

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND FUTURE AID: HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS AND CURRENT ISSUES

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to examine global food security and future aid, assess international commitment to end hunger and nutrition, critically analyse the global failure in food security and review the emerging problems and the impact of the GATT and Uruguay round. Effort was made to evaluate the global perspective of food aid. The major conclusions drawn from this paper were an estimated number of 70million children suffer from malnutrition serious enough to jeopardise their chances of becoming healthy adults. Most of these children reside in sub-Saharan Africa. Development indicators have shown that it is not possible to achieve the world food summit goal of reducing the number of malnourished people by 50% by 2015 even FAO estimates that this goal will be achieved by 2030. Increase in supply of food has been mainly in richer countries and has certainly not extended to Africa thus raising questions of access or entitlement to food supply. The demand for food will be further increased as a result of rising per capita income in many parts of the world. Projections of future annual food aid requirements to ranging from 40million tonnes to meet status quo demand to 80million tonnes. Finally, this paper recommends some strategies aimed at addressing problems and challenges of food insecurity and global food aid.

INTRODUCTION

Food security has been long recognised as the self sufficiency in food consumed by the masses. The most important indicator has been the availability of food for everyone in a country in adequate amount (Khalil, 2007).

In 1970s, Africa was hit by a severe food crises caused by draught and desertification leading to shortfall in food supplies. The 1974 world food conference also considered shortfall in food supplies as the major cause of that food insecurity in response.

FAO formed a number of committee including committee on world food security which focused their activities on increasing domestic agricultural production in addition to creating international grain reserve (Anka and Rizvi, 2011).

At that time, food security was identified mainly with physical food availability. By early 1980s it was realised that the concept of food security based merely on the physical food availability or food supply focus was not tenable and that increased food production was not the simple answer to the hunger problem as adequate food availability at the national level did not automatically translate into food security.

In fact hunger and malnutrition had not been wiped out even if sufficient food was made available for everyone both at the national and global level. Researchers soon found out that food insecurity occurred in situation where food supply was available but not accessible due to erosion of people's entitlement to food which included their own food production, income, assets, community support migration etc.

Consequently, the committee on food security had to expand the concept of food security to include three specific goals ensuring adequacy of food supplies, optimising stability of supplies and securing access to available supplies for all who need them. In the process, food security has become a mere complex phenomenon than merely availability of the food.

The ultimate objectives of this expanded concept of food security were to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. This definition of food security was officially adapted readily by the World Bank and other major bodies such as the World Food Council, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the Council and Conference of the FAO.

Food security in the context of eliminating hunger and starvation has become a complex mechanism which has to be understood by all those involved with food security. Although

hunger and starvation are complex issues, fortunately, there is enough knowledge available on the root causes of poverty food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger and on how to use this knowledge to combat these menaces. Putting the knowledge together to work for the poor should become the joint responsibility of the government, NGOs, aid agencies, private sector and civil society (Singer and Shaw, 1995).

The commitment made by World Food Security (WFS) in 1996 has not been achieved due to slower rate of reduction of malnutrition (8millions instead of 20millions per year) and so it is not possible to achieve the World Food Security goal of reducing the number of malnourished people by 50% by 2015. FAO estimates that this goal may be achieved by the year 2030 instead of 2015.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Food insecurity is not confined only to developing countries but it also exist in the developed world, for example the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that in 1999, there were 27millions people in the United States who lacked food security and among them were 11millions children under the age of 18years. The demand for food aid will increase as a result of higher cost of commercial food imports brought about by the implementation of the final Act of food aid provisions. The supply of food aid is now threatened by both a reduction of surpluses and by higher prices which will mean less volume of food aid for given budgetary allocations. Since programme aid is given to governments, it does not contribute to poverty reductions and food security for all. Furthermore, apart from misappropriations that are charged to the profit and loss account, the money obtained from the sale of the aid is not always used to finance agricultural programmes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

The specific objectives of this paper were: Assess International commitment to end hunger and malnutritionCritically analyse the global failure in food security

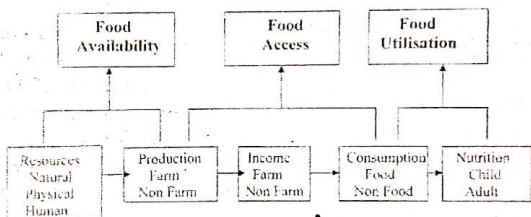
Review the emerging problems and impact of the GATT and Uruguay round.

