



CATALYST

Newsletter of Cyriac Elias Voluntary Association (CEVA), Kochi

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FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

Editor's Note.....

Hunger is on the rise. The facts about hunger are shocking when we pay attention: One in seven people in this world do not get enough food to stay healthy every day. An estimated 923 million people in the world go hungry every day. The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) estimates that 1.02 billion people are suffering from chronic hunger in the world, mostly in Africa and south Asia, meaning that almost one sixth of humanity is suffering from hunger.

Despite the good economic performance, with over 200 million people who are food insecure, India is home to the largest number of hungry people in the world. International Food Policy Research Institute sheds renewed light on the acute Indian hunger situation. The Global Hunger Index 2009 ranks India at the bottom with 65th position (out of 84 countries) with a GHI of 23.90, which the index characterizes as “alarming” food security situation.

The time has come to demonstrate that together we can act against the root causes of food insecurity and make a difference to the lives of the hungry people of the world. This newsletter highlights some of the contemporary perspectives on food insecurity in India and attempts to incite the readers to respond to the compounding crises. We together need to serve as a catalyst for an action to ensure “food security for all people, at all times, to have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life.”

Fr. Joy Vattoly CMI
Secretary, CEVA

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News from CEVA

Can high growth rate sustain despite starvation?

* Mr.Pramod Upadhyay and Ms. Vidhi

A Paradox, nothing bigger than this that about half of India's population is struggling to find food on their plate, coping with stern starvation and droughts with on the flipper side, Indian Government is aiming at 10 % GDP growth, with soaring buffer stock in the warehouses. Poverty and Food security is a global issue, which is being addressed in eight millennium development goals (MDGs) developed by United Nations, directs reduction of world poverty by 50 per cent by 2015. Many developing Nations led impetus on these issues keeping the target of MDGs into consideration. Whereas India has not exhibited similar policy concern on achieving these goals because of the consequent complacency from the success in reducing poverty and food insecurity as revealed by estimates of poverty declined from 51.3 per cent in 1977/78 to 36 per cent in 1993/94 and 26.1 per cent in 1999/2000. (Government, 2004). India made substantial progress in terms of overcoming national food insecurity by giving priority to self-sufficiency in food grain production resultant of modern agriculture system. However chronic food insecurity exists in various part of India despite mounting buffer stock. This particular article will address this paradox with special reference to Madhya Pradesh.

Development, an undefined entity constantly remains the most glaring issue in the political context despite its inefficiency to provide inclusive growth. Development in this country is confined to deliver economic benefits but it is something which should integrate the perspective of laggards in the race of economic development, the most inaccessible and vulnerable group starving to death. Scholars coined various terms like Sustainable Development, inclusive growth elimination of poverty and Integrated Rural development to address the problem of poverty

but while implementing all these mechanisms the common person is left behind as if they don't exist. The varying consumption pattern in Madhya Pradesh points towards a deep crisis of food security in the state. On an average, a person in rural Madhya Pradesh was consuming 11.48 kgs food or grain per month in 2005-06 at an expense of Rs. 86.46, but per person food consumption has declined 15.34% to the level of 9.718 kgs per month in 2007-08 with almost same expenditure i.e. Rs. 87.27. In addition to this MP [9.72] is the third lowest in per capita cereal consumption before Punjab [9.63] and Kerala [9.37] (NSSO, 2008). Evidently the impact of value depreciation on altering food consumption levels is too grave to be neglected.

India's rank on the (Global Hunger Index) GHI 2008 is 65; the ranks of the different states in relation to the GHI range from 34 for the state of Punjab (whose ISHI score which is between Nicaragua and Ghana) to 82 for Madhya Pradesh. ((IFPRI), 2009) On the composite index of food insecurity of rural India, states like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are found in the 'very high' level of food insecurity, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat. In MP the *Food Insecurity Atlas* commensurate that the problems of food security is omnipresent in both urban and rural areas. According to the unweighted insecurity map in the report, the urban population of Madhya Pradesh is the most food insecure in India. Madhya Pradesh is not highly urbanized yet fails dismally in almost half of the urban food security indicators. (Food security in urban india, 2003)

To add pinch of salt to the injury Government of MP has already distributed BPL cards to 64 lac families despite the central Government reported only 41.25 Lac families in BPL list. Due to this huge difference all the families get only maximum 20 KGs food grain

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under the PDS scheme, because state government is dividing the food allocated by the Central Government for 41.25 lac families in 64 lac families identified by household survey in the state.

The production cost of grains, with decreased subsidies and soaring costs of petroleum and electricity has gone much higher in last few years. Producers incapable of responding to this are now facing new challenges in terms loss of their retail market to multinationals companies consequently. Farmers are switching to much easier cash crops rather than cultivating the conventional crops. As a result M.P. is the single largest contributor of soybean, gram, linseed, and maize to the country's pool.

Only 27% of total agricultural land is irrigated under the circumstances, dry crops with fairly low level of productivity assume the centre stage in agricultural production, and thereby in the income of a large proportion of rural communities. Which again adds to the vulnerability as the production in rain-fed agriculture is expected to follow the rainfall fluctuation.

National Family Health Survey III highlighted the fact that during last eight years (1998-2006), the percent of malnourished children had increased by a serious five percent. Owing to dearth of nutritious food, health facilities and family food insecurity, the percent of malnutrition (underweight) increased from 54% to 60.3%. (GoI, 2006) It is just not merely an issue relating to non-availability of institutional health services, these conditions shows the insecurity and invisibility of poverty within the State framework. It also reflects that avoidance of fundamental issues of exclusion, neglect of community knowledge, threat to agriculture, unlimited exploitation of natural resources for revenue generation and colonial style of addressing development, has caused an imbalance in the shift of power where 80% of resources are held by 20 % of people.

It is now quite evident that whatever the government is doing in regard of Food security

is insufficient. Those actions can only instigate high growth rate and increased per capita income. But in the main field we have failed to protect our children from Hunger and Diseases despite having buffer stocks. All these facts and figures points that the causes of this miserable failure lies in execution and our malnourished Public Distribution System.

