**A STUDY ON THE OPPORTUNITY AND CONSTRAINTS FOR FOOD GRAINS PRODUCTION**

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**ABSTRACT**

The state is classified as belonging to agroclimatic zone IV (Middle-Gangetic plain region). The remaining division of the state is into its three agro ecological zones. The average rainfall for the year is 1,764 millimetres, and the rainy season lasts from June to September. 5.67 million hectares were considered to be the "net" area that was planted, whereas 7.91 million hectares were considered to be the "gross" area that was farmed. The total cultivable land is 6.64 million hectares. The percentage of land used for agriculture was 139%. The consumption of fertiliser nutrients (N+P2O5+K2O) per hectare is 162.8 kg/ha. Irrigation is used on approximately 61.1% of the total net planted area. The total area that was irrigated in 2007-2008 was 4.79 million hectares, while the area that was irrigated on a net basis was 3.46 million hectares. The level of ground water development is only 39%, despite the fact that the annual replenishable ground water resource is 29.19 billion cubic metres (BCM), of which draught is 10.77 BCM.

**keywords:** Opportunity, Food Grains

**INTRODUCTION**

Bihar may be found in a latitude ranging from 240 20'10" N to 270 31'15" N and a longitude ranging from 830 19'50" E to 880 17'40" E. According to the census completed in 2011, it has a land area of 9.416 million hectares, a population of 103.8 million people (8.6% of India's total population), a population density of 1102 people per square kilometre, and a literacy rate of 63.82% (male 73.89, female 53.33). The population of people classified as Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) made up 15.72 percent and 0.91 percent of the total population, respectively (2001 census). In terms of land mass, Bihar is the twelfth largest state in India. The state is broken up into 38 districts, each of which consists of 101 subdistricts and 534 blocks. The state is classified as belonging to agroclimatic zone IV (Middle-Gangetic plain region). The remaining division of the state is into its three agro ecological zones. The average rainfall for the year is 1,764 millimetres, and the rainy season lasts from June to September. 5.67 million hectares were considered to be the "net" area that was planted, whereas 7.91 million hectares were considered to be the "gross" area that was farmed. The total cultivable land is 6.64 million hectares. The percentage of land used for agriculture was 139%. The consumption of fertiliser nutrients (N+P2O5+K2O) per hectare is 162.8 kg/ha. Irrigation is used on approximately 61.1% of the total net planted area. The total area that was irrigated in 2007-2008 was 4.79 million hectares, while the area that was irrigated on a net basis was 3.46 million hectares. The level of ground water development is only 39%, despite the fact that the annual replenishable ground water resource is 29.19 billion cubic metres (BCM), of which draught is 10.77 BCM.

There are more than one billion people in the globe who are malnourished, and each year, 8.4 million children and 300,000 women in poor nations lose their lives as a direct result of malnutrition-related illnesses. The situation is especially dire in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Hunger and food security receive less attention than poverty reduction from both a policy and research perspective. This is the case despite the fact that reducing hunger is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), despite the magnitude of the problem, and despite the fact that reducing hunger is one of the MDGs. Food security is not merely a question of whether or not food is available; it is also about whether or not families and people have access to an adequate supply of healthy food. Access to clean drinking water, enough facilities for personal hygiene and sanitation, and proper hygiene all have a role in the body's ability to absorb food as nutrition. As a consequence of this, food security is evaluated along the axis of both availability and access as well as absorption. The judgements handed down by the Supreme Court that uphold the Right to Food bring even more attention to the significance of entitlements with regard to food safety. As a signatory to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations, the Government of India and its state governments are obligated to halve the percentage of people who are suffering from hunger by the year 2015. This responsibility was established in 2000. In spite of India's recent track record of high rates of economic growth, there is significant cause for concern over the inability of that progress to convert into a reduction in poverty and hunger that is even somewhat proportional to the increase. Because to the combined efforts of a diligent civil society and press, the issue of mortality caused by malnutrition on a wide scale as a direct result of famine appears to have been substantially handled. Despite this, there are regular reports of hunger and famine coming from various regions of the nation; the marginalised socioeconomic groups, such as the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs), are the ones who suffer the most from this issue (SCs). In addition to the issue of hunger that exists among STs and SCs, there is also the widespread prevalence of malnutrition, which mostly affects children and women. Formerly, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) worked together to analyse the condition of food insecurity in a number of states across the country. In 2001, the MSSRF and the WFP collaborated to compile the "Food Insecurity Atlas of Rural India," in which they mapped the relative position of the states with relation to food security by using selected metrics.

## DEFINITIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FOOD SECURITY

 What what is meant by the term "food security" has been the subject of a two-pronged effort to comprehend or define it. In the 1970s, the concept of "food security" was considered to mean the "availability at all times of enough world food supply of fundamental commodities... 1." (UN, 1975). This was also the general consensus at the time of the very first United Nations Report of the World Food Conference, which took place in Rome in 1975. Yet in 1981, when Amartya Sen's book "Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation" was released, a fresh view of the issue of hunger or food security was presented. Sen placed more of an emphasis on 'access' to food as opposed to merely the 'availability' of food through what he referred to as 'entitlements.' Entitlements are a combination of what an individual can produce and exchange in the market in addition to supplies provided by the state or other social organisations. According to Sen's theory, the mere fact that there is an availability or supply of food does not in and of itself establish a right to food. 2 The entitlements of an individual or family determine the types of goods or services that can be consumed by or accessed by that individual or household. The concept of entitlements brings to light the circumstances under which individuals are able to get food, whether through direct production (or trade with nature), market exchange (revenue from either items produced or wage labour), or social security measures. In addition, entitlements draw attention to the rules that govern intra-household allocation. As a consequence of these rules, women and girls may be at risk of starvation or deprivation even though they are members of households in which the general entitlements are adequate. This is the case despite the fact that entitlements themselves are sufficient. The comprehensive and widely accepted definition of food security was adopted at the World Food Summit in 1996. It reads as follows: "Food security exists 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." This definition describes a situation in which all people have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times (FAO, 1996). Naturally, the consumption of food is not an aim in and of itself. Consuming food fulfils a person's need for nutrients. One may choose to examine the purpose for which food is consumed, which is to supply the body with the necessary nutrients, rather than concentrating on the item itself. The objective of nutrition in and of itself is not just to ensure one's ability to live, but also to live a life that is both healthy and meaningful; that is, to be in the condition that one desires to be in (well-being) and to do the activities that one desires to perform. On one level, some health issues, such as the presence of intestinal parasites, affect the very ability of the human body to absorb nutrients. This ability can be impacted negatively or positively depending on the situation.

**STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT**

 This study is an attempt to present a profile of the food security situation in Bihar on the district level. It is still difficult to obtain statistics on a disaggregated level, despite the fact that the country is moving in the direction of greater devolution and decentralisation. The statistics collected at the district level are well-known for their lack of accuracy, and this research strongly recommends that data collecting and distribution efforts be prioritised at the sub-state level. In the next chapter, which is Chapter 2, an overview of the state is presented, as well as a discussion of how it compares to other states in the country. Chapter 3 constructs a composite index of food security outcomes and includes a brief methodological comment, both of which are in keeping with the current approach, which places a greater focus on outcomes as opposed to inputs. This approach is accurate. It makes a distinction between the Food Security Outcome Index (FSOI), which is based on outcome measures on the one hand, and the Food Security Index (FSI), which is a composite index of the factors that are critical to food security on the other hand.

