



Food Security and Food Wastage in India and Around the World

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the World***

By

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“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity; it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom”. –

-----Nelson Mandela

World Food Day is celebrated every year on **16th October** in the honour of the date of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945. The day is celebrated by the organization with Food Security, World Food Program and the International Fund for Agriculture Development.

The UN’s Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was set up at World Food Conference in 1974 and given a mandate of combating hunger and rural poverty in a low-income food-deficit country. IFAD has financed 578 projects in 115 countries, giving about US\$ 7.2 billion in grants and loans, mostly on highly concessional terms, repayable in 40 years. The World Food Program (WFP) is the world’s largest international food aid organization in Rome. It describes itself as the frontline United Nations organization fighting to eradicate world hunger.

In 2000, it helped to feed more than 83 million people in 83 countries. The food was in the form of cereals totalled 9.5 million tonnes. One of the big summit in 20th century, the leaders of 186 countries met in Rome in November 1996 for the World Food Summit. Around 840 million people were estimated to be chronically hungry. The Rome Declaration on World Food Security and Plan of Action, to combat hunger making a commitment to halve the number of hungry people in the world by 2015. It was the first step to goal for **‘food for all’**. The cost would be US\$ 60 billion over 15 years or US\$ 4 billion per year.

The food security defined in the declaration as food that is available at all times, to which all persons have means of access that is nutritionally adequate in terms of quantity, quality and variety; and is acceptable within the given culture.

The FAO report on food insecurity noted that 826 million people were chronically hungry and that rate of decline in the number of hungry people was woefully inadequate, reducing by only 8 million per year during the first half of the 1990s. The reduction of at least 20 million every year between 2000 and 2015 is needed to reach the World Food Security (WFS) target, Unless extra efforts were made to accelerate progress, the 1996 WFS goal of cutting the number of undernourished to 400 million by 2015 would not be achieved before 2030.

There are an estimated 842 million hungry people on the planet. This means that one in eight people in the world suffers from chronic hunger, not having enough food for an active and healthy life. Plus the number of people on the planet is increasing rapidly. Production of basic staple foods will need to increase by 60 percent to meet the expected growth in demand.

As per World Health Organization guidelines, a minimum of 250 gm food grains is required per person per day to survive. The cumulative loss could have fed at least seven crore people.

Food Wastage Problem in the World:

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a three-day summit on world food security in Rome that today, more than one billion people are hungry, and six million children die of hunger every year -- 17,000 every day. In 2050, the world will need to feed 2 billion more mouths -- 9.1 billion in all.

The UN Committee on World Food Security in its latest report concluded that food wastes and food losses are due to many different reasons in various parts of the world. In wealthy countries, food takes up only a relatively trivial proportion of

income so people can afford to throw away food but in developing countries like Pakistan, the problem is not of wealth but of poverty.

Member of European Parliament, Liam Aylward (FiannaFáil, Ireland), who negotiated on behalf of the Alliance of Liberal Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Group, said, It is outrageous that almost 90 million tonnes of perfectly fine foods get wasted each year while an estimated 79 million people in the EU live beneath the poverty line and around 16 million depend on food aid from charitable institutions.

According to EU Commission figures, households, supermarkets and restaurants, along with the rest of the food supply chain, are currently wasting up to 50 percent of edible food. European Member of Parliament (MEPs) called for 2014 to be designated as "***European year against food waste***". The EU27 currently wastes 89 million tonnes of food each year - equivalent to 179 kg per person.

Food Wastage in Developing Countries:

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), developing countries waste 40 percent food items, 1.3 billion tonnes food waste annually all over the world. Some 925 million people around the world suffer from hunger. Given the limited availability of natural resources, it is more effective to reduce food losses than increase food production in order to feed a growing world population, the FAQ says. The amount of food lost or wasted every year is equivalent to more than half of the world's annual cereal crops, the FAO said in a report.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit Limited 2015- Global food security index 2015 the ranks of the countries are as follows: Pakistan 77th out of 109 countries sampled, substantially below regional countries like India ranked 68th, Sri Lanka ranked 63th, Vietnam stood at 65, China at 42 and Malaysia at 34. The USA and Singapore stood 1st and 2nd rant respectively and Chad and Burundi stood 108th and 109th respectively.

Food grains Wastage in India:

India loses forty percent of its food due to spoiling. India lacks the sufficient infrastructure to store and transport food products; concomitantly substantial amount of food simply decays away. The inadequate storage infrastructure resulted in wastage of fruits, grains and vegetables worth Rs 44,000 crore (1 Crore equal to 10 Million) every year.

Through the Right to Information Act (RTI) it revealed that the foodgrains damaged in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns across the country were more than 40,000 tonnes. It was increased in last two years. The losses are due to natural calamities like cyclone and floods as well as poor storage facilities and transit loss in India. (Times of India).

