

Food Security and Nutrition: Agricultural Trade and Economic Dimensions

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Topics:

- Food Security definition.
 - Four dimensions.
 - The Right to Adequate Food.
- Food Security and international (agricultural) trade.
 - Channels affecting Food Security.
 - Main issues.

Food Security.

1996 World Food Summit definition:

- *“when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” .*
- *“cuando todas las personas tienen, en todo momento, acceso material, social y económico a alimentos suficientes, inocuos y nutritivos que satisfacen sus necesidades de energía alimentaria y preferencias alimentarias para llevar una vida activa y sana” .*

Four dimensions or pillars of food security:

1. **Availability**: domestic production, imports, food stocks, food aid. ***Agricultural production.***
2. **Access**:
 - **Physical**: limited access because of logistics issues.
 - **Social**: limited access because of social reasons, e.g. gender.
 - **Economic**: purchases, barter, borrowings, food assistance => disposable income, **food prices, (agricultural production).**

Four dimensions or pillars of food security (cont.):

3. **Utilization**: correct utilization of food. Related to clean water, sanitation and health care.
4. **Stability**: on a permanent basis. Chronic vs. transitory food insecurity (**agricultural production**).
- **No food security without proper nutrition.** But, utilization of both terms together.

Food Security definition.

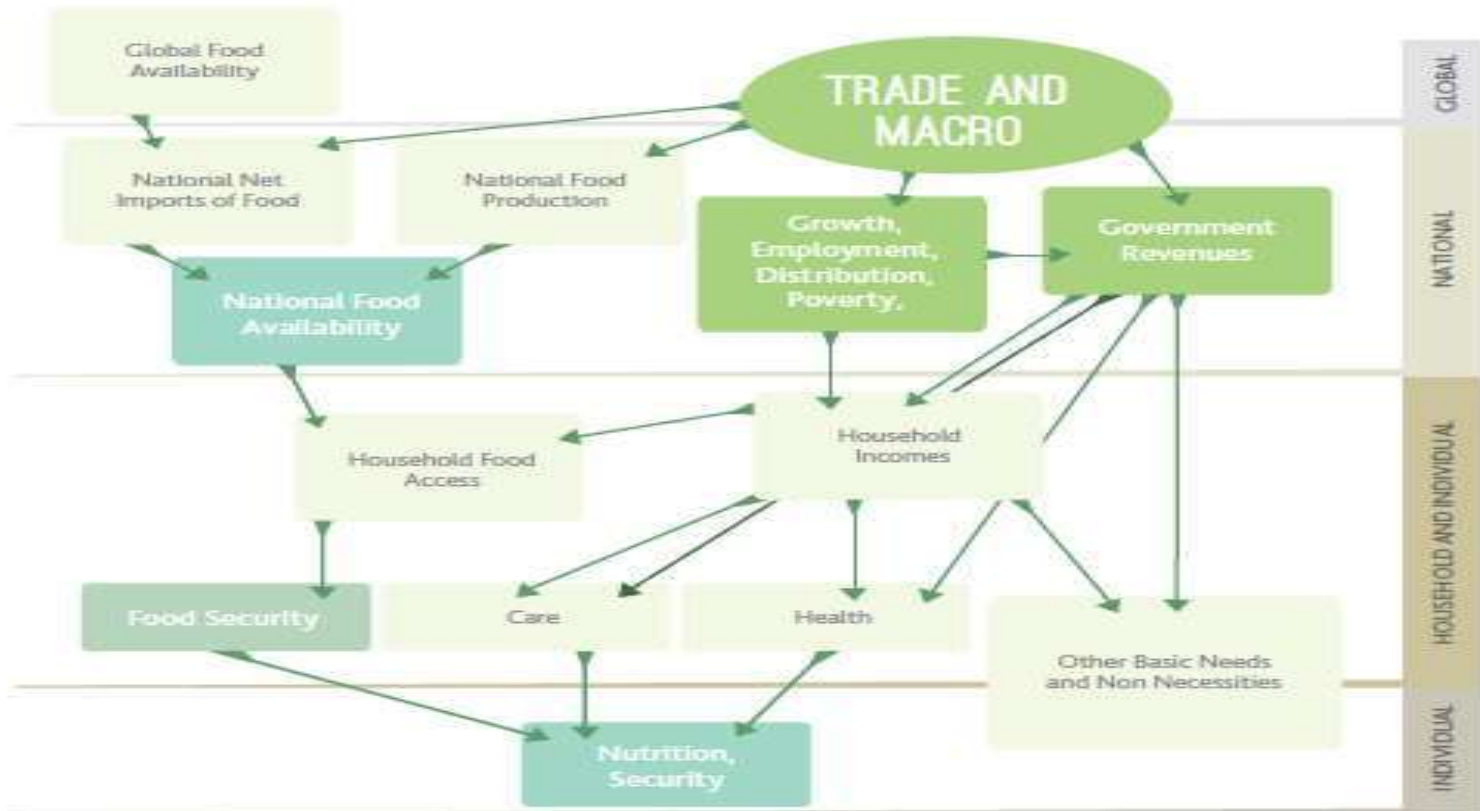
Additionally:

- **The Right to Adequate Food.**
 - The corollary of the right to food is food security.
 - A mean of achieving food security.
 - Institutional arrangements in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico
- **Food security different from food sovereignty.**

Geographical divergence between food production and food consumption:

- Increases in population and incomes.
- Urbanization and middle class.
- Diet changes: more proteins.
- Asia: important food demand.
- The Americas: great heterogeneity.
- Net food-importing countries: trade is very important.

Channels through which trade affects Food Security:



Food Security and international trade:

- Agricultural subsidies. Distorted trade.
- Export restrictions.
- High food prices.
- WTO disciplines.
- Public stockholding vs. subsidies => “policy space” ?

Food Security and international trade (cont.):

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture.
- Stable and non-distorted prices as tools to encourage agricultural investment.
- International market as a trusted supplier.
- International agreement among net food-exporting and net food-importing countries.

Thanks !!
Gracias !!