Evaluate the global perspective of food aid

FRAME WORK FOR UNDERSTANDING FOOD SECURITY

Data on food security and insecurity is diverse and complex. The basic determinants of food security are food availability, food access and food utilisation. The concept of food security/insecurity as though, in the USA include not only the above three determinants but also include perceptions (e.g. Food is insufficient, inadequate, unacceptable, uncertain, or unsustainable (Wolfe and Frongillo, 2001). These determinants are interlinked with each other and are presented in a general conceptual framework in Figure I.

Figure-1: Conceptual Framework of Food Security



Source: Web et.al, 1993.

These different framework used in different sets are presented to show each framework, has three components in common and further that the ultimate goal of food security is to reduce nutritional health if it is not translated into one's nutritional wellbeing of the people that are not food secured.

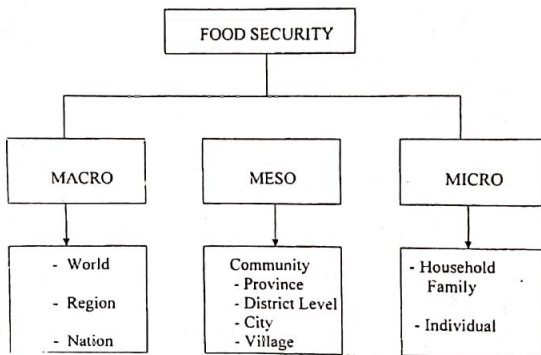
Food security is a complex and dynamic phenomenon; there are a vast number of factors which need to be addressed for improving food security at the Local Regional and National Levels. These factors relate to diversified fields of activities including agricultural, micro and macro economics, social and cultural set up, education, political structure and ethnic conflicts

etc. Some important factors influencing food security also called ingredients of food security.

Different Levels of Food Security

The three levels of food security or insecurity can be visualised. Food security at national or global level is referred to as macro-level. At provincial level, district or sub-district levels it is called Meso level. While at the household or individual level it is called micro level of food security.

Figure-2: Different Levels of Food Security



Source: Gross RS, Pfeifer H and Preuss H.J. (2000), Four Dimensions of Food and Nutrition Security, Definitions and Concepts, Nutrition and Agriculture SCN News Number 20, Pp.20-25.

FOOD INSECURITY IS WIDESPREAD

The acquisition and consumption of food is essential for the survival of all species. Every one requires access to food for sustaining a productive and healthy life. Food is thus a need rather than a want and nothing can replace it. Access to food production in the world has increased by about 18% over the last 30 years ago. So there are millions throughout the world who are hungry and malnourished even today when food for everybody is abundantly

available. This manifests a high degree of food insecurity at global regional, national and household levels.

Food insecurity is closely associated with poverty and about 2billion people in developing world is absolutely poor with only a dollar per day or less per person to meet food and other basic needs. At the turn of the century, there were 800million people who were hungry around the world and 24,000 people were dying every day from the consequences of hunger and malnutrition, three quarters of whom 18,000 were children under five years of age. Unfortunately, this goes on despite the fact that enough food is produced worldwide to feed them.

An estimated number of 70million children suffer from malnutrition serious enough to jeopardise their chances of becoming healthy adults. Most of these children reside in Asia, Latin America, Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa including Nigeria (FAO, 2001). Food insecurity is not confined only to developing countries but it also exists in the developed world. For example, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimated that in 1999 there were 27million people in the United States who lacked food security and among them were 11million children under the age of 18years.

It is now well recognised that food insecurity expressed in terms of hunger and malnutrition act as the biggest impediment to economic prosperity, investment to improve nutrition that feeds back into economic growth and higher incomes.

International Effort to End Hunger and Malnutrition in Poor Countries

The objectives of first reducing and finally eliminating hunger and ensuring food security for everyone have been reiterated at several International Conferences. It started from 1974 World Food Copenhagen Summit in Rome, Millennium Development Summit in 2000 and the 2002 World Food Summit, five years later. The Rome declaration of the 1996 World Food Summit presented a comprehensive plan of action covering all the important dimensions and principles of food security such as

conservation of ecological foundations for eradicating poverty and inequality and creation of a fair and market oriented world trading system (Singer and Shaw, 1995).

