

*Regional Consultation*  
**Food Related Legislations in South Asia**  
SAWTEE, Kathmandu (30-31 July, 2013)

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**Food Related Legislations *and* Food Security**  
**A case study of India**

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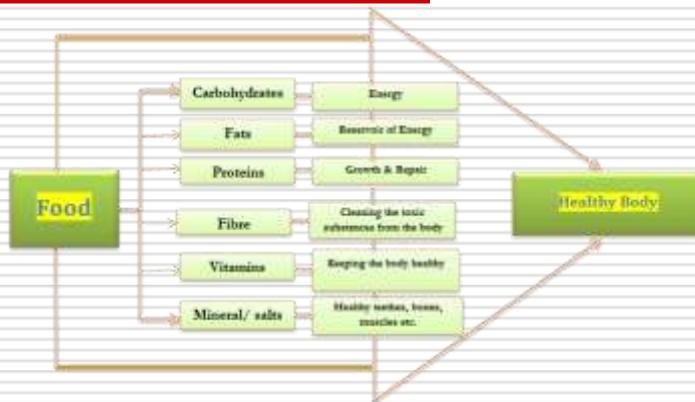


## Outline

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1. Why we need food?
  2. What is food security?
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  4. Food security approaches
  5. Need for food related legislations in India
  6. Dimensions of food related legislations in India
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## Why we need food?



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## What is food security?

**FAO (1983):** Stated that the objective of food security initiatives as “*ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food that they need*”

**FAO (The World Food Summit 1996):** ‘*Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life*’

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## Dimensions to food security

Physical <b>AVAILABILITY</b> of food	to the overall ability of the agricultural system to meet food demand.
Economic and physical <b>ACCESS</b> to food	to temporal aspect of food supply and accounts for the assertion that food must be available at all times.
Food <b>UTILISATION</b>	covers access by individuals to adequate resources to acquire appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
<b>STABILITY</b> of the other three dimensions over time	encompasses all food safety and quality aspects of nutrition; its sub dimensions are, therefore, related to health, including the sanitary conditions across the entire food chain.

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## Some food security approaches

### Sen's entitlement approach

Based on three conceptual constructs, namely, (i) the endowment set, (ii) the entitlement set, and (iii) the entitlement mapping

### Oxfam's sustainable livelihood approach

Seeks to assess risks and identify a variety of interventions that protect livelihoods that guarantee long-term food security (environmental change, gender and social inequality, among others are components of this approach). It seeks to strengthen deprived people's participation in the development process.

### Save the Children (SC), UK's food economy approach

Uses a simplified household budget data set to (i) describe the economy of defined populations; (ii) model people's capacity to acquire food and non-food goods under specified conditions; (iii) indicate potential lines of intervention and their relative cost and impact; (iv) monitor the impact of interventions.

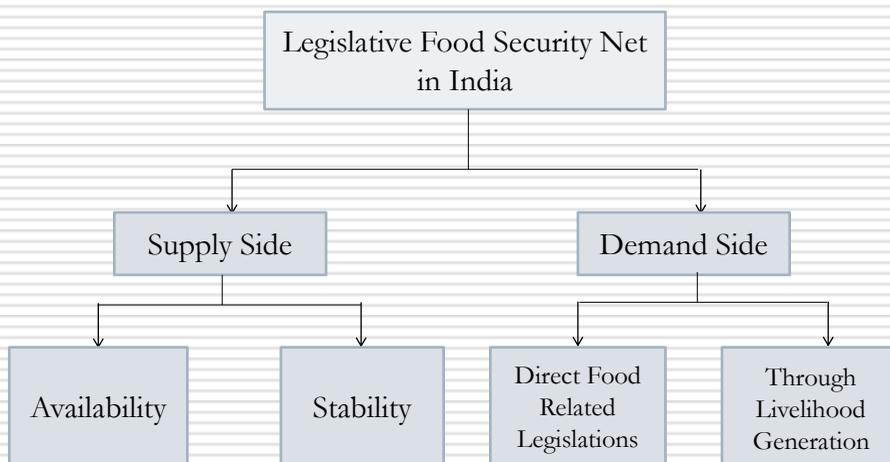
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## Need for food related legislations in India

- One of many countries where millions of people (adult and children) lack access to food because of various reasons. This is because of:
  - Endowment Loss;
  - Failure of Production;
  - Exchange Failure; and
  - Transfer Failure
- Inadequate food storage and marketing chain
- India is one of many countries with food deficit in terms of Kcal/capita/day (FAO puts this average calorie deficit at 125 for the triennium 2010-12)
- Prevalence of food inadequacy (based on physical need); stunting in nearly 48 percent of children below 5 years; over 43 percent children below 5 years being underweight in 2006 (FAO, 2013)

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## Dimensions of food related legislations in India



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## Availability

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- Agriculture Production, Supply and Distribution Control
  - Essential Commodities Act, 1955
  - Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act
  