Planning Commission's latest estimation is that poverty in India is declining. In fact there is huge difference between the factual and actual conditions. In Madhya Pradesh, a population of 249.68 lac (38.3%) is exposed to starvation, as they are poor and marginalized. These deprived communities should be diverted towards mainstream by either providing livelihood generation opportunities and moreover management rights over Natural Resources and Common Pool Resources through revolutionary land reformations, Hitherto, Both these factors have been ignored by the government of Madhya Pradesh in policy formulation and till now the results are futile.

Situation demands an immediate need to curve a policy which reduces the structural imbalances in agriculture and enhance purchasing power of the people through sustainable means of livelihood. A policy which can distribute balance in uniform contribution from each factions and sections of society irrespective of their regional background can lead to integrated and inclusive development of the state.

A policy which can enhance the reach of our inefficient public distribution system (PDS) to the most deprived and inaccessible communities with uniform prices affordable to the poor and the allocation should be based on the number of consumption units in the household. This system will follow the rural marketing 3A's concept of Affordability, Acceptability and Accessibility to induce inclusive growth and integrated development of communities which are residing at bottom of pyramid. It will reorient India's economic policies to provide adequate support

for agriculture and its vast rural population. Also, appropriate attention should be paid to conservation of common property and biodiversity resources and rehabilitation of wastelands. (Singh, 2009)

This integrated approach will aim at provisioning of affordable food to the urban poor along with the employment and educational opportunities, improved access to permanent shelter, sanitation facilities, safe drinking water and improved medical care for impoverished sections of the population is vital in addressing the significant levels of urban economic deprivation. (Food security in urban india, 2003).

Those people who think that food security and related malnutrition has no correlation with mainstreaming of society should well comprehend that unless the poor is being fed properly, no industrialization will yield any fruits and the dream of 8-10% of development rate can't be materialized. So the Irony or the paradox that the poor and deprived people are starving despite surplus production needs to be abolished, ultimately leads to an ideal Nation Building process.

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The World Summit on Food Security 2009

The World Summit on Food Security took place in Rome, Italy between 16 and 18 November 2009. The decision to convene the summit was taken by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in June 2009.

The Summit adopted unanimously a declaration committing all the nations of the world to eradicate hunger at the earliest possible date. It pledged to substantially increase aid to agriculture in developing countries, so that the world's one billion hungry can become more self-sufficient. The declaration confirmed the current target for reducing hunger by half by 2015. Countries agreed to work to reverse the decline in domestic and international funding for agriculture and promote new investment in the sector, to improve governance of global food issues in partnership with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector, and to face the challenges of climate change to food security.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Message on World Food Day "Achieving food security in times of crisis" (16 October 2009)

Food and nutritional security are the foundations of a decent life, a sound education and, indeed, the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. Over the past two years, volatile food prices, the economic crisis, climate change and conflict have led to a dramatic and unacceptable rise in the number of people who cannot rely on getting the food they need to live, work and thrive. For the first time in history, more than one billion people are hungry.

Throughout the developing world, food prices remain stubbornly high. We must respond to the needs of the hungry, first by ensuring adequate political and financial support for emergency food assistance. **"Achieving food security in times of crisis"** is the theme for this year's World Food Day and for the TeleFood campaign of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. It emphasizes the need for even greater efforts to respect the dignity of those affected by poverty and hunger and to support the committed women and men who often risk their lives to deliver help.

Second, we must invest in food production and distribution. Last year, I set up a High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis. Its Comprehensive Framework for Action outlines a strategy to provide safety nets and assistance for smallholder farmers and to support longer-term agricultural productivity and resilience, social protection schemes, market access and fair trade.

Nations are mobilizing for action. In July, 26 countries and 14 multilateral organizations agreed to work together under the umbrella of the L' Aquila initiative on food security. World Summit on Food Security in Rome is a further opportunity to focus on country-led and regional strategies, country-level partnerships and increased levels of assistance.

The challenges of food security demand multilateral commitment, creativity and leadership. At this time of crisis, I encourage all nations to pursue coordinated and comprehensive strategies for agricultural development and effective social protection so that vulnerable people – women and children in particular – can get the food they need for nutritional security and well-being.

Human Right to Adequate Food: NGOs have to make the difference

* Dr. Michael Hollaender

Access to adequate food is a human right...

Supporting the poor to get access to adequate food is a matter of humanity, justice and global solidarity. Besides, it is a matter of political stability and peace. Both are at risk from local to global level due to the uncertain food situation in many parts of the world.

After all, access to adequate food is a human right. The human right to adequate food is recognized in several instruments under international law. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights deals more comprehensively than any other instrument with this right.¹ Article 11.1 of the Covenant states “The right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”, while article 11.2 recognizes that more immediate and urgent steps may be needed to ensure “The fundamental right to freedom from hunger and malnutrition”.

The human right to adequate food is of crucial importance for the enjoyment of all other basic rights. It applies to everyone, everywhere. It should be our joint responsibility to do everything to enforce this basic right.

...but every six seconds, somewhere in the world a child dies of hunger...

Contrary to in the charter of human rights, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) shows that worldwide progress in reducing hunger remains slow. The 2009 global GHI has fallen by only one quarter from the 1990 GHI. The second highest regional GHI scores relate to South Asia at 23,0 with India scoring 23,9.² According to Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, every six seconds, somewhere in the world a child dies of malnutrition.

By absolute numbers this means that worldwide more than one billion people are starving. 200-250 millions of them live in India, the country with the most hungry on earth.³

...although the world produces enough food

It is beyond belief that so many people starve to death, while the planet produces enough food to feed everyone. Despite a 70 percent population increase the global agriculture industry produces 17 percent more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago. This is (still) enough to provide everyone in the world with at least 2.720 kilocalories (kcal) per person per day.⁴

Though it helps, external food assistance is not the answer...