The World Food Summit plan of action for reducing the number of malnourished people including political, social and economical environment for food security to important policies aimed at eradicating poverty to improve physical and economic access to food by all. Thus reducing the incidence of food insecurity for achieving the target of World Food Summit was an important strategy and needs the attention of all those who have a stake in the welfare and well being of the underprivileged of the society. Therefore reducing food insecurity must remain an important component of the strategy for reducing the number of malnourished people in developing countries (Anka and Rizvi, 2011).

Hunger Free World Unlikely in the Near Future

Although hunger and starvation are complex issues fortunately, there is enough knowledge available on the root causes of poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger and how to use the knowledge to combat these menaces. Putting the knowledge to work for the poor should become the joint responsibility of the government, the NGOs, the Aid Agencies, the private sector and civil society failing which the objective of reducing hunger and malnutrition will not be achieved and the notion of food access as a human right will appear a hollow cry.

Against this background, the commitment made in the World Food Summit (WFS) instead of 20millions per year and so it is not possible to achieve the world Food Summit goal of reducing the number of malnourished people by 50% by 2015. FAO estimates that this goal may be achieved by the year 2030 instead of 2015. The situation with pre-school children is not any encouraging. In the 1990 World Summit for children, the International Community had pledged to reduce the number of malnourished pre-school children by 50% by 2020.

This has not been achieved and estimates suggest that child malnutrition for all developing countries is not expected to reduce by more than 25years over the period of 1990 – 2020. Projections by IFPRI suggest that the number of malnourished children in

1995 which were 161million will reduce to 135million by 2020. In fact in the sub-Saharan Africa the actual number may increase from 31million in 1995 to 40million in 2020.

Options to Hunger and Starvation Expanding Crop Area

In the past most of the increase in food production in Pakistan and other developing countries has come from expanding crop area and increasing productivity. However, the long-term prospects for a great expansion are bright because a large part of land that could be used for farming is unfit to cultivate for a number of reasons and will require major investments to recover these lands for cultivation. Thus expanding cropped area can be done to a limited extent. Currently, the area under various crops is shown in Table 1, there has been small but steady increase in the area under food crops and edible oil.

Table-1: Area under Various Crops

Year	Food Crops	Cash Crops	Pulses	Edible Oil
1980-1985	11.13	3.16	1.32	0.49
1985-1990	11.48	3.40	1.41	0.44
1990-1995	12.00	3.74	1.48	0.51
1995-2000	12.50	4.24	1.53	0.62
2000-2001	12.35	4.07	1.32	0.51
2001-2002	11.99	4.33	1.38	0.57
2002-2003	11.99	4.06	1.42	0.56
2003-2004	12.65	4.29	1.44	0.69
2004-2005	12.60	4.34	1.49	0.69
2005-2006	12.89	4.20	1.40	0.72

Source: Agricultural Statistics of Pakistan, Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Increasing Yield

The only option to sustain production growth is to increase yields. The yield of most agricultural crops is far below their potential or achievable yield due to the inefficiency of agricultural production system. The gap between the yield of various crops in Pakistan and other countries is wide as shown in Table 2. In 2006-2007 Pakistan produced 23.5million tonnes of wheat which is the maximum ever produced. The yield of wheat in 2005 – 2006 was 2,519 – 2,769kg/ha which is far below the achievable yield of 6,425kg/ha obtained by FAO in the farmers fields and is lower than many other countries.

Table-2: Yield of Various Crops in Various Countries (Kg/Ha)

Country	Wheat	Rice	Sugarcane
Pakistan	2519	2116	53209
India	2640	2927	59707
France	7578	-	-
USA	2898	7581	70670
China	4203	6347	70821
Australia	1844	-	88896
Canada	2489	-	-
Russia	1901	-	-
Iran	2121	5965	-
World Average	2869	3970	65532

Source: Agricultural Statistics of Pakistan, 2005-2006, Economic Survey of Pakistan, 2006-2007.