- Agriculture Inputs
  - Land Reforms
  - Seeds Act
  - Protection of Plant varieties and Farmers' Right Act 2001
  - The Fertilizer (control) order, 1985
  - Insecticides Act, 1968
  - Pesticides Management Bill 2008

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## *Contd...*

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- Agriculture Finance and Infrastructure Development
  - National co-operative Development Corporation Act 1962
  - Multistate co-operative societies Act 2002
  - Agriculture Produce (development and warehousing) Act 1956
  - Agriculture Refinance and Development Corporation Act 1963
  - Agriculture Credit Policy 2004-05
  - The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act 2007
  
- Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, 2007

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## Stability

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- Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture
- Biological Diversity Act 2002

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## Direct food related legislations

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### **I. Accessibility**

- Public Distribution System
- SC/ST/OBC Hostels
- National Family Benefit scheme
- Anntodaya Ann Yojana
- Annapurna Scheme
- National Maternity Benefit Scheme
- Scheme for Supply of Food Grains to Welfare Institutions
- Food Stamps/Food Coupons/Food Credit Cards
- Village Grain Bank Scheme

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## **II. Utilization**

- Integrated Child Development Scheme
- Wheat Based Nutrition Program
- Emergency Feeding Program
- Mid-Day Meal
- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls- SABLA

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## **Livelihood generation**

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- Mahatma Gandhi national rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme
- Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana
- Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana

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## Other important initiatives

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- National Food Security Mission
  - Right to Food Campaign
  - National Food Security Bill, 2011
  - Right to Information Act 2005
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## National Food Security Mission

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- The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in 2007-08 with three components:
    - Rice (with the aim to increase rice production by 10 million tons);
    - Wheat (with the aim to increase wheat production by 8 million tons);  
and
    - Pulses (to increase the production of pulses by 2 million tons by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2011-12).
  - It aims to increase the productivity of the agriculture to achieve the overall objective of food security, it also annexes with itself the creation of employment opportunities, enhancing the farm level economy.
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## Right to Food Campaign

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- The Right to Food Campaign is an outgrowth of public interest litigation on the right to food. It is premised on the need to uphold the right to food, which follows the fundamental **right to life** enshrined in **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution**.
- This is a global non-governmental initiative to which India is also a part. It is an informal network of organisations and individuals committed to the realisation of the right to food in India.

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## National Food Security Bill 2011

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- Major highlights of NFSB 2011:
  - Provided that not less than 46% of all rural households shall be designated as Rural Priority Households and entitled to subsidized grains under the proposed bill;
  - Provided that 90% of all rural households are entitled to subsidized food grains;
  - Provided that not less than 28% of all urban households are categorised as Urban Priority Households;
  - Provided, that 50% of all urban households are entitled to subsidized food grains;

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- The NFSB does not only talk about the food entitlements to the diverse section of the population, it also talks of a rights based approach;
  - The NFSB 2011 cover all the multiple schemes under one head, which is not only innovative but also effective in targeting the population;
  - On Public Distribution system, the NFSB suggests major changes in the food distribution system in order to make it more effective and efficient to meet food security requirements of the people.
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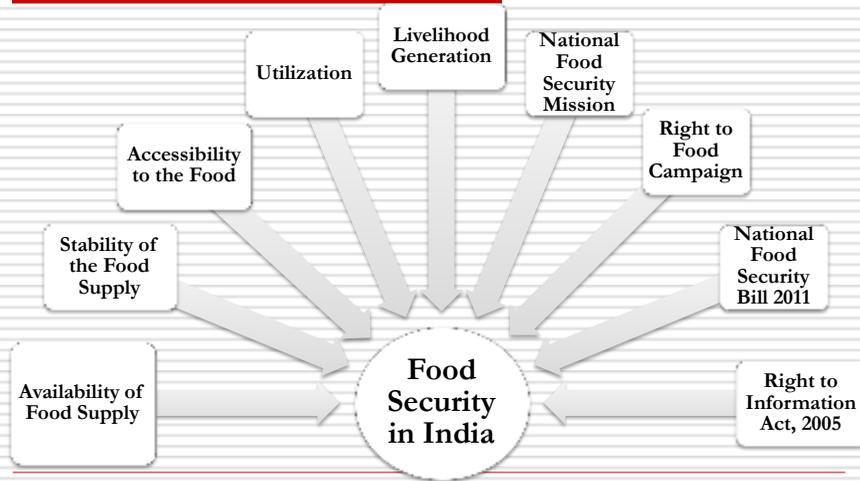
### Right to Information Act, 2005

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- The RTI Act provide for securing access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public;
  - The Act is helping people and civil society organizations to extract information related to public delivery systems and others, and in the process ensuring greater accountability and transparency.;
  - This important Act, though quite important from several aspects, could have indirect influence on ensuring stability in food supply by bringing in information relating to food.
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## Summing up: food security in India



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The above analysis is ample proof that India has a number of legislations, policies, programmes and initiatives covering all the four dimensions of food security:

- availability,
- stability,
- accessibility,
- utilisation (and also livelihood generation)

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## Questions that keep knocking...

