

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

India is associated with a number of international agencies working in the field of food related matters. These include World Food Programme (WFP), SAARC Food Bank, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Grains Council (IGC) and International Sugar Organisation(ISO) etc. Interface of Department of Food & Public Distribution with these organizations is handled in International Cooperation(IC) Section of the Department.

SAARC FOOD BANK

In pursuance of the decision taken in the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on April 3-4, 2007, the Heads of States of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC) countries have signed the Agreement to establish the SAARC Food Bank. The Food Bank will supplement national efforts to provide food security to the people of the region. The agreement on Establishing the SAARC Food Bank has since been ratified by the President of India on 17th April, 2007. As per this agreement, SAARC Food Bank shall have a reserve of foodgrains to be maintained by each member states consisting of either wheat or rice, or a combination of both as assessed share of the country.

India's initial assessed share in the reserve was 1,53,200 MTs out of a total share of 2,43,000 MTs. The assessed share is presently kept as 3,06,400 MTs out of a total share of 4,86,000 MTs. The reserves have been kept in different strategic locations in the designated Godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI). Joint Secretary(IC), Department of Food & Public Distribution has been designated as Member of SAARC Food Bank Board to represent India. The Board has considered and agreed to the proposal to designate the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL), New Delhi as the regional reference laboratory for SAARC Food Bank.

SAARC Food Security Information System (SFSIS)

To address challenge to obtain data from member countries the Eighth SAARC Food Bank Board (Malé, 2-3 September 2015) directed SAARC Agriculture Centre(SAC) to establish a **SAARC Food Security Information System (SFSIS)**. SAC has developed password protected interactive database with the following objectives:-

- Data input at source by Nodal Agency at country level
- Quick consolidation of the regional data.
- Facilitate information-based decision making in managing the food reserve

A Orientation Programme in SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh was organized from 8-11 August, 2016 in which two officials dealing with the SAARC Food Bank from the Department had attended the orientation programme. SAARC Food Security Information System (SFSIS) was formally launched by the Secretary, Department of Food, Government of Bangladesh on 11th August, 2016.

The Ninth SAARC Food Bank Board (SFB) meeting was held on 21-22 September, 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. India represented in the meeting at the level of Joint Secretary(IC) in the department in the capacity of Member, SAARC Food Bank Board. The meeting inter-alia discussed matters relating to the review of the Implementation status of the decisions taken at the Eighth Meeting of the SAARC Food Bank Board (Malé, 2-3 September 2015), matters related to amending the Agreement on establishing the SAARC Food Bank, collaboration and cooperation with the International Organizations (e.g. FAO, IFAD, WFP etc.) to enhance regional food security. A presentation by SAARC Agriculture Centre on the status of the SAARC Food Bank Information System (SFBIS) was also made

FAO and COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is one of the largest specialized agencies in the UN System founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standard of living by improving agricultural productivity and living conditions of rural population. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production, physical and economic access to food. India is a member of both FAO and CFS. Committee on World Food Security (CFS) monitors the progress of implementation of the WFS Plan of Action.

The 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy from 17th -21st October, 2016 which was attended by Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Secretary (F&PD). Inter-alia the deliberation on the following issues were made during the Session:-

- i. Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition
- ii CFS Engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- iii CFS engagement in advancing nutrition
- iv Programming work & the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security & Nutrition. Participation at the Secretary Food is important to protect India s interest.

G-20 MATTERS

A Steering Committee has been constituted in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) to oversee the development, follow-up action on the initiative declared in Ministerial declaration endorsed at G-20 Agriculture Ministers meeting held in June, 2011. The Committee is comprised of representatives from different line Ministries. Deptt. of Food & P.D. has been made the Nodal Department for (i) Rapid Response Forum and (ii) Emergency Humanitarian Food Reserves. Besides, this Department has been included as a member of Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS) under the Nodal authority of Deptt. of Agriculture & Coop. to carry out different mandate as considered appropriate.

G20 Leaders Hangzhou Summit was held on 4-5 September, 2016 wherein inter-alia the matter relating to Food Security and Nutrition was discussed.

