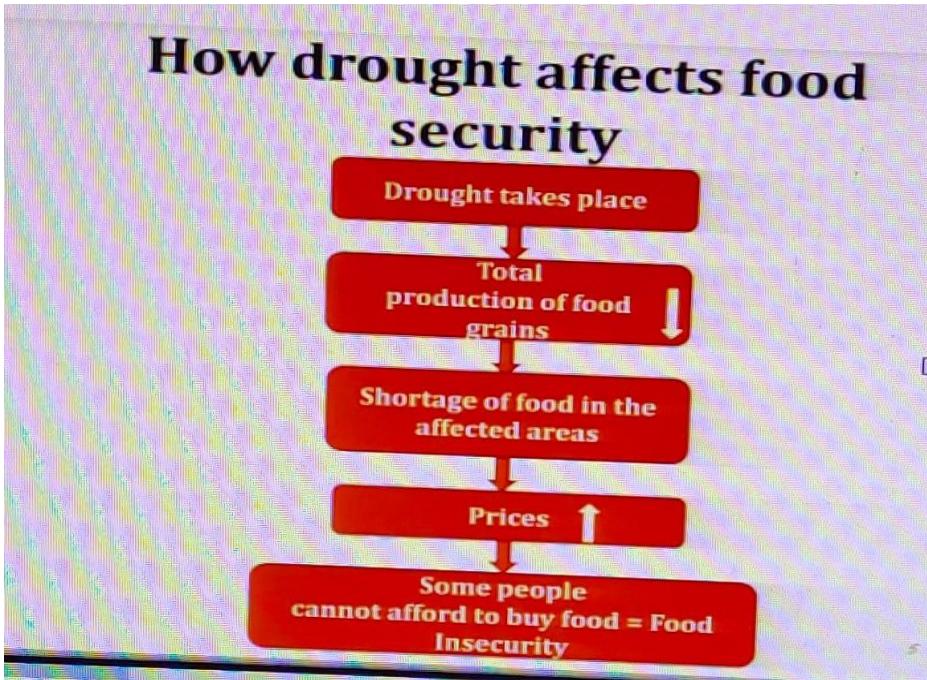
Table 4.1: Production of Rice in the Province of Bengal

Year	Production (Lakh tonnes)	Imports (Lakh tonnes)	Exports (Lakh tonnes)	Total Availability (Lakh tonnes)
1938	85	-	-	85
1939	79	04	-	83
1940	82	03	-	85
1941	68	02	-	70
1942	93	-	01	92
1943	76	03	-	79

Source: Sen, A.K, 1981 Page 61

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Need for Food Security



Starvation



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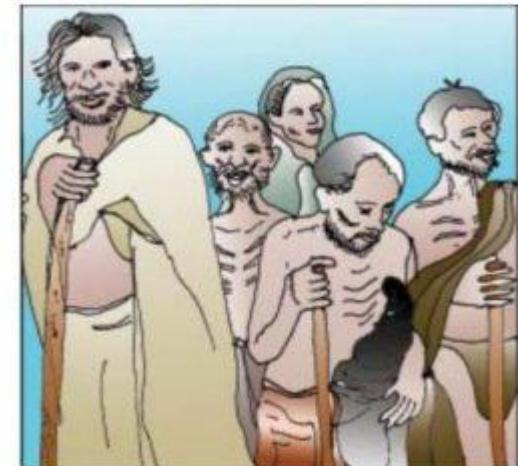
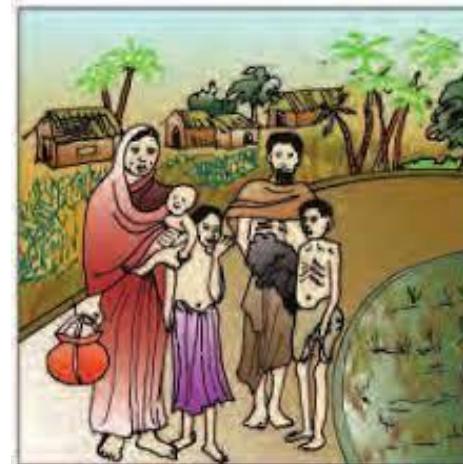
Need for Food Security

Famine

A massive starvation might take a turn of famine

A famine is characterized by

- Widespread deaths and
- epidemics



Picture 4.1 Starvation victims arriving at a relief centre, 1945.