While it definitely saves lives in cases of emergencies (e.g. natural disasters, refugee

1 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: General Comment 12: The right to adequate food (Art. 11).

Online: <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/3d02758c707031d58025677f003b73b9> [Access: 15.11.2009].

2. The index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst, though neither of these extremes is achieved in practice. Values less than 4.9 reflect low hunger, values between five and 9.9 reflect moderate hunger, values between ten and 19.9 indicate a serious problem, values between 20 and 29.9 are alarming, and values of 30 or higher are extremely alarming.

3. Global Hunger Index (GHI). Online:

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi09.pdf> [Access 14.11.2009].

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dramas, etc.) by getting food to the hungry fast, long-term external food assistance is not the key to achieve the human right to adequate food. In the contrary, external food assistance often disturbs (or even destroys) regional food markets and create dependency without working on the root causes of hunger.

...we have to fight the root causes of hunger

All the relevant players who have committed themselves to reduce hunger know which mechanisms, strategies and measures work to fight against hunger. They know, because they have simply analysed the principal root causes of hunger which are:

- Authoritarian regimes, weak and corrupt governments and institutions.
- Poverty and extreme poverty
- Harmful (global) economic systems and unjust international trading
- Quasi-feudalistic land rights
- Neglect of the agricultural sector
- Speculation with agricultural commodities and staple food
- Conflicts and political instability
- Climate change and environmental degradation
- Women's discrimination

Only when we seriously work on these root causes, we will be able to gain momentum in the fight against hunger.

Unfortunately, many national politicians and activists around the world are obviously not very much interested to commit themselves to work on those root causes. Talk is cheap action is hard work. The latest World Summit on Food Security in Rome (16.-18.11.2009) called by the UN Food

and Agriculture Organization was again “long on rhetoric and extravagance and short on solutions for the world’s one billion hungry”.⁵

Civil society organizations will have to make the difference

Due to the lack of leadership of state agencies, civil society organizations became the key players in providing expertise, technical services and advocacy to advance the fight against hunger.

However, NGOs from the North to South at international and local level must commit themselves with renewed energy with the top priority of addressing the problems of poverty and hunger, especially in rural societies of the South. It is imperative that NGOs monitor their performance against clear-cut success indicators, reporting truthfully on the impact that strategies have made, good or bad. These indicators will be of the greatest assistance to the biggest challenge for the NGOs, the mobilization of enough resources to fulfil the needs of the hungry. However, if more strategic “help for self-help”-approaches are applied, even poor beneficiaries will only need initial funding to get started and subsequently take care of their own development.

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World Food Day

It is celebrated every year around the world on **16 October** in honor of the date of the founding of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations in 1945. It is also the Food Engineer day. The World Food Day theme for 2009 was “**Achieving food security in times of crisis**”.

4. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: *Reducing poverty and hunger: the critical role of financing for food, agriculture and rural development. Paper Prepared for the International Conference on Financing for Development Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002. Online: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/003/y6265E/Y6265E.pdf> [Access 14.11.2009].*

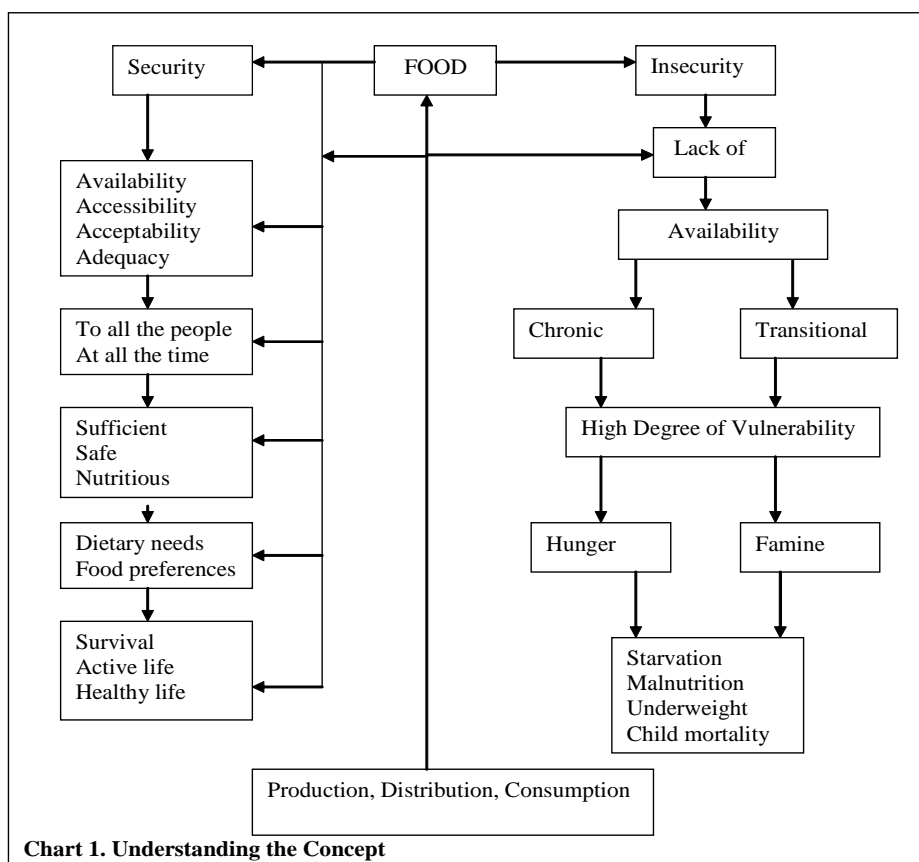
5. Ariel, David / Frances D'Emilio: *Critics say UN food summit wasteful, ineffective. Associated Press. Online: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jeEimi-fD79vUG9uVWzcG7e-A9oAD9C1GRV00> [Access: 21.11.2009].*

Food Security to Insecurity an Unplanned Danger

*Dr. A. J. Christopher

Introduction

World is engulfed with energy shortage, price inflation, climate changes, terrorism whereas food security has become the most intractable challenge for the development agencies. The present scenario though appears to be; that we have food security, the projections of the future show the world is heading towards a danger of food insecurity. It is better being late than never and therefore there is a need to understand the situation and respond fittingly.