According to Khan (2002), the yield in Pakistan is between 50-80% less than achievable targets. If the yield gap is reduced by 30%, the production of wheat will increase to 29.4million tonnes of rice (paddy) to 9.6million tonnes and maize to 2.9million tonnes with an overall increase of 41.6million tonnes of food grains

GLOBAL FAILURE IN FOOD SECURITY

What are the reasons for this global failure in providing food security for all? We examine the following reasons:

Marginalisation of Africa: The failure to achieve the target of reducing the number of malnourished people by 50% on due dates is considered by many not only a political but also a moral failure. There is marginalisation of Africa, these shows in all the general economic and human development indicators from per capita GDP to child mortality and expectation of life. The incidence of hunger and food insecurity is higher in Africa than anywhere else even though in terms of absolute numbers the Indian sub-continent still has more hungry people. This situation will not be changed unless as an International Community will take special measures to bring Africa back into the mainstream of economic progress. This will require no less than a marshal plan for Africa. In particular it will require a green revolution in Africa similar in extent to the one in the Punjab of India and Pakistan. Some 40years ago or so India and Sub-Saharan Africa each produced something like 65 – 70million tonnes of cereals. Today, India in a normal year produces up to 600million tonnes for a much larger populations while Sub-Saharan Africa produces not more than 80 to 90 tonnes which is too meagre for African population.

A green revolution for Africa would require a drastic increase in research into Africa's millet, sorghum, cassava, yam etc. rather than wheat and rice. It would also involve a drastic increase and improvement in agricultural extension services for which the conditions are worse than they were in India.

Impact on War and Conflict Destroys Food Security: Related to the problems of Africa, but not limited to it is the spread and impact of war and conflict which we have seen in recent years. War and ethnic conflict destroys food security but the converse is also true. Food insecurity is a fertile breeding ground for war and conflict. There is a vicious circle at work, food security or insecurity creates conflict over land, water and other natural resources and over food itself, while the conflict itself disrupts food production, creates refugee and displaced persons and keeps land out of cultivation because of land mines etc. Rwanda, Somalia and Afghanistan are the most striking cases although Bosnia should reminds us that there are other causes of war and conflict as well. The Gulf war was a fight over natural resources,

although not food resources in this case. Today more than half the countries in sub-Saharan Africa are affected by war and conflict either in their own or in neighbouring countries and resources are heavily diverted into military expenditures. Over half of the resources of the world food programme are now absorbed by emergencies and aid to refugees and displaced persons leaving little for dealing with the developmental aspect of food insecurity.

Terms of Trade & Serious Debt Burden to Developing Countries: The third Global reason for world hunger revolve around the tangle of deteriorating terms of trade and debt burdens of developing countries and the nature of structural adjustment programmes currently imposed on them to deal with their resulting balance of payments difficulties. The debt burden means that a significant proportion of export earnings is needed for servicing the debt and thus is not available for financing food imports or the means needed to increase food production. The deteriorating terms of trade means that export earnings are less than and they would otherwise be with the same consequences. The deteriorating terms of trade create a need to finance imports by incurring debts while the increase in debt burden forces countries to try to increase their exports, thus leading to oversupply. This situation is further complicated by the nature of the stabilisation and SAP imposed by the powerful Britton Woods Institutions with the backing of the major financial powers. The main problem with these programmes is that the outward orientation imposed on indebted developing country. A global vision of food security therefore would involve dealing with debt problem, dealing with deteriorating terms of trade and above all reform of the Britton Woods Institutions and their approach to stabilisation and structural adjustment.

Increased Globalisation of Markets Affected Food Security: The increased globalisation of markets is also a contributory factor to food insecurity. Combine with increased urbanisation it has led to a shift from food crops to cash crops. The need for foreign exchange has led to priority for cash crops, especially export cash crops for being shifted to poorer and marginal land. This tendency has been powerfully supported by the strong position of Multinational Corporation which produces

many of the export crops to developing countries and controls their trade. Six multinational corporations control 85percent of grain trade; eight Corporations control 60percent of coffee trade, seven controls 90percent of trade in tea, three controls 80percent of trade in Cocoa, three controls 8percent of trade in Banana and etc. These Corporations have the power to secure the best land for their production and to set prices in International Trade. Kenya provides a good example coffee farming has increasingly shifted food production to marginal lands. In Ethiopia, it is reported that most of this fertile and irrigable land is primarily occupied by large commercial farms which are owned by foreign companies who have capital for irrigation and other infrastructural development. The International action required would be some kind of regulation of multinational corporations and their role in developing countries and trade their products but also greater research on increasing yield situations and on marginal lands.