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Famine and Starvation deaths in india

- Bengal famine 1943
 - killed 1.5 millions to 3 millions
- The Bihar Famine 1966-67
 - 2353 deaths due to starvation

Starvation deaths have also reported in

1. Kalahndi and Kashipur in Orissa
2. Baran dist of rajasthan
3. Palamau dist of jharkhand

And many other remote areas in recent years.

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- Who are food insecure?

Food insecure groups are

1. Landless people
2. Traditional artisans
3. Traditional service providers
4. Petty self-employed workers
5. Homeless, beggars etc
6. Families employed in ill paid occupation
7. Casual labourers
8. SCs, STs and some sections of OBCs.
9. migrants
10. women and children

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Story of Ramu

Ramu works as a casual labourer in agriculture in Raipur village. His eldest son Somu who is 10 years old also works as a *pali* to look after the cattle of the Sarpanch of the village Satpal Singh. Somu is employed for the whole year by the Sarpanch and is paid a sum of Rs 1,000 for this work. Ramu has three more sons and two daughters but they are too young to work on the field. His wife Sunhari is also (part time) working as house cleaner for the livestock, removing and managing cow dung. She gets $\frac{1}{2}$ litre milk and some cooked food along with vegetables for her daily work. Besides she also works in the field along with her husband in the busy season and supplements his earnings. Agriculture being a seasonal activity employs Ramu only during times of sowing, transplanting and harvesting. He remains unemployed for about 4 months during the period of plant consolidation and maturing in a year. He looks for work in other activities. Some times he gets employment in brick laying or in construction activities in the village. By all his efforts, Ramu is able to earn enough either in cash or kind for him to buy essentials for two square meals for his family. However, during the days when he is unable to get some work, he and his family really face difficulties and sometimes his small kids have to sleep without food. Milk and vegetables are not a regular part of meals in the family. Ramu is food insecure during 4 months when he remains unemployed because of the seasonal nature of agriculture work.

Two typical cases

Story of Ahmad

Ahmad is a rickshaw puller in Bangalore. He has shifted from Jhumri Taliah along with his 3 brothers, 2 sisters and old parents. He stays in a *jhuggi*. The survival of all members of his family depends on his daily earnings from pulling rickshaw. However, he does not have a secured employment and his earnings fluctuate every day. During some days he gets enough earning for him to save some amount after buying all his day-to-day necessities. On other days, he barely earns enough to buy his daily necessities. However, fortunately, Ahmad has a yellow card, which is PDS Card for below poverty line people. With this card, Ahmad gets sufficient quantity of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene oil for his daily use. He gets these essentials at half of the market price. He purchases his monthly stock during a particular day when the ration shop is opened for below poverty people. In this way, Ahmad is able to eke out his survival with less than sufficient earnings for his big family where he is the only earning member.

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- Food security in India

States facing food insecure In india

1. Uttar pradesh
2. Bihar
3. Jharkhand
4. Odisha
5. West bengal
6. Chhatishgarh
7. Maharashtra
8. Parts of Madhya Pradesh

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types of hunger

Hunger, another aspect of Food Insecurity

Chronic Hunger

Inadequate diet for a long time

Poor people suffer from chronic hunger

Seasonal Hunger

Due agricultural activities- rural regions & urban areas- casual labour

When a person is unable to get work for the entire year

India's attempts at attaining Food Security

Green Revolution: Foodgrain Production

Highest Growth

Punjab and Haryana

Low Growth

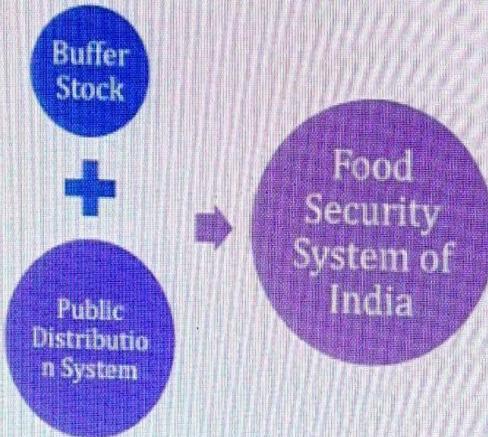
Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

