

## General Studies-2; Topic– Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

### Achieving Zero Hunger by 2030

#### 1) Introduction

- Nelson Mandela once said, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”
- This belief resonates with the theme of World Food Day 2018 – Zero Hunger World is possible by 2030.
- Zero hunger means working together to ensure everyone, everywhere, has access to the safe, healthy and nutritious food they need.
- Fighting hunger is a global mission and zero hunger is also one of the main Sustainable Development Goals.

#### 2) World Food Day

- World Food Day is celebrated on 16 October each year to revisit the status of food and nutrition security.
- It renews the pledge to end hunger and malnutrition.
- It reminds the world that Zero Hunger is possible if we can come together and take account of lessons learned,
- It also shows commitment to SDG 2 – to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

#### 3) Present Status

- Conflict, extreme weather events linked to climate change, economic slowdown and rapidly increasing overweight and obesity levels are reversing progress made in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.
- According to FAO, 821 million people – one in nine people – suffer from chronic hunger.
- Also according to 2016 data, around 11 per cent of the global population is suffering from chronic undernourishment.
- The absolute number of undernourished people is the largest in Asia (FAO, 2017).
- The prevalence of undernourishment is rising in South Asia, from 9.4 per cent in 2015 to 11.5 per cent in 2016 (FAO 2017).
- According to a joint report of UNICEF, WHO, and the World Bank approximately two-thirds of all wasted children under five live in Asia.
- In mountain regions such as the Hindukush Himalayas (HKH) people face multiple challenges including poverty, inaccessibility, fragility, limited market access and climatic induced risks.

#### 4) India's Case

- According to the United Nations, 3 in 10 stunted children in the world are found in India.
- The government has launched several measures to improve agricultural production and ensure that food reaches the poor through public distribution network.
- However, these are not adequate to end malnutrition and promote dietary diversity.
- India, which is amongst the largest food grain producing nations, ranks 103rd out of 119 countries in the 2018 Global Hunger Index.
- With a score of 31.1, India suffers from a level of hunger that is serious.
- Achieving zero hunger requires agriculture and food systems to become more efficient, sustainable, climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive.
- Need for synchronisation among malnutrition, dietary diversity and production diversity.

- Organic farming and permaculture have the potential to help India's farmers adapt to climate change.

### 5) International Practice

- Brazil was the first country to take the Zero hunger challenge in 2003
- Countries like China and Myanmar have reduced under nutrition substantially.
- Africa had made good progress towards Zero Hunger. It has achieved a 30 per cent drop in the proportion of its people facing hunger over 1990-2015.
- Vietnam had launched the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC), in collaboration with FAO, to end hunger in the country by 2025.
- FAO has been helping countries to fight hunger since 1945 and Zero Hunger is still FAO's number 1 mission.

### 6) Concerns / Challenges

- There are many factors that influence food security; poverty and climate change are the two biggest challenges.
- Erratic rainfall and increasing frequency of extreme events have impacted agricultural activities everywhere, creating unfavourable conditions for food production.
- The change from multi to mono cropping systems limits the diversity of agricultural products.
- Inclination towards cash crops and changing food habits result in malnutrition, undernutrition and even micro-nutrient deficiencies.
- Food wastage is also an emerging challenge that undermines the efforts to end hunger and malnutrition.
- According to the FAO, the global volume of food wastage is estimated at 1.6 billion tonnes of primary product equivalents.
- In many parts women's nutritional requirements are often unmet as they consume whatever is left after everyone else has eaten.
- Low agricultural investments and poor health, sanitation and childcare practices are other hindrances in achieving zero hunger.

### 7) Way Forward

- Achieving zero hunger requires strong determination and commitment from individual nations.
- Ending food waste is crucial to achieving zero hunger by 2030.
- It is important to look at the future of food production to achieve the zero hunger goal.
- Technologies like mobile phones can be used for knowledge transfer to rural farmers on the food production cycle and market linkages.
- Agriculture is a huge business and it is important to create opportunities for the younger generation to take up agriculture in order to safeguard long-term food security.
- Formulate policies that support better agricultural investments.
- Providing agriculture subsidies and incentives and prioritising nutrition programmes.
- Boosting the production and consumption of climate resilient native nutritional crops.
- Agro-ecological practices such as zero budget natural farming, organic farming and permaculture play an important role in their impact on food and nutrition security
- 80 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas. That's why Zero hunger calls for a transformation of rural economy.
- These are some of the elementary practices that will be crucial in defeating hunger and creating a zero hunger world by 2030.