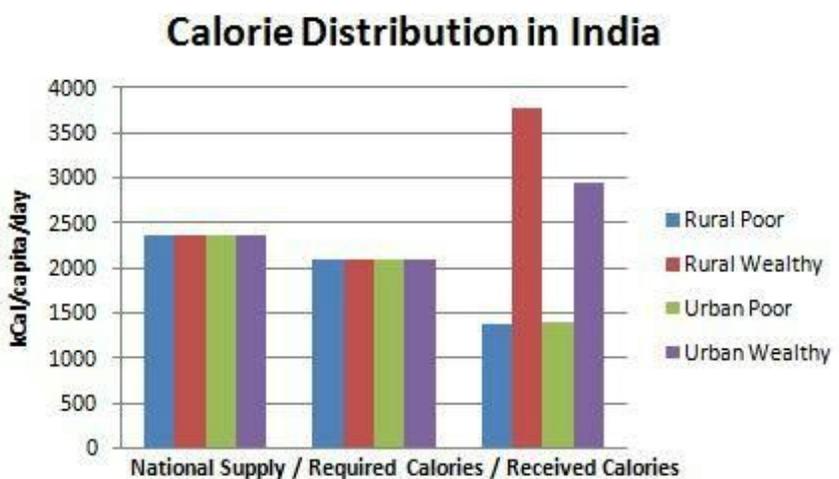# PROJECT HUNGER

*—'**U**' are the missing ingredient*

INTRODUCTION:

It is a no-denial irony that despite India's unprecedented growth above-par in economic growth, the country still leads in the world hunger list. As the country heads towards ground-breaking reforms and projects to secure future, why does it continue to dash hopes when it comes to combating malnutrition, that is still prevalent at large scales far and wide the nation. Hunger has been a gripping disease afflicting the marginalised sections of society who are deprived of access to the proper meals, even one time a day. The surplus harvests decay in the storage facilities while the malnourished population suffers from the careless organizational and distributional vision of the policy makers at the centre. The 'Hunger of India' is an unforgivable issue influencing the country deep, which in the long run will fatally dent its long strides towards economic growth. How can a nation flourish if half its population is still battling to compensate their empty-stomach. The endemic issue of deprivation, food insecurity and malnutrition expose the grim truth that despite agriculture being a 'backbone' of this yield-rich country, it has been appallingly ignored. As India stinks under the crisis of Hunger in India-food stock rotting, farmers suicide, undistributed food supplies, government busy in politicising agriculture, it is about time the Right to Food is given immediate contemplation.

PRESENT SCENARIO:

The Global Hunger Index measures the growth of a country on three fundamental criteria: the proportion of calorie-deficient people, child malnutrition and child mortality. India ranks 55th on its scale which begs the question is India in fact a growing economic power when its people languish in hunger. The disadvantaged sections of the society- the Dalits, SC/STs and other BPL(below poverty line) households whose occupation is agriculture are chiefly hit hard by the inaccessibility of food, malnutrition and starvation. The expecting mothers and children who require proper nutrition have found to be severely undernourished, starved and underweight. This leads to higher risks of foetal mortality, anaemia and others serious diseases whose adverse effects are detrimental to the health and livelihood of the farmers and so on.

When more than half of the Indian population is incapacitated due to hunger, it immediately demands a prompt redress of the issue. Otherwise the economic growth of India will only remain an elite or superficial affair without touching the grassroots. Hunger should be considered relevant as economic growth if the first step towards hunger eradication is to take place.

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

Country	2012	Rank 2013	2014
India	65	63	55
China	02	05	05
South Africa	09	04	--
Thailand	18	09	01
Indonesia	30	23	22
Sri Lanka	37	42	39
North Korea	52	51	44
Pakistan	57	57	57
Nepal	60	49	44
Bangladesh	68	58	57

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:

This progressive step along with the food security programmes as Integrated Child Development Services scheme, Public Distribution System and Midday Meal Scheme highlight the attempts made by the government to generate a policy for combating hunger. However it is a long gap between policy making and put it into action. The very inadequacy to put words into action suggests why India despite its rank as the next economic power is losing its people to malnutrition.

Hunger costs economy which in the long run, has a debilitating effect on the growth of a nation as a whole. It leads to illness which burdens the economy to pay for it. Marginalised sections of society due to their incapacity to work, study or pursue life goals are left out and cannot work to rake in the benefits of the modern India. Maternal and Child mortality rise. Farmer suicides are a common occurrence (as they are more burdened to work for themselves and for the country).
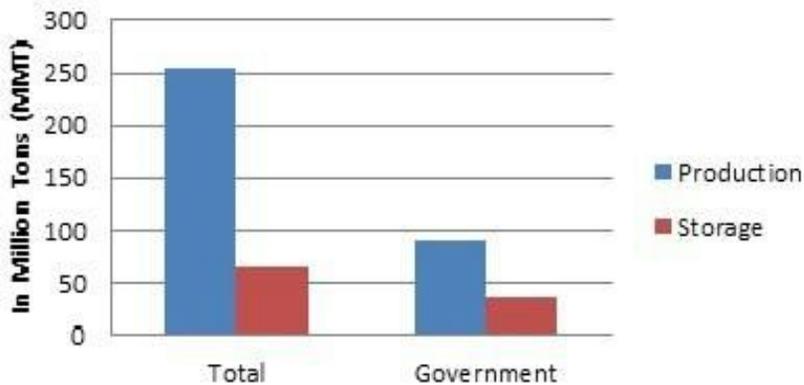
Food security exists when all people have access to sufficient amounts of safe, nutritious and affordable food to provide the foundation for active and healthy lives. Food security is a complex problem given interconnections and interdependencies in a global food system that is fundamentally dependent on soil, precipitation and water availability, climate and a host of services the earth provides and at the same time influenced significantly by trade, urbanization, changing demographics, and energy, water and land use policy.