The wastage of food grains was at 25,353 MT in 2006-07, 4,426 MT in 2007-08, and 20,114 in 2008-09. At least 17,546 tonnes of food-grains was damaged between 2009-10 and July 2012 in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns. The damaged quantity rose threefold in five years — from 6,346 tonnes in 2010-11 to 18,847.22 tonnes in 2014-15. While 3,338.01 tonnes were damaged in 2011-12 and 3,148.44 tonnes were damaged in 2012-13, as many as 24,695.45 tonnes suffered damage in 2013-14. A total of more than 56,000 tonnes of food grains, including 27,000 tonnes of rice and 26,000 tonnes of wheat, were damaged since 2010, the reply revealed.(Times of India).

There were as much as 1,94,502 metric tonnes of food grains worth billion of rupees were wasted in India due to various reasons between 2005 and March 2013.

Wastages of Foodgrains in the Indian States:

In West Bengal, the percentage of damaged rice was between 2009-10 and 2011-12 with a loss of around 2,300 tonnes. In 2013-14, West Bengal topped the list with 12,539 tonnes followed by Bihar (3,909.408 tonnes). In Punjab, the loss reduced from 2,223 tonnes in 2009-10 to only 37 tonnes during 2011-12. The damaged stock around 84 percent (16,3576 MT) was rice and 14 percent wheat (26,543 MT). Punjab with a total damage stock of 98,200 MT recorded 50% of the total damages. Maharashtra recorded a total of 20,067 MT of damaged stock, accounting for 10 percent of the total loss.

In 2014-15, Odisha topped the list with 7,108 tonnes, mainly due to the havoc wrought by cyclone Phailin in the coastal regions. In Jammu and Kashmir wastage of foodgrains was 6,120 tonnes, it was caused by the unprecedented floods of September 2014. Andhra Pradesh the total wastage of food grains was 2,262 tonnes and in Karnataka 747 tonnes.

Hunger People around the World:

The 805 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life and it is one in nine people in the world. The majority of the world's hungry people lives in developing countries, and 13.5 percent of the population is undernourished. The two-thirds of the total of hunger people live in Asian continents. In the Sub-Saharan Africa, the hunger people lives and one person in four is undernourished. The Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five which are almost 3.1 million children every year. One out of six children approx 100 million in developing countries is underweight. The 66 million

primary school-age children attend classes hungry in developing countries and 23 million in Africa itself. The hunger kills more people than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. It is estimated that 300 million children go to bed hungry every day. Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes. That's one child every five seconds. the 65 percent of the world's hungry live in only seven countries: India, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia. Asia and the Pacific region is home to over half the world's population and nearly two-thirds of the world's hungry people.

If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million. The WFP calculates that US\$3.2 billion is required to feed 66 million hungry school-age children every year.

India is home to the highest number of hungry people in the world, at 194 million, surpassing China, according to United Nations annual hunger report. According to The National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) in 2004-05, revealed that 23% of married men, 52% of married women and a chilling 72% of infants were suffering from anaemic - a sure sign that a shockingly large number of families were caught in a downward spiral of slow starvation.

UN body Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in its report titled 'The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015'. India saw a reduction between 1990 and 2015, it added. In India, 1990-92, those who were starved of food in India numbered 210.1 million, which came down to 194.6 million in 2014-15. India's numerous social programmes are expected to fight hunger and poverty.

China stood out as the reduction in the number of hungry people was much higher than in India. It came down to 133.8 million in 2014-15 from 289 million in 1990-92. In 1996, 29 countries met in World Food Summit and adopted the more ambitious goal to reduce halve the absolute number of undernourished by 2015. It was one of

the objectives of FAO to achieve the Millennium Development Goal target of halving the prevalence of undernourishment by 2015.

The overall analysis suggested that inclusive economic growth, agricultural investments and social protection, along with political stability, can eradicate hunger, the UN report added.

Last but not the least the government of India should be focused on increase the food productions and well as manage to keep them safe in stores. The government should also ensure that these food grains should be accessed by poor and needy people particularly Below Poverty Line (BPL) families without any hindrance. It is the responsibility of the government that people could not sleep without having food or empty stomach at night. The data shows that there are sufficient amount of food grains for all citizen. It also explores that due to lack of storage facilities million tonnes food grains were rotten or wasted in godowns and in transit. In India, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) lost its credibility to keep the food grains for its future demand. It is once again showing the inefficient policy-making and its implementations process in our country. There are 194 million hungry people lives in India and we are losing the millions of food grains due to lack of storages. It is also a matter of negligence of government officials who are not seriously maintaining and implementing such food security process. They might involve in corrupt practices. There should be serious observations for such functioning of FCI officials in targeted regions and punished the culprits with suspension from the job.

The government should think the alternative plans for food security and feed the hungry people in India. The foodgrains could be distributed through panchayat level to BPL families in their respective villages.

India took a major step to make a people's friendly act called National Food Security Act 2013 under which many schemes were launched. Its main objectives are to provide the food grains to needy people particularly deprived or poor people in nominal rate. Now per households under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (Antyodaya Food Scheme) is getting total 35-kilogram food grains per month at the cost of Rs. 3 per kg for rice and Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and Re 1 per kg for coarse grams. The priority households under National Food Security Scheme, per person, is getting 5 kg foodgrains per month at the same rate.

