

**Food Related Legislation in South Asia and its Link with Food Security  
(A case of Pakistan)**

for  
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## A. Introduction

### **Importance of Food for Human Life**

- **Source of nutrition and energy;**
- **Maintaining proper health;**
- **Prevention and cure of diseases; and**
- **Bad food is responsible for lowered immunity system of body**

## What is Food Security?

1948-Origin-Universal Declaration on Human Rights(UN)

1973-Global food crisis (supply/availability)

1974- World Food Summit(volume/stability of food)

1983-FAO, focus on accessibility

1996-World Bank Report accessibility

1996-World Food Summit(FAO)- availability, stability, physical and economic access , safe and nutritious

2001-FAO(UN)-: "Food security [is] a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.(multidimensional)

## Legislation in Pakistan- Need and Importance

- Increasing poverty and
- Increasing malnourishment especially among women and children
- Increasing natural disasters and food security issues
- Global Hunger index (GHI) 2012- Pakistan at position 57 out of 79 countries
- The child development index (CDI) 2012- ranked Pakistan at 120 among the 140 nations.
- 'Food Insecurity in the World 2012' FAO-Malnourishment significantly increased to 35 Million during 2010-12 from 30 Million during 1990-92.

## B. Analysis of Food Legislation in the Context of Pakistan

### Legislation Related to Food Availability

• **Availability**-supply side of food security(production, carry over, trade)

#### Legislations:

#### 1. The Foodstuffs [Control] Act, 1958

Regulate and control the supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in foodstuffs and to secure the distribution and availability at fair prices.

#### Major Provisions in the Act

Section 3 Powers to control supply, distribution, etc of foodstuffs.

Section 4 Delegation of Powers

Section 6 Penalties

Section 14 Repeal

## Legislation Related to Food Availability

### 2. Agriculture Produce Market Act, 1939

- Regulate the purchase and sale of different agriculture produce, horticulture produce or livestock or poultry products and by-products.
- Constitution of Market Committee

#### Major Provisions in the Act

**Section 7** Constitution of Market Committee

**Section 20** Market Committee Fund

**Section 26** Power to Make Rules

**Section 32** Delegation of Certain Powers

**Section 33A** Dissolution

## Legislation Related to Food Availability

### 3. Agricultural Pesticides Ordinance, 1971

- Regulates the import, manufacture, formulation, sale, distribution and use of Pesticides in the country;
- Prohibits the adulteration of pesticides, which reduces its effectiveness for which it is intended; and
- Increased crop productivity

## Legislation Related to Food Availability

### 4. Land Reforms in Pakistan (3 times land Reforms-ceiling on land holding )

#### i. Land Reforms 1959

- 500 acres of irrigated or
- 1000 acres of un-irrigated land or
- 36,000 produce Index Units (PIU) equivalent area, per individual, whichever was more.

**Exemptions**( 150 acres of land-orchards, livestock farms, land transfers)

Less than 1.3 percent of the total land was resumed, and most tenants receiving land had to pay for it.

#### ii. Land reforms of 1972

- 150 acres of irrigated or
- 300 acres of un-irrigated land or
- 12,000 PIU equivalent area per person, whichever was more.

**Exemptions**( Tractor owners and tube-well of specified type were allowed to own an additional area equal to 2,000 PIU)

Only 0.6 percent of the total land was resumed and tenant beneficiaries were less than 10 percent of all totally landless tenants.

#### iii. Land Reforms 1977

- 100 acres irrigated and
- 200 acres un-irrigated which equaled or
- 8000 PIU

## Legislation Related to Food Availability

### 5. Agriculture Finance/Zari Taraqiati Bank

Providing affordable, rural and agriculture financial/non-financial services to the rural Pakistan , comprising 68 % of the total population.

### 6. Agriculture Cooperatives

The Federal Bank of Cooperative (FBC) was 1976, established by the Government of Pakistan, where besides Federal Government and four provinces, the State Bank of Pakistan were the shareholders.

**Purpose:** “to provide credit facilities to the farmers, by strengthening the Provincial Cooperative Banks (PCB’s) and regulate their operations”.

## Legislation Related to Food Availability

### 7. Seed Related Legislation

#### Seed Act, 1976(amended 2009)

- The Seed Act 1976 was enacted in the country to promote seed business in Pakistan;
- Market oriented approach by encouraging the private sector.
- Registration of seed business with the Federal Seed and Certification Department (FSC&RD)
- The Act, also allows the registration of **Genetically Modified Plant Varieties**, subject to

National Biosafety clearance that plant variety shall have no adverse impact on environment, human, animal and plant life and health.