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INTERNATIONAL GRAINS COUNCIL(IGC)

India is a member of the International Grains Council (IGC) an intergovernmental forum of exporting and importing countries for co-operation in wheat and coarse grain matters which was previously known as International Wheat Council up to 1995. It administers the Grains Trade Convention 1995. The IGC Secretariat, based in London since 1949, also services the Food Aid Committee, established under the Food Aid Convention. International Grains Agreement comprises of Grains Trade Convention (GTC) and Food Aid Convention (FAC). India is a signatory to the International Grains Agreement (IGA) 1995 and its Grain Trade Convention (GTC) 1995 which is effective from 1st July 1995. IGC have two types of members-Importing Members and Exporting Members. India has been included in the category of Exporting members in July, 2003 and represented in the meetings/session of the Council held from time to time. Besides, this Department also participates in other meetings of IGC like Market Conditions Committee meetings and Executive Committee meetings. Department of Food & P.D. pays India's Annual membership contribution to the Council.

44th Session of International Grains Council(IGC) was held on 5th December, 2016 at London, U.K. where Indian delegation comprising of Shri S.P. Kar, Executive Director, FCI and Shri Dharendra Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution had attended IGC Grains Conference.

**BILATERAL VISITS OF HON'BLE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER COUNTRIES**

The details of bilateral visits of Hon'ble Minister undertaken during 2016 are given as under :-

S.No.	Name of the Country Visited	Purpose of the Visit	Dates of the visit
1.	Brazil	Visit of an Indian delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of CAF&PD to the Brazil for studying the functioning of CENEX in Brazil and analyse the benefits of establishing the Centre of Excellence in India.	17 th -20 th August, 2016
2.	Trinidad and Tobago	Visit of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to Trinidad and Tobago (via London, U.K) to undertake bilateral visit to Trinidad and Tobago	21 st October, 2016 to 1 st November, 2016

VISITS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES

In order to strengthen the bi-lateral relations especially in the Food & Agriculture Sectors, foreign dignitaries at the level of Foreign Ministers, Ambassadors and high level business executives of the countries concerned visits this Department to have a delegation level talks with Hon'ble Ministers, Secretary & other officers of this Department.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES ETC.

Training is one of the effective and tested tools for performance enhancement as well as upgradation of knowledge and skills of the personnel. Organizational motivation and morale, as reflected in the attitudes and administrative culture, are rendered through relevant and sharply focused effective training programmes. Officials of this Department have been nominated from time to time to attend training programmes under domestic & foreign funding schemes of Department of Personnel & Training conducted in various institutes/universities abroad. Besides, officers/delegation of the level of Under Secretary and above of this Department have also been deputed abroad for undertaking official study tours and to attend International Conferences/Seminar/meetings of International organizations like Food & Agriculture Organisation(FAO), International Grains Council(IGC), International Sugar Organisation(ISO) & for matters related with SAARC Food Bank.

Following is a list showing training programme attended by officers of this Department during 2016-17 (upto 31st December, 2016) :-

Purpose of the Training	Name of the Officer
CIO: e-Governance Leadership Programme (e-GLP) (foreign component of domestic training) from 2nd May, 2016 to 7th May, 2016 in Estonia.	Shri Deepak Kumar, Joint Secretary
CIO: e-Governance Executive Programme (e-GLP) (foreign component of domestic training) at Ljubljana, Slovenia from 30 th May to 4 th June, 2016,	Ms. Sudha Meena, Under Secretary Shri Bipin Kumar Hembrom, Under Secretary
CIO: e-Governance Executive Programme (e-GLP) (foreign component of domestic training) in Estonia from 6th June, 2016 to 14th June, 2016	Shri D.K. Gupta, Director
Short-term training programme on “Bargaining and Negotiations Interest Information Strategy and Power” at LSE Summer School, London, U.K from 20th June, 2016 to 8th July, 2016	Shri P.K. Dash, Director
Short-term training programme on “Budgeting and	Shri Manoj Kumar Gupta,