The Food Security Outcome Index (FSOI) is based on outcome measures on the one hand, and the Food Security Index (FSI) is based on outcome measures on the other hand. Analysis of the state of food security is presented in chapters 4 through 6 with regard to the aspects of availability, access, and absorption. The evaluation of Bihar's food security index is the subject of Chapter 7's discussion. Among its many features is the selection of high-priority districts. In Chapter 8, we address potential courses of action based on the findings of our study, situating these potential courses of action within the framework of larger state and national strategic initiatives that are currently in place. In addition to this, it outlines the several policy measures that the most food insecure districts in Bihar might possibly take advantage of in order to lessen their level of food insecurity.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

Gimsing (2015) Agriculture is the backbone of Bihar's economy, as it accounts for 77 percent of the workforce and 35 percent of the gross domestic product of the state. Considering that 88% of the state's poor reside in rural regions, it is essential to improve agricultural performance as well as rural non-farm activities connected to agriculture in order to improve people's livelihoods and bring the poverty rate down. Rice, wheat, maize, gramme, red gramme, sugarcane, potato, and various vegetables are among the most important crops produced in Bihar. Unfortunately, the agricultural industry in the state of Bihar is afflicted by a large number of well-known restrictions and difficulties. This paper addresses the problems that have been plaguing the agricultural sector in the state of Bihar, India, and discusses the possible strategic interventions that could be implemented to make the most efficient use of the resources that are currently available by adopting a multi-pronged strategy for development. In addition to this, it discusses the difficulties that are unique to the region and offers solutions to these concerns.

Arvind Kumar Srivastava (2019) Bihar is prepared for high agriculture output and to lead the second green revolution in the country since it is naturally endowed with good soil, abundant rainfall, rich water resources, and a favourable environment. After coming to terms with the significance of the sector, the Government of Bihar began implementing a planned strategy for agricultural growth in the form of Agricultural Road Maps in 2008. It is hoped that this would result in an increase in the output and productivity of food crops in a manner that is both cost-effective and practical as a means of subsistence. The strategy has placed a significant amount of focus on assuring the supply of certified seeds at a rate that is subsidised, establishing storage space, encouraging bio-farming, farm mechanisation, and a novel style of growing known as the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). Even though institutional credit is of the highest relevance in boosting agricultural output, the function of formal credit delivery systems in the state of Bihar has not been particularly promising. This is despite the fact that institutional credit is of the utmost importance. In March of 2015, the Credit Deposit (CD) ratio for the state of Bihar was 44.03 percent, which was much lower than the national average of 78 percent. The State Annual Credit Plan (ACP) objective for 2014-2015 is 0.74 lakh crore (including Non-priority Sector), and the aim for agriculture and associated activities is 0.36 lakh crore. This equates to less than'6800 in credit for each individual in the state. Given that agriculture in Bihar has a high credit elasticity of 0.574, there is an immediate need to strengthen the institutional credit delivery system by encouraging all banks, particularly commercial banks, to play their role in the right earnest to ensure agricultural prosperity in the state. This can be done by encouraging all banks to play their role in the right earnest.

Hanumanth Rao.CH (2005) In this section, the author focuses primarily on presenting the shifting structure and composition of food baskets in both rural and urban areas. More specifically, he explains the declining rates of food grain consumption in rural areas, particularly with regard to cereals, which can be attributed to a variety of economic and non-economic factors. A decrease in cereal consumption in rural areas has been observed, which can be attributed to a number of factors, including tastes and preferences, as well as higher prices for non-food grains and non-food items like milk, meat, fish, textiles, modern cosmetics, furniture, medicine, cinema, and entertainment, etc. Therefore, both the income and price variables do influence the per capita consumption of food grains in the expected direction. However, their impact is more pronounced among the lower expenditure groups, and their overall impact is wearing out over a period of time. This is because their influence is cumulative. The nutritional status of the poor can be enhanced by the subsidised sale of food grains in the form of PDS. Cereals are an inexpensive source of energy, therefore this will help improve their nutritional status. This downward trend in per capita consumption is due to the development of rural infrastructure, mechanisation, urbanisation, and other factors including changes in tastes and preferences. Given the expected population growth by the year 2020, this is likely to make a difference of about 20 million in the household demand for food grains in the year 2020. On the other hand, this may be cancelled out by the rising demand for grains to be used as feed for animals, which is expected to reach around 10 million tonnes. The total demand for food grains is expected to increase due to rising populations, despite the fact that the demand on a per capita basis is expected to decrease.

