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Chapter - 5 Sustainable Agriculture for Food and Nutritional Security: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward

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Chapter - 5

Sustainable Agriculture for Food and Nutritional Security: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward

Girijesh Singh Mahra, Pratibha Joshi, Renu Jethi and Punitha P.

Abstract

Nutrition is mandatory for the visualization of human resources especially those of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged as children, girls and women, locked in an intergenerational cycle of multiple deprivation in the nutritional status. Food security exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Mere self sufficiency in food grain production cannot result in steep reduction in undernutrition rates or micronutrient deficiencies in the country because population needs adequate quantities of balanced diet to remain well-nourished and healthy. Being a country in developmental transition, India faces the double burden of pretransition nutrition deficiency disorders and infectious diseases as well as post transition chronic degenerative diseases associated with overweight and obesity. After over 60 years of independence the resistant problem of under-nutrition persists though some of the severe clinical forms have declined in magnitude, except for anaemia has marginally decreased despite increase in population. An attempt was made to highlight the key issues, challenges and way forward from food to nutritional security. To make Indian villages into self sufficient units in terms of nutrition through utilizing village resources and effective nutrition education, there is need to establish connect between agriculture and nutrition. Therefore innovative approaches/models are required to ensure nutrition from farm to plate.

Keywords: food and nutrition security, malnutrition, nutrition rich crops

Introduction

Human nutrition deals with the provision of essential nutrients in food that is necessary to support human life and health. Poor nutrition is a chronic problem often linked to poverty, food security or a poor understanding of