



A Study on Food Security Laws and the Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

Indicators of food security, suggestions for making it more operational, and examples of actual application. The study concentrated on three significant blind spots that may result from potential connections between domestic material consumption (DMC) and sustainable food production, consumption, and consumption. To connect the objectives of sustainable development and food security, projection of latent structure regression was used. Results showed that the integration of DMC with sustainable food production and consumption was the main objective in decreasing trade-offs. The development of cohesive SDG initiatives and sustainable food security were favourably connected with DMC. By emphasising how to attain food security in various development contexts and the difficulties in addressing the connections between targets and indicators inside and outside of SDGs 2 and 12, practical consequences were examined. The outcomes are valuable for setting a proper strategy for sustainable production and consumption that can improve the efficient use of resources in the eight Central European countries.

Keywords: sustainable development goals, food systems, sustainability transitions, sustainable food security

INTRODUCTION

There are many interconnected goals pertaining to agriculture and food in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 2 specifically aims to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture," but a number of other goals have issues with the food system in mind as well. The essential policy levers to ensure safe and secure food systems in line with these objectives are outlined in this study.

The evolution of the concept and definitions of food security

Around 45 years ago, at a period of global food problems, the idea of food security was first introduced. At first, it concentrated on assuring food supply in terms of availability and the stability of the prices of staple commodities on a local and global scale. This was the result of the early 1970s' significant volatility in agricultural commodity prices due to the turmoil in the currency and energy markets, as well as a variety of other adverse factors. The focus on supply-side issues was a reflection of the evolving structure of the world food industry, which is thought to be the root cause of recurrent crises. The FAO definition of food security was expanded to include the following factors as a result of a fuller understanding of how agricultural markets functioned under pressure and how at-risk communities were unable to get food.

The turning point was the publication of the World Bank's groundbreaking report, *Poverty and Hunger*, in 1986. By distinguishing between acute, temporary food insecurity brought on by natural or man-made disasters and chronic food insecurity linked to issues of poverty, a temporal scale for food security was created. An expansion of food security to include "access of all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life" reflected these worries.

The needs for human security were taken into consideration in the Human Development Report of the UN Development Programme in 1994. From the micro to the macro levels, we have enumerated the seven main risks that were found: food, health, personal, economic, communal, political, and environmental security. Around this period, the topic of human rights emerged in conversations on food security within the broader social security framework.

From individual to global scale, food security is a concern. Although it is a personal matter, policymakers tend to address it at the national level, and its measurement is done at the household level to take into account food preferences (see Fig. 1).

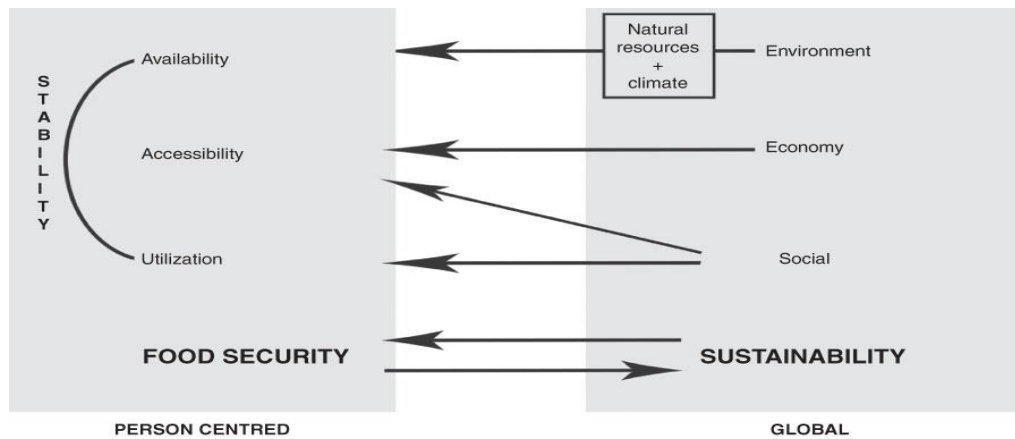


Fig. 1 The interrelationships between food security and sustainability

When everyone, at all times, has physical, social, and economic access to enough, safe, and nutritious food that satisfies their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, food security is said to exist. Regarding the social emphasis, it was acknowledged that combating poverty is vital but insufficient by itself to accomplish this goal.

Importantly, the number of challenges presently seen as potentially related to food security has significantly increased as a result of the broadening and strengthening of the concept of food security. The outer circle, which includes topics like globalisation, sustainable development, and human rights, represents food security as three concentric circles. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which underwent reform in 2009, has talked about how various issues, including price volatility, land tenure, international agricultural investments, climate change, social protection, biofuels, investments in smallholder agriculture, and food losses and waste, can affect food security. Informed by findings from its High Level Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems, Sustainable Fisheries, and Sustainable Aquaculture, these topics have been taken into consideration. food security gets closer to the time dimension of the sustainability concept. Finally, the reports requested from the HLPE by CFS for 2014 and 2015 show a progressive incorporation of sustainability as an integral component of food security and nutrition. As noted above, this integration has been both long overdue and a long time in development.

What is Food Security?

- Food security, as defined by the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.
- Food security is the combination of the following three elements:
 - Food availability i.e. food must be available in sufficient quantities and on a consistent basis. It considers stock and production in a given area and the capacity to bring in food from elsewhere, through trade or aid.
 - Food access i.e. people must be able to regularly acquire adequate quantities of food, through purchase, home production, barter, gifts, borrowing or food aid.
 - Food utilization: Consumed food must have a positive nutritional impact on people. It entails cooking, storage and hygiene practices, individuals health, water and sanitations, feeding and sharing practices within the household.
- Food security is closely related to household resources, disposable income and socioeconomic status. It is also strongly interlinked with other issues, such as food prices, global environment change, water, energy and agriculture growth.

