

Understanding Food Security

Chapter 19: Food Security in India · Topic 1

Key Concept

Food security has three main components - availability (enough food produced or imported), accessibility (people can obtain food), and affordability (people can afford it).

Food insecurity can result from crop failures, natural disasters, poverty, or disruptions in food distribution, leading to hunger and malnutrition among vulnerable populations.

India has faced food security challenges historically, particularly during famines, leading to significant policy changes to ensure better food availability and distribution.

Ensuring food security requires a combination of increased agricultural production, efficient distribution systems, and social programs that support vulnerable populations.

Quick Revision Notes

- Food security means access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food always.
- The three components are availability, accessibility and affordability.
- Food insecurity can result from crop failures or disasters.
- Poverty can also cause food insecurity.
- India faced historical food security challenges, like famines.
- This led to policy changes for better food distribution.
- Food security needs increased production and distribution.
- Social programs support vulnerable populations.

Practice Questions

- 1 Define food security in your own words.
- 2 Discuss the three components of food security.
- 3 Research a historical famine in India.
- 4 Explain what can cause food insecurity.
- 5 Research a government food security policy.
- 6 Discuss why affordability matters for food security.