

THE ANALYSIS OF CURRENT MEASURES AND REFORMS IN ENSURING THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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Food Security is a complex and multifaceted concept that has evolved over the years. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations defines food security as 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. This definition emphasizes four main dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization, and stability.

Agricultural Policies and Land Reforms:

1. **Household Responsibility System:** Introduced in the late 1970s, this system marked a shift from collective farming to giving control of land to individual households. This boosted production as farmers were allowed to sell any surplus produce after meeting state quotas.
2. **Land Consolidation and Rural Revitalization:** In recent years, China has encouraged land consolidation to promote agricultural efficiency. Large, professional farming entities are more efficient and yield higher productivity. The rural revitalization strategy aims to modernize agriculture and increase rural incomes, making farming an attractive livelihood.

Technological Advancements:

1. **Mechanization:** China has invested heavily in agricultural mechanization to boost productivity. This includes machinery for plowing, sowing, harvesting, and post-harvest processing.
2. **Digital Agriculture and Precision Farming:** Utilizing advanced technology like GPS, remote sensing, and big data, China is making farming more precise and efficient. Precision farming improves the efficiency of inputs, reducing waste and increasing productivity.
3. **Genetically Modified Crops (GMOs):** China has embraced GMO technology to increase crop yields and resist pests and diseases. However, the use of GMOs is a controversial topic in China due to food safety concerns.

Investments in Agricultural Research and Development (R&D):

1. **High-yield Varieties and Hybrid Crops:** China has been a leader in the development of high-yield crop varieties, particularly hybrid rice developed by agronomist Yuan Longping. These crops have played a key role in increasing China's grain production.

Diversification of Food Production:

1. **Livestock and Aquaculture:** With rising incomes, the Chinese diet has diversified from being primarily grain-based to include more meat and seafood. China has therefore expanded its livestock and aquaculture sectors.
2. **Importing Food:** China is the world's largest food importer. It imports large quantities of soybeans, meat, and other foods to diversify food sources and meet domestic demand.

China's efforts to ensure food availability have achieved significant success, with the country producing enough food to feed its vast population. However, challenges such as environmental sustainability, resource constraints, and food safety concerns continue to pose threats to food availability. The government's ongoing and future policies must address these issues to ensure long-term food security.

Ensuring that all individuals have the resources to obtain nutritious food is an integral part of China's food security strategy. China has undertaken various measures to address both the economic and physical access aspects of food security.

Table 2.3

Strategies and Measures Implemented by China to Improve Economic or Physical Access to Food

Strategy	Specific Measures	Impact on Economic or Physical Access to Food
Poverty Reduction Measures	Targeted Poverty Alleviation, Rural Vitalization Strategy	Improved living standards and reduced poverty, thereby increasing purchasing power for food
Employment Generation Schemes	Rural Labor Transfer Training, Public Works Projects	Created job opportunities, boosting incomes and thereby ability to afford nutritious food
Public Distribution Systems and Social Safety Nets	Minimum Living Standard Guarantee (Dibao), Food-for-Work programs, School Feeding Programs	Provided direct food or monetary assistance to the most vulnerable populations
Other Programs	Development of Rural E-Commerce, Agricultural Subsidies	Improved access to diverse food types, made food more affordable

Poverty Reduction Measures:

1. **Targeted Poverty Alleviation:** This initiative is aimed at lifting people out of poverty by tailoring solutions to local conditions, such as developing local industries, improving infrastructure, relocating people from inhospitable areas, ecological conservation, and education support.

2. **Rural Vitalization Strategy:** This strategy aims to promote balanced urban-rural development, improve rural living standards, and thus reduce poverty.

Employment Generation Schemes:

1. **Rural Labor Transfer Training:** This program provides training for rural laborers to improve their skills and employability, enabling them to find jobs in non-agricultural sectors.

2. **Public Works Projects:** Large-scale infrastructure projects create many job opportunities, reducing unemployment and boosting incomes.

Public Distribution Systems and Social Safety Nets:

1. **Minimum Living Standard Guarantee (Dibao):** This social assistance program provides a monthly cash allowance to individuals whose income is below the local poverty line.

2. **Food-for-Work programs:** These programs provide food to the rural poor in exchange for their work on community infrastructure projects.

3. **School Feeding Programs:** The government provides free lunches to students in poor rural areas to ensure they have access to nutritious meals.