There are some measures should be taken by government agencies which are as follow: Food Production should be increased so that there should not be the shortage of food in future, despite flood or famine and increase the population of the country. The government should take the initiative to migrate the people from the scarcity of food zone areas to excessive food availability areas and engaged them to foods for work program through National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MNREGA) so that they could survive to have foods for their families. Migration could be possible through the government agencies, non-governmental organisations or volunteer organizations/ agencies.

It also possible to group migration of people from one place to other places particularly agricultural prone areas or in the industrial zone. The BPL families should be facilitated with the food, shelter and clothing.

It will help the government to reduce the transportation costs as well as wastage of foods while transporting the food grains from one state to other states. It will help the BPL families to engage themselves in agricultural or non- agricultural work for their livelihood. It will help BPL families to overcome the problem of food and hunger.

The wastage of foodgrains should be stopped and the government should ensure the constructions of godowns to maintain the quality and quantity of the foodgrains. The NGOs and other volunteer organization/agencies could play an important role to protect the foodgrains, but it should be monitored properly by honest officials.

The food grains could be kept in temples, churches, dharamshala, monastery and mosque, etc to feed the poor people at least two times a day. The government should the foodgrains in subsidise rates to such organization with proper vigilance by higher authority. It may help to reduce the wastage of foodgrains in future. It will help to reduce the hungry people as well as malnutrition among the people in developing country like India.

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Appendix-1.

2015 GFSI overall rankings table Weighted total of all category scores (0-100 where 100=most favourable) Rank Score /100 Rank Score /100 Rank Score /100

1 United States 89.0
2 Singapore 88.2
3 Ireland 85.4 4 Austria 85.1 5 Netherlands 85.0 6 Switzerland 84.4 7 Canada 84.2 8 Germany 83.9 =9 Australia 83.8 =9 France 83.8 =9 Norway 83.8 12 Sweden 82.9 13 New Zealand 82.8 14 Denmark 82.6 15 United Kingdom 81.6 16 Portugal 80.5 17 Finland 79.9 18 Belgium 79.5 =19 Israel 78.9 =19 Spain 78.9 21 Japan 77.4 22 Italy 77.0 23 United Arab Emirates 75.6 24 Kuwait 75.5 25 Czech Republic 74.9 26 South Korea 74.8 27 Chile 74.3 28 Poland 74.2 29 Greece 73.5 30 Saudi Arabia 72.8 31 Hungary 71.4 32 Slovakia 70.7 33 Uruguay 69.4 34 Malaysia 69.0 35 Mexico 68.7 36 Brazil 67.4 37 Argentina 67.1 38 Costa Rica 66.9 39 Turkey 66.0 40 Panama 65.4 41 South Africa 64.5
42 China 64.2
43 Russia 63.8 44 Belarus 63.5 45 Romania 63.3 46 Botswana 63.1 47 Egypt 61.8 48 Venezuela 61.7 49 Serbia 61.5 50 Bulgaria 61.0 51 Tunisia 60.1 52 Thailand 60.0 53 Colombia 59.6 54 Peru 58.6 55 Jordan 58.5 =56 Dominican Republic 56.8 =56 Kazakhstan 56.8 58 Azerbaijan 56.6 59 Ukraine 56.1 60 Ecuador 56.0 61 Paraguay 54.5 62 Morocco 53.9 63 Sri Lanka 53.7 64 Uzbekistan 53.6 65 Vietnam 53.4 66 El Salvador 53.3 67 Bolivia 52.8 = 68 Algeria 50.9 =
68 India 50.9=
70 Guatemala 49.7 =70 Nicaragua 49.7 72 Philippines 49.4 73 Honduras 49.3 74 Indonesia 46.7 75 Ghana 46.1 76 Cote d'Ivoire 46.0
77 Pakistan45.7 78 Myanmar 44.0 79 Uganda 42.8 =80 Benin 41.7 =80 Senegal 41.7 82 Cameroon 41.5 83 Kenya 41.2 84 Syria 40.6 85 Nepal 40.5 =86 Ethiopia 38.5 =86 Mali 38.5 88 Tajikistan 38.3 89 Bangladesh 37.4 90 Yemen 37.3 91 Nigeria 37.1 92 Sudan 36.5 93 Malawi 35.3 =94 Angola 35.1 =94 Rwanda 35.1 96 Cambodia 34.6 97 Guinea 33.9 98 Tanzania 33.7 =99 Burkina Faso 33.6 =99 Niger 33.6 101 Togo 33.4 102 Zambia 32.9 103 Mozambique 32.6 104 Haiti 31.1 105 Congo (Dem. Rep.) 30.1 106 Sierra Leone 29.0 107 Madagascar 28.8
108 Chad 27.9 109 Burundi 25.1 11

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