

Challenges of Food Security in India

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Abstract—Food security is access to enough food by all people at all time for an active and healthy life. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (2002), food security is characterised, as a situation when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Food security has three important and closely related components, which are, availability of food, access to food, and absorption of food. The green revolution initiated in the late 1960's was a historic watershed that transformed the food security situation in India. It reduced both the levels of food insecurity and poverty in the country by over 50 percent. This was achieved in spite of the increase in population during the period. Despite ensuring ample availability of food, existence of food insecurity at the micro-level in the country has remained a formidable challenge for India. More than a-third of India's population is estimated to be absolutely poor, and half of the children have suffered from malnourishment over the last three decades. Presently, a large number of households, especially in rural areas and urban slums, are not able to get adequate quantity of food. India has designed and implemented a very wide range of programmes to enhance food security and has also succeeded to a remarkable extent however severe challenges remain on several fronts. Food security is not less than the national security and needs to be given top priority in the national planning.