

Chapter-4

Food Security in India

Notes:->

What is food security?

Food security means availability of food to all, and available food accessible to all and accessible food is available to all people at all times.

Availability - refers to availability of food within countries.

Affordability - refers to people are able to buy it.

Accessibility - food is within people's reach.

Why food security?

- Food security is helpful at the time of natural disaster when there is lack of food.

→ Natural disaster → production of food grains decrease
↓
hunger

Famine of Bengal in 1943 was the most devastating famine.
Death - 30 lakh

Who are food insecure?

In rural areas,

landless and small farmers, traditional artisans like blacksmith, providers of services like washermen, petty self-employed workers and destitute.

In urban areas,

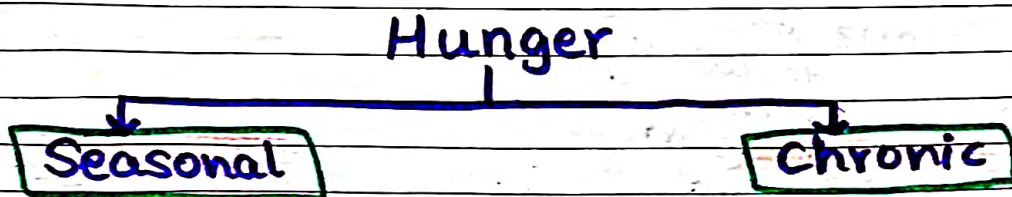
persons who are employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labourers are food insecure, these labour come under seasonal workers and have low wages.

- Children under the age of five years, pregnant and nursing mothers
- People who is not able to fulfil their daily requirements or people come below poverty line
- People belonging to some scheduled castes and OBC are also food insecure.

• States those have large number of food insecure are-

Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

- Hungers are also come under the category of food insecure.



Seasonal hunger

- When a person is unable to get work for the entire year, then they come under the category of seasonal hunger.
- In rural areas, because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities.
- In urban areas, because of the casual labour. There is less work for casual construction labour during the rainy season.
- This type of hunger exists when a person is unable to get ~~work~~ for the entire year. ←

Chronic hunger

- Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity/quality.
- A person who has low level of income comes under the category of chronic hunger.

Food Security in India

1965-1995 :- Production of wheat increased by more than four times in state of Punjab & Haryana.

→ Because of availability of sufficient foodgrains the government of India introduced food security system like, Public Distribution System (PDS), Buffer stock etc.

What is Buffer stock?

- The farmers sell their foodgrains at minimum supply price i.e. pre-announced price of the government.
- The foodgrains stored in the warehouse of "Food Corporation of India". This stock is called Buffer stock.
- The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops. This price is called Minimum Support Price.

What is the Public Distribution System (PDS)?

- The food procured by the FCI is distributed through govt. regulated ration shops among poorer section of the society. This is called PDS.
- There are 5.5 lakh ration shops all over country.
- Ration shops also known as Fair Price Shops.
- In Ration shops items are sold to people at a price lower than market price.

Three important food intervention programmes were introduced:-

- PDS - Public Distribution System
- ICDS - Integrated Child Development Services (1975)
- FFW - Food-for-work → Introduced in 1977-78.

Current status of PDS:-

- PDS:- no discrimination between poor & non-poor.
- RPDS (1992):- It was introduced in 17,00 blocks in the

Country

- RPDS :- Rationed Public Distribution System.
- Target - to benefit of PDS to remote and backward areas.

- TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System) June 1997 :-
- It was introduced to adopt the principle of targeting the 'poor in all areas'.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) :-

- ↳ Launched in December (2000).
- ↳ Under this scheme one crore the poorest among BPL families covered under the targeted PDS.
- ↳ 2 crore families have been covered under AAY.

ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN FOOD SECURITY - Y:-

- ↳ Amul is another success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat.
- ↳ In Maharashtra, Academy of Development Science (ADS) has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions.