Food And Nutritional Security

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What Is Food Security?

• Earlier emphasis was on availability only

• Amartya Sen: “Poverty and Famine”- emphasised on Access or Entitlement

• … when all people, at all time, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food… (World Food Summit, 1996)
Why is it Important?

• Identify the regions and social groups most affected by food insecurity.

• Suggest policy intervention appropriate to improve food security for those regions and social groups.
Measurement of Food Security Outcome Indicators

- Nutritional status of the population
- Indicators
  - Under-five mortality
  - Proportion of under nourished Children-
    - height-for-age (stunted)- shows chronic under nutrition
    - weight for height (wasted)- shows acute under nutrition
  - weight for age (underweight children).
  - Number of Anemic women (Problems of district data availability for adult indicators)
- Morbidity rate (problem in reporting, inverse relation with mortality)
Analysis of Food Security

• Along three axis:
  – Availability
  – Access
  – Absorption

• What are the key variables that affect food security along these three axis?
Availability

- Per capita agricultural production
- Proportion of forest area
- Extent of irrigation
- Rural connectivity
Access

- Proportion of agricultural labourers
- Proportion of ST and SC population
- Working age population
- Monthly per capita consumption expenditure
- Rural wage rate
- Female literacy
Absorption

• Access to
  – Safe drinking water
  – Health facilities
Features of Food Insecure Districts

• High proportion of Scheduled Tribe (ST) population.
• In some of these districts, there is also a high proportion of Scheduled Caste (SC) population with high proportion of agricultural labourers and low wage rates.
• Low rates of women’s literacy (a proxy for women’s status).
• Rural connectivity is poor
• Low irrigation coverage
Development Interventions

Reducing gender inequality and empowering women is a key factor in the improvement of food security:

• Improvement in women’s literacy and Education
• Securing women’s right to land and other productive assets
• Increasing access to micro-finance
Development Interventions

• Implementation of the Forest Rights Protection Act 2006 so as to provide security of tenure

• Implementation of NREGA, MDM, NRHM, Schemes for drinking water and sanitation.

• Expansion of irrigation in a manner appropriate to hill and plateau regions

• Shorten the chain of intermediaries and promote value-added processing in NTFP
Thank you