



Economic and Environmental Impact of National Food Security Act of India (With special reference to Uttar Pradesh)

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Info

Volume 5, Issue 3

Page Number : 68-74

Publication Issue :

May-June-2022

Article History

Accepted : 01 May 2022

Published : 10 May 2022

ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to examine performance, challenges and policies on food security in India with special reference to Uttar Pradesh state. This paper is focused on the several food security issues prevalent in the Indian scenario in terms of availability, access, and nutrition with special reference to Uttar Pradesh state production of food grains. The study is based on secondary data obtained from relevant sources to analyze the gravity of the food security issues in India. It also covers the several development programmes taken up by the Indian government to counter various food security issues including several schemes and yojana in India. Food security globally is to provide that all people, at all times, should get access to the basic food for their active and healthy life and is characterized by availability, access, utilization and security of food.

Keywords : Economic, Environmental, Challenges, Technology, Food Security.

INTRODUCTION

In the world India has the largest number of hungry people. Despite various programs and schemes the number of undernourished people today is same as decades ago. Hunger remains the number one cause of death all across the world. Approximately people die every year of chronic hunger and hunger related diseases, out of which a quarter deaths take place in India. About less than 10% death is claimed by earthquakes, floods, droughts and wars. Almost there are 900 million chronically hungry people in the world of which one-third of them counts in India.

About 50% of Indian children are underweight, 30% of newborn have low weight at birth. In India the problem of malnutrition is complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature for which causes includes inadequate consumption of food, frequent infections, lack of availability of safe drinking water as well as inadequacy of proper sanitation facility. The another causes are illiteracy specially in women, poor access to health services, low purchasing power, socio-cultural factors such as early marriages of girls, lack of care during pregnancy and infancy, nutritional needs of infants and young children.

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In India though the issue of 'food security' at the household is continuously being addressed by the Government since long, in 1965 the Public Distribution System and the Targeted Public Distribution System was introduced, the enactment of the National Food Security Act, on July 5, 2013 marks a precedent shift in the approach to food security from welfare to rights based approach. The Act legally designates upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System. As a step towards women empowerment, the eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is assigned to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards under the National Food and Security Act.

One of the analytical principles of the Act is its life-cycle approach wherein special provisions have been made for pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months-14 years, by entitling them to receive nutritious meal free of cost through a widespread network of Integrated Child Development Services centres, called Anganwadi Centres. Under this scheme and also through schools under Mid-Day Meal scheme higher nutritional norms have been prescribed for malnourished children upto 6 years of age. The Government of India announced a sudden ban on export of wheat on May 13, 2022, a month after Prime Minister claimed that "Indian farmers are feeding the world" by way of increased exports of wheat.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Tanksale, A., & Jha, J. K. (2015), the study focuses on National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA) and found it a unique step taken by Indian government to fight against hunger and protect right of the people for food. With its attribute like the life cycle approach, women empowerment, consideration of vulnerable sections in society and proposed reforms in public distribution system, National Food and Security Act is a promising effort for food security in India. The purpose of this paper is to put forth various aspects of NFSA and to identify issues and challenges for its implementation in the light of Indian Public Distribution System. This study is a unique attempt of mapping and auditing of the entire complex value chain of the Indian Public Distribution System for performance of NFSA. National Food and Security Act is going to redefine the food security aspects, this pioneering work will be useful for researchers and policy makers working in this field in India and other developing countries.

Narayanan, S. (2015), the study states the crucial of food security in India is now widely acknowledged, but deep disagreements carry on the best way forward. It was found that the year 2014 saw the passing of the National Food and Security Act designed to be an overall set of interventions support food security over the life cycle of an individual. Although detractors perceive this to be an expensive and largely wasteful exercise that hinges on a faulty mechanism for procurement and distribution via fair price shops under the Public Distribution System, supporters suggest that this is the best way to ensure food access in many contexts in rural India. The immediate challenges for India lie in revisiting operational aspects of food procurement and distribution for a more cost-effective and nimble system.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To examine the performance of production of food grains in Uttar Pradesh since 2001-02 to 2020-21.