From the definition given by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) **Food security** can be explained that it is the **availability** of **enough** food **to all** the people **at all the times** where people have **physical** and **economic access** to **sufficient, safe** and **nutritious** food to meet the **dietary needs** and **food preferences** for **survival** and **active** and **healthy life**.

For ensuring food security three important events have to take place, they are **production, distribution** and **consumption** which the author would like to call it as a **food security cycle** which is shown in the following chart.

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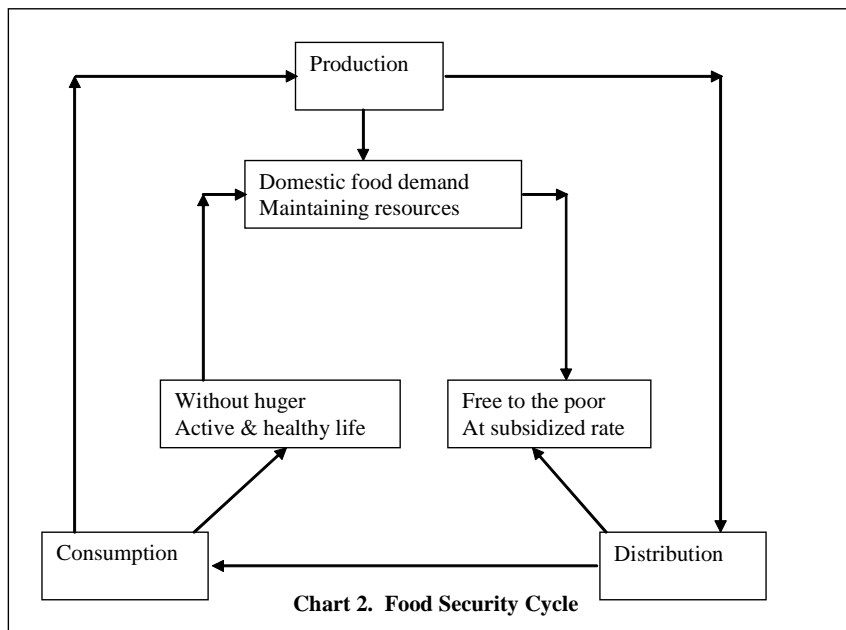


Chart 2. Food Security Cycle

Only when we produce enough it can be made available for accessibility or can be distributed for consumption. The food production involves land, fertility of the land, irrigation and number of crops for which water plays a major role.

Facts and Reality – Global and Local

In the world the number of people lacking access to the minimum diet has risen from 824 million in the baseline year 1990 to 963 million in 2008. More than 850 million people all over the world live everyday with food insecurity. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 pointed out for Africa that for even small temperature increase of 1 -2 degrees the yield for rain fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 percent by 2020.

Climate change is also predicted to increase the intensity and frequency of drought and floods, already a serious short term cause of food insecurity. There are 450 million farms of less than 2 hectares in developing countries – has been deemed unsuitable for investment. In India almost half of all young children are underweight. Over population growth creates pressure on food security but it is only secondary compared to the failure of equitable distribution and consumption.

Regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which force Indian farmers to compete on an unlevelled playing field have been a key factor in the crisis. Agricultural imports have increased four times since the WTO came into effect in 1995 and at least 4 million farmers have been rendered jobless. Apart from the scarcity of affordable food, a tragic human consequence has been the suicide of over 100,000 farmers in the last decade, most of them faced with crippling debts for expensive seeds and chemicals. The number of marginal farmers are getting reduced and thereby they are becoming landless agricultural labourers. Cultivable lands are converted into real estates and establishment of industries.

By 2050 food consumption countries like China and India has to invest 1 lakh crores to fulfill the food security.

Conclusion

There are strong, direct relationships between agricultural productivity, hunger, and poverty which would reflect in malnourishment. Therefore for food security improvements in agricultural productivity, maintaining or increasing the area of cultivable land, encourage the farmers to use modern technology and multi-crop cultivation with adequate financial support are the needs of the hour. In addition the government has to take a bold step to include water as a central subject and link all the rivers which should be made as the top priority of any government which comes to power.

NEWS FROM CEVA

CEVA Annual General Body and Board of Director's Meet

Annual General Body meeting of CEVA was held on 8th August 2009. The patron of CEVA Rev. Fr. Jose Pathaplamthottiyil CMI the Prior General, inaugurated the meeting by addressing the gathering. Annual report and Audited statement of accounts of CEVA 2008-2009 and budget 2009-2010 were presented during the meeting. The patron of CEVA released the CMI NGO Directory by giving the pilot copy to Fr. Thomas Kuttiyanikkal.



'Mazhathully' a video CD on Child Protection was released by Rev. Fr. Kokkadan, the moderator of CEVA by giving the pilot copy to Fr. Joseph Puthanpura the regional secretary of CEVA ERO. The CD was the first and foremost contribution of CEVA towards the IEC development material on Child Protection. Boards of Directors' meetings were conducted on July 21st and September 29th of 2009.

Visit of KKS Representatives

Mr. Ralf Tepel Executive Director of KKS Germany visited CEVA Cochin office on August 21st 2009 and held discussion with the project coordination team on the recent developments in co-financing of projects. Dr. Sigrid Maurer visited the projects run by GESHEC Karamadi, KKID Mankarai, CSED Avinasi, Prajana Counseling Centre and Maithri Trust in Mangalore and KRWCDs Karwar in Karnataka from 21st to 29th October 2009. CEVA coordination staff accompanied her during the visits.

Ms. Catrin Braun project coordinator of KKS Germany visited CEVA Eastern Regional Office Kolkata on 6th November and Cochin office on 11th November 2009 and held discussions with the project in charges. She visited the Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha(BTS) Sunderban an NGO at West Bengal as part of the pre funding appraisal. She also carried out project visits to KESS Thrissur Kerala, Prachodana and Abhivruddi in Karnataka along with CEVA coordination team.