Mr. Swaminathan, S. (2007) In this section, the author makes an effort to describe how serious the issue of food grain insecurity is in India and offers some suggestions for how the problem might be resolved in the future. Despite the fact that there are safety net measures implemented by the Government of India, the FAO has identified India as one of the nations that has failed to accomplish the objectives set out by the 'World Food Summit - 1996' in terms of decreasing the number of people who are malnourished. India might be able to get out of its current food shortage situation if its scientists and farmers worked together more closely. Although we have the highest number of undernourished people in the world, we also have the largest buffer stock of food grains. This presents us with a contradiction. Food is available in India, but it isn't being distributed to the people who need it. The two concerns that need to be addressed are those of accessibility and price if we are to fulfil our obligation to make food available to everyone. There is a pressing requirement to get started on "job-led economic growth." There is a peculiar circumstance in which there are mountains of grain, yet millions of people are starving because they do not have sufficient access to food or the financial means to purchase it. There are several other approaches that may be taken to deal with this circumstance, including.

**RESEARCH MYTHOLOGY**

Because food security cannot be dealt with independently from agriculture without first evaluating agriculture, we will first observe and assess the situation in agriculture, namely the production of food grain in India and its future prospects. After that, we will deal with food security. Particularly, the structure, expansion, purview, restrictions, and difficulties can be recognised particularly since the 1980s, and adopting 1990 as the break era is more relevant than anything else in the light of economic changes and worsening food shortages. We will also look at how food grain production and food issues in India have changed over time, as well as how the current situation compares to the anticipated need for food in the future and the general direction of world trends. The years 1980 through 2009 or 2010 make up the time span covered by this specific research endeavour. And the target entity or region is, it analyses the macro picture of agriculture with regard to food grain production and availability as well as the consequences on food security of India as a whole throughout the given period of time. In order to accomplish this goal, with the assistance of secondary data, we are able to compare the overall growth rates of food grain production throughout the specified time period. During this process, given that rice and wheat are the primary components of our diet, we try to restrict ourselves primarily to the crops of rice, wheat, and pulses. In addition to this, we make an effort to investigate the causes, both direct and indirect, that had an impact on their output throughout the specified time period.

**DATA ANALEYSIS**

The time span covered by this analysis is from 1980–1981 to 2009–2010. The overall time frame is broken up into two smaller time frames. The first time period covers the years 1980–1981 through 1994–1995 and relates to the regime that was in place under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and then the World Trade Organization (WTO) from 1995–1996 through 2009–2010. The second time period covers the years 1995–1996 through 2009–2010.

**Table 1 All India Compound Growth Rates Food Grains Annual: (%)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Food Grains** | **Area** | **Production** | **Yield** |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.20 | 1.87 | 2.13 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -0.29 | 2.79 | 3.09 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | -0.02 | 1.24 | 1.36 |
| **Rice** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | 0.37 | 2.17 | 1.79 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | 0.52 | 3.49 | 2.96 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | 0.44 | 1.36 | 1.32 |
| **Wheat** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.99 | 2.62 | 1.85 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | 0.68 | 3.71 | 3.01 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | 0.57 | 1.16 | 0.66 |
| **Pulses** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.15 | 0.62 | 0.77 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -0.12 | 1.27 | 1.40 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | 0.21 | 0.71 | 0.50 |

The table that you just looked at gives us an explanation of the compounded annual growth rates of the factors that determine food grains, rice, wheat, and pulses at the all-India level. If we look at the growth rates of food grains, we can see that the growth rate of the area (under cultivation) has been negative throughout the entire period at a rate of -0.20 percent. This is even more disappointing in the first period, where it reached a rate of -0.29 percent, but it has slightly improved in the second period, reaching a rate of -0.02 percent. It simply implies that the region's contribution to the production of total food grain output has been insignificant over the whole era. This is the only conclusion that can be drawn from the evidence. In a similar manner, the overall growth rate of food production, total period growth rate (1.87%) is much lower than the first period growth rate of 2.79% and only slightly higher than the second period growth rate of 1.24&percnt; %.