To study the policies and various schemes in food security in terms of availability, access and nutrition in India.

TRENDS IN FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION IN UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh is a biggest state of India having a tropical monsoon climate with nine different climatic zones. It is revealed that per capita availability of cereals are 36% higher as compared to the sufficient demand, vegetables are 34% higher as compared to the sufficient demand. It is predicted that out of the total area of food grains crop, 19.8 million hectare, roughly 6.6 million hectare would be taken out of farming that is production loss of 14 million tons of food grains. Therefore, it is essential to develop food security strategies to avoid hunger and malnutrition in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The various schemes under National Food Security Act 2013, for Uttar Pradesh state is as follows:

PM Poshan Scheme (Erstwhile Mid Day Meal Scheme), is the scheme implemented by the Ministry of Education, which covers the students of primary and upper primary classes in the Government schools/schools aided by Government and schools run by local bodies. Under this scheme food grains are supplied free of cost that is 100gms for primary stage and 150gms for upper primary stage were cooked for per child per day or 3 kg of food grains were distributed in raw form per month among each child. However food grains for the scheme were allotted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution at National Food Security Act rates (from 1st April 2016).

Wheat Based Nutritional Programme (WBNP), the scheme is implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development. Food grains for the scheme were allotted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution at National Food Security Act rates (from 1st April 2016). The food grains allotted under this scheme were adapted by State/UTs under Integrated Child and Development Services scheme for providing nutritious and energy food to children in the age group of 6months – 6years as well as expectant and lactating women.

Allocation of Foodgrains to Welfare Institutions and Hostels Scheme, the scheme was introduced on 1st September 2017 by merging two schemes into one namely Welfare Institutions Scheme and SC/ST/OBC Hostel Scheme. The Department of Food and Distribution administers the Welfare Institutions and Hostels scheme. Institutions such as beggar homes, nariniketans, and other welfare institutions were allocated food grains to states/ UTs at BPL rates to meet the requirement of Government owned/ aided welfare institutions. Foodgrains such as wheat and rice were issued as per the requirement of the resident but not exceeding maximum of 15 kg of Foodgrains per resident per month.

Annapurna scheme was launched in 2000-01 by the Ministry of Rural Development. The scheme provides 10kgs of food grains (rice and wheat) to old aged persons who remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme by the Department of Food and Public Distribution. The central issue price of such food grains is at BPL rates.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls which was earlier known as SABLA was launched on 19th November 2010 by merging two schemes namely Nutrition Programme and Adolescent Girls and other scheme is Kishori Shakti Yojana. Under this scheme adolescent girls of age group 11-14 years were registered under this and allotted nutrition containing 600 grams calorie, 18-20 grams of proteins and micronutrients of 300 days in a year.