Financial Management in Public Sector, in USA from 24th July, 2016 to 12th August, 2016	Director
Customized Training Programme in “Leadership and Strategic Thinking” organized by Cambridge University, U.K. from 2-7 October, 2016.	Shri Subhasish Panda, Joint Secretary
Cooperation Programme Training Award (SCPTA) – Course on “Building Food Security” in Singapore from 17 th to 21 st October, 2016	Shri Nand Kishore Kashmira, Director,
Training on Effective Communication and PR in Development Cooperation to be conducted by Academy of International Co-operation (AIZ) at Thailand from 28th November, 2016 to 2nd December, 2016	Shri D.K. Gupta, Director

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2015-18

The new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2015-2018 has been signed between the UN World Food Programme (UNWFP) and Government of India under Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Department of Food & P.D. has been made the nodal department for the strategic priority area under Component:1: **Support state Governments to build a scalable implementation approach that enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Food Security Act** for its implementation.

Under this plan, WFP is now focused around providing technical assistance in a new role than the earlier Country Programme Action Plan(CPAP) 2008-2012. The main focus of WFP is on supporting the Govt. of India to make significant and measurable progress in order to contribute to the following two objectives:-

- (i) ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all people all year round
- (ii) ensuring ending malnutrition according to internationally agreed targets, with a focus on stunting and wasting for children under 5 years of age, and addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.

Supporting the Government of India to advance these objectives, WFP will work with the Government at the National and State level and collaborate with UN agencies including FAO and UNICEF within the United Nations Development Action Framework(UNDAF). In this regard, 4 strategic priority areas have been identified to achieve the Outcomes during 2015-2018. **Strategic Outcome-I: The efficiency of food based national safety-nets is improved to support the efforts of the Government of India to deliver the Zero Hunger and National Food Security Act targets**, is one of these areas to be implemented by Deptt. of Food and P.D. among other line Ministries/Departments.

Annual Work Plan 2016


- For Annual Work Plan for the year 2016, Component-1 under the Annual Work Plan 2016 relate to support state Governments to build a scalable implementation approach that enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Food Security Act.

SETTING UP OF A 'CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (CENEX) FOR FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

The Government of India through the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Department of Food and Public Distribution and the WFP signed a letter of intent, dated January 12, 2016 to prepare a proposal for the establishment of the CENEX. The preparation of the proposal was decided to be undertaken jointly by the Government and the WFP through a Steering Committee and Working Groups.

The two Working Groups constituted to assist the Steering Committee also submitted their reports. The Steering Committee was of the view that CENEX shall be set up as a Government sponsored Society registered under the Societies Act, 1860 at New Delhi. It would inter alia work as a inter-ministerial think tank to advice on challenges of food security before the nation, initiate and execute pilot projects for improvement of food and nutrition security in India, advice on reforming public sector food security system, besides also showcasing the progress made by India in food security to other developing and middle income countries. The Steering Committee approved the Memorandum of Association (MOA). The Memorandum of Association (MOA) has been vetted by Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs.

Official Tours of Ministers and Other Officials

Click here  to View the detailed statement showing official tours of officers of this Department as part of Govt. of India delegation to attend various International Meetings/Conferences etc.

Issues raised frequently in Parliament Questions

1. Global Hunger Index(GHI)

What is Global Hunger Index & Position of India in the Index?

The Global Hunger Index(GHI) is an Index which ranks countries on a 100-point scale in which zero is the best score (no hunger) and 100 the worst. The GHI report is brought out annually by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). As per the latest IFPRI's GHI report brought out in October, 2015 India ranked 80 with a score of 29.0 while India ranked 55 out of 120 countries with a score of 17.8 as per 2014 GHI report.

How GHI is calculated?

GHI, 2015 has been calculated combining four component indicators into one index:

1. **UNDERNOURISHMENT:** the proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake);
2. **CHILD WASTING:** the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from wasting (that is, low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition);
3. **CHILD STUNTING:** the proportion of children under the age of five who suffer from stunting (that is, low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition); and
4. **CHILD MORTALITY:** the mortality rate of children under the age of five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).

What is Government's view on GHI ?