Why Food Security is Important for a Nation?

- For boosting the agricultural sector.
- For having a control on food prices.
- For economic growth and job creation leading to poverty reduction
- For trade opportunities
- For increased global security and stability
- For improved health and healthcare.

Need for Food Security in World

Conflict, climate variability and extremes, and economic slowdowns were major drivers slowing down progress and the COVID-19 pandemic exaggerated the situation. The prevalence of undernourishment increased from 8.4 percent in 2019 to 9.9 percent in 2020. In the context of population, around 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020.

46 million more people in Africa, almost 57 million more in Asia, and about 14 million more in Latin America and the Caribbean were affected by hunger immensely in 2020. Severe food insecurity estimated increase in 2020 was equal to that of the previous five years combined.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION

Indian Constitution doesn't have explicit provisions regarding the right to food, but the Fundamental Right to Life enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution can be interpreted to include the right to live with human dignity; including the right to food and other basic necessities.

INTRODUCING SUSTAINABILITY AS PART OF FOOD SECURITY

Similar to how food security developed historically, sustainability has as well. According to the widely accepted definition of "sustainable development," sustainability is the evaluation of a system's durability through time (i.e., "without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"). Contrary to environmental and ecological sustainability concerns, which function locally as well as at supranational, regional, and global levels, food security as it is traditionally understood is a problem for individuals. Sustainable development, which encompasses the four interconnected realms of ecological, economics, politics, and culture, serves as the organising concept for sustainability.

There has been growing consensus in recent years that sustainability is crucial to ensuring food security. The framework for ensuring food security has not yet been given a position. It might be included in the availability, access, and long-term sustainability of consumption factors for the long-term sustainability of food production. Some people can argue that sustainability is a more meaningful alternative to stability or perhaps a prolongation of the period of stability. Others believe that a separate fifth factor of food security should be given to sustainability, to represent and keep track of the ability to guarantee all aspects of food security over the long term. It has the potential to solidify a more comprehensive understanding of food security by adding sustainability as a fifth dimension.

SUSTAINABLE DIETS

With all of their various components, sustainable diets make logical sense within this new overarching framework, along with other sustainability components in the food system. The following is a brief discussion that isn't exhaustive despite the topic's rising complexity and attention. Sustainable diets, in conjunction with sustainable food systems, aid in articulating food security and sustainability in a more tangible and practical manner. They emphasise long-term wellness and environmental preservation. According to the former definition, "sustainable diets are those diets with low environmental impacts that contribute to food and nutrition security and a healthy life for both the present and future generations." Sustainable diets are nutrient-adequate, safe, and healthful while maximising natural and local resources, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically equitable, and affordable. Additionally, it emphasises how important sustainable consumption is for driving sustainable production. The 10-year framework of programmes on this topic, which was fully operationalized in Rio's adoption of Agenda 21, placed this relationship at the core of sustainable consumption and production.

SYNTHESIS AND CHALLENGES

How do dietary changes towards more sustainable diets, whether they be made by an individual or a household, impact the sustainability of goals like biodiversity preservation, averting the worst effects of climate change and other environmental issues, enhancing economic and social benefits, and enhancing health and nutrition? This query highlights the new difficulty of how to raise public, the food industry, producers, and policy makers' knowledge and education regarding the reciprocal relationship between sustainable diets and food security. Due to the growing recognition of the significance of sustainability, it is necessary to include it into nutrition in a real-world and quantifiable way.

The foundation for long-term planning already in place calls for ongoing efforts in this direction. According to FAO forecasts until 2050, a realistic scenario could suggest a significant further intensification of production per unit of land in the ensuing decades. This is thought to be a result of the rising global food demand and the corresponding changes in dietary habits that result from the anticipated changes in income and population. While this is a likely scenario, it should be noted that it is not necessarily a desired one. Further intensification may cause additional pressure on land, water, and genetic resources, which may only be relieved by a change in world demand. However, these predictions may be affected by climate change.

As part of the ongoing argument between Malthusians (himself and other optimists), with special reference to the Asia-Pacific area (but also applicable to other regions), warnings have also been carefully examined. Five interconnected threats to future food security were identified in a companion paper as

- (i) Climate change,
- (ii) Water scarcity,
- (iii) Tropospheric ozone pollution,
- (iv) An impending shortage of phosphorus and conventional oil, and
- (v) The potential interaction between future population displacement, conflict, and poor governance.

A lasting increase in food security, according to his findings, "requires a radical transformation in society's approach to the environment, population growth, agricultural research, and the distribution of rights, opportunities, and entitlements."

Sustainability, nutrition, and food security are increasingly discussed together. In order to assess the long-term viability of food system chains, sustainability should be viewed as a crucial component of food security planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Farmers must actively participate in using environmentally friendly methods. But everyone faces this dilemma; there are already more than eighty organisations and activities working on nutrition security issues. Since the benefits of sustainability are long-term and don't provide much in the way of immediate electoral advantage, getting the idea on the political agenda is difficult. To be more palatable and understandable, it also needs to be made more concrete and person-centered. The sustainability agenda might benefit from including explicit consideration of food security.

CONCLUSION

When evaluating food security, sustainability should be taken into account as part of the long-term time dimension. From this vantage point, the idea of sustainable diets can be crucial as a target and a means of preserving nutritional well-being and health while assuring the sustainability for long-term food security. Future food insecurity could be directly caused by current policies and initiatives if sustainability is not included as an explicit (fifth?) feature of food security.

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