Project Partner's Meet

CEVA NRO and ERO organized the annual project partners' meet at Hotel Orange Village at Gangtok, from 26th to 28th of August 2009. Twenty Two participants from 12 NGOs took part in the event. Rev. Fr. Joy Vattoly, Executive Secretary of CEVA inaugurated the Get Together. The project partner's presented the current status of the projects based on the guidelines given by CEVA.

Mr. James- the project officer handled a session on "Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Training

and Capacity Building Activities Including Exposure Visits. Mr. Subodh Tandon- the coordinating officer facilitated a session on "Visibility Guidelines" as well as "Accounts and other Issues". for the participants. Mr. Soumyendra Roy the project officer presented a paper on "Project Reporting – How to Follow the Format". The event concluded with a sight seeing trip.



Major Project Holders' Get Together 2009 of CEVA Cochin was held at Karl Kubel Institute for Development Education, Coimbatore on 22nd and 23rd of October 2009. Sixteen partner organizations represented in the program with 23 participants. Rev. Fr. Joy Vattoly, Secretary, CEVA presided over the inaugural session and Dr. Sigrid Maurer, Coordinator, Development Cooperation, KKS Germany inaugurated the Get Together. Mr. T.K Nathan, Executive Director, KKID welcomed the guests. The executive secretary welcomed the new project partners to the meet.

The two-day get together was successful with programs such as sharing of achievements and learning by each project partner, input session and group discussion facilitated by CEVA on the significance of planning for training and exposure, sharing of news and views from KKS, input session on Managing and leading an NGO by Dr. Henry Rozario, and key observations and views from CEVA. The sessions were made interesting by group games and inter-group activities which provided the participants with ample opportunities for relaxation.

With guidance on the changing perspectives and needs in the partnership, by sharing the learnings and enriching the spirit of partnership, Partner's Meet 2009 of CEVA NRO, ERO and Cochin has opened up a wider foreground for the partners to forward their oars with an improved understanding on the strategies for development.

Workshop on Strengthening Monitoring System and Practices

A workshop on Strengthening Monitoring System and Practices of CEVA was organized for Coordination team at Don Bosco Centre New Delhi on 8th to 10th September 2009. It was resourced and facilitated by Mr. Muneesh and Mr. Saiju from Association For Stimulating Know How (ASK) Haryana. The secretary, regional secretary, coordinating officers and project officers of CEVA NRO, ERO and Cochin were participated in the workshop. The workshop enlightened the participants on comprehensive pragmatic monitoring system covering both qualitative and quantitative aspects, reporting system and a uniformed understanding of monitoring system among all the region of CEVA.



Kavach Project - Trucker Utsav

A mega cultural event named Trucker Utsav for trucking community was organized on 29th November 2009 as a part of Kavach Project, supported by TCI Foundation. World AIDS' Day was also commemorated on same day. The activities of trucker utsav included Health Camp on eye, Games (Best Truck Arm Wrestling Best singer, Bucket lifting, signature campaign and Best Slogan) and Cultural Evening. The evening cultural programme comprised of dances from mentally retarded children of Anand Training Centre, Ghaziabad, ITS Management institute, Ghaziabad, Deepti Foundation, ISKCON and orchestral performances along with prize distribution of health games. The programme was organized with active collaboration and cooperation with private company J K Tyre, ITS, Management Institute, ISKCON, Delhi and various local NGOs. Health camp inauguration was done by Dr Surjit Singh Kalsi, CMS, ESI, Hospital, Sahibabad and for cultural evening Mr. P. George Joseph, CEO, ITS, Ghaziabad was the chief guest. The programme was successful as the programme was attended by 2000 trucker community besides representative of said organizations.



National Child Labour Project

CEVA NRO has been running three Special Child Labour Schools under National Child Labour Project from July 2005. There are 45-50 children in each school. During the last six months, various festivals and national days were celebrated. In addition, game and health competitions were organized. As a part of nutritional programme, children were provided nutritional foods during the school time. Besides, children were also supported through monthly stipend of Rs 100.00. SHGs were formed for beneficiaries' mothers to provide vocational trainings. Currently, there are 64 girls and 74 boys in the schools.



Achievements and Awards

Rev. Fr. Jose Koolipurackal CMI, the Executive Director of Samagra Vikas, Alappuzha and one of the board of directors of CEVA, has been awarded with Fr. Jose Alex award for excellence in Professional Social Work for the year 2009. CEVA family bestows cordial appreciations to Fr. Jose for his excellence in the development sector.

CEVA Child Protection Programme

Research and Documentation Department of CEVA Cochin initiated an innovative programme on Child Protection to address the augmented violation of Child rights issues in Kerala. The voluntary wing of CEVA conducted awareness programme on 'prevention of child abuse at various schools namely Lourde's School Varandarappilly, St. Joseph's School Karikkamuri, Snehagiri Public School Mala. CEVA also conducted various child protection programme by networking with Rotary club, KESS and CHARIS.



Voluntary wing of CEVA

CEVA promotes voluntary social work among the young people in order help the younger generation to learn new skills and experience in the development sector. Ms. Melz, an NRI student from Germany, Mrs. Geethu, Mrs. Lakshmi, Ms. Sneha, Ms. Shameena and Ms. Minnu from BCM College Kottayam and Ms. Savitha, Ms. Sini and Ms. Neethu from DePaul College, Angamaly volunteered with CEVA as part of their requirement of educational curriculum. Moreover CEVA has a pool of volunteers to support and contribute towards the cause of development services.

Food Security and Global Climate Change – an Indian Perspective

***Dr Jose Kallarackal**

In the present day market society, many of us assume that rice or milk or vegetables come from the shelf of a supermarket. When prices rise for food items, it is then that we become most concerned about agriculture and the environment and the need to protect them. Experts say that the future of global food security is highly dependent on two important and inter-related factors – first, the degree to which developing countries will succeed in raising agricultural productivity through technological change and second, the degree to which the world will succeed in adapting to global climate change or mitigating it.