A Proposal to Establish Financial Fund to Support Food Imports: Globalisation of markets combined with pressures for liberation has made developing countries more dependent on food imports as compared with domestic production. Among the 132 countries classified as developing countries, 104 of them are not food importers with total food imports of 120million tonnes and projected to increase rapidly in the future. No fewer than 98 of the 104 net food importing developing countries are classified as low income food deficit countries. Reliance on food imports is compatible with food security as long as the finance to pay for imports is secure and the International price for food is predictable. Sub-Saharan African countries depend on half of their total food imports on food aid. The International action required would be either to establish a financial fund to maintain food imports in terms of balance of payments difficulties or else to establish a food reserve for this purpose. In principle both of these approaches have already been accepted. In practice however, both arrangements are ineffective. In view of the above, there is an urgent need for concerned International action for the low income deficit countries (LIFDCs).

Global Effort to Address Population Pressure which Reduces Food Supply: Behind these areas of immediate concerns there are also more fundamental and long term global forces at work which threatens future food security. Most obviously there is pressure of increasing populations African case gives more concern, whereas in the rest of developing world rates of population increase are gradually declining. In Africa they remain obstinately high. Population pressure does not only directly increase the demand for food but it also indirectly reduces the supply of food through environmental degradation and by driving food production increasingly into marginal areas. So far world food production has kept up with population growth in fact surpassing it by a factor of 1.5. This and the resulting long term decline in International food prices has led to some complacency but the weight of professional opinion is that the increases in yield show sign of petering out. In any case the increase in supply has been mainly in the richer countries and has certainly not extended to Africa, thus raising questions of access or entitlement to food supplies. The demand for food will be further increased as a result of rising per capita incomes in many parts of the world, while according to Engle's Law direct demand for food may not rise proportionately to incomes, there will be a shift from direct human consumption of grain products which absorb proportionately more grain in the form of feed grain thus offsetting or more than offsetting Engle's Law.

Emerging Problems: Impact of GATT Uruguay Round: All the above global concerns regarding food security are structural problems of long standing. However, more recently a new threat to food security has emerged which is the direct result of globalisation and in its turn calls for remedial action by International Community. These storms from the recent GATT Agreement concluding the Uruguay round resulting in the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), while there have been some optimistic estimates of the resulting rise in world incomes; there has been less discussion of the impact on food security.

Since developing countries are now not food importers to the extent of 100million tonnes or so in cereals alone, it is a bad news overall for them and in particular for the Sub-Saharan African countries as the statistical part has shown they are becoming increasingly net food importers. This fact has shown that there are losers as well as gainers from the Uruguay round agreement is well known. The World Bank on the basis of a 24 region, 2 commodity model of world trade concludes that the whole agricultural reforms will increase world incomes by \$85billion Dollars they will reduce the incomes of Sub-Saharan Africa by \$200million, Middle East and North Africa by \$3900million and Mexico by a smaller amount. Compared with the \$59billion Dollars overall increase in world income, these losses amount to little more than \$1billion so in theory the reforms represent a pare to optimum in the sense that the winners could easily afford to compensate the losers. But whether in fact they will do so is a different matter.

The Uruguay round agreement tries to come with these threats by suggesting that genuine food aid should not be reduced. As far as genuine food aid in the sense of statistically defined highly concessional aid is targeted on poverty food insecurity, emergency aid it would be an advantage if some of the grey or hidden food aid now being given through various kinds of exports subsidies and discounts in commercial food trade were brought into open and converted into genuine food aid.

At present this grey or hidden food aid is untargeted on such worthy objectives. If anything the richer importers with their greater bargaining power obtain their commercial imports cheaper than the poorer importers. As pointed out before this grey food aid is a high multiple of then statistically defined open food aid hence converting this grey food aid could in theory result in a much larger volume of food aid than in the recent past. If effectively used and properly targeted this increased volume of food aid could be a strong weapon in reducing or eliminating food insecurity.

GLOBAL FAILURE IN FOOD SECURITY

What Constitute Food Aid

The present statistical convention is that food aid is distinguished from food trade or commercial transaction by an element of concessionality. The FAO principle of surplus disposal and consultative obligations (FAO, 1992) refers to sales on concessional terms as distinguished from commercial sales. When the principles were first adopted over fifty years ago, the distinction between the two types of transaction was assumed to be self evident.

However, with the experience gained from applying them, it has become apparent that views on the meaning of normal commercial practice differ among governments. Furthermore, as the objectives of economic assistance have gradually taken precedence over those of surplus disposal related issues have arisen as to whether certain kinds of transactions should be regarded as concessional or commercial sales. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which comprises of the major donor countries has agreed on 25percent below the commercial price as an arbitrary definition of the grant element in ODA.