The GHI is only indicative of undernourishment and not hunger per se and that also based largely on data of children under the age of five. The Index does not reflect the number of hungry or lack of availability of food or access to food to the people in the society. So it is not a proper index for reflecting the situation of hunger level in the country and cannot even be used to compare the same with the rest of the countries.

What is the features of GHI?

The 2015 GHI report mentions that GHI is based on data of different years for its four components indicators. While **undernourishment** data and projections for the 2015 GHI are for 2014–2016 (FAO 2015), data on **child mortality** are for 2013 (IGME 2014), data on **child wasting and child stunting** are for the latest year for which data are available in the period 2010–2014 (UNICEF/WHO/World Bank 2015; WHO 2015; UNICEF 2015; UNICEF 2013; UNICEF 2009; MEASURE DHS 2015; India, Ministry of Women and Child Development, and UNICEF 2014).

Furthermore, the findings in the study are neither test checked nor validated by any large scale primary field surveys in the country. Earlier, shortcomings or limitations of the GHI has however, been communicated to the IFPRI in a meeting held on 19th October, 2011 where they made a presentation on the report to all concerned departments presided over by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation at Krishi Bhavan. However, looking at the data set available in the report, percentage of population in 3 indicators has consistently coming down from 1990 to 2014.

What are the steps taken by Government to improve situation of Hunger?

As regards steps taken to ensure food security in the country, the Government of India has accorded high priority to the issue of hunger and malnutrition in the country and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through State Governments/UT Administrations to improve food security situation in the country. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been one of the major initiatives of Government of India in its efforts to provide food security to millions of poor in the country. Procurement of food grains through the Minimum Support Price operations in the Central Pool by the Government for meeting the requirements of the Public Distribution System (PDS) also ensures payment of assured remunerative prices to the farmers thereby incentivizing enhanced production and productivity. Thus, the PDS assures both remunerative prices to the farmers and availability of food grains to the vulnerable population at affordable prices.

To further strengthen these efforts, Government has enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 with the objective to provide food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act has provided for coverage of upto 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population to receive highly subsidized foodgrains under TPDS. Under this Act, two-thirds of the total population of the country are estimated to receive benefits under TPDS. The Act also contains provisions for nutritional support to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers or children below 14 years of age.

SAARC Food Bank

What is SAARC Food Bank and India's contribution to it?

In pursuance to 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi during 3rd-4th April, 2007, an agreement among SAARC member countries on Establishing the **SAARC Food Bank** has been ratified by the President of India on 17th April, 2007 with the following objectives:-

- a. to act as a regional food security reserve for the SAARC Member Countries during normal time food shortages and emergencies; and
- b. to provide regional support to national food security efforts; foster inter-country partnerships and regional integration, and solve regional food shortages through collective action.

As per Agreement, India's assessed share of the foodgrains for the reserve of the SAARC Food Bank initially was 1,53,200 MTs out of the total reserve of 2,43,000 MTs

which has since been revised to make it double and accordingly India's assessed share of foodgrains now is 3,06,400 MTs out of total share of 4,86,000 MTs.

How India's share of foodgrains are reserved?

India's assessed share of foodgrains has been kept as reserve in different strategic locations in the country in the designated Food Corporation of India (FCI) Godowns to facilitate movement of foodgrains in case of necessity.

Whether the Government proposes to reconsider its commitment to the said Food Bank in view of the drought and shortage of foodgrains in the country?

Because Bank has been set up for such eventualities only, no reconsideration of its commitment is proposed.

What are the salient features of SAARC Food Bank ?

