

FOOD SECURITY

Definition : Having access to reliable, sufficient, affordable and nutritious food

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO FOOD INSECURITY:

<i>Physical environment factors</i>	<i>Social Factors</i>	<i>Economic Factors</i>
• Droughts	• Unemployment	• A shortage of arable land
• Floods	• Poverty	• Lack of money– to invest in supplies and machinery
• Diseases in crops and stock	• Land ownership changes - leaving many farms unproductive	• High production costs
• Soil erosion	• Lack of farming skills	• Foreign competition
• Climate change – reduce food production – more frequent prolonged droughts		• Poor infrastructure • Labour costs are high Lack of funds for agricultural research • Labour strikes cause decrease in food production • Large areas are not farmed commercially

IMPACTS OF FOOD INSECURITY

SOCIAL IMPACTS	ECONOMIC IMPACTS
Sickly/weak population	High unemployment
People cannot work to support families	Government spend a lot of money on health care
Creates poverty	Government has to spend lots of money on importing food
Living standards are low	Economic activities are affected - as people cannot work
	Contribution to GDP decreases

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT FOOD INSECURITY:

- Skilling / training of farmers on modern methods of farming
- Providing farmers with machinery to improve production
- Provide farmers with loans to improve their farmers
- Training of subsistence farmers in better methods of farming eg crop rotation
- Encouraging the use of scientific farming methods eg. using hybrid seeds, fertilisers
- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve ways of storing food during times of excess food