The entire world is now well aware of the fact that the earth has warmed by a little more than 0.7 degree Celsius during the last century compared to the previous records. Reliable scientific evidences predict the possibility of the globe warming to 2.5 to more than 5 degree Celsius by the end of this century. Although this could seriously affect the ecosystem services (mainly the availability of good air, water and soil), it is probably the extreme climatic aberrations due to this warming, which will seriously derail the agriculture and thereby the food security.

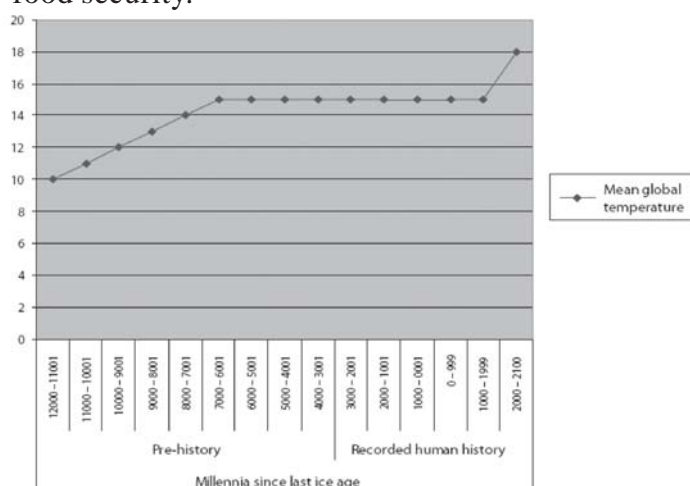


Figure shows the predicted increase in temperature from the pre-historic times till 2100 (Source: FAO, Rome).

India, for example, has agriculture mainly dependent on the monsoon. If the monsoon fails or a shift in its timing occur, then the crops are damaged. The more frequent occurrence of floods and droughts, predicted in climate change, can cause extensive damage to crops and therefore the food security. The reduction in yield from rain-fed crop is predicted as high as 50 per cent in some locations.

Apart from the climate change threats, what are the other challenges that we have to face in India?

The scale of the challenge of assuring global food security is reflected in current projections for population growth, and the accompanying projected growth in the demand for food. According to the Census of India (2001), the population of India is expected to increase from 1029 million to 1400 million during the period 2001-2026 - an increase of 36 percent in twenty-five years at the rate of 1.2 percent annually. As a consequence, the density of population will increase from 313 to 426 persons per square kilometer. With the impending climate change scenario, a relatively sizable chunk of land is going to become uncultivable due to water shortage and some land in the coastal belt is going to be inundated due to sea level rise. India's per capita water availability is expected to fall from 1820 million cubic metre per year in 2001 to 1140 in 2050.

Since the increase in population will be a global phenomena except in Europe, the question of depending on other countries for food does not give us any option other than strengthening our own agriculture.

The impact of climate change on agriculture is therefore likely to lead to a loss of stability in productivity and an overall decline in food production. Unless urgent action is taken, climate change will undoubtedly worsen global food

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security, more especially in developing and populous countries like India, and dramatically increase the number of people facing hunger and malnutrition. Global estimates indicate that climate change could put 63 million more people at risk of hunger by 2020.

The international community is squaring up to these challenges and is laying the groundwork to support low-income countries in their drive to boost agricultural production. The L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (2009) represents the most important step in this regard, where the G8 nations along with some other countries like India have endorsed to raise \$20 billion during the next three years for supporting agriculture in developing countries. Such efforts must necessarily focus on the 500 million smallholder farmers worldwide who currently support around 2 billion people, or one third of the world's population. Increasing their productivity is essential not only to secure the food and nutrition needs of these farmers, but also of the millions of people who depend on them. However, with the entire world in the grip of an economic crisis, we will have to wait and see if any sizable funding is going to materialize in the near future.

Such global initiatives must be complemented by concrete steps within India to adapt to climate change if their goals are to be met. It is therefore vital that at Copenhagen summit Indian negotiators take a strong stand for measures that help to protect the food security and the millions of poor people who are highly vulnerable to climate change. A farmer, who is keeping his land under agriculture or plantation need to be credited suitably by the rest of the society, as a matter of ethics.

In India, are we doing anything to ensure the food security in the context of the impending climate change? It must be known that India has the third position in the world in emitting green house gases, which is causing the global warming. The US and China account for over 16% each of the total global emissions, while India trails with just 4%, despite its very large population and its rapidly growing economy. Our per capita CO₂

emissions are currently only 1.1 tonnes, when compared to over 20 tonnes for the US and in excess of 10 tonnes for most OECD countries. Furthermore, even if we are No. 3 in terms of total volume of emissions, the gap with the first and second-ranking countries is very large. India is already subject to high degree of climate variability resulting in droughts, floods and other extreme weather events which compels India to spend over 2% of its GDP on Adaptation and this figure is likely to go up significantly. Therefore, Indian negotiators are trying their best to get the international community to commit for an Adaptation fund, which will greatly enhance our agriculture sector to meet the challenges of climate change.

It is India's view that the planetary atmospheric space is a common resource of humanity and each citizen of the globe has an equal entitlement to that space. The principle of equity, therefore, implies that, over a period of time, there should be a convergence in per capita emissions. Any global Climate Change regime which results in merely freezing of the huge divergence in per capita emissions, will not be acceptable on grounds of equity. Furthermore, in tackling the challenge of Climate Change, both reduction and consumption patterns need to be addressed, with a willingness to address lifestyle issues. India also believes that all members of our common global family should have equal entitlement to the fruits of prosperity. Let us hope that this goal that we have set will be appreciated and recognized by the international community in the years to come.

What is food Security?

