

FOOD PROBLEM IN INDIA : 2020

Dr.T.K.Udgirkar*

Head,Dept. of Economics, Rajaram college,kolhapur

Abstract : Food problem has been one of the major problem in India. The Indian population is still facing food problem. The second five year plan began with more serious of the food problem in India. However, the UN estimate projection and forecasts on food production and food availability level in India. It has suggests that the domestic demand for foodgrain in India by 2020 would be 343 (MT). Supply of rice 120.5 (MT) and demand 122 (MT). It's gap between demand and supply is -1.6%. Moreover the production of foodgrain in India is inadequate to meet the requirements of consumption. In order to the government of India should have deep interest within commercial farming, investment irrigation, financial institute, research and extension, public distribution system and National food budget policy etc. has helped to attain impressive growth in agriculture leading to self sufficiency in food production.

Introduction :

Indian Agriculture has registered impressive growth over last few decades. The foodgrain production has increased from 51 MT in 1950-51 to 250 MT during 2011-12 a higher ever since Independence. However, Food problem has been one of the major problem in India. The Indian population is still facing the food problem; near about 20% of the population is undernourished. Moreover, it has it's beginning during the last of the 19th century. The second five year plan began with more serious of the food problem in India. In order to, the Govt. of India should have deep interest in the agriculture development.

Table No.1 Production of food grains in India (in million tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse cereals	Pulses	Total Foodgrains
1950-51	20.58	6.46	15.38	8.41	50.82
1960-61	34.58	11.00	23.74	12.70	82.02
1970-71	42.22	23.83	30.55	11.82	108.42
1980-81	53.63	36.31	29.02	10.63	129.59
1990-91	74.29	55.14	32.70	14.26	176.39
2000-01	84.98	69.68	31.08	11.07	196.81
2009-10	89.13	80.71	33.77	14.59	218.20

Source - Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Statistic at a glance, 2008.

The total food grains production in the country increased from 50.82 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 196.81 million tones in 2000-01. Today, the country is virtually self sufficient in the production of food grains. Despite the fact that the country experienced a rapid rate of population growth and thus ensure a increase in the per-capita production of food grains. While the total food grains production increased almost four told between 1950-51 and 2000-01, the production of wheat increased 10 fold during the period (see Table No.1). The production of rice increased four fold during the 50 year period, while that of coarse cereals doubled during the period. An increase in the production of pulses was, however, less impressive.

Table No.2 indicated that on per capital net availability of food grains in India during the period 1950-2007. The table shows that the per capita net availability of rice increased by 20 per cent during the period, while in the case of wheat it has doubled. However, there was a consistent decline in the net per capita availability of the coarse cereals and pulses.

Table No.2 Per capita Net Availability of Food Grains in India (Kgs/Year)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse cereals	Pulses	Total Foodgrains
1951	58.0	24.0	40.0	22.1	144.1
1961	73.4	28.9	43.6	25.2	171.1
1971	70.3	37.8	44.3	18.7	171.1
1981	72.2	47.3	32.8	13.7	166.0
1991	80.9	60.0	29.2	15.2	186.2
2001	69.5	49.6	20.5	10.9	151.9
2007	71.8	57.00	20.8	10.7	160.4

Source : Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural statistics at a glance, 2008.

Dramatic changes in the food consumption patterns have taken place in the Urban and rural India, in the post Green Revolution year. (Meenakshi, 2001). For instance, the rural cereal consumption at all India level had declined from 15.3 kg monthly per capita in 1972-73 to 13.4 kg monthly per capital in 1993-94. Similarly, in the Urban area, this decline is from 11.3 to 10.6 kg monthly per capita on the other hand, the consumption of protein-rich food items like milk, milk products, meats etc. has found more place in the consumption basket. This trend of food diversification has been registered not only among the affluent sections of the population but among the poorest 25 per cent of population as well (Planning commission, 2001).

However, there are various projections and forecasts on the food production and food availability level in India, in the medium and longer term. Under a scenario of 5 per cent growth in the GDP, one estimate suggests that the domestic demand for food grain in India by 2020 would be 201 million MT (Rosaiah 2000). The UN estimate, rather than projecting a particular food requirement figure, proposes the probable means a approaches to reach a near accurate projection of the food requirement. It relates the growth in population and the productivity levels, to reach a such figure, accordingly, it projects India's population to be at 130 million by 2020. The following demand and supply projections are worked out for 2020 in India. (Table No.3) It is just an medication of the minimum food requirement. Beside, the production of food grains in India is inadequate to meet the requirements of consumption and we have had to resort to substantial imports to bridge the gap. At present with rapidly rising population on the other hand and increasing income - levels on the other, it will be necessary to increase production rapidly else it will be become difficult to meet the consumption requirement from domestic production and large-scale imports will have to be resorted to.

Table No.3
Long Run Demand - Supply Gap of Food Grains (Cereals) in India (2020)

Year	Particulars	Rice	Wheat	Coarge grains	Total cereals
1. At constant growth in TEP					
1995	Supply	79.8	60	32.9	127.7
	Demand	76.9	62.1	27.7	166.7
	Gap	2.9	-2.1	5.2	6
2000	Supply	89.1	72.5	38.7	200.3
	Demand	85.4	69.4	29.9	184.7
	Gap	3.7	3.1	8.8	15.6
2010	Supply	109.3	96	44.1	248.4
	Demand	103.6	85.8	34.9	224.3
	Gap	5.7	10.2	9.2	24.1
2020	Supply	134	127.3	48	309.3
	Demand	122.1	102.8	40.9	265.8
	Gap	11.9	24.5	7.1	43.5
2. At decelerated growth in TFP					
1995	Supply	79.5	59.7	32.7	171.9
	Demand	76.9	62.1	27.7	166.7
	Gap	2.6	-2.4	5	5.2
2000	Supply	87.5	69.9	37.8	195.2
	Demand	85.4	69.4	29.9	184.7
	Gap	2.1	0.5	7.9	10.5
2010	Supply	102.5	86.7	40	229.2
	Demand	103.6	85.8	34.9	224.3
	Gap	-1.1	0.9	5.4	4.9
2020	Supply	120.5	107.6	42.3	270.4
	Demand	122.1	102.8	40.9	265.8
	Gap	-1.6	4.8	1.4	4.6

Source : FAO, Food and Agriculture Statistics (Various Issues)

Table No.4
Projected Household Demand for food in India. (at 7 percent Income Growth)

Commodity	1991	1995	2000	2010	2020
Food grain	168.3	185.1	208.6	266.4	343.0
Milk	48.8	62.0	83.8	153.1	271.0
Edible Oil	4.3	5.1	6.3	9.4	13.0
Vegetables	56.0	65.1	80.0	117.2	168.0
Fruits	12.5	16.1	22.2	42.9	81.0
Meat, fish & eggs	3.4	4.4	6.2	12.7	27.0
Sugar	9.6	10.9	12.8	17.3	22.0

Source : TIFAC : Food and Agriculture : Technology Vision 2020.

Conclusion : The Government of India should have deep interest in the changes in cropping pattern associated with the increasing transformation of agriculture from subsistence to commercial farming. Moreover it has need of massive investment in irrigation, financial institution, research and extension and rural infrastructure, public distribution system, National food budget policy etc. has helped to attain impressive growth in agriculture leading to self sufficiency in food production.

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