It demonstrates that production performance was substantially higher in the period prior to the WTO than it has been in the period following the WTO; this difference can be attributed to the effects of the green revolution in the first period and to policies that were not particularly favourable to farmers during the WTO regime in the second period. In addition, due to the fact that there are additional structural issues, which we covered in the early chapters of our book. 93 In the case of pulses, in contrast to rice and wheat, both the area under cultivation and the amount produced have shown positive growth rates throughout the second phase. Nonetheless, the rate of increase in yield during the second phase has been lower than the rate during the first period. And the greater output in the first period is mainly contributed by the yield growth rate of 3.09 per cent, which is substantially higher than the growth rates that existed in the entire period (2.13 per cent), and second period (3.09 per cent), respectively (1.36 per cent). If we look at the growth rates of rice, we can see that even if the area (under cultivation) is increasing at a positive rate of 0.37 percent, the first period growth rate of rice is somewhat greater than the second period growth rate of rice, which is 0.44 percent. The growth rate of rice production during the first period was 3.49 percent, which is not only greater than the growth rate of rice production during the second period (1.36 percent), but it is also higher than the growth rate of rice production over the entire period, which was 2.17 percent. This growth is more supported by the increase in the yield during the second period (2.96 percent growth rate), which is greater than the both the entire period (1.79 percent growth rate), as well as the second period's growth rate (1.32 per cent). In the case of wheat, the growth rate of its area under cultivation during the total period was negative at -0.99 percent, while the growth rate of its area under cultivation during the first and second periods was slightly positive at 0.68 percent and 0.57 percent, respectively.

 Despite this, the growth rate of wheat production during the first period was very high at 3.71 percent, which was higher than the growth rate of the total period, which was 2.62 percent, and more than the growth rate of the second period, which was 0.57 percent. This may once more be attributable to the greater growth rate in the yield, which is 3.01 percent, which is higher than the growth rates for both the entire period (1.85 percent) and the second period. The performance of wheat during the WTO system in particular has been relatively poor due to both a loss in area as well as yield per hectare, as well as due to other weak policies and support structures to the farmers.

These tendencies had only resulted to even trends of wheat importation between the years 2006 and 2007, which lasted the entire period. 94 93 "Food Grain Surpluses - Reasons and Policy Consequences," written by Hanumantha Rao CH and published in 2005. Agriculture, Food Security, Poverty, and the Environment is the source for this information. Studies on Post-Reform Politics in India, 2005, Volume 94 "Food Security - Agricultural Crisis and Rural Livelihoods – Consequences for Women," written by Krishnaraj and Maithreyi and published in 2006. Epw (5376 – 5387)– Dec 2006. . Therefore, these trends only indicate to us that the production performance of food grains in terms of area and yield was significantly better during the pre-WTO period than it has been during the post-WTO period. As a result, we are able to say that the availability of food grain and the risk of food insecurity have increased during the period when the WTO regime was in place in the state of Rajasthan.

**Table 2 State Wise Compounded Annual Growth Rates of Food Grains (From 1981-82 To 2009-10)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rajasthan** | **Area** | **Production** | **Yield** |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | 0.13 | 4.89 | 2.64 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -0.58 | 9.32 | 2.54 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | 0.42 | 0.23 | 1.33 |
| **West Bengal** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | 0.32 | 3.20 | 2.88 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | 0.99 | 5.53 | 6.00 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | -0.23 | 1.36 | 1.64 |
| **Punjab** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | 0.09 | 2.58 | 0.12 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -0.49 | 4.55 | -0.62 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | 0.79 | 1.86 | 1.07 |
| **Andhra Pradesh** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.77 | 2.09 | 2.99 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -2.65 | 0.92 | 3.71 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | 0.01 | -0.56 | 2.89 |
| **Karnataka** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | 1.06 | 1.09 | 0.41 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | 1.27 | 2.24 | 0.97 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | 0.57 | 1.04 | 1.15 |
| **Maharashtra** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.58 | 0.97 | 1.59 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -0.28 | 2.42 | 2.71 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | -0.72 | 0.42 | 1.22 |
| **Uttar Pradesh** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.20 | 0.15 | 2.13 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -0.05 | -0.63 | 3.98 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | -0.47 | 0.33 | 0.84 |
| **Madhya Pradesh** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.11 | 0.00 | 0.1 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | 3.76 | 3.62 | -0.24 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | -3.35 | -2.36 | 0.88 |
| **ALL INDIA** |  |  |  |
| 1980-81 to 2009-10 | -0.20 | 1.87 | 2.13 |
| 1980-81 to 1994-95 | -0.29 | 2.79 | 3.09 |
| 1995-96 to 2009-10 | -0.02 | 1.24 | 1.36 |