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 life. (FAO)

Food Security - A Challenge

* Dr. Yashwant Singh

Food security is the back bone of national prosperity and well being. The health of any nation is directly linked to food security. Food security may be defined as availability of food and access to it. A family is considered to be food secure when it's members do not live in hunger or fear of starvation. As per definition of FAO- 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 life. There is direct relationship between food consumption levels and poverty.

In India, 30 million people have been added to the rank of hungry since the mid 1990s and 40% children are underweight. World wide 852 million people are hungry due to extreme poverty and 2 billion people lack food security intermittently due to varying degree of poverty (Sources FAO, 2003). 600 million children die of hunger every year and 17000 everyday. In India approximately, 320 Indians go to bed without food every night and recent data is very much alarming and situation is going even worse.

Food riots have taken in many countries of the world. It's becoming very difficult to maintain food security. In rural context , agriculture development for small and marginal farmer is the most important dimension of food security. The diversification of agriculture for food e.g., cereals, pulses, edible oil yielding, vegetable, fuel &, timber yielding plants, medicinal and fodder crops are necessary to meet the food and augment income to farmers to meet the food security. Natural vagaries like excessive rainfall, drought, and availability of water for irrigation, undulating topography, soil erosion, and soil type such as degraded soil, acidic &

alkaline soil affect the food security. The income levels of farmer families govern the access to food affordability. Food distribution is a big problem. PDS (Public Distribution System) is not satisfactorily functioning. The families very poor within adequate income can not escape food crisis. Globalization may and may not help food security. However, there are people who feels that globalization will definitely help food security due to trade but it's matter of debate. We will have to aim at food security in developing countries through increased and stabilized food production on an economically and environmentally sustainable technologies/ methods. Diversification in agriculture is highly required. We can not afford to huger, malnutrition and famine. Accordingly, all of us including Govt. policies seriously need to redesign in order to meet the present demand and fill the gap of exiting system in order to ensure food security to every citizen of the country.

2020 Vision Initiative

It is an initiative of **the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**. IFPRI launched the 2020 Vision Initiative in 1993; the primary goal of the initiative is to reach **sustainable food security for all by 2020**.

The 2020 Vision Initiative has two primary objectives:

- 1) To develop and promote a shared vision and consensus for action for meeting food needs while reducing poverty and protecting the environment; and
- 2) To generate information and encourage debate to influence action by national governments, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, international development institutions, and other elements of civil society.

**Freelance Consultant and Founder Member of Utthan, Uttar Pradesh*

Food Security – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

*Mr. Johny Mathew

Definition

Before I write about food security we have to understand what food is and the requirement for its security. ***Food is something that gives you the energy to function and keeps you alive.*** This is true for both plant and animal kingdoms. Plants process their food directly from sunlight, water and soil while animals, including human beings depend upon plants and other animals. From time immemorial the method of taking energy (food) from a source has not changed for plants and animals except for human beings.

History

In ancient times, food was always available. We used to run after it or gather it from our neighborhood, when we felt hunger. This was just to quench our hunger and based on our immediate needs only. Then we learned the art of farming so that food was available at arm's length and we were able to store required quantity based on our immediate as well as future need (or greed). Later we learnt various methods like storing, freezing, packing, and processing it so that food will be kept for long, thus making it more convenient for consumption. These transformations have taken place in thousands of years.

Present Situation

We still run after our food. Not like ancient times with sharp tools, but with present day tools, sharp minds, money and credit cards. Actually we don't run after our food now, but after the money that may secure our food. We think that the storage system, processing system and the credit systems all make food secure for us. Yet is our food secure or safe enough? Did the so proclaimed Green Revolution give us a sustainable productivity or the

public distribution systems assured a sustainable availability? The answer is, NO.

In ancient times, before the arrival of organized farming, animals, plants and human beings all had food security with their natural and sustainable methods. During that time ***food security meant, having good food for all, at all times.*** They lost it only when there was an undue interference with nature.

How is it Threatened?

So how did our food security weaken? This started when agriculture became agribusiness. In this era of 'profit only' business culture, we need power and everything depends only on power. Ethics and values are cultures of the past. We lost food security to a system of 'ruling only for power' and using distribution system to control power. Food is always there. We either don't produce enough or do not have the money to secure it. Now food itself is a weapon in the pursuit of power. Control over seeds is the latest strategy. Food security is controlled by seed control. This has become possible because farmers have lost their traditional agricultural systems and seeds. At present, modern science rules over age-old experiences and agricultural practices.

Global Hunger Index

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for calculating hunger and malnutrition. Developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

The GHI supports the measurement of progress and failures in the global fight against hunger, thereby facilitating more effective monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.

*Freelance Consultant, Kerala

When population increased, the number of farmers did not increase accordingly because modern science supplemented by chemicals and machinery had replaced farmers, in the name of so-called “productivity”. Though the system seemed to be a success in the beginning, the quality of soil and environment decreased so much that the scientific system is failing now. Actually, modern science has shown us means to have more sustainability, but, our greed for money and profit has misused science. Thus, Food became expensive and inferior in quality. Over the past years -

The number of persons consuming food has increased, but

The number of persons who produce it (farmers) has decreased.

The production and productivity of food has increased, but

The quality of food has drastically decreased.

The prices of food has increased, but

The sharing of food has decreased.

The control over food has increased for a few, but

The availability has decreased for the masses.

Let us take a look at water. Water is also food, which was available free and safe. Now there is scarcity and we buy it. Overuse, misuse, and contamination of water are seen everywhere. It is alarming in a state like Kerala, with more than enough rainfall and rivers, when people buy not only their drinking water but also water for their other daily needs. Our greed and lack of responsibility to nature has resulted in this situation. ***If we do not correct ourselves now, it won't be much longer before we start buying our fresh air also.***

Let us understand the limitations of science in producing healthy food. Food, to most people is what they get in a packet. Children nowadays connect milk not to a cow but to the plastic bag or to the milk man. Fruits they get the idea from the picture on the cover, the taste what the packet offers. They do not

have an idea what food comes from which plant. Tomorrow, misuse of modern science for profit may take the picture of the packet. Then it is the processor who will decide what the food looks like and what it tastes like for his convenience.