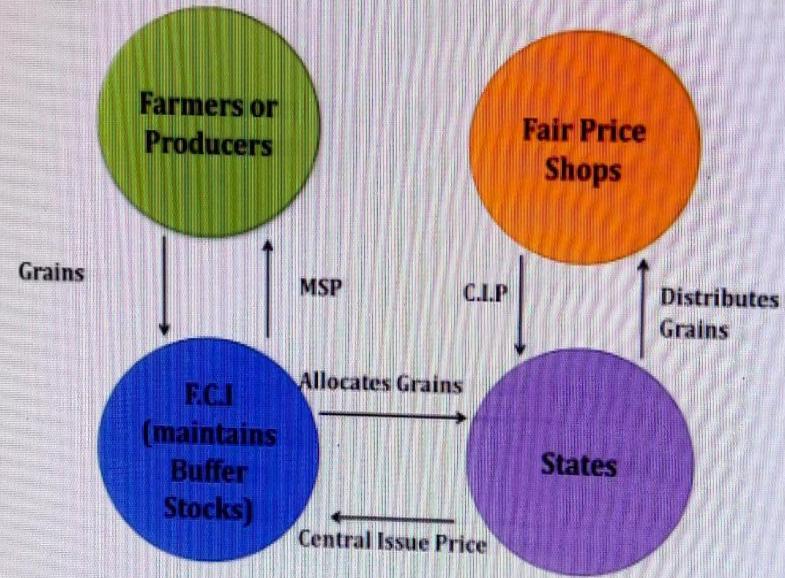
Bihar, Orissa and the N-E states

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India's Food Security System



How the Public Distribution System works:



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Year	Type of hunger		
	Seasonal	Chronic	Total
<i>Rural</i>			
1983	16.2	2.3	18.5
1993-94	4.2	0.9	5.1
1999-2000	2.6	0.7	3.3
<i>Urban</i>			
1983	5.6	0.8	6.4
1993-94	1.1	0.5	1.6
1999-2000	0.6	0.3	0.9

Source: Sagar (2004)

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Government Schemes

- PDS- Public Distribution System
- RPS- Revamped Public Distribution System
- TDPS- Targeted Public Distribution System

Special Schemes

- AAY- Antyodaya Anna Yojana
- APS- Annapurna Scheme

*****Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)**

AAY was launched in December 2000. Under this scheme one crore of the poorest among the BPL families covered under the targeted public distribution system were identified. Poor families were identified by the respective state rural development departments through a Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey. Twenty-five kilograms of foodgrains were made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidised rate of ₹ 2 per kg for wheat and ₹ 3 per kg for rice. This quantity has been enhanced from 25 to 35 kg with effect from April 2002. The scheme has been further expanded twice by additional 50 lakh BPL families in June 2003 and in August 2004. With this increase, 2 crore families have been covered under the AAY.

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Table 4.3: Some Important Features of PDS

Name of scheme	Year of introduction	Coverage target group	Latest volume	Issue price (Rs per kg.)
PDS	Up to 1992	Universal	–	W-2.34 R-2.89
RPDS	1992	Backward blocks	20 kg of foodgrains	W-2.80 R-3.77
TPDS	1997	Poor and non-poor BPL APL	35 kg of foodgrains	BPL-W-4.15 R-5.65 APL-W-6.10 R-8.30
AAY	2002	Poorest of the poor	35 kg of foodgrains	W-2.00 R-3.00
APS	2000	Indigent senior citizens	10 kg of foodgrains	Free
National Food Security Act (NFSA)	2013	Priority households	5 Kg per person per month	W-2.00 R-3.00 Coarse-1.00 grains

Note: W - Wheat; R - Rice; BPL - Below poverty line; APL - Above poverty line

Source: Economic Survey

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Benefits from the PDS

- Stabilizes prices of food grains
- Makes food available at affordable price
- By supplying food from surplus regions of the country to deficit region, it helps in combating hunger and famine.
- Prices set with poor households in mind
- Provides income security to the farmers in certain region.

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Problems faced by PDS

1. Problem of hunger still exists in india
2. Food stocks in granaries often above specified levels
3. Deterioration in quality of stored food grains if kept for longer time
4. High storage cost
5. Increase in MSP led to shift from coarse grain to rice and wheat production among the farmers
6. Cultivation of rice has also led to environmental degradation and fall in the water level.
7. Average consumption of PDS grain at the all india level is very low.
8. Malpractices on part of PDS dealer.
9. Irregular opening of the shops.
10. Selling poor quality of grains.

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