The data shown in the table above breaks down, by state, how well eight of the most important producing states for food grains are doing. These states were chosen only on the basis of the combined cultivated area measured in thousand hectares, and nothing else was taken into consideration.

## STATES WITH HIGHER GROWTH RATES THAN NATIONAL GROWTH RATE:

It is evident that, in terms of food grain production, the state of Rajasthan, which is primarily a pulse producing state, has achieved greater production growth rates for the three decades in question, 4.89 percent, 9.32 percent, and 0.23 percent, 9.32 percent, respectively. As was to be predicted in the second era, the performance of its output is likewise quite poor. Nonetheless, its rate of area growth has turned out to be positive (0.42 percent), which is an improvement from its prior rate of -0.58 percent. Even its yield growth rates have been greater in the first period (2.54 percent), as compared to the second period's rates, which have been lower (1.33 per cent). Next, the state of WB has done admirably for the entirety of the period (with a 3.20 percent average), particularly well in the first period (with a 5.53 percent average), and then somewhat worse in the second period (1.36 percent average).

WB is primarily a rice-producing state; its improved performance is greatly supported by the increase in the yield rates over the referenced period, which stood at 2.88 percent and reached as high as 6 percent in the first period. Its Area's growth has not been favourable, and in fact, it turned out to be negative in the second quarter, dropping from 0.32 percent in the first period to 0.23 percent in the second period. The second best performing state is Punjab, which has likewise reported greater output growth rates than the national rates. Over the relevant three time periods, these rates were 2.58, 4.55, and 1.86 percent respectively. Despite the fact that both the Area (-0.49%) and Yield (-0.62%) growth rates are going negative, its performance was better before the WTO. This was the case despite the fact that both rates were negative. It is lower in the first period at 0.92 percent and had turned out to be negative in the second period - 0.56 percent - for the whole time, but the growth rate that the state of AP maintained was greater than the average growth rate for the nation overall, which was 2.09 percent. The first two time periods both show negative area growth rates, although the second time period shows a modest improvement over the first. Also, it has kept yield growth rates comparable to those of other states such as West Bengal, the United States of America, and Rajasthan.

**CONCLUSION**

Chronic hunger is a subject that is rarely discussed in public discourse or political campaigns in India. In a recent count of these opinion articles that spanned a period of six months, it was discovered that health, nutrition, education, poverty, gender, human rights, and related social issues combined accounted for barely 330 out of the total of 300 articles. This finding was made after a recent count of these articles. It is common practise to blame a lack of political will for the failure to address social problems in general, and persistent hunger in particular. Because of economic instability, a lack of education, social prejudice, and other types of disempowerments, the majority of people in India are unable to engage in the economy. This is the Indian economy's one and only major shortcoming. In a nutshell, the democratic process in India is caught in a never-ending cycle of elitism and exclusion. The ambitions and interests of disadvantaged segments of the population are not reflected in public policy because such segments of the population are prevented from actively participating in democratic politics. People are disempowered and prevented from engaging in democratic politics as a result of the elitist orientation of public policy, which leads to the perpetuation of deprivations such as poverty, starvation, illiteracy, and prejudice, amongst other things. On the international stage, we have more area suitable for cultivation than China, yet our yield is far lower than China's, for example: The average production of rice per hectare in China is 8 tonnes, whereas in India it is just 3 tonnes. This disparity is caused by a lack of technology, poor government investment, and climate-related factors, among other factors. The remaining 44 percent of our food grains have to come from unirrigated land because only 56 percent of our food grains originate from irrigated land.

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