Overcoming the Problem

So how do we secure our food, water and air and maintain the quality of all these necessities? Depending only on chemical farming and more mineral water bottling plants is not the answer. Do not follow modern science blindly. ***Science, human values, and our responsibility to nature all will have to merge together.*** This is how the organic

India's Initiatives to ensure Food Security

- Passing of the Essential Commodities Act in 1955.
- ‘Green Revolution’ in 1960
- The establishment of a public distribution system (PDS)
- The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in 1975
- The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), in 2000
- National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) in 2004
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2005
- Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- National Food Security Mission (2007)
- In 2007, the Indian government approved two initiatives – the National Policy for Farmers and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana – that take a holistic approach to agricultural development. It also proposes to pass a National Food Security Act in 2009 under which below poverty line (BPL families) will be provided with 25 kgs. Of grain a month at a subsidised price of Rs.3 per kg.

farming systems evolved. The organic farmer wanted to maintain a healthy soil and environment for a sustainable production and the consumer wanted safe and healthy produce. To enjoy good and safe food, we need to encourage more people to take up farming and make it remunerative enough for them. Let everyone learn the art of producing food with whatever little space they have, terraces or even window sills.

You can't have food security without food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is the right of people to decide what they produce and consume. Make it a habit to take one meal or one dish you have grown. Sensible production of food for food security is like good exercise for healthy life. There is no easy way out. No pain no gain. Don't think your money is going to secure your food or make it safe. Having apples in a country during off-season or in a country where it is not grown doesn't mean food security. When we face a threat like global warming think of all the fossil fuels burnt to increase the productivity of food and its transportation to far away places. Food is not safe the way it is produced and delivered. It is a combination of colour and taste in an attractive packing. The nutritive values mentioned on the cover are no substitute for the fresh and natural food. We let ourselves be fooled by food ads which convince us of its quality. Today what we take is not a well balanced diet, but food that is rich in calories. We even prefer soft drinks to fresh water. Our ignorance and laziness aggravated further by ads put us into the hands of the greedy who want to control our food security. We have no shame to spend more money in hospitals than for a safe environment and safe food which will actually reduce our medical bills.

If you don't secure your food with good agriculture practices, someone else is going to do it for their own profit. When seeds also become secure in these hands, food security is completely lost. Like seeds, knowledge and health care are to be shared and should not be chained and controlled by a few for their profit. Use science discreetly. ***Equally important to food security is the safety of food and***

the environment, the basic amenities which support human race. The qualities of these are going down fast and shamelessly we consume the produce of our greed and laziness. We may have developed much with science from simple machinery to gleaming robots, but we also are contributing to global warming which is destroying our nature and environment. Let us make our food and its security safe. Let running after food to secure it with ancient tools or modern tools be of the past. Learn to grow your own food and share it with others. ■

SUCCESS STORY GRAIN BANK IN MADHYA PRADESH (INDIA)

In 2001, a self-help group of women, farmers and youth came together to set up a grain bank in the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. The bank provided immediate access to food during emergencies; reducing or eliminating the need to borrow from local money lenders who charge usurious interest rates. Further, it reduced the dependence of the village community on government supplied grain. This was the origin of the grain bank scheme that today covers 30 villages with 700 households of which 618 households belong to the poorest section.

Each village community has developed its own unique, independent and self-reliant system of managing grain banks. The most notable feature of the scheme is that it is locally controlled and managed with a high degree of community involvement. In almost all villages, the borrower has to return the grain in kind, with the interest also in kind, to ensure that the corpus is intact. It is compulsory for women to make up 50 per cent of every grain bank committee. Usually, the committee has five men and five women.

The community takes a collective decision regarding distribution. Each individual family gets an equal share of grain. When the villages build up surpluses, the food is either sold for cash, or distributed in the village itself to prevent it from getting spoilt. The community also takes decisions on the distribution of food grains and money to families in an emergency. Interest rates, which are decided by community for both grain and money borrowed, are much lower than that charged by moneylenders.

(Continued from Page 6...)

Some strategic goals for NGOs

Besides efforts to solve the root causes of hunger as described above, NGOs should commit themselves to the following goals in order to enforce the human right to adequate food:

- Food in sufficient quantities and quality to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, that are free from adverse substances, are acceptable within a given culture are available year round.
- Everybody has access to adequate, safe and culturally acceptable foods that are sustainable and that do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights.
- Food is produced, processed and transported in a sustainable way.
- Long-term stability in food availability must be ecologically sustainable. Food production also needs to be economically and socially sustainable.
- Women empowerment and emancipation must lead to gender equality and the increase to women's participation in development.
- Food and nutrition security of all children in a given community is achieved.
- Peoples participation in the socio-political decision making process – at least on local level – is guaranteed.

Last but not least, human rights – including the right to adequate food – are social processes. Rights are written on paper but they only become reality when the political structure, attitudes and behaviour of individuals and societies make them so. Therefore, NGOs should continue their campaigns to make all people aware of the fact that in the time it has taken to read this short article, at least 50 children have died of hunger somewhere on the globe.

Organizations for Food Security

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Welthungerhilfe
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- Concern Worldwide
- International Planning Committee (IPC) Food Sovereignty.

I S H I (ISHI)

The India State Hunger Index (ISHI) is a tool to calculate hunger and malnutrition at the regional level in India. It is constructed in the same fashion as the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2008 and was calculated for 17 states in India, covering more than 95 percent of the population.

The ISHI was developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and presented for the first time 2008 in conjunction with the Non-Governmental Organisation Welthungerhilfe and the Department of Economics, University of California.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** is the food aid branch of the United Nations, and the world's largest humanitarian organization. WFP provides food, on average, to 90 million people per year, 58 million of whom are children. From its headquarters in Rome and more than 80 country offices around the world, WFP works to help people who are unable to produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families.

(Continued from Page 4...)

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Right to Adequate Food

Right to adequate food is a human right, inherent in all people, «to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental.

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