Some immediate problems arise for food aid, the commercial price for food in International trade is itself policy determined. It is not a textbook free market price with a significant reference function. The world market price for food has been described as residual and largely devoid of significance (Uvin, 1994). The policies of subsidising national agriculture in the major industrial countries have resulted in surpluses and surplus capacities. But they also depress the commercial price of food in International trade, hence the 25percent concessionality limit that might define food aid is not 25percent of a truly free market price but 25percent of a world market price that is itself at a discount to what commercial prices would be in a free fully liberalised market.

If the 25percent concessionality were measured from a truly free market price in International trade many more transaction would come to be defined as food aid. If we include the 5.5percent discount from the higher genuine commercial price in our definition of food aid, food aid would be approximately doubled compared to the present statistical figure. This would raise the current tonnage of food aid to around 26million tonnes and make any talk of decline in food aid somewhat questionable (Clay, 1994).

It would also bring food aid within the range of status quo assessments of food aid needs made by the FAO and USDA and would raise the share of food aid in total ODA to about 15percent giving it a distinctly more important profile. With more radical assumptions moving from partial to full market liberalisations and defining any discount from much higher fully liberalised commercial International free market price for food commodities as food aid, we might find the true volume of current food aid thus broadly measured, further increased perhaps quadruple rather than double statistically recorded food aid to something of the order of 40- 50million tonnes (Golding et al 1993). This would bring food aid to a level estimated to cover nutritional requirements.

So far we have identified areas not included in the current food aid statistics and have shown that a broader definition is required. However, there is also a counter failing element where the present definition of food aid could be said to be exclusively wide. Some food aid represents in fact financial aid in that it sets foreign exchange free. This relates to that part of programme food aid that replaces commercial imports but its magnitude is a matter of counter factual evidence which is notoriously difficult to measure. This substitution has been put at as much as 60-70 percent (Saran and Kenandreas, 1991) which may be on the high side.

How much food would a country have imported commercially if no programme of food aid was provided? The same question could be asked of countries receiving emergency food aid particularly those that have received this type of food aid

for many years continuously, although in this case it would be less likely that commercial imports could have been afforded. Unless under the new rules of the game established for a post Uruguay round aid regime donors are required to announce more precisely the purposes for which their food transaction are provided.

Future Food Aid Regime

A future food aid regime should have four main features (Mellor, 1992): (i) It should be seen to be serving both recipient and donor countries, (ii) Food aid should be development enhancing in recipient countries, (iii) Provision should be made for food aid for stabilisation and emergency purposes through safety nets in times of disaster and economic adjustment, and (iv) Close coordination should be established with financial and technical assistance.

Providing least developed and net food importing countries with adequate levels of food aid would have three main benefits for developed and developing countries alike: (i) It would remove a substantial quantity of food from commercial markets relieving pressure over a period of time during which agricultural adjustment would take place in developed countries and commercial markets would grow in developing countries. In this way food aid would help the shift towards market orientation and liberalisation, the main objectives of GATT Uruguay round negotiations rather than being a hindrance through dumping and surplus disposal practices, (ii) It would serve to prevent market marauding and wasteful and damaging use of food and cash resources in export enhancement programmes, and (iii) It would help developing countries speed up the implementation of their development programmes, thereby increasing food consumption and the demand for commercial food imports.

The current multilateral arrangements for responding rapidly to emergency situations would be largely adequate if donors respected their providences. An International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) was established in 1975. With an annual target of not less than 500,000 tonnes was set for the IERF which should be a continuing reserve with yearly replenishments determined by the

Committee on food aid policies and programmes (CFA) and placed at the disposal of WFP to strengthen its capacity to deal speedily with crisis situations in development countries as they occurred.

The IEFR was originally seen as a standby arrangement with emergency stocks held in readiness in donor countries to provide WFP with an initial quick-strike capability. Donors are required to announce their contributions to the IEFR a year in advance which should be united and undesignated. To strengthen the speed of operation of the IEFR an Immediate Response Account (IRA) was set up by the CFA in 1991 with an initial target of US\$30million Dollars in cash as an integral part of the reserve for the purchase of food close to where emergency occur. For refugees and displaced people in protracted situations lasting more than one year, the CFA decided in 1989 that assistance should be provided from a subset of WFPs regular resources which are to be provided separated by donors in addition to their regular pledges to WEP.

