

Enhancing Food Security in Developing Countries: Challenges and the Future

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Abstract

The right to food is the basic principle of the food security policy of any nation. Most developing economies had translated their food security drive by a number of technological and policy measures to ensure availability, accessibility, and utilisation. The food security agenda in the twenty-first century, however, faces a totally new set of challenges. Domestically, the competition for resources, especially land and capital, continues to intensify as urbanisation and industrialisation grow rapidly. Limited investment in food and agriculture have made this sector lagged on all fronts; productivity, efficiency and development. The effect of climate change is showing, aggravated further by unsustainable practices such as overuse of chemical fertilisers, and poor water management. The international market also poses the bigger challenge to developing countries' food security in particular "extreme volatility". The course of the global food system is no longer determined by the resolution of demand and supply fundamentals. External shocks are emerging from a complexity of sources and are having a profound influence in causing vulnerability in food systems. The detrimental impact of volatility is further magnified by structural problems such as: poor infrastructure, poor supply response, and inefficient market.

For the developing countries including Uzbekistan, being mostly food deficit countries, future initiative framework that deals with the above challenges on food production, consumption and trade is crucial. This framework is needed to provide practical tools to develop effective and efficient initiatives to enhance the food security situation. Some possible areas in the framework include sustainable production and consumption, trade, rural development, safety nets, and environmental services.