

- Food Security in India
- Role of Cooperatives in Food Security
- Solved Example
- Practice Set
- Answer Key
- Quick Reference
- Glossary

Food Security in India

Food security means availability, accessibility, and affordability of food to all people at all times. It is essential for survival, health, and well-being. A natural disaster, such as a drought or flood, can destroy crops and food stocks, leading to decreased availability and increased prices of food. This can result in starvation and malnutrition.

Poverty – Introduction, Indicators and Estimates

Food insecurity affects various groups in India, including landless people, traditional artisans, petty self-employed workers, destitute individuals, and the elderly. These groups are also food insecure. Hunger can be chronic, due to persistently inadequate diets, or seasonal, related to cycles of food production.

Exam Question: Who are the most food insecure groups in India?

Answer: The most food insecure groups in India include landless people, traditional artisans, petty self-employed workers, destitute individuals, and the elderly.

Food Security in India

India has become self-sufficient in food grains over the last thirty years due to diverse crop production and the Green Revolution, which introduced high-yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers. The Public Distribution System (PDS). Buffer stocks are food grains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and stored for emergencies. The PDS

5. Role of Cooperatives in Food Security in India

Procurement and distribution of food grains

Storage and transportation of food grains

Marketing and pricing of food grains

Providing credit and other services to farmers

Green revolution has prevented India from facing a situation of famine.

The system of buffer stock- surplus produce is stored in granaries.

Public Distribution system- food is distributed through ration shops at lower prices. items like sugar, kerosene oil, food grains.

Introduction of Food intervention Programmes- food for work, child development services.

4. Food security in India

Answer: The food security system in India consists of buffer stocks of food grains procured by the Food Corporation of India and the Public Distribution System.

Problems of the Public Distribution System

The PDS faces several challenges. The quantity of food grains supplied is often insufficient to meet the needs of the poor, forcing them to rely on the open market. The targeted PDS issues different ration cards: Antyodaya cards for the poorest, Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards, and Above Poverty Line (APL) cards.

Exam Question: What are the main problems faced by the Public Distribution System in India?

Answer: The main problems include insufficient supply of food grains, diversion of grains to the open market, poor quality of grains, irregular supply, and high prices.

Role of Cooperatives in Food Security

Cooperative societies play a significant role in ensuring food security in India, especially in western and southern regions. In Tamil Nadu, the Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited (Amul) in Gujarat, which led the White Revolution by boosting milk production. The Academy of Development Sciences in Maharashtra promotes cooperative farming, including loans of grain repaid with interest at the next harvest.

Exam Question: How do cooperatives contribute to food security in India?

Answer: Cooperatives contribute by managing fair price shops, procuring and marketing food grains, providing credit and services to farmers, and ensuring food security.

Solved Example

Question: What are the problems of the functioning of ration shops?

Answer:

1. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is crucial for food security but faces several issues.
2. The food grains supplied are insufficient to meet the needs of the poor, forcing reliance on the open market.
3. The average consumption of PDS grains is only 1 kg per person per month across India.
4. Malpractices such as diversion of grains to the open market, sale of poor-quality grains, and irregular shop timings reduce accessibility.
5. The targeted PDS issues different ration cards with varying discounts, but APL families receive minimal benefits, reducing their use of ration shops.

Practice Set

Easy

- Define food security.
- Who are considered food insecure in India?

Moderate

- Explain the components of the food security system in India.

- What are the challenges faced by the Public Distribution System?

Challenging

- Discuss the role of cooperatives in enhancing food security in India.
- How do natural disasters affect food security?

Answer Key

- **Define food security.** Availability, accessibility, and affordability of food to all people at all times.
- **Who are considered food insecure in India?** Landless people, traditional artisans, petty self-employed workers, destitute individuals, etc.
- **Explain the components of the food security system in India.** Buffer stocks procured by the Food Corporation of India and the Public Distribution System.
- **What are the challenges faced by the Public Distribution System?** Insufficient supply, diversion of grains, poor quality, irregular shop timings, etc.
- **Discuss the role of cooperatives in enhancing food security in India.** Managing fair price shops, procuring and marketing food grains, etc.
- **How do natural disasters affect food security?** They destroy crops and food stocks, reduce availability, increase prices, and can lead to food insecurity.

Quick Reference

- **Food Security:** Availability, accessibility, and affordability of food.
- **Green Revolution:** Introduction of modern farming methods increasing food grain production.
- **Buffer Stock:** Food grains procured and stored by the government.
- **Public Distribution System:** Government system distributing food grains to the poor.
- **Cooperatives:** Societies aiding in food procurement, marketing, and distribution.
- **Grain Bank:** Community system for storing and lending grain.

Glossary

Food Security

The state when all people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

Green Revolution

A period of agricultural transformation in India marked by increased production through modern techniques.

Buffer Stock

Reserve of food grains maintained by the government to stabilize supply and prices.

Public Distribution System (PDS)

A government program to distribute subsidized food grains to the poor.

Cooperative Society

An organization owned and operated by a group of individuals for their mutual benefit.

Grain Bank

A community-managed system for storing surplus grain and providing loans during lean periods.