Food Security Sessions

Food Security Session I: Food Security in Pakistan: Issues and Way Forward

Food Security Session II: International Experience and Cooperation

Food Security Session III: Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) and Food Security Monitoring

Food security has remained a concern for Pakistan since its independence. Pakistan has made remarkable progress in the production of food items such that the country is now considered to be in a comfortable situation in terms of national availability. However, due to the limitations in economic access, utilisation and various shocks, food security at the household level remains an important concern in the country. Various studies have suggested that as many as half of the population may be facing some kind of food insecurity, which is reflected in high stunting rates (44.5%) of children under the age of five, a manifestation of chronic malnutrition. The poor section of the population with limited income and other marginalised groups such as women, children, and elderly are particularly believed to be affected by this. In addition, studies suggest no significant improvement in food security and nutrition in recent years, rather on the contrary, they see to point to deterioration.

However, recently Government of Pakistan started to give importance to some extent. After the establishment of a dedicated ministry on food security, the Government announced a national Zero Hunger programme, followed by initiatives to draft agriculture and food security policy. Following up with policy level exchange with Brazil, a pilot action plan for zero hunger programme has also been drafted. Pakistan also joined the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement recently, which is expected to provide the needed focus on addressing malnutrition. The Government is, thus, striving to develop a comprehensive and future-oriented policy to cater to the present and future food security challenges.

Similarly, there has been an initiative to implement Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) in Pakistan, and its linkage to food security monitoring and information system, for which lessons from other countries, particularly from the well-established system in Nepal have been found to be particularly useful.

Therefore, it is very timely to keep up with this momentum by taking stock of the current situation, policy responses, exchange of international experiences and chalk out the way forward for Pakistan, by engaging the Government and relevant stakeholders. In this context, this seminar on food security is being organized by SDPI and jointly supported by WFP, FAO and IFAD.
Objectives
Following are the sessions’ objectives:

1. To provide evidence-based policy advice by sharing most updated research findings and introduction of new systems to map the extent of food security;
2. To share international experience in tackling food insecurity;
3. Engage stakeholders in Pakistan for brainstorming actions to address food insecurity and hunger in the country.

Panel Organisers: SDPI; WFP; FAO and IFAD

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