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Given that India has put in place a gamut of legislations, that seek to fulfil all dimensions of food security – availability, stability, accessibility, and utilisation; and given that in terms of availability and accessibility, situation has impressively improved over the last four decades, then:

- Why millions of people constituting one-fourth of the population are denied access to food and suffer from hunger?
- Why millions of children are malnourished?

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## Answers that keep evading...

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It is also important to understand, does lack of access to food is because of:

- Inadequate production?
- Continuous increase in food prices and lack of purchasing power?
- Rising inequality putting pressure on available food?
- Inadequate monitoring of government schemes and initiatives resulting in leakages, loss of people's trust and non-participation?
- Lack of ownership and accountability in governance?
- Lack of adequate storage and transportation infrastructure?

There appears to be no single answer. It is rather combination of all identified and probably some other factors.

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## Had there been effective implementation of government programs/policies, then...

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- ❑ There would'nt have been millions of people without access to adequate food!
- ❑ There would'nt have been millions of children under/malnourished!
- ❑ There would'nt have been leakages (more than 40%) in PDS!  
*And moreover...*
- ❑ THERE WOULD'NT HAVE BEEN NEED FOR A FOOD SECURITY BILL!

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## Way forward and conclusion

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There is a need for a much focused approach to revitalise and strengthen implementation tools relating to food security.

Some of the areas that need immediate attention include:

- Creating a sense of complete accountability in governance;
- Improvement in public delivery system, especially PDS;
- Effective mechanism to control food inflation; and
- creation of food storage and other infrastructure.

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#### **National Food Security Ordinance**

- ❑ Up to 75 percent of the rural and up to 50 percent of the urban population will have uniform entitlement of five kg food grain per month: rice at Rs.3; wheat at Rs.2; coarse cereals at Re.1 per kg.
- ❑ The poorest of poor households to receive 35 kg food grain per household per month under the Antyodaya Anna Yojna at Rs.3, Rs.2 and Re.1.
- ❑ There is a special focus on nutritional support to women and children.
- ❑ Provisions for reforms in the Public Distribution System (PDS), application of information and communication technology (ICT), leveraging 'Aadhaar' for unique identification of beneficiaries, diversification of commodities under the Targeted PDS (TPDS) for effective implementation of the ordinance.
- ❑ Provision for state and district level redressal mechanism

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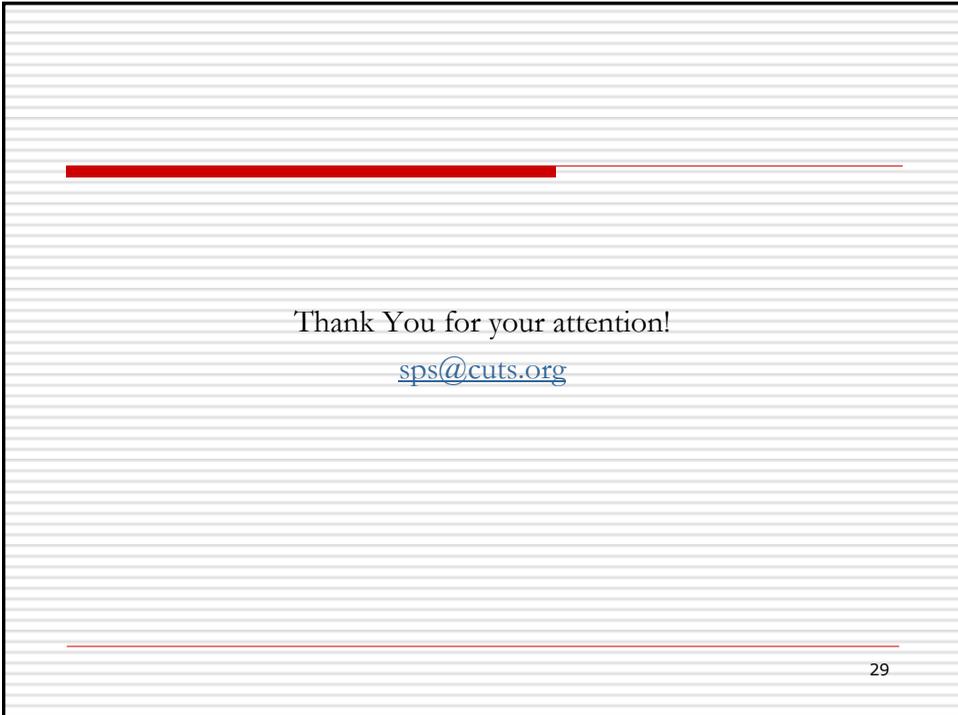
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One can hope that with the most ambitious government initiative on food security, which gives right to subsidised food grain to 67 percent of India's 1.2 billion people, India will be able to address all or many of the issues infesting food and nutritional security.

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Thank You for your attention!

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