Those specific contributions are to be supplemented by up to US\$30million Dollars a year from WFP regular resources. Unfortunately donors have not respected the terms of these facilities. Contributions have not been announced in advance and a high proportion of resources are tied and designated by donors to specific emergencies after they have occurred, eroding the multilateral nature of these facilities and making difficult to respond to a rapidly and flexibly to emergencies whenever and wherever they occur.

International Food Aid Prospect

The criticisms levelled against food aid have not gone unheeded and have led to some aid policy adjustments. Food aid distribution today is more precise following better targeting of disadvantaged groups, better adjustment of aid to the assessed needs and in some cases the use of local products instead of competing with them. In 1990, the food aid charter was established in the charter the signatory states (donors and beneficiaries undertook to better prevent the risks linked to the negative effects of aid. This code of conduct also calls on donors to curb the risk of creating changes the need to design food aid

operations bearing in mind the long term development of production capacity. Aid should be an instrument of promoting food security strategies and not for inducing dependence which can only sustain the need for aid.

The rules governing food aid in donor countries have been reviewed because of three principal factors: - Past criticism of aid, the signature of the charter and International cereal market trends. For example, the European Commission following the evaluation of its food aid policy adopted new rules in 1996 providing for the better targeting of aid beneficiaries, the promotion of local purchases and triangular operations and the mobilising of foreign currency to buy agricultural production equipment (implements, seeds etc). It also introduced new conditions for the supply of aid. Food aid may be subject to implementation of development projects aimed at long term food security. It is up to the States to tackle the root causes of food deficit by accepting the reforms to be implemented by European Union.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The paper is an attempt to assess the International commitment to end hunger and malnutrition and critically analyse the global failure in food security. Furthermore, the paper reviewed the emerging problems and the impact of Uruguay round and evaluates the global perspective of food aid. Finally, some strategies were recommended that will address food security and food aid problems on a long term sustainable basis.

CONCLUSION

The major conclusions drawn from this paper were:

- An estimated number of 70million children suffer from malnutrition serious enough to jeopardise their chances of becoming healthy adults. Most of these children reside in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Development indicators have shown that it is possible to achieve the world food summit goal of reducing the number

of malnourished people by 50% by 2015 even FAO estimates that this goal will be achieved by 2030.

- Increase in supply of food has been mainly in the richer countries and has certainly not extended to Africa thus raising questions of access or entitlement to food supply. The demand for food will be further increased as a result of rising per capita income in many parts of the world.
- Projections of future annual food aid requirements to the year 2015 indicates the need to increase the current food supplies ranging from 40million tonnes to meet status quo demand to 80million tonnes when the aim of improving nutritional requirement throughout the developing world is taken into consideration.
- Specific contributions are to be supplemented by up to US\$30million a year from world food programme regular resources. Unfortunately, donors have not respected the terms of these facilities.
- The World Bank on the basis of a 24 region, 22 commodity model of world trade concludes that the whole agricultural reforms will increase world income by \$59billion Dollars; they will reduce the incomes of Sub-Saharan Africa by \$200million, Middle East and North Africa by \$300, China by \$500 million.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the above conclusions, the following recommendations are made:

- In order to achieve food security in developing countries agriculture need radical transformation from a traditional way of life to a modern industry to bring about a major economic uplift in rural areas
- Strong emphasis need to be given during policy formulation to food insecure zones in developing countries.
- Government should consider increasing its level of intervention so as to achieve self sufficiency in food production.
- There is need to reorganise the management of agriculture and establishing strong linkages between major components

of the system. This will increase productivity and achieve food security on a long term basis.

Proper incentives should be provided to the farmers and rapid population is checked by a conscious policy action only then developing countries can reduce its dependency on imported food.

- There is need to re-evaluate the existing agricultural policies as a result of change in demand and supply situation with respect to food.
- A green revolution for Africa is necessary that would require a drastic increase in research into Africa's millet, sorghum, cassava, yam etc rather than wheat and rice.
- A global vision of food security therefore would involve dealing with debt problem, dealing with deteriorating terms of trade.
- The International action required would be either to establish financial fund to maintain food imports in terms of balance of payments difficulties or else to establish a food research for this purpose.

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