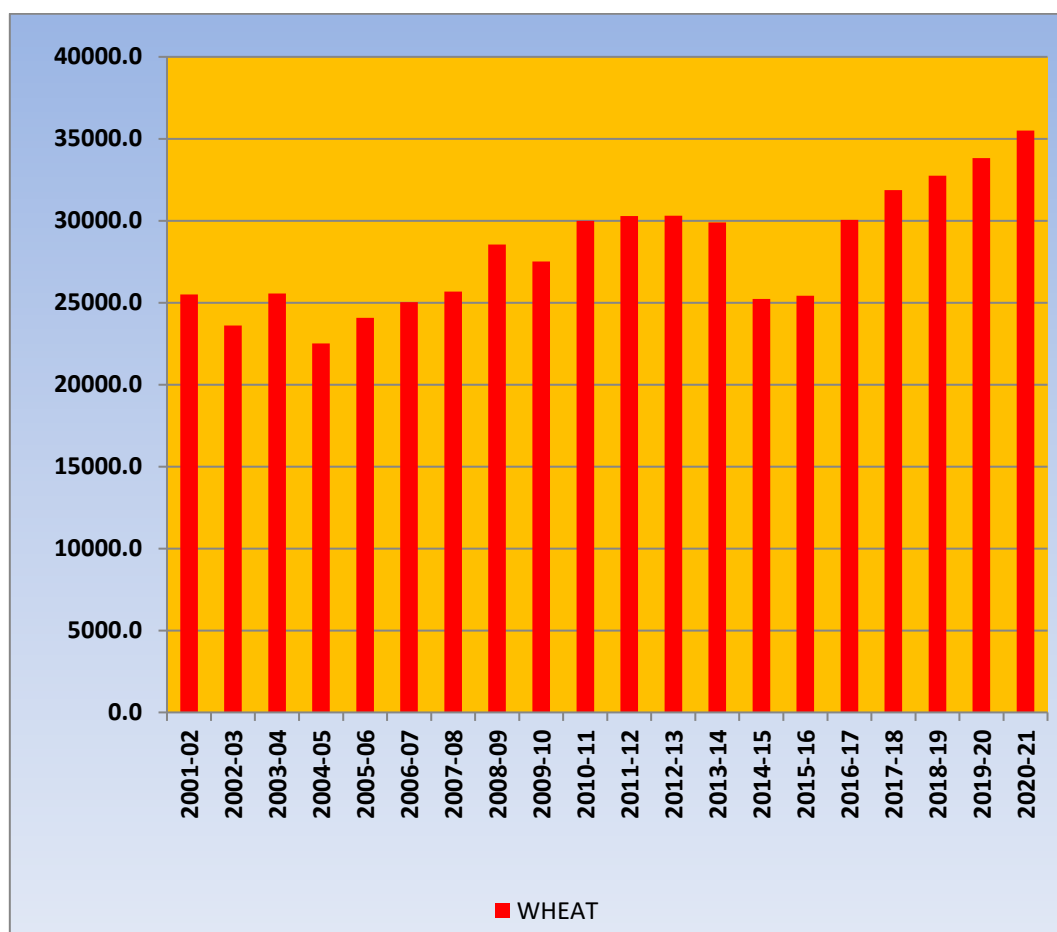
Table 1
Production of food grains in Uttar Pradesh
(Value in thousand tonnes)

YEAR	RICE	WHEAT	CEREALS	PULSES
2001-02	12856.0	25498.0	3405.5	2377.0
2002-03	9594.9	23612.4	2732.3	2202.0
2003-04	13018.8	25566.7	3260.7	2400.3
2004-05	9555.6	22513.9	3391.8	2375.0
2005-06	11133.7	24073.8	2971.2	2231.5
2006-07	11124.0	25031.0	3084.4	1975.1
2007-08	11780.0	25679.0	3058.9	1576.9
2008-09	13097.0	28554.0	3080.2	1998.1
2009-10	10807.1	27518.0	2968.8	1901.4
2010-11	11992.0	30001.0	3217.6	2037.0
2011-12	14022.0	30292.6	3566.0	2403.0
2012-13	14416.0	30301.9	3695.5	2332.0
2013-14	14636.0	29890.9	3803.2	1697.4
2014-15	12221.4	25219.5	3583.7	1447.2
2015-16	12501.0	25425.2	3460.0	1164.6
2016-17	13754.0	30056.0	3909.0	2184.1
2017-18	13274.0	31879.1	4016.8	2200.0
2018-19	15545.3	32741.3	3948.8	2408.0
2019-20	15517.8	33815.5	4388.5	2447.3
2020-21	15663.5	35503.0	4587.1	2564.7

Source : Author compiled as secondary source from Handbook of Statistics on Indian economy.

From Table 1 it is revealed that in Productions of Foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh State (Value in thousand tonnes) Wheat ranks in first position, whereas Rice holds the second position and Cereals and Pulses at third and fourth position respectively. Among all the foodgrains Wheat production is found to be highest as depicts from Table 1 and Graph 1 yearwise.

