# A Study OfThe Food Security Governance System

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**Abstract :**
The subject of food security has received much attention in the recent past because food security is a significant worldwide issue . Despite decades of effort to end malnutration and hunger in different parts of the world, a satisfactory level of success has not been achieved. It  is argued that the various approaches of food security should also address social, economic and political aspects, in addition to their technical and environmental dimensions. In the recent past  the concept of governance has been increasingly applied to the notion of food security. Some important elements of food security are availability of food, access to food, utilization of food and the stability of food. In the present study an  attempt is made to perform a systematic review of both academic and grey literature of food security which explain the food security governance system and thereby suggest a few recommendations for the future. The study was basically desk based.

**Keywords :** Food security, Governance, Nation  State, Non governmental organization, Global.

## INTRODUCTION
In the World Food Summit of 1996,  food security was defined as " when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious Food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" . The subject of food security has received much attention in the recent past because food security is a significant worldwide issue. Despite decades of efforts to end mil nutrition and hunger, a satisfactory level of success has not been achieved yet . It is argued that the various approaches of food security should also address social, economic and political aspects in addition to their technical and environmental dimensions. Involvement of governments, companies, NGOs and the world citizens must contribute their parts of the duty so that food security can be realized in the practical sense.

Governance is a mechanism that provides a framework for the management of different Organizations. In it rules, norms etc are  structured and sustained in a systematic pattern and they are held accountable. Governance is differentiated from government. Government is ,in fact, a hierarchical and state oriented  mode of managing different public issues. In the  recent past, the concept of governance has been increasingly applied to the notion of food security. Some important elements of food security are availability of food, access to food, utilization of food and the stability of food, over time etc.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
The present study was aimed at understanding the different aspects of the food security governance system and  performing a systematic review of both academic and grey literature of food security which explain the food security governance system and thereby suggest a few recommendations for the future.

## METHODOLOGY
The study was carried on based on extensive review of literature via Google and the analysis was mainly qualitative. The study was desk based.  The researcher also used data from various secondary sources and took the help of government databases, magazines, books, seminar reports,

research articles etc. Published documents  possessed by different NGOs and different library sources were also used in this study.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The following is a brief literature review of some of the previous works done by different authors and researchers which the researcher has studied during writing this article:

Nisbett (2019) has stated that human beings are guided by two types of depictions of the Food system.According to him, the  first is the definition given by IPES-Food ( The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food system). It defines Food system as " the web of actors, processes and interactions involved in growing,  processing, distributing, consuming and disposing of foods from the provision of inputs and farmer training,  to product packaging and marketing to waste recycling " . The IPES-Food draws from both critical and systems science traditions  to bring for some valuable points regarding dynamism, complexity, scale etc.  For a proper understanding of how these processes interact with each other and with different social, political, economic and environmental contexts, a holistic food system lens is necessary.

Ericksen  (2010) has stated that the food systems lens helps in reinforcing and balancing the loopholes of feedback, the tensions prevalent in different components and flow of food systems and the different interactions of the cyclical, multi-scaled and multi- layered nature. He has shown through his research  the various kinds of complex contemporary perspectives of the role of power and politics that play in  the food systems.  He also has conceptualized  power and politics as infusing the whole food system.

James Muldoon (2004) has mentioned several common characteristics of global  governance. According to him, global governance is a multi-layered system. He has explained the multipolarity of power and the decentralization process of authority. The second common characteristic of global governance is that there is no single  locus of authority. According to him, political authority is fragmented and thus it is pluralistic . The third characteristic is that the political importance and the regulatory capability of these infrastructures vary considerably.

Bob Jessop (1998) has identified four possibilities and they were-  expansion of governance discourses, the persistence of governance mechanisms in contrast to markets, the cycle of means of coordination, and a secular shift in the relationship of state,  market and society . He had said that food security has always remained state centric in its policy making and accountability process , despite all kinds of changes towards governance models.

## ANALYSIS OF SOME IMPORTANT DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY GOVERNANCE

### Food security and national security

Statistics of different sources are in general agreement on the magnitude of the wounds and deaths that have occurred in the past few decades due to interstate and intrastate wars. According to UN data of 2004 , during the 1990s  an approximate  1,000,000 per year was the death rate  due to wars which includs all sorts of wars.  Among them two third were civilians with women and innocent children more in number . On the other hand, FAO ( the Food and Agricultural Organization ) has estimated that 5 million children die every year due to hunger-related causes. Again, WHO (The World Health Organization ) has put forward that a  total number of 8 million human beings die due to hunger related causes. It is an estimated figure that the death due to food insecurity outnumbered the dead due to war by a factor at least 5 to 1. Hence the question arises, why is the media coverage and concern so bad regarding the havoc created by hunger?

### Food justice and community Food security

It has been observed that many food movements oppose Neoliberalism in an abstract way. The opposition merely focuses on the liberalization of trade and the undermining of smallholder agriculture.  Community Food security is a combination of the concern for environmentally sustainable production and the responses of anti hunger advocates to decreasing the support of the public sector. In fact, building on the community food approach to food access as a social instead  of individual matter,  the activists of food Justice lay emphasis on the role of the built   environment and long lasting designs of inequalities of class and racial nature. The community Food projects are dependent on farmer participation and they are criticized for reproducing neoliberalism in producing the economic needs of producers above food provisioning.

**Challenges to effective  civil society organizations'  involvement**
Since the food price crisis of 2007 and 2008 , the food security issue has been on the agenda of G-8 and G-20 leaders' summits. The implication of this is the fact that the most powerful nations of the world are dictating the process, and the civil society organizations and the delegations of the rest of the world lack the capacity and time for grappling with the ever growing list of tasks for engagement.  The key challenges that  the civil society organizations are facing regarding  this line include - language, the scope of issues, targeted power  politics, coherence and the limitations inherent to food security as a concept .

**WAY FORWARD**
Work on the use and implication of global governance and food security governance is an utmost important area of research. A need for ratification,  between academic endeavors and multi-dimensional food security policies and the  real world shift which more efficiently aligns food security , is being felt. Work is required to be done for understanding the influence of soft law on national and international actors regarding food  security . It is postulated that the soft laws may have more impact and influence than the hard laws. One needs to ponder over the binding duties set out in different local and international protocols or duties of states regarding  their  rights to food. Due to the growing complexity of the world global governance system, research work regarding the ordering of  global food security governance is required . But it is important to note that researchers responding to the demands for food security research must not serve to assist political stalling tactics of great powers .

**CONCLUSION.**
The people's expectation that the states will ensure a secured and affordable supply of food to the citizens have to be priorities of the governments of every part of the world. To bring the expectations of the citizens into conformity with the real and practical situation the nation states need to play  important roles in global food security governments. These expectations call every nation state to change its role from a mere spectator to an active rule maker setting new rules and regulations in the field of food safety and security. For the empirical research of contemporary government arrangements, specially of sub national labels is required, which will contribute to a smart governance arrangement that are capable of addressing the issues of food security.

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