- National Seed Council
- Provincial Seed Council

## Legislation Related to Food Availability

### 8. Plant Breeder Rights Bill– 2008

- To encourage plant breeders/ seed organizations/multinational seed companies to invest in research and plant breeding
- To develop healthy competition for variety development in public and private sector
- Improvement of an excess to protected foreign varieties
- Protection of local varieties abroad;
- Encourage state plant breeders through financial incentives as royalty on their protected varieties and revenue generation for research institutes Discipline in seed industry
- Under WTO TRIPS AGREEMENT ARTICLE 27.3 (b) Members shall provide protection of plant varieties by Patents or by an effective sui generis system or by any combination thereof.
- Farmer Exception
- Benefit sharing

## Legislation Related to Food Stability

**Stability**-Supply of food on regular basis

### 09. National Climate Change Policy 2012

- Increasing natural disasters in the country in the form of floods, droughts etc;
- Adverse impacts on food supplies, livelihood and food security of the vulnerable communities
- Major Crops**-victim of climate change triggered natural calamities during the last few years(3 out of last 4 years witnessed negative growth)
- Livestock sector**- 55.1 percent stake in the agricultural sector, 3.7 % growth in 2010-11 compared with 4.3 % in 2009.

## Legislation Related to Food Stability

### 10. First National Report of Pakistan to the Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD)

- The CBD opened for signature on 5 June 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro
- Pakistan signed CBD on 5 June 1992, and was ratified by the Cabinet during 1994.
- As a signatory, Pakistan is obliged to fulfill its obligations and take appropriate measures at the policy and implementation levels.
- Protection of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, marine and freshwater ecosystems etc.



## Legislation Related to Food Accessibility

**Accessibility**-socio-economic, cultural.

### 11. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Act, 1991

#### Objective:

To provide assistance to destitute and needy widows, orphans, children, invalid, infirm and such other persons

The Act reiterates the State duty to provide for basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief for all citizens, irrespective of their sex, caste, creed or race, who are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of sickness or unemployment or circumstances beyond their control.

#### Projects:

**Food Support Program**- vulnerable groups, food inflation

**Lungar Project**- for poor attendants of poor patients in 200 hospitals

**Pakistan Sweet Home, Special Friends**-

For orphan children's as an obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Child in 1989

**Banazir Income Support Program(BISP)**- 5.5 million families(18% of total population)

## Legislation Related to Food Utilization

**Utilization**- the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food.

### 12. National Zero Hunger Action Plan 2012

#### Features:

- 5 year plan-of 61 million food insecure people
- 500,000 MT wheat donations by Ministry of National Food to WFP
- School Feed Program

Establishment of “zero hunger shops” in 45 extremely food insecure districts in Pakistan.

## Legislation Related to Food Utilization

### 13. The pure food ordinance, 1960

#### Objective:

to safeguard consumers' health through provision of quality food items free from all kind of adulterations that shall ensure peoples health and nutrition for a healthy life.

Section 3 False Warranty

Section 6 Prohibition of sale, of manufacture for sale of food which is adulterated or misbranded or not of the nature substance or quality demanded

Section 8 Prohibition of sale of food without complying with rules

Section 11 License for manufacture, storage and sale of goods

Section 14 Appointment of Public Analyst

Section 23 Penalties

Section 36 Delegation

Section 38 Repeal and savings

## Legislation Related to Livelihood Generation

### Livelihoods Approach?

Creating livelihood opportunities to address food insecurity

### 15. National Employment Policy and Action Plan(2007)

vocational and technical competence of the workforce and employment generation

### 16. Decent Employment and Raising Demand for Labor

#### a. Agriculture Sector

- Employment and income augmenting through:
  - i. development of new technologies
  - ii) efficient use of water – precision land leveling and high efficiency irrigation system,
  - iii) promoting production and export of high value crops,
  - iv. creating necessary infrastructure

## Legislation Related to Livelihood Generation

### 17. Decent Employment and Raising Demand for Labor

#### b. Manufacturing

Rapid industrial growth through:

- industrial technology development;
- industrial estates development;
- Industrial corridors (ICs);
- and specialized industrial zones (SIZs)

#### c. Public Works Program

- Tameer-e-Pakistan
- Khushhal Pakistan

#### d. Housing

#### e. Targeted Measures/Programs

- National Internship Program
- The President's "Rozgar Scheme
- TREE- Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (ILO-NRSP)
- Public-Private Partnership in Skills Development

## C. Conclusion and Way Forward

### Conclusion:

- Sufficient proof of government efforts in terms of: legislations, plans and programs to address food security issues with its multidimensional dimensions: availability, stability, accessibility, utilization and livelihoods generation
- Production : almost self sufficient in producing staple food crops like wheat and rice
- Food inflation
- shrinking sources of livelihood opportunities
- **Food security is still an issue**

### Way forward:

- Implementation-already framed policies
- National food security policy-implementation
- Sustainability in planning and policies
- Land Reforms
- Enhancing productivity
- Water Conservation/harvesting
- Natural disasters and emergencies-Food Security
- Livelihoods generation
- Targeted food schemes
- social safety nets-strengthening and expansion
- Targeted inputs subsidies(small farmers only)