Graph 1: Showing production of Wheat in Uttar Pradesh since 2001-02 to 2020-21
(Value in thousand tonnes)



CHALLENGES IN FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Food availability is not that reliable in India. The challenge to produce more and more for the growing population is becoming increasingly hard for a country of its size and economic growth. Since the land in India is a shrinking resource for agriculture, the production rate for agriculture needs to be higher per unit of land and irrigation water. Over 60% of the Indian population depend on agriculture for their daily meals. India produces around 100 million tonnes of rice every year. Accessing food in India can be considered to be more difficult than in Australia. While there might be enough food for the whole population of India, many families and especially children in India don't have access to food because of financial problems. Thus, this is the cause of millions of malnourished children around India. The cultural knowledge in India allows them to have a very nutritional and balanced diet. Nearly the whole of the Indian population has rice at least once a day which allows them to have carbohydrates in their system. Since India is most commonly known for producing and exporting rice to other countries, their lifestyle will be mainly dominated by rice.

Table 2. Government Schemes for Food Security in India

Scheme	Year introduced	Coverage target group	Latest volume	Issue price (Rs per Kg)
Public distribution system (PDS)	up to 1992	Universal	N/A	Wheat: 2.34 Rice: 2.89
Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS)	1992	Backward blocks	20 kg of food grains.	Wheat: 2.80 Rice: 3.77
Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)	1997	Poor and non-poor APL BPL	35 kg of food grains.	BPL – Wheat-4.15 Rice-5.65 APL – Wheat-6.10 Rice-8.30
Antyodaya Anna Yojana	2000	poorest of the poor	35 kg of food grains.	Wheat: 2.00 Rice: 3.00
Annapurna Scheme	2000	Indigent senior citizens	10 kg of food grains.	free
National Food Security Act, 2013	2013	Priority households	5 kg per person per month.	Wheat: 2.00 Rice: 3.00 coarse: 1.00 grains

VARIOUS INITIATIVES BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

In 1965, The Food Corporation of India was established for the purpose of procurement, storage and distribution of food grains which has been playing a major role in food security of India.

The National Food Security Act 2013, converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Government of India. Various schemes were included such as Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme and the Public Distribution System.

The National Food Security Act 2013 also recognizes maternity entitlements, pregnant women, lactating mothers and certain categories of children are eligible for daily free cereals.

In India the Karnataka has launched the 'Indira Canteen', which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner at a very low price.

Andhra Pradesh state has supported the Nalabothu Foundation which provides free meals to people in need by redistributing excess food from homes, restaurants and canteens.

'Amma Unavagam' (Mother's Canteen) or more commonly known as Amma canteen was launched in Tamil Nadu state.

The state of Uttar Pradesh in 2013 passed a food bill that food that is going to be wasted from parties will be preserved and distributed to poor and needy peoples.

Chhattisgarh government has enacted the law 'Chhattisgarh Food Security Act, 2012 which was passed on 21st December 2012 by the state Assembly unopposed to ensure "access to adequate quantity of food and other requirements of good nutrition to the people of the state at affordable prices.

CONCLUSION - The food security analysis reveals that the state of Uttar Pradesh have considerable shortage of pulses mainly due to erratic rainfall, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of improved varieties and poor management of plant diseases. The state government shall initiate the following action to improve the pulse production in the state: Improve the soil fertility, irrigation infrastructure and water management practices. Introduce the high yielding seed distribution system of pulse varieties. Provide the effective insecticides & pesticides to control the diseases. Increase the cultivated area of the pulses. Increase the subsidy to the farmers for pulse production. Introduce the crop insurance scheme. Introduce the suitable post harvest technique.

Although the state of Uttar Pradesh is self sufficient in fruit production, however for sustainable fruit production, it is necessary to improve the fruit storage, preservation and transportation and distribution facilities. The state of Uttar Pradesh is highest milk producing state but the per capita availability is still considerably low as compared with recommended balanced diet.

Despite COVID-19 Pandemic, following COVID appropriate behaviour, a record quantity of 433.44 LMT of wheat during RMS 2021-22 and a record quantity of 600.84 LMT of rice during KMS 2020-21 has been procured. Both wheat and rice procurement has reached at all time high level. As the COVID-19 containment procedures imposed unprecedented curbs on the economic activities throughout the country, it led to a scarcity of staple foods and price hikes due to reduced cultivation, disruption in supply chains, and shortage of labour, reduced employment, and reduced purchasing power of the people. Thereby, adversely impacting the food and nutrition security of the poor and needy people in the country.

To introduce high yielding breeds of cow, buffalo and

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