WAY FORWARD:

It is strange when we come to think of starvation. The concept is all too implausible to us, is it really happening in India? Food is a necessity which we are able to achieve on a regular basis. It also serves as a luxury as we dine in flamboyant restaurants and posh malls. We have pride, certainty and assurance to progress when India as a nation rises as a force to reckon with in the global market. This feeling of comfort, quality and security is however stolen and inaccessible to the marginalised section of India who reel in hunger when we consume daily meals as casually as

India Total Food Grains 2012-13 Production and Storage Capacity

one usually does. The issues as hunger, malnutrition and mortality seem to us as rare occurrences confined to some rural areas. Yet the reality is very shocking and exposes the deplorable conditions in which the majority of India's population is living in. As India claims for a spot in the global arenas, it should not break its attention away from the foundation on which its economy will thrive.

Urgency is key here. Collaboration and coordination between centre-state and public- private institutions is a must. Policies which manifest into action is paramount. Time to debate should be replaced by concrete implementation. It is imperative to highlight that Right to Food is not just a fine vision but a necessity to save the millions of Indians from the scourge of hunger.

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The problem of Food Security, hunger and malnutrition is a serious one, and if necessary course of action is delayed, results will be devastating for generations. The problems addressed above are just not of recent times, but date several years. Let's jointly end this issue once and for all, but every revolution does not necessary be spontaneous. This problem requires systematic ideation and brainstorming for effective, feasible methods and framework. Now is when you step in and leave your mark. The following points/questions you must consider while preparing your case-

➢ India is essentially a rural nation and still the dominating occupation of most Indians is agriculture. So why not start this war against hunger right from its roots? Enlist ways of how

agricultural productivity be enhanced nationwide by incorporating genetic modification of crop-seeds, use of fertilizers, pesticides and even putting use the best of traditional methods. Irrigation is also a roadblock owing to the reliance of most farmers on untimed monsoons. Agricultural productions are further affected by improper harvesting, processing and transport. Discuss the same, briefly.

➢ **With the declaration of 2016 as the 'International Year of Pulses' by the United Nations, the cultivation and consumption of pulses has been popularized. Pulses are prime sources of protein and are also replenishing as it enhances soil fertility by nitrogen fixation. Ironically, India is largest producer of pulses in the world. Still India imports large quantities of pulses. Critically examine the reasons for low productivity of pulses in India and reflect on the ways to enhance it.**

➢ One of the major bottleneck in the route to Food Security for all is lack of proper allocation of the produce to the far and wide areas of the nation. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The Central government, through Food corporation of India, has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of food grains to the State Governments. Still the grains rot in our granaries, why? Outline a systematic logistics-framework to act as a bridge between farmers and the hungry mass, and discuss on the plights of the present framework.

➢ Recommend a roadmap to end hunger by 2020 for India, to become a global leader in food sufficiency, both in production and consumption. Include prospective key policy decisions of the government in this direction, methods for strict implementation of the pre-existing ones. Discuss the legislative policies adopted by the developed nations as U.S. and China and compare the same with India. Highlight the loopholes in our methods and suggest remedial measures for the same.

Hunger and food insecurity is everywhere and we need to put an end to it as soon as we can. It has taken enough lives as it is. If we all got together, then this dream of no hunger could actually be a reality! We can do this if we really try! Your ideation is just the start, much work remains to be done to eradicate hunger and achieve food security across all its dimensions. Do your bit judiciously.

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

RULES:

➢ Each team may have a maximum of four members, which may or may not be from the same college.
➢ Multiple teams from the same college are allowed to participate for the event.
➢ Teams should submit their paper in ".ppt" format strictly and should be timed for 10 mins (8 mins for presentation and 2 mins for Question and Answer round).
➢ The solution should present your perspective as well as address all the issues pertaining to the problem statement.
➢ Formatting rules should be strictly followed. A font type of **Times New Roman** with a font size of **14** should be kept.
➢ Participants should ensure that their presentation include all relevant figures, tables and references.
➢ The decision of the judges shall be final and binding.

Note: Apart from the above mentioned points, you are free to incorporate other relevant ones too.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

●   Registration can be done online (through Cognizance website, http://www.cognizance.org.in) and on the spot as well.

●   Teams are required to reach the registration desk at least half an hour before the commencement of the event.

●   Participants should submit the hard copy of their solution along with two photographs of each member.

●   The covering page of the paper must have:

Name(s), Institution of study, Email address(es), Contact number(s) of all the team members

●   No entries would be accepted after the start of the event.

●   Venue and timings would be notified subsequently.

AWARDS:

●   Certificate of appreciation would be provided to the winners.

●   Coupons and gift hampers would be awarded to the finalists.

●   Your ideas will receive the exposure to the notable organizations namely Department of Biotechnology, IIT Roorkee, Institute of Food Security and the FAO.

●   The winners will be given the opportunity for direct entry to **any one of** theme events organised in Cognizance 2016.

NOTE:

●   They need not to send the abstract or participate in the qualifier rounds of the event.

●   However, they need to register on the website and complete the other necessary formalities.

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