The salient features of the agreement on the SAARC Food Bank are given below:-

- The Food Bank shall have a reserve of foodgrains consisting of either wheat or rice, or a combination of both. The reserve shall be the property of the country maintaining it and shall be in addition to the national reserve maintained by it.
- The assessed share of foodgrains for the Reserve of each member state is annexed. Out of a total reserve of 2,43,000 MTs, India's assessed shares of Foodgrains for the Reserve of SAARC Food Bank was 1,53,200 MTs. In pursuant to decisions taken in the Fourth SAARC Food Bank Board meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh during 27th -28th October, 2010, the assessed shares of foodgrains in the SAARC Food Bank has since been revised to double of the aforesaid quantity and accordingly India's assessed share has been raised to 3,06,400 MTs out of total share of 4,86,000 MTs.
 - Considering the large size of the country and operational feasibility, the stock of foodgrains for the Bank would be kept in different strategic locations in the country in the designated Food Corporation of India (FCI) Godowns to facilitate movement of foodgrains in case of necessity.
 - The foodgrains reserves of India in the SAARC Food Bank are from the stock of foodgrains procured under Central Pool.
 - The Member Country in need may directly request another Member Country in case of a food emergency or shortage for release of foodgrains. Each country shall be entitled to withdraw foodgrains from its own reserves to meet emergencies and shortages.
 - A food emergency shall mean a state or condition in which a Member Country, having suffered a severe and unexpected natural or man-made calamity, is unable to cope with such a state or condition by using its national reserve.

- A food shortage shall mean a state or condition in which a Member Country has suffered a production shortfall and/or storage shortfall, and finds it difficult to cope with such a state or condition by using its national reserve.
- Each SAARC Country would be a member of the Board which would administer the functioning of the SAARC Food Bank.
- Specifications of foodgrains have been so finalized that every country of the region can contribute to the SAARC Food Bank from its national reserves.
- The prices and terms of payment for foodgrains will be mutually decided by countries giving and taking the foodgrains. Humanitarian aspects would be factored into the price only in case of emergencies.

When did the SAARC Food Bank Operationalised?

The Sixth meeting of SAARC Food Bank Board recommended that 7 January, 2013 may be deemed as the date of entry into force of the SAARC Food Bank Agreement.

None of the member countries have so far drawn any foodgrains from SAARC Food Bank.

How many meetings are so far held by SAARC Food Bank Board:

Since signing of the Agreement, the Food Bank Board has held Eight meetings including a special(5th) session. While Joint Secretary(IC) in the Department of Food & P.D., Government of India has been designated as Member, SAARC Food Bank Board from India, an officer at the level of Under Secretary in the SAARC Division of the Ministry of External Affairs has been designated as Nodal point for the matter of SAARC Food Bank.

India hosted the 7th SAARC Food Bank Board (SFB) on 10-11, November, 2014 in New Delhi, India. All SAARC Member States except Afghanistan have attended the meeting. Besides, officers from SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu and SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka also attended the meeting. The Eighth meeting of SFB was held in Male, Maldives during 2-3 September, 2015 represented by Joint Secretary(IC) in the Department of Food & Public Distribution in the capacity as Member, SAARC Food Bank from India.

What is SAARC Foodgrain Testing Laboratory & where it is ?

In the Sixth SAARC Food Bank Board meeting held at Thimphu, Bhutan in November, 2013, it was proposed that the existing laboratory facilities available in India should be designated as SAARC Foodgrain Testing Laboratory to start with. The Board considered and agreed the proposal to designate the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL), New Delhi as the regional reference laboratory for SAARC Food Bank. Besides, Board also agreed to the proposal of India for providing training in foodgrain storage management at the Indian Grain Storage Management and Research

Institute(IGMRI), Hapur. The first batch of Training of SAARC officials in foodgrains storage at IGMRI, Hapur was held from 17-26, November, 2014. As requested in the Eighth SFB meeting held in Male, Maldives, Department of Food & P.D. has provided a tentative training calendar of IGMRI, Hapur for circulation among SAARC member states.

What are the shares of each SAARC Member countries in SAARC Food Bank:-

Presently proportionate food grain reserve to be maintained in the Member States stands as follows:

(Figures in Tonnes)

SI No.	Country	Assessed Reserve	
		As per the decision of the 1 st Meeting in Colombo in 2008	As per the decision of the 3 rd Meeting in Kabul, 2009
1.	Afghanistan	1,420	2,840
2.	Bangladesh	40,000	80,000
3.	Bhutan	180	360
4.	India	1,53,200	3,06,400
5.	Maldives	200	400
6.	Nepal	4,000	8,000
7.	Pakistan	40,000	80,000
8.	Sri Lanka	4,000	8,000
	Total	2,43,000	4,86,000